

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	www.NWTM.org

Volume 38 - Issue 14

Our Next Meeting will be on
December 20, 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.

Public Service Announcement

P. Fantum

Please review your program assignment before the meeting so that you can do your assignment for the greatest benefit of all members. A description of all meeting roles can be found on our web site - www.nwtm.org. Simply click on "Roles" from the menu on the left side of the page.

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**We can always depend on the people across the street to keep us entertained as seen in this photo.**

## Guests and New Members

Allan Chavez made his conversion from guest to member at our last meeting. Allan - welcome to both Northwestern and Toastmasters International.

## Your Horoscope

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You will be honored this week by the prestigious Academy of Just Handing Those Darned Things Out to Whoever's Around.



The Way it Was - December 6, 2011

By A. Volunteer



Secretary Elizabeth Stepp was kind enough to help our V.P. of Education, Jeff Walker who was filling double duty as both Presiding Officer and Toastmaster of the Meeting. Thanks to their efforts we zipped right through the Business Session and began the Educational Part of our meeting.

Jeff introduced his team for the evening. Marcia Barney served as Grammarian; Kristen Schockett did double duty as Timer and Vote Counter. Piyush Gupta was our word master, while Elizabeth returned to the lectern to perform the duty of Table Topics Masters. Elizabeth used the theme of snow, as she called on - -1

- Piyush Gupta to tell about a time that it snowed.
• Butch Barney to tell about what he built in the show and why.
• Achal Shah to tell us what he made with snow
• Marcia Barney to tell what to buy at a Grocery store before a snow storm.

Our prepared speakers for the evening were:

- => A.J. Daoud - gave his Ice Breaker.
=> Craig Thrift used Project 3 in the Special Speeches manual to speak for 8 minutes.
=> Elaine Wiles was our next speaker
=> John Clark used project 9 in the Basic Manual and spoke for 6 minutes.

Butch Barney was our Genial General Evaluator. In addition to his comments about improving the quality of the meeting, he called on -

- Ø Marcia Barney to evaluate A.J. Daoud
Ø Brian Davidson to evaluate Craig Thrift
Ø Elizabeth Stepp to evaluate Elaine Wiles
Ø Marcia Barney to evaluate John Clark

Our meeting concluded with humor by Achal Shah and the awards -

- Best Table Topics Response - Marcia Barney
Best Evaluation - Marcia Barney
Best Prepared Speaker - Elaine Wiles.

I just got off the phone with friend in southern New Jersey. He said that since early this morning the snow has been falling heavily and it is nearly waist high. The temperature is dropping below zero and the north wind is increasing as well. His wife has done nothing all morning, but look through the kitchen window. He says that if it gets much worse, he may have to let her in.

It's really difficult to find what you want on eBay. I was searching for cigarette lighters and found over 15,000 matches.

A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.

Speaking About Table Topics

Table Topics (or impromptu speaking) is a critical component of our daily life. At home, at work and in social settings, we use Table Topics. We use impromptu speaking to sell an idea to others, to persuade or to give information.

It doesn't matter how important or how trivial the thought may be - what is important is that we convey it to others. That is where experience in Table Topics helps. We learn to persuade, to sell, to give information in a two-minute response.

The source of a question makes no difference. It may be from a spouse involving remodeling the dining room. It may be from a fellow employee asking for directions to a branch office. It may be a supervisor asking for the status of a project. In the real world there is never a shortage of Table Topics questions

Just as the motto of Boy Scouts is "Be Prepared" - an experienced Toastmaster learns through Table Topics to "Be Prepared." The best way to "Be Prepared" is, of course, through practice. Instead of being afraid that you will be called on, listen to each question and even if you are not called on - think of a suitable reply.

The Communication track in Toastmasters provides us with manuals that help us improve our speaking. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a series of manuals for Table Topics just as there are for prepared speeches? Of course, that's not possible. In a prepared speech, we prepare with practice until we have everything just right. In Table Topics we get only one opportunity. That's why we need to really concentrate during Table Topics.

If you don't think impromptu speaking is important, then listen to the political debates going on - - watch how carefully each speaker tries to provide a good Table Topics response in the time allotted.

Speaking of allotted time - I would like to see the time limits re-imposed on Table Topics. It's a great way to develop an internal clock that allows us to gain a feel for the length of time that we have been speaking.

I went fishing this morning but after a short time I ran out of worms. Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in his mouth. Frogs are good bass bait. Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in his mouth I grabbed him right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket. Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. His eyes rolled back, he went limp. I released him into the lake without incident and carried on fishing using the frog. A little later, I felt a nudge on my foot. There was that same snake with two frogs in his mouth. - - Life is good in the South.

~~ 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 Vice President of Education

Member		12 / 20 / 2011	01 / 03 / 2012	01 / 17 / 2012	01 / 31 / 2012
Don	Barnett, AC-B	Table Topics	Speaker	Evaluator	
Butch	Barney, DTM	Speaker		Evaluator	Speaker
Marcia	Barney, DTM	Evaluator		Toastmaster	
Pam	Christopher, DTM	Evaluator	General Evaluator	Speaker	
John	Clark, DTM	Grammarians	Evaluator		Timer
A.J.	Daoud	Vote Counter	Timer		Word Master
Brian	Davidson, DTM	Toastmaster	Table Topics		Speaker
Brian	Gravelly		Speaker	Joke Master	General Evaluator
Piyush	Gupta			Table Topics	Joke Master
Scott	Hill		Speaker	Word Master	Evaluator
Lance	Kull, DTM				
Christa	Neuhauser, CC	Speaker	Toastmaster	Evaluator	Speaker
Daniel	Parker	Joke Master	Grammarians	Speaker	Evaluator
Jenny	Patterson		Speaker	Grammarians	Table Topics
Jessica	Pockey				
Barbara	Schanker, AC-S		Speaker	Table Topics	Toastmaster
Joel	Schanker, DTM		Evaluator	Timer	
Kristin	Schokett	Timer	Joke Master	Speaker	Grammarians
Achal	Shah	Word Master			Speaker
Elizabeth	Stepp, CC	Speaker	Evaluator	Evaluator	Vote Counter
Craig	Thrift, CC/CL	Evaluator	Vote Counter	Speaker	Evaluator
Jeff	Walker, CC	Evaluator	Speaker	General Evaluator	Grammarians
Elaine	Wiles, CC-G	General Evaluator	Evaluator	Word Master	Timer
Chuck	Wooten	Speaker		Vote Counter	Evaluator

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

Northwestern Toastmasters
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