

# 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

## OFFICERS for 2011-2012

Christa Neuhauser, CC	President
Jeff Walker	VP-Education
Jessica Pockey	VP-Membership
John Clark, DTM	VP-Public Relations
Elizabeth Stepp, CC	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Brian Gravely	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	<a href="http://www.NWTM.org">www.NWTM.org</a>

Volume 38 - Issue 12

Our Next Meeting will be on  
**November 29, 2011**  
(Next Tuesday)

For More Information, call  
**Marcia Barney (336) 712-8183**



***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.***

## Northwest Words update

There seems to be a problem with some copies of the last issue of Northwest Words. A few members received a copy with a foreign language in one or more columns. Rather than clog up the Internet with duplicate copies, we have posted the corrected copy on our web site.

## Your Horoscope

They say that animals can often sense an earthquake moments before it strikes, which explains why so many of them are smiling at you right now

## Speech Topics

There is not a lot of news for this newsletter. As a "public service" this rather lengthy article is provided. There should be several good starting places for a speech in here.

### LAWS OF CAT PHYSICS

**Law of Cat Thermodynamics** Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.

**Law of Cat Stretching** A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.

**Law of Cat Sleeping** All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved as is possible for the cat.

**Law of Cat Elongation** A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.

### Law of Cat Acceleration

A cat will accelerate at a constant rate, until he gets good and ready to stop.

**Law of Dinner Table Attendance** Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.

**Law of Rug Configuration** No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.

**Law of Obedience Resistance** A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.

**First Law of Energy Conservation** Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, therefore, use as little energy as possible.

**Second Law of Energy Conservation** Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.

**Law of Refrigerator Observation** If a cat watches a refrigerator long enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.

### Law of Electric Blanket Attraction

Turn on an electric blanket and a cat will jump into bed at the speed of light.

**Law of Random Comfort Seeking** A cat will always seek, and usually take over, the most comfortable spot in any given room.

**Law of Bag / Box Occupancy** All bags and boxes in a given room must contain a cat within the earliest possible nanosecond.

**Law of Cat Embarrassment** A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.

**Law of Milk Consumption** A cat will drink his weight in milk, squared, just to show you he can.

**Law of Furniture Replacement** A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.

**Law of Cat Landing** A cat will always land in the softest place possible.

**Law of Fluid Displacement** A cat immersed in milk will displace her own volume, minus the amount of milk consumed.

(continued on page 3)

## The Way it Was - November 15, 2011

By Marcia Barney DTM, Treasurer



The highlight of the business session was the approval of the 2011-2012 budget. Our projected income from dues (\$3.50 of our semi-annual dues stays in the club) and and-ah fines totaled \$244. Our projected expenses for trophies, manuals, ribbons, ballots, and web site is \$370.20. As we have a reasonably healthy balance in our checking account the club approved to proposed budget. The Treasurer noted that the best way to avoid increased dues of continuous deficits is to increase our membership and pay our grammarian's fees. It was also pointed out that we are expected to eat dinner at Mayberry's. While we are a non-profit organization, Mayberry's is a business and rental on the room (should we have to pay it) is \$60 per meeting. President Christa Neuhauser did a fine job of keeping the business session flowing smoothly.

Butch Barney served as Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting with a theme of "Remember When." Oh, some of the things he remembered I double dare you to forget. "Peruse" (study in depth) was offered as the Word-for-the-Day by Wordmaster John Clark. Table Topics Master Craig Thrift gave topics to:

- -Brian Gravely's meaning of Thanksgiving is of family and friends.
- -John Clark loves both pumpkin and sweet potato pie. Put the two together and he's blissful.
- -Jeff Walker's favorite part of Thanksgiving is the Macys Parade - even if he doesn't watch it.
- -Don Barnett doesn't understand why Wal-Mart wants to open early. No Black Friday specials for Don!

Prepared speeches were given by:

- ü Piyush Gupta gave his Ice Breaker speech. His first speech was evaluated by John Clark.
- ü Kristen Schockett gave an inspiring "De clutter" for #2 from her CC manual. Brian Davidson offered suggestions.
- ü Marcia Barney gave #4 from her CC Manual. "Catch a Few ZZZZs" was evaluated by Christa Neuhauser.

Elaine Wiles served as General Evaluator. Daniel Parker was the Timer. Elizabeth Stepp was Grammarian. Jeff Walker counted votes. Don Barnett told the joke for the Evening.

Winners were:

- Ø Best Table Topic Speaker - Brian Gravely
- Ø Best Evaluator - Brian Davidson
- Ø Best Speaker - Marcia Barney

Sometimes when I reflect back on all the beer I drink I feel shamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It is better that I drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver." –Jack Handy

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

## Common Misuse of English

**"Ones"** - Error: "These ones", "Those ones" "Give me a dozen of those ones." Proper: "These", "Those". "Give me a dozen of those." The plural of "one" is "two", or "three", etc. Excepting long-accepted uses such as "loved ones", "ones" is no more acceptable than "gooses" or "mouses".

**"Nother"** - Error: "That's a whole nother story." Proper (or at least improved): "That's another whole story." Note that "nother" isn't a word'.

**"have"** versus **"of"** - Error: "I could of gone." Proper: "I could have gone." This is more a problem in public speaking and writing than in casual conversation. While "could have" and "could of" are frequently indistinguishable in conversation, lower tempo and greater articulation in public speaking can make this error more noticeable.

**"use"**(to employ) versus. **"utilize"**(to make useful) "Utilize" is not a new word, but its use (or "utilization", if you prefer) is displacing "use" in writing and in public speaking. The distinction between these two words is difficult to remember and is not obviously useful. E.g., I can "use" a shovel to dig a hole. That's what shovels are for. However, I would "utilize" a feed scoop for the same purpose. Recommendation: Don't utilize "utilize" at all; use "use" instead. No meaning will be lost through the use of "use", and it sounds less pretentious.

Error : **"Old adage"** An "adage"(saying creditable through long use) is old by definition. "Old adage" is redundant.

Error: **"Old axiom"** An "axiom" (self-evident or agreed-upon statement) has no age. An axiom is true at time of use.

Error: **"different than"** Proper: "different from" just listen to the difference.

**"obligated"** v. **"obliged"** Error: "Dr. Laura: Am I obligated to ...?" Proper: "Dr. Laura: Am I obliged to ...?"

Error: **"Firstly", "Lastly", Most importantly", "Secondly"** These appear to be adverbs, as many English adverbs are formed by appending "ly" to adjectives. However, "importantly" is usually heard as a sentence fragment in an adjective sense. Error: "Most importantly, the Council's decision ..." Proper: "The most important consequence of the Council's decision ..."

Error: **"Thusly"** "Thus" is already an adverb. Appending "ly" to "thus" is meaningless.

- Paul Brians, Washington State University

A dull-witted king is losing a territorial dispute with a neighboring monarch. As the fight wears on, he gets more and more frustrated. Finally he roars, "Where are my two court jesters?" In seconds, the jesters appeared by his side. "Okay, let's continue the dispute," he says, "now that I have my wits about me."

~~ Meeting Schedule ~~

Please Note: The Vice President of Education is continually adjusting the schedule to meet the requirements of the members. So, if you need to see the current schedule, contact our VP of ED (see the top of the newsletter for contact information.)

Member	11 / 29 / 2011	12 / 06 / 2011	12 / 20 / 2011	01 / 03 / 2012
Don Barnett, AC-B	Toastmaster	Speaker	Table Topics	Timer
Butch Barney, DTM	Table Topics	Joke Master	Speaker	
Marcia Barney, DTM	Word Master	Evaluator	Evaluator	
Pam Christopher, DTM		Evaluator	Evaluator	General Evaluator
John Clark, DTM		Speaker	Grammarian	Evaluator
Brian Davidson, DTM	Vote Counter	Evaluator	Toastmaster	Table Topics
Brian Gravely	Speaker			Speaker
Piyush Gupta	Timer	Word Master	Speaker	Evaluator
Scott Hill				Speaker
Lance Kull, DTM				
Christa Neuhauser, CC	Grammarian	Speaker		Toastmaster
Daniel Parker	Speaker	Vote Counter / Joke Master	Joke Master	Grammarian
Jenny Patterson	Evaluator	Speaker	Word Master	Speaker
Jessica Pockey				
Barbara Schanker, AC-S				Speaker
Joel Schanker, DTM	Evaluator			Evaluator
Kristin Schokett	Evaluator	Timer	Vote Counter	Joke Master
Achal Shah				
Elizabeth Stepp, CC	General Evaluator	Grammarian / Table Topics	Speaker	
Craig Thrift, CC/CL	Speaker	General Evaluator	Evaluator	Vote Counter
Jeff Walker, CC	Evaluator	Toastmaster	Evaluator	Speaker
Elaine Wiles, CC-G	Table Topics	Speaker	General Evaluator	Evaluator
Chuck Wooten	Joke Master	Evaluator	Speaker	

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

**LAWS OF CAT PHYSICS** (continued from page 1)

**Law of Cat Disinterest** A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest him.

**Law of Pill Rejection** Any pill given to a cat has the potential energy to reach escape velocity.

**Law of Cat Composition** A cat is composed of "Matter" plus "Anti-Matter" plus "It Doesn't Matter".

Northwestern Toastmasters  
 4270 Mill Creek Road  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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