

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 2016-2017

Craig Thrift, ACS	President
Peter Gross, CC	VP-Education
John Clark, DTM	VP-Membership
Don Barnett, ACG	VP-Public Relations
Anita Ford, CC	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Peter Gross, ACB	Sgt. at Arms
John Clark, DTM	webmaster
On the web at	www.NWTM.org

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Our Next Meeting will be on
February 21, 2017

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.

Minutes from our Meeting—February 7, 2017

by Anita Ford, Secretary



Meeting started at 6:30pm

Presiding Officer: Craig Thrift

Members present: Don Barnett, Butch Barney, Marcia Barney, Pam Christopher, Anita Ford, Peter Gross, Natoshia Miles, Bob McHone, Rob Phelps, Joel Schanker, Craig Thrift, Tonia Walker, Maddie Decker

Announcements: Minutes approved as recorded in the NWTM Newsletter.

New Business: Time to pay dues. Please give money to Marcia Barney.

Division speech contest April 27

TLI begins on February 11, 2017. Starts at 8am. Will be held at St. Ann's Episcopal Church.

Guests: Dean Waye

Toastmaster: Don Barnett

Grammarian: Anita Ford

Timer: Peter Gross

Vote Counter: Peter Gross

Word Master: Tonia Walker

Table Topics Master: Natashia Miles

Speakers (Name of Speech and Manual)/Evaluators:

Maddie Decker (Icebreaker, CC Manual, Project 1)/Butch Barney

Marcia Barney (Starting on a Dime, Specialty Speeches Manual, Project 4)/Joel Schanker

Bob McHone (Bound East for Cardiff, Interpretive Reading Manual, Project 4)/Pam Christopher

Don Barnett (Preparation for Spring, CC Manual, Project 2)/Craig Thrift

General Evaluator: Rob Phelps

Joke Master: Joel Schanker

Awards:

Best Evaluator: Pam Christopher

Best Table Topics: Tonia Walker

Best Speaker: Bob McHone

Competent Leadership Manual Report:

Pam Christopher Project 8 Evaluator

Anita Ford Project 1 Ah-counter/Project 3 Grammarian

Don Barnett Project 4 Toastmaster

New Members: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm



Dates to Remember

- February 21, 2017: ICS begins
- March 21, 2017: NWTM Speech Contest
- April 8, 2017: Area 41 Speech Contest
- April 22, 2017: Division E Speech Contest
- May 5-7, 2017: District 37 Spring Conference

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IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

Northwestern Toastmasters Club will offer an improved communications seminar beginning Tuesday October 4, 2016. The seminar is eight sessions designed to, through instruction and practice, improve specific skills. The sessions will be each Tuesday for eight weeks. The first session will be on February 21, 6:30 PM, Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem. Our club Speech contest on March 21 will be a part of the ICS schedule. Toastmasters International, a non-profit, educational organization, developed the program, which has been training members in improved communications and leadership techniques for more than 80 years. Northwestern Toastmasters are the local sponsors of the program.

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From our Membership:

At the end of our most recent meeting one of our esteemed Toastmasters shocked this member by suggesting that the Grammarian's role was a

(Continued from Column 1)

negative influence on our club. How could anyone suggest that the part of our program that has brought such dramatic improvement to so many be considered a negative?

Decades ago it was a caring Grammarian that stopped me from saying "as you know" anytime I wanted to avoid insulting the intelligence of my listeners. It was only a few months ago that a caring Grammarian (or two) helped one of our members back from the great "ah" pits of 20-30 per 5 minutes to 1 or 2. How many of us have pet words or phrases that we do not realize we are using? A good grammarian may be our only hope for salvation.

How many of us have benefited from learning that what we thought we were saying was not, in fact, what we said. "I saw the Apollo 7 land on my television."

We have avoided raising club dues for years because of the quarters paid to keep us reminded that grammar is important.

But, alas, that esteemed Toastmaster may have a point. Have we sometimes gone well beyond the helpful to the "Gotcha" as Grammarian? Is it helpful to tell a speaker "you mispronounced _____, but caught yourself and said it correctly?" Does it help to tell a speaker that they repeated a word such as "the, the" or "well, well" when they obviously know that this occurred. The speaker knows better than the grammarian when he loses his place.

Maybe we need to be *better* grammarians by remembering that the grammarian's role, like every other role in our meeting, is to help us become better communicators and leaders. Much as it hurts to admit it, the quarters and the entertainment value are not a real purpose of the grammarian's report.

Thank you, Joel, for making us think about it. Marcia Barney, DTM

Sign in a middle school homeroom: Laugh and the class laughs with you. But you go to the principal's office alone."

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NWTM Speech Contest – March 21

All Members are invited to prepare and participate in NWTM International Speech and Table Topics Speech Contests. What is your strength? What is your best topic? We are challenged to develop our best speech and prepare to compete with other club members at our meeting on March 21. Any of our Distinguished Toastmasters are glad to help you be your best.

From the Toastmasters International Website:

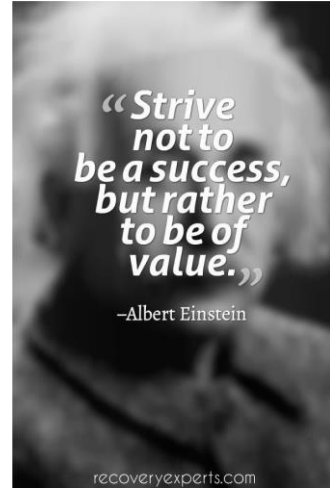
Speech contests are a Toastmasters tradition. Each year thousands of Toastmasters compete in the Humorous, Evaluation, Tall Tales, Table Topics and International speech contests. Competition begins with club contests and winners continue competing through the area, division and district levels. The International competition has two additional levels — semifinal and the World Championship of Public Speaking®.

The International Speech Contest

Contestants present a five- to seven- minute speech on any subject they choose. All districts must conduct this contest.

For first time participants and anyone who wants to “brush up” on Contest proceedings, below is a link for a ten- Minute Training Module at the TI website:

<http://origin-qps.onstreammedia.com/origin/toastmastersinternational/eLearning/Member/SC/S1/story.html>



Mark Twain had this to say about a certain person he did not like: “I didn’t attend the funeral but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.”

The Scientist and the Chauffeur

A famous scientist was often called upon to give his signature lecture, and he had a chauffeur who drove him to his engagements. The chauffeur would always come in, sit at the back, and listen.

One day, the scientist was speaking at a place where no one had ever seen him before, so the chauffeur proposed a switch. “Why don’t we trade clothing,” the chauffeur said, “and I’ll deliver your lecture? I’ve heard it enough times I feel pretty confident that I can give it as well as you can!” The scientist agreed to the switch.

The chauffeur did a brilliant job while the scientist sat in the back of the room in the chauffeur’s uniform. After he concluded, however, there was time for questions and answers. The first question was highly technical, and, of course, the chauffeur had no idea what to say. Without missing a beat, however, he simply said, “That question is so elementary I think I’ll allow my chauffeur to answer it.”

~~ 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		02-21-2017 ICS begins	03-07-2017	03-21-2017 Speech Contest
Don	Barnett, AC-G			Contestant?
Butch	Barney, DTM	Table Topics	Speaker	Contestant?
Marcia	Barney, DTM	Grammarian	Vote Counter/ Timer	Chief Judge
Pam	Christopher, DTM			Contestant?
John	Clark, DTM	Speaker	Evaluator	Timer
Brian	Davidson, DTM			Contestant?
Maddie	Decker	Timer/Vote Counter		Contestant?
Anita	Ford	General Evaluator	Toastmaster	Contest Master?
Peter	Gross	Speaker	Table Topics	Contestant?
Bob	McHone	Evaluator/Joke Master	Word Master	Contestant?
Shinika	McKiever	Evaluator	Speaker	Contestant?
Natoshia	Miles	Evaluator/ Word Master	Evaluator	Contestant?
Rob	Phelps	Speaker	Speaker	Contestant?
Joel	Schanker, DTM		General Evaluator	Table Topics
Craig	Thrift, ACS/ALB	Toastmaster	Evaluator/ Joke Master	Contest Master
Tonya	Walker		Grammarian	Contestant?

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

