

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
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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.

~~~ Special Meeting ~~~

Of course, all Northwestern Toastmaster meetings are special. Our next meeting follows that tradition. We will have the Club level Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests.

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

Mildred, the church gossip, self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her gossiping, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Henry, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Henry and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

Henry, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, Henry quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house. . . walked home . . . and left it there all night.

You gotta love Henry.

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

Schedule for the October 02, 2007 Meeting

Scott Anderson..... Speaker
Don Barnett..... Grammarian
Butch Barney Evaluator
Marcia Barney..... Timer
Pam Christopher Toastmaster
John Clark..... Evaluator
Brian Davidson..... Speaker
Diana Garcia..... Vote Counter
Donna Hall..... Speaker
Matthew Hamby Evaluator
Karl Hastings..... Table Topics
Lance Kull..... Evaluator
Susan Lippow..... Joke Master
Zoltan Rab Word Master
Evelyn Ries..... Speaker
Joel Schanker General Evaluator
Derrick Webb Speaker
Elaine Wiles Evaluator
Evander Woo Evaluator

September 4, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Marcia Barney asst. Secretary



It promised to be a dark and stormy evening since 2 of our favorite humorists, John Clark and Scott Anderson, were not present. However, in his usual dry manner, President Brian Davidson pulled us out of the doldrums.

During the business session we were reminded of the upcoming club and Area Humorous speech and Evaluation Contests. Karl Hastings announced that he would be taking a sabbatical until January, 2009 for professional reasons.

Toastmaster of the Meeting Lance Kull chose "New Beginnings" as the theme for the meeting. Comments by Lance included saplings, which could have been part of the reason for great performances by other program participants.

Evelyn Ries offered "impel" (drive or cause to move onward) as the Word for the Day. Evander Woo served Table Topics to:

--Pam Christopher told us about an event that represents new beginnings to her.

--Karl Hastings spoke about his adverse situation of leaving us for a positive new beginning as an advanced florist.

--Kyle Adams was back and boastful about her accomplishment of turning 50 next week.

Craig Thrift gave his B-4 "What If" and was evaluated by Zoltan Rab who seemed to be competing for the club record for long-winded evaluation.

Don Barnett gave #1 from the Humorously Speaking Advanced Manual titled "Writer's Block" in which he said "It took longer than usual, but then it always does." He was evaluated by Elaine Wiles.

Teddy Burriss added another ray of sunshine as he provided the General Evaluation and congratulated Evander for "jumping up to the lectern." He also made a great recommendation: When we have few prepared speakers, have more Table Topics. This author questions the soundness of the recommendation that "Everyone pass your votes for the person you thought gave the best evaluation to Jeff." However, this could be a simple matter of punctuation.

Susan Lippow was the timer. Jeff Walker counted the votes (no, he didn't speak and wasn't evaluated). Barbara was the kind and gentle Grammarian. Christine Sternjacob and Marcia Barney were quiet. Butch Barney told the joke for the evening.

Winners were:

Best Table Topic Speaker: Kyle Adams

Best Evaluator: Elaine Wiles

Best Speaker: Craig Thrift

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A lion was roaming an African jungle. He was terribly hungry. Soon, he came across two men sitting under a tree. One was pounding away on a typewriter. The other was reading a book. The lion devoured the man reading the book. He avoided the writer. Even lions know that readers digest and writers cramp.  
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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

The Blank Forbidding Page

by Joel Schanker



Periodically I sit here trying to think of something slightly interesting to write for this diverse group of bright informed people. Everything else I save for Northwestern Toastmasters (Ha Ha Ha). Tonight it finally dawns on me

that this brain freeze is similar to the time before I write my speeches. The same questions and doubts gnaw at my self-confidence. **WHAT DO I TALK ABOUT?**

Being somewhat genetically inclined anyway, let's answer a question with a question. What do you talk to anyone about? What do you tell your friends over drinks? What do you say to your coworkers around the Coke machine? What do you exchange with you neighbors over the proverbially neighborhood fence? You talk about *Life, gossip, love, hate, news, views, confidences, rumors, and speculations. How to do anything, Who did something, Why do anything, Should have done something, Must do this and Won't ever do that again,*

Here's where we can get some ideas:

1. What did we do.

We travel to and work in different places. We see people doing the weird and the wonderful. Each one is a story with moments of unintended humor and examples of exceptional bravery. Stories come from our life experiences and our observations.

2. What do we care about.

We care about politics, laws, morals, and tradition. We have positions on important public issues and superficial social trends. All deserve to be heard. Speeches can come from the need to inform others of our beliefs.

3. What are we interested in.

We play sports, participate in clubs, and invest time in hobbies and crafts. All may be different but all share our time. Speeches can be chances to share what we value with others.

4. What did we read or see.

Humans have the unique ability to learn from others' experiences without direct participation. Speaking gives you the chance to pass on someone else's experiences to a wider audience than yourself.

We live in a richness of speech material. How could anyone not have something to say in a country where Bill Clinton's wife is running for President while George Bush's son is the President; but more time is spent covering inebriated, semi dressed publicity hounds. Do really have nothing that is more interesting than that?