

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 2012-2013

Christa Neuhauser, CC/CL	President
Jeff Walker, CC	VP-Education
Brian Gravely, CC	VP-Membership
John Clark, DTM	VP-Public Relations
Piyush Gupta	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Sha Tao	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	www.NWTM.org

Volume 39 - Issue 21

Our Next Meeting will be on
April 2, 2013
 (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.

The Way it was - March 19, 2013

by P.Fantum, asst. Secretary



President Christa Neuhauser conducted her usual efficient and effective business session. Among items included in the session was the Treasurer's report (new member and dues due) and the note that our Area Governor will visit on April 2. After a brief recess Christa introduced Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting Jeff Walker. The theme for the evening was "Our Annual Table Topics Contest." Gayle Tuch gave the word-for-the-day: supercalifragilasticextralegocius (editor not responsible for either spelling or pronunciation.)

Prepared speeches were given by:

- Joel Schanker did project #10 from the Competent Communicator Manual. "Ask" and was evaluated by John Clark.
- Butch Barney gave \$5 from the Entertaining Speaker Manual. "I Like Puppies" and was evaluated by Pam Christopher.

Don Barnett served as General Evaluator. Craig Thrift served as Chief Judge for the Table Topics Contest. Judges were a panel of DTM's: Joel, Pam, Butch, Marcia, and John. Marcia also served as Sgt-at-Arms for the contest. Contestants were: David Burgach, Sha Tao, Christa Neuhauser, Gayle Tuch, and Loretta Norwood Each contestant answered the question "If you had four weeks to live how would you spend it?"

Rex Fesler was Chief Timer for the meeting and Contest. Marcia Barney was Grammarian. John Clark counted the votes. Christa Neuhauser told the Joke. All Northwestern Toastmasters are, by definition, winners. The winners, this week, are listed at the top of the next column.

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 Washington, DC - The wheel of fortune, with your money.

Gayle Tuch - Best Table Topic Speaker\*

John Clark - Best Evaluator

Joel Schanker - Best Speaker

\* Winner of the Table Topics Contest



## Competent Leader Activity

All Northwestern Toastmasters are either working through the Competent Leadership Manual or are strongly urged to do so. Our last meeting saw these members involved.

| Member        | Project - Activity                 |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Butch Barney  | 06 - Help with Club Speech Contest |
| Marcia Barney | 02 - Grammarian                    |
| Marcia Barney | 06 - Help with Club Speech Contest |
| Rex Fesler    | 06 - Help with Club Speech Contest |
| Craig Thrift  | 06 - Help with Club Speech Contest |
| Jeff Walker   | 08 - Toastmaster                   |



### It's Contest Time

Each year Toastmasters International holds both an International Speech Contest and Table Topics Contest. The contests are held at the Club level. Winners then proceed on to the Area, Division, District, Regional and International levels. This article will remain in place and be updated as new information is available.

#### Club Level International Speech Contest

March 5, during regular meeting.  
1st Place winner was Sha Tao.

#### Club Level Table Topics Contest

March 19, during regular meeting  
1st Place winner was Gail Tuch.

#### Area Level Contests

Area 41 will be on Saturday - April 6, 2013  
9:00 - 11:30 AM hosted by VIPS  
Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind  
7730 North Point Blvd.

#### Division Level Contests

April 20, 2013, details soon.

#### District Level Contests

May 18, 2013. For more information, visit the District web site - [www.toastmasters-nc.org](http://www.toastmasters-nc.org)

#### Regional Level Contests

For more information, see TI's web site at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

#### International Contests

August 21-24, 2013 in Cincinnati, Ohio For more information, see TI's web site at [www.toastmasters.org/Members/FutureConventions.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/FutureConventions.aspx)

### Spring Conference

Early Registration is now available for the District 37 spring conference. Both the conference registration and the hotel registration forms, as well as information about the conference is available on the district web site <http://toastmasters-nc.org/conference>.

#### Trivia Tidbit:

The average lifespan of a deck of Las Vegas casino playing cards is approximately eight hours or less, depending on certain variables, including what game they're being used for and how careful the players are.

**Most people want a perfect relationship...  
I just want a hamburger that looks like the one in the commercials.**

### The Tyranny of Perfection

By Joel Schanker

A man is at the first tee when he notices that his partner is about to use an orange golf ball. Commenting on its color his partners tells him that this is the perfect golf ball. It can't be lost. The color makes it easy to spot, it glows in the dark, it floats on water and if it can't be seen clap twice and it will beep until you find it. Fantastic the man says where can I buy some. His partner replies. I have no idea, I found this one.

Perfection isn't what it used to be but then again perfection never was. Lets consider the Tyranny of Perfection. When I came to Northwestern I found an environment where perfection was not required but effort was rewarded. From the beginning something positive was always brought to my attention only then followed by suggestions for improvement that were offered not dictated. As a result I find it difficult to keep my mouth shut but some great talks have grown out of the pieces of less than perfect presentations.

Consider your presentation. You know your objectives and you have only two or three stories to tell. How difficult is it to remember three basic idea or personal stories? But how many of us feel comfortable memorizing 1000 specific words. It is this drive for the perfect recitation that raises stress forcing us to cling desperately to our notes unwilling to raise our head for fear of losing the perfect word.

When that one word is lost the mental search on stage drowns out the simple sequence of stories or alternate words you could use.

Perfection is a judgment word that seeks to characterize the whole instead of valuing the parts. Can anything be perfect if just one part of it isn't? As result we are forced into "all or none mindsets"

If perfection is considered the absence of flaws, it becomes a negative force. Focusing us on eliminating flaws instead of celebrating benefits. Good, very good, even great accomplishments are not perfect. Yet how much we gain when they occur.

I was raised to not accept anything less than perfection in what I did. I applied that to my communication looking for the perfect story told with the perfect words the perfect way. I never got close to that elusive goal but I did raise my stress to the point that I hated to speak. There was always something wrong about that story or this phrase. Too many times, good ideas and eloquent words were not presented because they were not perfect.

THEN YOU FREEZE.

All your ideas and skills held hostage to the need for perfection. I heard Darren LeCroix talk about how he won the world championship of public speaking in 2001. He wasn't perfect but he knew what he had to say and its value overshadowed individual flaws. Look to value not perfection for a better presentation, a better experience and a better life.

(Note: This article was first published in 2006, but is well worth re-reading. Thank you, Joel.)

I heard someone say that there is a problem with my ego. I can assure you, there is absolutely no problem with my ego at all.

~~ Meeting Schedule ~~

Please Note. The Vice President of Education is continually adjusting the schedule to meet the requirements of our members. So, if you need to see the current schedule, contact our Vice President of Education

| Member                      | 04 / 02 / 2013    | 04 / 16 / 2013    | 04 / 30 / 2013    | 05 / 07 / 2013    |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cassandra Barnes            |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Don Barnett, AC-B           | Evaluator         | Word Master       | Speaker           | Toastmaster       |
| Butch Barney, DTM           |                   | Toastmaster       |                   | Evaluator         |
| Marcia Barney, DTM          | Vote Counter      | Evaluator         | Speaker           | Joke Master       |
| David Burgach               | Speaker           | Timer             | Vote Counter      | Speaker           |
| Pam Christopher, DTM        |                   | Evaluator         |                   | Table Topics      |
| John Clark, DTM             | Evaluator         |                   | Table Topics      | Speaker           |
| Brian Davidson, DTM         | General Evaluator | Table Topics      |                   |                   |
| Tripp Evans                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Rex Fesler                  | Timer             |                   |                   |                   |
| Brian Gravely, CC           |                   | Speaker           |                   |                   |
| Piyush Gupta                |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Scott Hill                  |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Maggie Majors               | Speaker           | Vote Counter      |                   | Speaker           |
| Christa Neuhauser, AC-B, CC | Evaluator         |                   | Speaker           | Grammarian        |
| Loretta Norwood             | Speaker           |                   | Timer             | Word Master       |
| Barbara Schanker, AC-S      |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Joel Schanker, DTM          |                   | Grammarian        | Word Master       | General Evaluator |
| Dawn Sicurezza              |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Gabe Smith                  |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Elizabeth Stepp, CC         | Word Master       | Speaker           | Grammarian        |                   |
| Sha Tao, CC                 | Joke Master       | Evaluator         | Toastmaster       |                   |
| Craig Thrift, CC/CL         | Toastmaster       | General Evaluator |                   | Evaluator         |
| Gayle Tuch                  | Grammarian        | Speaker           |                   |                   |
| Jeff Walker, CC             | Table Topics      | Evaluator         | General Evaluator | Evaluator         |

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



Northwestern Toastmasters  
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