

Northwest Words

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On the web at www.nwtm.org

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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.

Optimist or Pessimist?



by Pam Christopher, DTM
(International Director
Candidate 2009-2011)

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, at Christmas time their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable electronic toy and game. The optimist's room was then loaded with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying. "Why are you crying?" the father asked. "Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will one day get broken." answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked. To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

Now, think about your own life. Are you the gloomy pessimist or the eternal optimist? What "label" would your friends and family put on you? Would you be proud to wear the title they would give to you?

The holiday season will get the best of some people. They will complain, fuss, and find something wrong with everything. They will be the unhappiest people we know! Keep from being a member of this "special" group. Go out of your way to find something good to talk about in the elevator. Smile at people as you pass by. Allow someone who appears "anxious" to go ahead of you in line. Invite someone to our Toastmaster meetings! Now THAT is positive thinking!

Technical Problems

Due to the full moon last Friday plus the intense solar flares that occurred earlier in the week, the only existing copy of the Secretary's Report for December 2 was inadvertently translated into Klingon. We hope to have the problem corrected and the Secretary's Report in the next issue. (Look, I know it sounds thin, but it's my story and I'm going to stick with it.)

Talking out of Turn

It has long been known that we are a social group. One of the great things about our meetings is the opportunity to talk with fellow Toastmasters. However, we limit our visiting to before and after the meeting, as well as during the break between the business and educational sessions. The rest of the time should be spent paying attention to the person behind the lectern.

Also - since we are enhancing our "Roberts Rules of Order" we need to remember that we do not speak until recognized. There are times when the speaker gives us the perfect straight line that just begs for us to shout out an answer. Don't!

Now please, someone take my soapbox away, so I can get back to work on the newsletter.

Mid Year

This is the last issue of Northwest Toastmasters! At least for 2008. The next issue will be Volume 13, Early January 2009. This means that the Toastmaster year is half over. Are you half way to the goals you have set?

