

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of *Northwestern Toastmasters* Club 2946/37

We meet each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC

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Volume 36, Issue 3
Early August, 2009

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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.

Inspiring Speeches



by Don Barnett, AC-B
I recently attended a weeklong annual conference. There were many speakers - five days of speakers. Hour after hour we, one hundred strong, sat in uncomfortable chairs, listening to one speaker after another and another. With the many speakers,

I had much opportunity to observe the skills of speaking.

Many of the speakers were heads of various departments – subject matter experts. Several speakers were representatives of their organizations and updating their status with us. Many speakers were inexperienced in speaking. At a nickel per error, there were enough “uh's” and “you know's” to balance the national debt. As listeners, we all drank our caffeine to stay alert.

One speaker stood out. Above all the other presenters for the week, I was impressed with his speech the most. His speech is the one I remember. As I studied his speech, I analyzed the elements that made it outstanding. He committed so many mistakes: His Power Point was too small, too busy, at times unreadable. He rushed through the slides, skipping some without explanation. He frequently spoke so fast that his words were unintelligible. So many errors. He did sprinkle humor in his presentation. But what was that I liked? What made his speech so memorable? His speech made an impression because of his PASSION! He presented his concepts with passion. From his first words, I could tell that his program was meaningful to him – more than just a job. His message was a mission. He was giving of himself. His passion sold me on his dream – his vision.

What role does passion play in your speeches? The German philosopher, Hegel, says, “Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.” Author,

John Maxwell comments, “A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.” In Toastmasters, we choose the topics for our speech. Do we choose topics that illustrate our passion? Do we allow ourselves to show our passion?

What is your passion: Taxes are too high? Injustice? Sports and the favorite team? Dance? Homegrown tomatoes? Your favorite flavor of ice cream? Your Job? What topic evokes emotion? What excites us?

From our Toastmasters International website, we are provided ***The Seven Secrets of Inspiring Leaders***, by Carmine Gallo. The first Secret is to: Demonstrate enthusiasm constantly. Gallo explains that “inspiring leaders have an abundance of passion for what they do. You cannot inspire unless you're inspired yourself. Period. Passion can't be taught. You either have passion for your message or you don't. Once you discover your passion, make sure it's apparent to everyone.” We should consider the challenge to include passion in our prepared speeches. I look forward to your next speech.

Club Level Contests

- Craig Thrift, CC/CL VP Education

Our club contests are approaching. The Humorous Speech contest will be at our regular meeting on Sept. 1. We will have our Evaluator Contest during our meeting on Sept. 29. The Sept. 29th meeting is also education meeting, so it is going to be an even special meeting.

I hope each of you will seriously consider entering these contests! Northwestern is full of funny speakers and wonderful evaluators. If you would like to enter then please let me know.

So step right up with your best funny speech and then bring on your serious side and enter our club's evaluator contest! !

That's the Way it Was on July 21, 2009

by Christa Neuhauser, Secretary



President Don Barnett opened the business session. Craig Thrift, VP of Education, needed to update the records of the educational achievements of the individual members. The president mentioned in the officer's report that the area governor has expressed an interest in visiting the Northwestern Toastmasters. John Clark presented an award to Brian Davidson, winner of the Northwest Words contest to guess the number of members at the last meeting.

Toastmaster-of-the-meeting of the evening, Barbara Schanker, talked about what "Summer" means to her.

Greg Jones acted as Wordmaster and introduced the word: "vacuity" (emptiness), which was used in several variations throughout the meeting.

Don Barnett was the Grammarian, Zoltan Rab the Timer and Craig Thrift was the Vote Counter.

Table Topics Master Pam Christopher continued with *Summer*-related questions. Zoltan Rab spoke about his favorite summer activity during his childhood, Elaine Wiles talked about her delightful summer memories during her teenage years and Christa Neuhauser introduced her favorite place to go during her adulthood. The prepared speeches were given by:

- 1) Jordan McKinney, who shared with us what "he had been up to this summer," which turned out to be an internship with an investment company.
- 2) Barbie Morgan gave an entertaining and comical speech titled "Potty Training", sharing experiences she made throughout her life while traveling.
- 3) Brian Davidson shed some light on "What is *Twittering*", an informative and humorous speech.

Butch Barney was the General Evaluator. Evaluation of the prepared speeches: John Clark for Jordan McKinney, Joel Schanker for Barbie Morgan and Jeff Walker for Don Barnett.

Best table topic: Christa Neuhauser

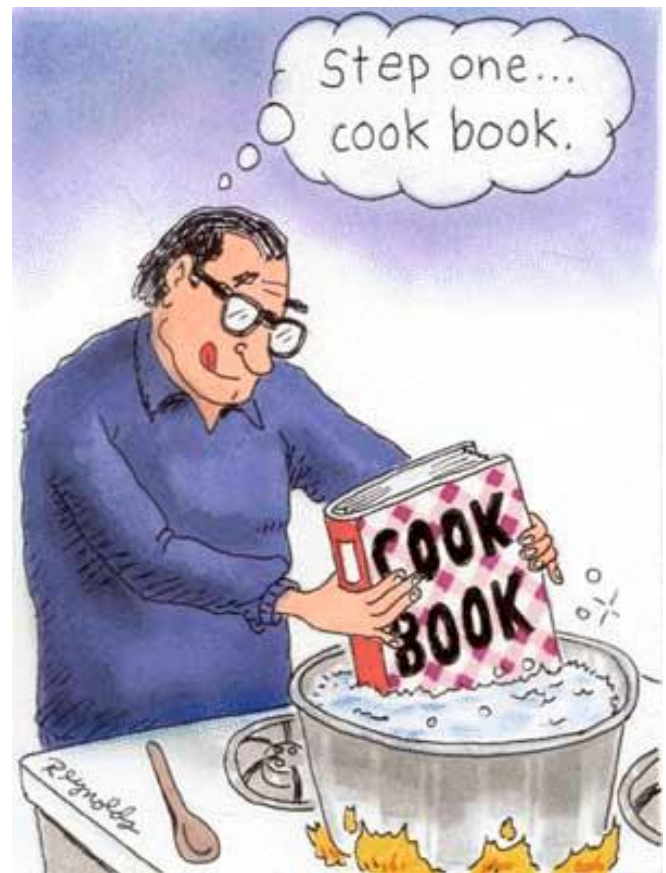
Best Evaluator: Joel Schanker

Best Speaker: Don Barnett

Butch Barney was the Joke Master for the evening.

Working on the CL Manual?

If you are working in the CL manual (and if you are not, then why not?) talk with our Vice President of Public Relations, John Clark. He can always use help and that help will get you credit for helping with the newsletter (Northwest Words) or our web site, or both. John claims that the work is not difficult and it is mostly painless.



Words of Wisdom

- Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me alone.
- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.
- It's always darkest just before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
- Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
- Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
- If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
- Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably a wise investment.
- If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.

