

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

OFFICERS

President	Brian Davidson	336 765-5502
VP-Education	Evander Woo	336 922-6677
VP-Membership	Don Barnett	336 940-5486
VP-PR	John Clark	336 723-2153
Secretary	Scott Anderson	336-765-5502
Treasurer	Marcia Barney	336 712-8183
Sgt. at Arms	Barbara Schanker	336 945-3113
Immediate Past	Donna Hall	336 785-2778

For more information --
call Marcia Barney at
336 712-8183

**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday - - December 4,**



Schedule for the December 18, 2007 Meeting

Scott Anderson.....	Evaluator
Don Barnett.....	Timer
Butch Barney	Evaluator
Marcia Barney	Evaluator/Grammarian
Teddy Burris	Speaker
Pam Christopher	Evaluator
John Clark.....	Evaluator
Brian Davidson	General Evaluator
Donna Hall	
Mary Jones	Wordmaster
Lance Kull	Table Topics Master
Susan Lippow.....	
Fran Oakes	
Zoltan Rab	Vote Counter
Evelyn Ries	
Barbara Schanker	Speaker
Joel Schanker	Speaker
David Scruggs.....	
Christine Sternjacob	
Craig Thrift	Evaluator
Jeff Walker.....	Speaker
Derrick Webb	
Elaine Wiles	Toastmaster
Evander Woo	Speaker

Schedule for the January 15, 2008 Meeting

Scott Anderson.....	Speaker
Don Barnett.....	Speaker
Butch Barney	Toastmaster
Marcia Barney	Evaluator
Pam Christopher	Evaluator
John Clark.....	Table Topics Master
Brian Davidson.....	Wordmaster
Donna Hall	Evaluator
Mary Jones	
Lance Kull	Speaker
Susan Lippow.....	Speaker
Fran Oakes	Joke Master
Zoltan Rab	General Evaluator
Evelyn Ries.....	Vote Counter
Barbara Schanker	Evaluator
Joel Schanker	Grammarian
David Scruggs.....	
Christine Sternjacob	Evaluator
Craig Thrift	
Jeff Walker	Timer
Derrick Webb	
Elaine Wiles	Speaker
Evander Woo	Evaluator

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.

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

~~~ **Happy Holidays to YOU** ~~~

The Editorial Staff has changed this issue and feels more inclined to go where angels fear to tread. Whether or not you believe in celebrating Christmas, make this season one of joy for yourself and those around you. Everyone has a birthday once per year at which time they are special. In this temporary editor's opinion the greatest thing about the Holiday Season is to simply look at the world around you and think "everyone is special!" It's a great opportunity to simply spread good cheer however you choose to do so. Who knows – the adventure could result in a more upbeat rest of the year!

Thoughts on rapidly approaching another birthday:  
-When did my wild oats turn to prunes and all bran?  
-I started with nothing. I still have most of it.  
-I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.  
-It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

## December 4, 2007 Meeting Notes by Secretary Scott Anderson

Brian Davidson opened the Northwestern Toastmaster's meeting for December 4, 2007. We had two guests for the evening, David Tanner and Kate Sherbine. Since there was no new business, old business or officer reports, Don Barnett, our Toastmaster for the evening, took control of the meeting.

Don spoke about Learning from Nature. He used a clever anecdotal allegory of camping with his wife in the Rocky Mountains. During his camping trip Don attended an "Animals Toastmaster Meeting." The added bonus was the fox joke.

Wordmaster Craig Thrift gave "neophyte" meaning beginner or novice as the word for the evening..

Zoltan Rab was the Table Topics Master. Zoltan was quick to remind us that he was selected for this position not volunteered. Zoltan asked Craig Thrift the rather haunting modern philosophical quandary we find ourselves in every week: paper or plastic? He asked Christine Sternjacob to defend the position that Americans need to drive cars. Her most cogent argument in her careful treatise of cars versus bicycles as American modes of transportation was that "she would not smell good." Zoltan asked Elaine Wiles how children can reconnect with nature.

Elaine clearly stated she was not a nature person. She then recounted a rather poignant and moving story about her trip as a young girl to the dairy farms in Nebraska. Finally, Zoltan asked Scott Anderson if hunting was good or bad. In a moment of great indecision, Scott waffled between any definitive answer. Instead he choose to point out that no matter whether hunting is properly considered good or bad, if Dick Cheney calls to invite you on a hunting trip politely decline.

The meeting transitioned into the prepared speakers portion. Brian Davidson was the second (after the TM Warm-up) prepared speaker for the evening. He proceeded to climb up on a self-proclaimed "political soapbox" to ask the audience: are we doing something wrong in regards to political financing? He cited the absurdity of spending a billion dollars to elect a servant. He climbed down off his soapbox with this polished rhetoric: "If we the people stand together then the politicians are replaceable."

Marcia Barney was the next prepared speaker. Her speech was entitled "Wish I'd thought of that." Marcia walked us through the history of some wonderful ingenious thoughts. She began in 1916 with the Piggly Wiggly's supermarkets and ended with several key transitions from cash to credit and paper to plastic. Marcia cleverly pinned her speech sections with the phrase "Wish I'd thought of that." This was such a wonderful technique and such an exciting speech that the highest praise the humble secretary can think to give to Marcia is to say "I wish I'd thought of that!"

Control of the meeting passed to John Clark, the General Evaluator for the evening. John called Butch Barney to evaluate Don's opening Toastmaster speech. He commented on the overall creative nature, no pun intended, of Don's speech. He suggested that Don should "enjoy his speech so the audience will enjoy his speech."

Elaine Wiles next evaluated Brian's speech. She commented on his great use of humor, emotional appeals, and personal examples. She suggested that his posture was a bit too relaxed and that too many statistics can be overwhelming.

Jeff Walker evaluated Marcia's speech. He commented on her use of helpful lists and reinforcement of the motif "I wish I'd

though of that." He suggested that she set the audience's expectations by asking an intriguing question.

Mary Jones was the grammarian. She called all the speakers into account, then demanded money for her analysis...well she is an accountant. Mary discovered a lot of uhs, connector words, and a couple of subtle usage mistakes.



Scott was the vote counter for the evening. Marcia won the ribbon for Best Speaker. Scott won the ribbon for the Best Table Topics. Butch won the ribbon for the Best Evaluator. Our guests David and Kate spoke to us briefly about our meeting. Marcia reminded us all that pennies are not legal tender for grammar fines.

Mary was our jokemaster. Frankly, it's been a long time since I've heard a joke that starts off "A Reindeer walks into a bar..."

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### Make 2008 Even Better By The Barneys

We are nearing a new year. A goal of ours is to make each year a little better than the previous one. We offer a few thoughts on how we might achieve this. You are invited to use them to your advantage also:

-Try to make the tasks you don't enjoy as enjoyable as possible. Listen to music while you work. Listen to a book on CD when you travel. Prepare (we enjoy making them already, don't we?) speeches on subjects in which you are truly interested instead of just digging into another version of the Ice Breaker. Use the speech as an opportunity to expand your horizon.

-Go somewhere you've always wanted to go - whether around the world or around the corner. Live a few days in a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright; camp out in the Great Smokies; visit a local winery; go to Florence. Scale your adventure to your imagination, time available, and financial situation.

-Try something you've never done before. If sky diving or roller blading are too fast for your taste, try something more on a par with pilates or yoga. Maybe just paint a picture or build a birdhouse. Speak without notes or practice a speech 20 times before delivering it.

-Learn to do something that you wish you'd learned to do when you were young. Perhaps playing the piano or picking a guitar would be music to your ears. Ballroom dancing can be learned at almost any age as can swimming or kite flying. Learn to play tennis.

-Commit at least one random act of kindness to another human being or to our environment - one for which no one will ever say "Thank You." The opportunities are limited only by your imagination.

-Eliminate one bad habit. Get more sleep, make more (or fewer) lists. This will allow you to add one good habit developed from the above list.

We plan for 2008 to be the best year of our life so far. May yours be the same!