

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. 9, Early November, 2007

On the web at www.nwtm.org

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**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday -- November 6, 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.

~~~ **Welcome Guests** ~~~

Our guest at the next to last meeting was David Tanner. David, we hope you enjoyed the meeting.

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

~~~ **Future Editorials** ~~~

Here is a list of Northwestern Leaders who will be providing us the editorial comment found in each newsletter. Each issue brings a fresh view Thanks to everyone involved.

| Deadline (issue name) | Chief Editorialist |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11/17/2007 (Late November) | Brian Davidson |
| 12/01/2007 (Early December) | Donna Hall |
| 12/15/2007 (Late December) | Marcia Barney |
| 12/29/2007 (Early January) | Barbara Schanker |
| 01/12/2008 (Late January) | Brian Davidson |
| 02/02/2008 (Early February) | Don Barnett |
| 02/16/2008 (Late February) | Craig Thrift |
| 03/01/2008 (Early March) | Evander Woo |
| 03/15/2008 (Late March) | Zoltan Rab |
| 03/29/2008 (Early April) | Joel Schanker |
| 04/12/2008 (Late April) | Butch Barney |
| 05/03/2008 (Early May) | Evander Woo |
| 05/17/2008 (Late May) | Brian Davidson |
| 05/31/2008 (Early June) | Marcia Barney |
| 06/14/2008 (Late June) | Butch Barney |

Schedule for the November 6, 2007 Meeting

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Scott Anderson..... | Word Master |
| Don Barnett..... | Evaluator |
| Butch Barney | Evaluator |
| Marcia Barney..... | Table Topics |
| Teddy Burriss..... | Speaker |
| Pam Christopher | General Evaluator |
| Matthew Hamby | Speaker |
| Susan Lippow..... | Vote Counter |
| Fran Oakes..... | Timer |
| Zoltan Rab | Joke Master |
| Barbara Schanker | Speaker |
| Joel Schanker | Speaker |
| Christine Sternjacob | Grammarian |
| Jeff Walker..... | Evaluator |
| Elaine Wiles | Evaluator |
| Evander Woo | Toastmaster |

Schedule for the November 20, 2007 Meeting

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Scott Anderson..... | Speaker |
| Butch Barney | Speaker |
| Marcia Barney..... | General Evaluator |
| Teddy Burriss..... | Evaluator |
| John Clark..... | Evaluator |
| Brian Davidson..... | Evaluator |
| Donna Hall | Toastmaster |
| Matthew Hamby | Evaluator |
| Susan Lippow..... | Speaker |
| Fran Oakes | Vote Counter |
| Zoltan Rab | Timer |
| Evelyn Ries..... | Speaker |
| Barbara Schanker | Grammarian |
| Joel Schanker | Evaluator |
| Christine Sternjacob | Joke Master |
| Craig Thrift | Speaker |
| Jeff Walker..... | Table Topics |
| Elaine Wiles | Evaluator |
| Evander Woo | Word Master |

October 16, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Scott Anderson, Secretary



The meeting opened with a bang, as President Brian Davidson banged his gavel calling the meeting into session. There was neither new business nor old business to discuss. However, Fran Oaks was welcomed as an official member of Northwestern Toastmasters.

Teddy Burriss was the toastmaster for the evening. His theme was "Changes". Teddy aptly pointed out the well known paradox that change is the one constant in life. It is not merely a matter of whether we experience change in our lives; it is how we react to the changes and vicissitudes of life that shapes who we are and allows growth in our lives. Teddy mentioned certain changes he is experiencing in his life as all his children have left the nest. He mentioned several times a newfound freedom in being able to lay around the house in whatever attire his chose. Christene Sternjacob was the Wordmaster. The word for the evening was sequester - to set apart or separate.

Scott Anderson was the Table Topics Master for the evening. He called on Zoltan, Jeff, Derrick, and John. There was a notable precedent. Mary Jones was the first prepared speaker. She delivered her icebreaker speech. She likes gardening, cooking, hiking and Excel, but not necessarily in that order. As a left-handed accountant she spoke about the difficulties in telling her left from her right. I found myself scratching my head and pondering if this sort of honesty should be recorded as a debit or a credit. I also have a hard time telling my left from my right when it comes to accounting. Since honesty is an asset and not a liability, I tend to think this should be debited to Mary's account; but perhaps that's a philosophical debate for another time. Regardless, Mary did an excellent job in her use of humor to communicate who she is. I am excited to hear more great speeches from our newest member.

Susan Lippow was the next prepared speaker for the evening. Her speech was entitled "Aggressive Drivers." She used emotional language to draw the audience into the frightening world of aggressive drivers. She spoke about road rage, speeders, tailgaters, and my personal favorite, last minute lane changers. Susan thoroughly investigated the problem of aggressive driving and offered solutions for sticky situations. If you find yourself in a situation with an aggressive driver, avoid eye contact, don't block the lane, use signals, keep you headlights low, and put your pride aside. As Susan aptly relayed, road rage kills. This was a sobering, emotionally provocative, and informative speech.

Don Barnett was the general evaluator for the evening. Though he was not specifically asked to give a filibuster, obviously he connected with the earlier table topics reference to the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and felt obliged to give it the old college try. Five minutes into it, I think he reached a zenith of profundity in the tradition of the great Greek philosophers with the phrase "distractions can be distracting." Later, in a moment of honest vulnerability he lost his place in his notes and admitted to the audience that "his one thought was not written down." That however did not impede our general evaluator who bravely proceeded to comment in detail on all other aspects, clearly without the aid of notes, of the meeting for another five minutes.

Northwestern Membership

by Don Barnett, VP Membership



There are many different reasons why we might have joined Northwestern Toastmasters. Here are some reasons overheard during past meetings:

1. The warmth demonstrated to me as a visitor
2. The fun observed in my trial meeting
3. The website (thank you, Mr. web master)
4. The fun observed from a booth in the restaurant (thank you, Scott)
5. I visited all the other clubs and I liked this one best because of the evaluations.
6. My spouse holds meetings at the house on Tuesdays and told me that I had to get out!
7. I thought it was an AA group and came to the wrong meeting site. I have been sober three months now.
8. My doctor told me to get a hobby.
9. I like the ice cream at Mayberry's.
10. And so, uh, I think I ah really need to work on my public speaking skills, and, like right away. Maybe. Don't you think? (I owe the treasurer a quarter for that one.)

We, the club members, have joined Northwestern Toastmasters for many different reasons and have decided to stay. We have committed ourselves to be involved, to strive to enhance our communication skills and help others improve towards their goals. As a new officer, Vice President Membership, I have observed how well members welcome visitors and share the positives of their own experiences. Also, I have perceived the excitement of a member when they bring a visitor and introduce them to the club. There seems to be a natural warmth and growth in our membership.

One of the goals in membership growth is to add one member to the club each month. We have added four new members during the first four months of this Toastmasters year. Our new members have joined the club so well that they are progressing well in their speeches. We are off to a good start and on pace for meeting this goal. I encourage us all to continue our efforts to invite prospective members and welcome visitors at the meetings. Also, we can let our seasoned members who have missed meetings that we have missed them and look forward to their return.

I hope to see each of you at our meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Eastern STANDARD Time.

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Why do you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead?

Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called built's?

Why are they called apartments, when they're all stuck together?

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October 16, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Scott Anderson, Secretary



Barbara Schanker was the presiding Toastmaster for the October 30, 2007 Northwestern Toastmaster meeting. Her theme for the meeting was "Scary Things." She briefly explored the question why are certain things scary. She posited that fear is derived from two major sources: fear of the unknown, and fear of the known. This served as a great segue into discussing the widespread fear of public speaking. As she aptly stated, "The more confront our fears, the more we dismiss the scariness."

Fran Oakes was the Wordmaster for the evening. The word she chose was heinous. Heinous means atrocious or hatefully bad.

Butch Barney was the Table Topics Master for the evening. Continuing with the theme of "Scary Things", Butch asked Joel Schanker about any fear involved in his first speech. Joel responded by stating, "...those five minutes were the worst hour of my life!" Next, Butch asked Zoltan about scary stories. Zoltan explained that his fear of snipers was derived from watching episodes of Colombo at a young age. Finally, Butch asked Brian Davidson where and how he would like to die. Brian indicated he would like to croak on a riverboat traveling down the Mississippi River. Alternately, since he only used 40 seconds to describe his first death, Brian would like to die on a race track in a racecar.

The first prepared speaker was Don Barnett. His speech was entitled "Mentoring." He spoke for eighteen minutes and twenty three seconds. Don's speech was from the perspective of a manager addressing employees regarding a new company-wide mentoring program. This would lessen the "brain drain" in the company and give a sense of historical context to the newer employees. Don moved into discussing a formal mentoring program for Northwestern Toastmasters. Don's address was followed by a brief question and answer session.

The next prepared speech was from Elaine Wiles. Her speech was entitled "Go Davie." She chose the rather emotional topic of where the hospital should be built. She was trying to persuade folks from Clemmons that the most optimal location for the hospital was in Davie County not Clemmons. Her persuasive speech was followed by a question and answer session. Many of our members chimed in with various comments regarding the situation.

The final speaker for the evening was Pam Christopher. Her speech was entitled "Highpoint House." It lasted six minutes and forty three seconds. Pam told a wonderful ghost story about the girl at the underpass. She ended on a high, or perhaps a low note depending on how you choose to look at it, when she resolutely stated "Short people will never understand tall tales."

Evander Woo opened the evaluation session as the General Evaluator for the meeting. Scott Anderson evaluated Don Barnett's speech. He suggested using more vocal variety, enhanced gestures, and maintaining control in the question and answer session. Zoltan evaluated Elaine's speech. He commented on her overall professionalism, great summary, and command of the subject. He suggested controlling the time element of the question and answer session better. Joel evaluated Pam's speech. He commented on her vocal variety, high energy opening, and

use of distinct voices for different characters in the story. He suggested improving the use of pauses in her speech. John was the grammarian for the evening. He caught "ums", "ers", and "my-mys." He seemed explicitly rattled by Butch's use of the slang "the John" in reference to the toilet. John also felt the need for Pam to be penalized for her precocious puns. Hopefully, there will not be a forthcoming fine fickle applied for fine uses of alliteration. In perhaps one of the boldest moves ever, John charged Marcia for usurping the speaker. At this point, the baby was thrown out with the bath water, or at least Robert was thrown out with his rules.

Craig Thrift announced the winners for the evening. The Best Table Topics ribbon was won by Brian. The Best Speech ribbon was won by Pam. The Best Evaluator ribbon was won by Scott.

Jeff Walker dazzled us all with his insightful and rather pithy joke...let it be a lesson to census takers everywhere

~~~~~ Things you learn living in North Carolina

1. A Possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
2. There are 5,000 types of snakes and 4,998 of them live in North Carolina.
3. There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in North Carolina plus a couple no one's seen before.
4. If it grows, it'll stick ya; If it crawls, it'll bite 'cha.
5. "Onced" and "Twiced" are words.
6. It is not a shopping cart, it is a buggy.
7. People actually grow AND eat okra.
8. "Fixinto" is one word.
9. There is no such thing as "lunch". There is only dinner and then there is supper.
10. Ice tea is appropriate for all meals and you start drinking it when you're two. We do like a little tea with our sugar!
11. Backards and forwards means "I know everything about you."
12. The word "Jeet" is actually a phrase meaning "Did you eat?"
14. You don't have to wear a watch because it doesn't matter what time it is. You work until you're done or it's too dark to see.
15. You don't PUSH buttons, you MASH them.
15. "He needed killin' " is a valid defense.