

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 35, No. 06, Late September, 2008

On the web at www.nwtm.org

OFFICERS (2008-2009)

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
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For more information --
call Marcia Barney at
(336) 712-8183

See YOU
at our next Meeting



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.

Dues Are Past Due

It's **THAT** time of the year when our semi-annual dues are due. Please bring \$31.50 (cash or check payable to "Northwestern Toastmasters") to the next meeting or mail said check to Marcia Barney, DTM, 3501 Lakefield Court, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Improved Communications Seminar Begins

Our Improved Communications Seminar begins on September 16. This is valuable training for all members as well as those we know who simply need to improve their abilities. Please let Marcia Barney know if you plan to attend. If you would like a reservation form for someone else, let her know and she will be happy to send you a form. For more information about the Improved Communications Seminar, read Marcia Barney's excellent article on page two.

The Secretary's Report for September 2, 2008

by Evander Woo, Secretary

This meeting was the Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contest event for Northwestern Toastmasters.

Unlike a regular Toastmasters meeting, tonight's meeting was structured as a contest. The Contest Master for the evening was our President Craig Thrift. The Chief Judge for the evening was Butch Barney. The Chief Timer was Zoltan Rab. The backup timer was Susan Bush.

For the Humorous Speech contest, each participant's speech must be between 4.5 and 7.5 minutes to qualify. The three contestants for the contest were Don Barnett, Brian Davidson, and David Scruggs. Don spoke

about car maintenance. Brian talked about lessons in life. David discussed aging as a baby boomer.

David's speech was used for the Evaluation Contest. The evaluation contestants were Angela Rininger, Brian Davidson, Jeff Walker, and Evander Woo.

All Humorous Speech contestants qualified and the winner was Don Barnett, who would represent Northwestern Toastmasters in the area contest.

There was one disqualification in the evaluation contest. The winner was Brian Davidson, who would represent Northwestern Toastmasters in the area contest.

All contestants received a certificate of participation.

Next meeting, we will return to the regular meeting format and begin the Speech Craft classes.



Everyone involved in the contest is a winner. First Place in the Humorous Speech Contest went to Don Barnett (left) and First Place in the Evaluation Contest was captured by Brian Davidson. Congratulations!

Reminder

We meet on the first, third and fifth Tuesday -- September does have three meeting dates, followed by another meeting the following week (October 7). If this is too confusing, just plan on coming each week for the ICS.I



Improved Communications Seminar

By Marcia Barney, DTM

Our Fall 2008 Improved Communications Seminar (ICS) begins on September 16. While we normally conduct 2 of these per year, this is our first one this year due to our hosting of the District 37 Conference in the Spring.



This program is designed to help new members and non-members get a real "leg up" on improving their communications abilities. During the 8-week program participants will give 3 prepared speeches, participate in group discussions, learn how to evaluate effectively, learn the basics of good communications, and give several impromptu speeches. This is the only time when we actually have how-to lectures in Toastmasters.

It is also the time when we re-emphasize the importance of reaching for excellence in our club meetings by polishing our evaluation skills, developing our abilities to introduce others, and challenging ourselves to improving all aspects of speech delivery. We'll even offer some ideas for expanding speech content beyond the mundane.

This program even challenges the "old hands" to revitalize their communications skills. Those who conduct the lectures and workshops must take another in depth look at exactly why and how to achieve the desired speaking results. Sometimes we discover a birds nest or two among the laurels.

Beginning on September 16 we will meet every week for eight weeks. While all participants are expected to be present at all meetings, all members are urged to do so. Regardless of experience, this program should help each of us improve our communications abilities.

One Liners

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year -- I must have spent 400 bucks. I haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, "Well, she looks good, doesn't she?"

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

Notes from the Editor

I am still "playing around" with the newsletter format. I am open to suggestions for improvement, so don't be bashful.

I have started listing all active members in the schedule. This should make it easy for you to see what roles you have been assigned. It should also make it easy for the Table Topics Master to find members who do not have a speaking role, since one of the goals of Table Topics is to give as many members as possible an opportunity to speak.

Our web master informs me that the member roster on the web site is now up to date (that is, it matches the list published by Marcia Barney.) The pictures are slowly being added.

Feel free to peruse our web site (after all, that's what it's there for) to find more little tidbits that will help lead to a better meeting.

Redneck Jokes

You might be married to a redneck if your husbands dog rides in his truck more than you do.

You might be married to a redneck if your husband has to wear specific hats to farm sales, livestock auctions, customer appreciation suppers, and vacations.

You might be married to a redneck if you have ever had to wash husband down with a backyard garden hose before you would let him inside the house.

You might be married to a redneck if your husband will not throw away a 5-gallon bucket.

You might be married to a redneck if your husband can remember the fertilizer rate, seed population, herbicide rate and yields on a farm you rented 10 years ago, but cannot remember your birthday.

You might be married to a redneck if Your husband has ever driven off the road in order to examine your neighbors crops.

You might be married to a redneck if Your husband has ever borrowed gravel from the county road to fill potholes in your driveway.

You might be married to a redneck if Your husband has ever used the same knife to make bull calves steers and peel apples.

You might be married to a redneck if Your husband has ever used a velvet leaf plant as toilet paper.

Aren't you glad that we are not rednecks?

