

# 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, CC	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	<a href="http://www.NWTM.org">www.NWTM.org</a>

Volume 38 - Issue 17

Our Next Meeting will be on  
**January 31, 2012**  
(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.***

## They Have NOTHING on NWTM!

My email "inbox" included an interesting title this week: - "One club, one year, 57 educational awards!" Who sent *this* one? I should have known by the title that it was a good friend of mine, Mike Raffety! Mike and I were on the Board of Directors at the same time. His knowledge of the facts and figures of our organization always amazes me! As I read the article, I noticed similarities with Langley Morning TM club and our very own NWTM. Check out his article at <http://mikeraffety.com/blog/> and I think you will see that our club can "hold a candle" to other clubs worldwide! I am so thankful to be a member of Northwestern Toastmasters!

Pam

Pamela S Christopher, DTM, PID, HNP

**(Editors Note:** Along with all of her efforts to help Toastmasters, Pam is a Heck-of-a Nice Person. The link that she provides shows an active club, plus there is an embedded link to a ".PDF" file that has a great way to track Competent Leadership goals. Thanks Pam!)

## Words of Wisdom (from an old Cowboy)

Don't let the sun catch you in bed.

If it ain't right - don't do it

If the boots fit - keep getting 'em resoled

## Meeting Guests

At our January 17th meeting Margot Corbett; Sylvia Hernandez; Beatrice Wolf and our Area Governor John Palmer were present. We hope that you enjoyed the meeting and look forward to seeing you again.

## Who Did What?

Here is the answer to the word puzzle in the last edition. If you don't remember it, look on past issues at our web site - [www.nwtm.org](http://www.nwtm.org)

Name	Job	City	Age
Daniel	truck driver	Cleveland	21
Darren	pizza delivery	San Francisco	22
Greg	carpenter	Seattle	19
Patrick	waiter	New York	20

The Procrastinator's Clock



A calendar's days are numbered.

## The Way it Was - January 17, 2012

By Elizabeth Stepp, CC/CL



The meeting started at 6:33 p.m. with President Christa Neuhauser opening the meeting. There were no officer's reports and no committee reports. During new business, Area Governor John Palmer announced the area speech contest on March 24 and the division contest on April 15. He also announced the annual conference which will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC. Other guests for the evening were: Margot Corbett; Sylvia Hernandez and Beatrice Wolf.

Marcia Barney was the Toastmaster of the meeting and her theme was "Winter Pleasures." She spoke about the ways that she passed the time during the winter, as a young child. We learned never to let Marcia keep score when playing gin rummy. Also, she confirmed that perhaps she works a bit too hard: she earned two undergraduate degrees in three years. She challenged the audience to find winter pleasures of their own.

The Grammarian for the evening was Jenny Patterson, Timer was Elaine Wiles, Vote Counter was John Clark, and the Word Master was Brian Gravely. The word for the evening was **obsolete**, meaning no longer in use or out of date.

The Table Topics session was hosted by Piyush Gupta. Piyush asked Jenny what she did as an indoor activity during the winter and we learned that she knits. Brian was asked how his activities change with the changes in the season. John Clark was asked what his favorite activities were; it turns out most of the day revolves around upsetting his housecats. Piyush asked Jeff Walker what his favorite winter drink is; it turns out that drink is tea.

Kristen Schockett gave her 3<sup>rd</sup> speech in the Competent Communicator manual, entitled, "Owning a Pet." Pets can be very beneficial for physical health, mental health and social well being. However, owning a pet is a commitment and should be carefully considered.

Don Barnett gave speech #7 from the Competent Communicator manual, called, "The Common Cold." The common cold is the leading cause of work absenteeism and causes a significant loss of productivity--\$25 billion worth. More than 200 viruses cause the common cold. The best prevention for the common cold is washing your hands.

Pam Christopher gave speech #7 from the Competent Communicator manual, entitled, "Variety Vacationland." She told us about some great places to visit in North Carolina and some stories about those places.

Jeff Walker served as the General Evaluator for the evening. Craig Thrift evaluated Marcia, Butch Barney evaluated Kristen, Christa evaluated Don, and Elizabeth Stepp evaluated Pam. Jenny provided the grammarian's report for the evening and Brian let us know who used the word for the evening. During announcements, Jeff recognized Brian for earning his Competent Communicator. Christa asked the guests to provide their thoughts about the meeting. Don won best speech for the evening, Butch won for best evaluator and Brian won for best table topics. Allan Chavez provided the joke and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

## Grammatical Errors to avoid

### *Its versus It's*

**Example** The class lost **it's** privileges.

**False Assumption** If you want to show possession, you must use an apostrophe.

**The Truth** *It's* always equals "it is." The possessive form of this word is always *its*, without an apostrophe.

**The Correction** Ask yourself, "Do I mean *it is*?" If not, skip the apostrophe. Similar common errors include misusing *there/their/they're* and *who's/whose*. Be sure to use these correctly.

### Pronoun-Antecedent Disagreement

**Example** **Every person** must make **their** own decisions.

**False Assumption** It's okay to use *their* — a plural pronoun — to refer to a singular antecedent (in this case, the antecedent is *every person*).

**The Truth** When you use *their* in this sentence, the reader thinks that you don't know the rules of pronoun-antecedent agreement. *Person* is singular, so you can't use the plural pronoun *their*.

**The Correction** Use *his* or *her*. The sentence above, for example, could be written like this: "Every person must make his or her own decisions." Or you can change the singular antecedent (*every person*) to a plural. In this case, you could write: "All people must make their own decisions."

### Lack of Parallel Structure in a Series

**Example** All Sophia ever wanted was **to finish** high school, **to graduate** from college and **a good job**.

**False Assumption** The elements of a series — that is, a list of things in a sentence — don't have to be the same part of speech, as long as they each complete the thought correctly.

**The Truth** Using parallel structure makes your sentence much clearer. It also keeps the reader's focus on the main idea.

**The Correction** Make sure that terms in a series are the same part of speech. If you end one verb with *-ing*, end them all with *-ing*. If you begin your list with a noun, stick to nouns throughout. Here's a better version of the sentence above: "All Sophia ever wanted was to finish high school, to graduate from college and to find a good job."

### Run-on Sentences

**Example** John left before Sue could make her point, so she was **angry**, **she** chose to stay silent, however, rather than express her true feelings and risk hurting his.

**False Assumption** When you're writing, keep going until you complete your entire thought.

**The Truth** Independent clauses that contain a subject and a verb can be joined with certain conjunctions such as *and*, *but* and *so* — but not with a comma, like the one after the word *angry* in the sentence above. Also, when you connect too many clauses in one sentence, you increase the chance of losing your focus and confusing your reader.

**The Correction** Break down run-on sentences with periods or semicolons. This allows you to keep the point of a sentence clear and to better control the pace of your text. The example above should be made into two sentences: "John left before Sue could make her point, so she was angry. She chose to stay silent, however, rather than express her true feelings and risk hurting his."

~~ 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	01 / 31 / 2012	02 / 07 / 2012	02 / 21 / 2012	03/06/ 2012
Don Barnett, AC-B	Toastmaster		Table Topics	
Butch Barney, DTM	Speaker	Evaluator	Speaker	Vote Counter
Marcia Barney, DTM		Evaluator	Speaker	Evaluator
Allan Chavez	Speaker	Timer	Vote Counter	Table Topics
Pam Christopher, DTM	Evaluator	Toastmaster		
John Clark, DTM	Timer	Evaluator	Evaluator	Speaker
A.J. Daoud	Word Master	Vote Counter	Grammarian	Speaker
Brian Davidson, DTM	Speaker	Evaluator		Timer
Brian Gravely	General Evaluator	Speaker	Evaluator	
Piyush Gupta	Joke Master	Grammarian		Speaker
Scott Hill				
Lance Kull, DTM				
Christa Neuhauser, CC			Speaker	Grammarian
Daniel Parker	Evaluator	Table Topics	Timer	
Jenny Patterson	Table Topics	Speaker	Evaluator	Joke Master
Jessica Pockey				
Barbara Schanker, AC-S				
Joel Schanker, DTM		Joke Master	Toastmaster	Evaluator
Kristin Schokett	Grammarian		Speaker	Evaluator
Achal Shah	Speaker			
Elizabeth Stepp, CC	Vote Counter		Speaker	
Craig Thrift, CC/CL	Evaluator		Joke Master	Speaker
Jeff Walker, CC				Evaluator
Elaine Wiles, CC-G	Timer	Speaker	Evaluator	Toastmaster
Chuck Wooten	Evaluator	Speaker		Evaluator

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

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

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