

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of Northwestern Toastmasters Club 2946/37

Meeting each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC
Volume 34, No. 5, Early September, 2007

On the web at www.nwtm.org

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**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday -- September 4, 2007**



The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

~~~ Meeting Guest ~~~

Our guest at the August 21 meeting was Fran Oaks.
Fran works with Forsyth Hospital.

Remember: All roles are important! If you can not attend the meeting, then contact our VP of Education.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Schedule for the September 4, 2007 Meeting

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Scott Anderson..... | Grammarians |
| Don Barnett..... | Speaker |
| Butch Barney | Joke Master |
| Marcia Barney..... | Evaluator |
| Teddy Burriss..... | General Evaluator |
| Pam Christopher | Evaluator |
| Brian Davidson..... | Evaluator |
| Diana Garcia..... | Speaker |
| Matthew Hamby | Speaker |
| Karl Hastings..... | Evaluator |
| Lance Kull..... | Toastmaster |
| Susan Lippow..... | Timer |
| Zoltan Rab | Evaluator |
| Christine Sternjacob..... | Speaker |
| Craig Thrift..... | Speaker |
| Jeff Walker..... | Vote Counter |
| Elaine Wiles | Evaluator |
| Evander Woo | Table Topics |

Schedule for the September 18, 2007 Meeting

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Scott Anderson..... | Evaluator |
| Don Barnett..... | Evaluator |
| Butch Barney | Speaker |
| Marcia Barney..... | Speaker |
| Teddy Burriss..... | Table Topics |
| Pam Christopher | Evaluator |
| John Clark..... | Toast Master |
| Donna Hall..... | Evaluator |
| Matthew Hamby | Word Master |
| Karl Hastings..... | Joke Master |
| Lance Kull..... | General Evaluator |
| Susan Lippow..... | Speaker |
| Evelyn Ries..... | Vote Counter |
| Christine Sternjacob..... | Timer |
| Craig Thrift..... | Speaker |
| Jeff Walker..... | Speaker |
| Derrick Webb | Evaluator |
| Elaine Wiles | Evaluator |
| Evander Woo | Table Topics |

August 20, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Scott Anderson, Secretary



Brian Davidson opened the Northwestern Toastmaster's meeting. Brian welcomed our guest for the evening Fran Oaks. Brian announced the date, September 18, 2007, of our upcoming Humorous Speech and Evaluation club contest.

Derrick Webb was the Toastmaster for the evening. His theme was "The End of Summer." Derrick regrets the end of summer for a rather unusual but undeniable reason: the increase in traffic due to school resuming.

Karl Hastings served as the Wordmaster for the meeting. The word for the meeting was portend. It means to give an omen, to indicate or signify. Matthew Hamby served as the Table Topics Master for the evening. He called on Zoltan, Sue, and Teddy to speak about some of their favorite memories of the summer, favorite memories of the fall, and the joys of three day weekends.

The next section of our meeting was the prepared speeches. Scott Anderson spoke about "Shooting Elephants." It was the third speech from the Basic Manual. Scott's speech centered on the phrase Elephants in the room. By improving communication, we can eliminate the "Joint-Conflict-Room-Elephants" in our lives. The second Speaker was Elaine Wiles. Her speech was titled "Cold Call." It was the second speech from the Persuasive Speaking Manual. Elaine pointed out that persuasive speaking is really the art of seeing clearly how other people see us and responding accordingly. Her speech included a wonderful presentation in which she performed a cold call on an executive to request a charitable donation. Marcia Barney played the part of the R.J. Reynolds executive. The presentation was followed by a group discussion.

The final speaker for the evening was Joel Schanker. His speech was titled "Selections from '70s Troubadour." This speech was an interpretive reading of songs by Harry Chapin. Immediately we were drawn into the cool vibe of this generational poet. Joel brought to life the songs "Taxi", "WORLD", and "Circles" in a rather memorable and electric manner.

John Clark was the General Evaluator for the session. He cautioned all members to remember the absolute importance of not speaking without being formally recognized by the chair. Also, he commented on the growing number of side-conversations. We must always "remember Robert" and adhere to the proper parliamentary rules. Butch evaluated Scott's speech. He suggested watching the pacing of phrases. There were a few too many "quick runs." Don evaluated Elaine's speech. He summed it up by stating it was genuine and thoroughly enjoyable. Lance evaluated Joel's speech. He began by commenting on the prudent use of a self-effacing comment. This allows the audience to be drawn in and empathize with the speaker. Lance commented that Joel brought the heart of the song to the audience.

The next section of the meeting was the Grammarian's report. Contrary to popular misunderstanding, the grammarian's role is not to punitively "shake you down" for your loose change. The grammarian's role is to keep each one of us honest concerning improper usage of the English language. Marcia did a splendid and thorough job of policing our usage mistakes. Only through rigorous examination do we see our faults and grow from them. We should all thank the people in our lives that have the courage

and mental fortitude to be our toughest critics. It takes integrity to stand against the flood of ums and ahs that dilute our everyday speech. Thank you Marcia!

Christene was the vote counter for the evening. Teddy won the Best Table Topics Speaker ribbon. Scott won the Best Speaker ribbon. Lance won the Best Evaluator ribbon.

Our guest briefly addressed our club. Craig was the Jokemaster for the evening, conducting a final cat scan and lab test before adjourning the meeting.



The Role of the Grammarian

by Marcia Barney, Treasurer



The job of the Grammarian has evolved in Northwestern Toastmasters. Perhaps it is time we regressed and asked "What is the purpose of the Grammarian?" Obviously, to help us become better communicators within a narrow area of speaking. The Grammarian is therefore, it seems, a mini-general evaluator whose province

is to comment on one small area of the spoken communications at a meeting.

The words we select to convey our message say a lot about us. They are some indication of our origin, education, and experiences. Misuse or impressive use of words can lead our listeners to many conclusions about us. From this view, the Grammarian can help by pointing out words and phrases that could mislead an audience or cause them to reach derogatory conclusions about us. He or she can also point out those that could lead an audience to a favorable impression. Likewise, repetitive words and phrases as well as filler words can indicate a lack of confidence or a lack of knowledge on the part of the speaker. This, too, can undermine the message.

Need I mention slang, mispronunciation, trite phrases, you-know-what-I-mean-even-though-that's-not-what-I-said, and incomplete thoughts?

The Grammarian has a very important job and one that requires tact. In our club we overcome the tact problem by treating the Grammarian's report with great good humor. It's much more difficult to be insulted if you're laughing. Having someone tell you that you've just slaughtered the king's English could be offensive to some. You have undoubtedly witnessed some members enter a state of denial when the Grammarian's ears get too keen

Then there's the fine of a quarter maximum. While our most recent Grammarian's report was an example of THE EXTREME GRAMMARIAN, it was done to show that rare is the occasion when the quarter penalty is not deserved. Paying a small fine is a relatively painless way to remind ourselves that our grammar is very important to the way we are perceived.

The role of Grammarian offers a wonderful opportunity to hone your listening skills. While an effective Grammarian should listen carefully to every program participant, becoming the EXTREME GRAMMARIAN is neither necessary or desirable. Only those things that distract or impress should be mentioned in the Grammarian's report. Just be sure that filler words are among those things that distract you!

Don't forget to bring your quarter to our September 4 meeting