

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 2013-2014

Jeff Walker, CC/CL	President
Don Barnett, ATM-B	VP-Education
John Clark, DTM	VP-Membership
Brian Davidson, DTM	VP-Public Relations
Craig Thrift, CC/ALB	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Rotation	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	www.NWTM.org

Volume 40 - Issue 25

Our Next Meeting will be on
June 17, 2014
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.

Mentoring



It's a deal!

Jeff Walker (*right*) happily accepted the role of Mentor for our newest member, John Conricode (*left*). Good choices John and Jeff!

- Vote Counter – John Conricode
- Grammarian – Joel Schanker

The Table Topic Master, John Clark followed the theme of the meeting and asked questions to fellow Toastmasters about 'The Economy'.

1 – In response to the question, "Some people say 'The best things in life are free' while others say 'There is no such thing as a free lunch.' Which do you believe is most true, why?" Joel Schanker stated that the sunrise is free, but nothing in life is free. You always have to pay in some kind of payment.

2 – In response to the question, "Predicting the economy is like herding cats. Yet, it is easy to look back and see things have changed. What do you see today that will affect the future?" Craig Thrift stated he had no clue, no way to predict the future.

3 – In response to the question "Do you think that political elections have too much, not enough or just about the right effect on economic outcomes?" Pam Christopher stated that she was speechless. Then explained that things will continue until people in government stop thinking about what is in it for them, instead of helping the country.

4 – In response to the question Based on the previous answers, where do you think that the economy is heading?" Peter Gross stated that it was going into the future that the economy will continue to expand.

Our prepared speakers were as follows:

- Brian Davidson presented "Economic Indicators You Can Trust" using project #9 from the Competent Communication Manual.

The Way It Was – June 3, 2014

By Craig Thrift, AC-B/AL-B, Secretary



President Jeff Walker presided over the business session.

After a brief recess, Jeff announced the changes to the agenda then proceeded with the introduction of the Toastmaster-of-the-meeting, Brian Davidson. The topic of the evening was 'Economic Indicators You Can Trust'. Brian talked about unusual ways to predict economic trends.

Brian announced the Toastmasters who would be assisting him during the meeting:

- Word Master – Pam Christopher provided us the word 'Monetary'
- Timer – Pam Christopher

- Jenn Jarrett presented 'Human Decision Making and Shortcuts We Employ Every day without Knowing' using project #3 from the Competent Communication Manual.
- Marcia Barney presented 'What is 'On Top'' using project #2 from the Competent Communication Manual.

Our General Evaluator for the meeting was Don Barnett. He called on:

- ✓ Butch Barney to evaluate the speech given by Brian
- ✓ Craig Thrift to evaluate the speech given by Jenn
- ✓ Jeff Walker to evaluate the speech given by Marcia

Meeting was ended by our Joke Master for the evening, Peter Gross.

Awards



Joel Schanker – Table Topics Contest

Butch Barney – Best Evaluator

Marcia Barney – Best Prepared Speaker

Competent Leader Activity

Member	Project – Activity
John Clark	7 – Table Topic Master
Marcia Barney	4 – Speaker
Pam Christopher	4 - Timer

Commonly Misused Words

Errors Your Spell-Check Won't Catch

It's / Its

This may be the single most common error among writers. The rule may not be logical, but it's simple: possessive pronouns **never** take an apostrophe. You wouldn't put an apostrophe in *his*, would you? You shouldn't put one in *hers*, either -- or *mine*, *yours*, *its*, *theirs*, or *whose*.

The reason that spell-check can't catch this is because *it's* is a real word: it means "it is" or "it has". Similarly, *there's* is a contraction for "there is", and *who's* means "who is". The apostrophe in these words stands for the letter that has been omitted.

The rule is pretty simple, so we might as well just face up to it. Whenever tempted to use an apostrophe in a personal pronoun, just ask yourself, "what letter is the apostrophe taking the place of?"

[Example: *It's a good thing I studied both the book and its cover.*]

Than / Then

These are two different words with different meanings. *Than* is a word you use when making comparisons. *Then* indicates the order in time in which events occur.

[Example: *At first I thought I'd rather write a poem than a short story, but then I decided a story might be more fun.*]

Affect / Effect

This one is extremely difficult remember. The confusion comes about because both words deal with the influence that something has on something else, and both can be used as a noun or a verb. Basically, *affect*, when used as a verb, means "having an influence on." The influence that it has is its *effect*. When used as a verb, *effect* means to bring about a change, as in "the citizens were able to *effect* a change in public policy." When used as a noun, *affect* is a term used primarily by psychologists and social scientists, and they probably already know how to spell it.

Got all that straight? It may be best for you to look in a dictionary when you need to use either word. There's sure to be an example that fits your particular circumstance.

[Example: The weather *affects* us all by having an *effect* on our moods.]

Passed / Past

Past refers to time or distance that has gone by. *Passed* refers to the action of passing.

[Example: *We may have passed Tom on the road when we drove past his new place of employment.*]

Accept / Except

Accept means to receive or to accede to something -- a gift, an invitation, or an apology, or example. *Except* means to exclude something. Just remember that the "ex" indicates exclusion, and you'll be able to keep them straight.

[Example: *I accepted all of John's invitations, except the one to dinner with him and his ex-wife.*]

Advise / Advice

Advise is the verb form; *advice* is a noun. When you *advise* your friends you give them *advice*.

Imply / Infer

Imply means to suggest something without stating it directly. *Infer* is to "read something into" a statement made by somebody else.

[Example: Susan *implied* that my essay wasn't well written and I *inferred* that she didn't like any of my work.]

"Very Unique"

Aaaargh! *Unique* means "one of a kind", "having no equal", "existing as the only one of its kind". Something can't be "more unique", "most unique", "very unique", or even (shudder) "somewhat unique". **It's either unique or it's not; got it?**

[Example: *Every work in the collection is unique; the most unusual is the sterling and sapphire pendant.*]

~~ 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.

	6/17/2014	7/1/2014	7/15/2014
Barnett, Don	Evaluator	Speaker	Toastmaster
Barney, Butch	Table Topics	Toastmaster	Speaker
Barney, Marcia	Speaker	Evaluator	Evaluator
Bjork, Scott	-	-	-
Christopher, Pam	Evaluator	Grammarian	General Evaluator
Clark, John	General Evaluator	Evaluator	Evaluator
Conricode, John	Word Master/Timer	Speaker	Timer/ Word Master
Davidson, Brian	Speaker	Table Topics	Evaluator
Fesler, Rex	-	-	-
Gravely, Brian	Evaluator	Timer/ Word Master	Speaker
Gross, Peter	Speaker	General Evaluator	Grammarian
Jarrett, Jenn	Grammarian	Speaker	Table Topics
McCormick, Patti	-	-	-
Schanker, Joel	Evaluator	Evaluator	Vote Counter/ Joke Master
Thrift, Craig	Vote Counter/ Joke Master	Evaluator	Speaker
Walker, Jeff	Toastmaster	Vote Counter/ Joke Master	Grammarian

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