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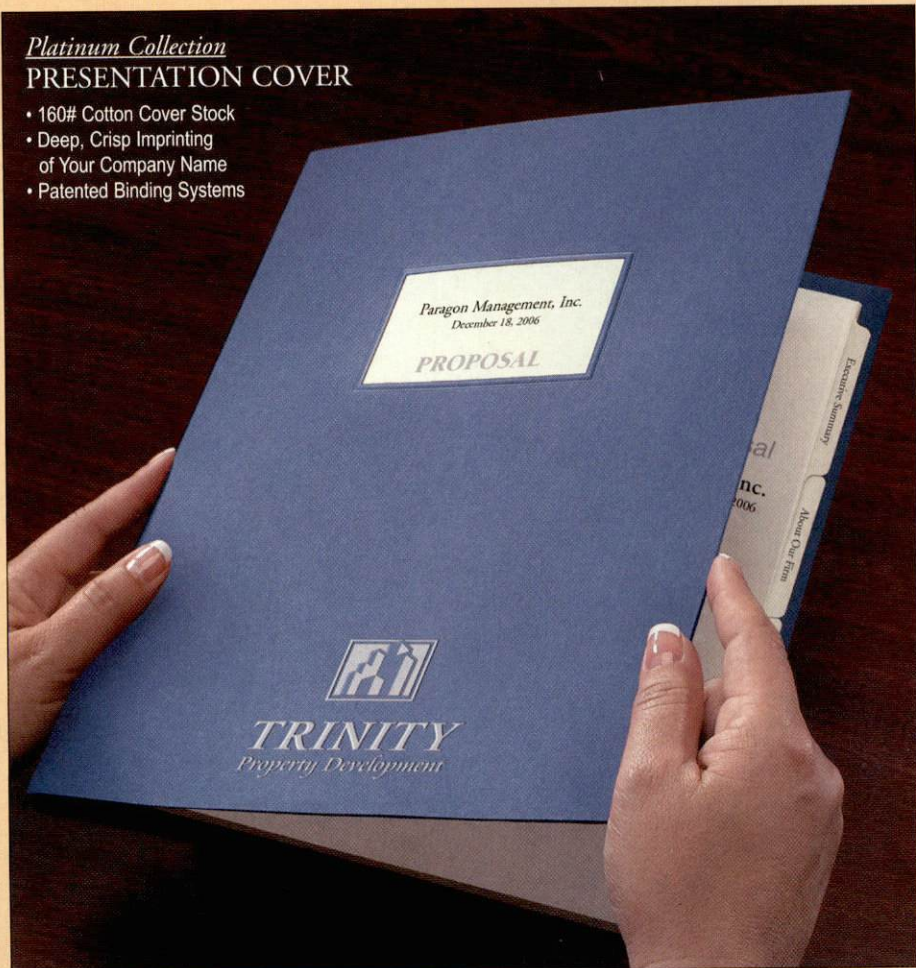
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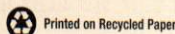
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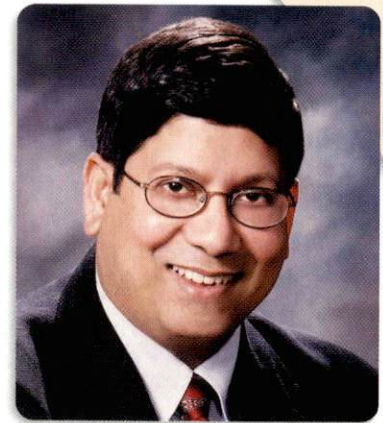
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Serve Your World



Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask so much what the world needs. Go out and do what makes you come alive, because what the world needs most are people who have come alive."

"Come alive"? That's exactly what the Toastmasters experience does for us, isn't it? I believe this quote is relevant to us because we can best serve our world when we have come alive to our capabilities. The ones who are most alive are the ones who delight in serving others. Finding our voice prepares us to serve our world.

Opportunities for service are built into the Toastmasters system. Some examples include: inviting friends and colleagues to a club meeting, greeting visitors to the club and making them feel welcome, encouraging others, mentoring a new member, conducting a Speechcraft or Youth Leadership program. When you help charter a new club, you perform one of the most significant acts of service. Consider the lives you touch – charter members, members who come after them, their family members, colleagues and friends – year after year.

I have witnessed acts of Toastmaster service that touch lives in a powerfully positive way. Consider these examples:

Fran Okeson found a way to bring the Toastmasters experience to people with physical disabilities by creating the No Limits Toastmasters Club. Club meetings rotate to different members' homes. Transportation is provided to those who need it. It's no wonder they call their club The Club on Wheels.

Tom Lagana helped build and sustain the Walking Tall Club in a prison in Delaware. I have heard some of the finest club speeches at that club. Darrell Zeller founded several prison clubs in California, where I had the pleasure of visiting a joyful combined meeting of two women's prison clubs – the Liberty Speakers and the Freedom Speakers. Frank and Karen Storey started the Nu Genesis Club in a correctional facility in Maryland. When I visited their club recently, their meeting excellence, enthusiasm and powerful desire to learn and grow from our program was incredibly uplifting.

Two reasons our organization has grown from a few clubs in California to close to 11,000 clubs in more than 90 countries are: (1) The Toastmasters program works – it delivers the promised results; (2) members have unselfishly shared the benefits of our program with others. They have sponsored, mentored, encouraged, role-modeled, taught and provided leadership. In one word, they have *served*.

The future growth and success of our organization depends on this spirit of servant leadership. This is your high calling – to find your voice and continue on to serve your world. Will you join me in this adventure?

The great humanitarian Albert Schweitzer said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Our organization provides you with many avenues for service. Come alive... serve... and make your life count.

Dilip R. Abayasekara
 Dilip Abayasekara, DTM
 International President

FEATURES



Absent But Loyal

The value of Toastmasters membership remains, even when you miss a few club meetings.

By *Caren Niele, ATM-S*

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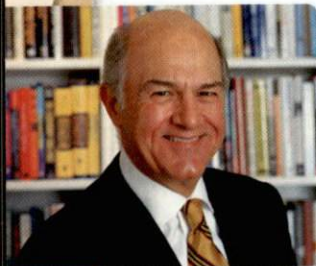


Communicating Through Songwriting

What do singers and speakers have in common?

By *Darren McClelland, ATM-B*

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Toastmasters 2006 Golden Gavel Recipient: Jim Kouzes

Acclaimed author and leadership expert receives TT's highest honor.

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Washington, D.C. – A Capital Experience

A complete schedule of events and registration forms for Toastmasters' 75th Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., USA.

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The Toastmasters Vision:

Toastmasters International empowers people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams. Through our member clubs, people throughout the world can improve their communication and leadership skills, and find the courage to change.

The Toastmasters Mission:

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking – vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

It is basic to this mission that Toastmasters International continually expand its worldwide network of clubs thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its programs.

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By *Naman Arora*

Do you have something to say? Write it in 200 words or less, sign it with your name, address and club affiliation and send it to letters@toastmasters.org.

Toastmasters Has Changed My Life

When I joined the club at my work, my confidence level was not good. But after five months of Toastmasters membership, people approached me explaining that I now walked more upright. They said I used to look down at the floor when I walked, but after Toastmasters, I no longer did that! Well, that made me feel really good! I wanted more improvement so I joined three more clubs, now being a member of four clubs! I promote Toastmasters everywhere I go! I think more clearly now before I speak, and at work, I am more confident with my superiors in telling them what I want. I do not cry as easily as I used to either.

Toastmasters is a great program. I recommend it to everyone and anyone who wants to better themselves, either professionally or personally.

I am now VP of PR for two clubs and VP of Membership of one them as well!

Linda Martins • Simi Valley Club 3533 • Simi Valley, California

Scored a Bulls Eye!

Judith Pearson scored a bulls eye in her article "Debunking the 55%, 38%, 7% Rule" (January). Any immigrant could testify to the truth in her submission. I have always had my suspicion about this "rule," particularly since I relocated to the U.K. from Nigeria seven years ago and tried to live under this rule to the detriment of my career.

I spent the first three years contemplating taking the next flight back to Nigeria because of this dilemma: I wanted to be a speaker, but nobody seemed to understand what I said. My every conversation with people was full of 'pardon' and 'sorry.' I was utterly confused. Isn't the way I express words supposed to be more important than the words? My confu-

sion turned to frustration and desperation because I thought I understand and speak English well above the average. In my attempt to abide by this rule I virtually became dumb (unwilling to speak), or at best a stammerer. I worked to improve my body language, to the annoyance of many who saw it as too expansive.

Then I tried to change tactics and I thought of forsaking my speaking ambition for writing. After banging my head against this rule for so long, I came to the conclusion two years ago that I can no longer obey it. That has not been easy. In the light of this, I would like to propose the "40% for words, 40% for tonality and 20% for body language rule.

Thank you, Judith, for relating the origin of this rule and laying bare the narrowness but well-intentioned basis for the research! Thank you, too, Toastmasters!

Kayode Olatuyi, ATM • Harrovians Speakers Club
Harrow, Great Britain

Great Persuasive Article

I recently joined Toastmasters, and one of the unexpected "extras" of being a member is receiving the *Toastmaster* magazine every month. The articles are direct and pointed with the sole purpose of making the reader a better public speaker. Your magazine contains no fluff, and I like that. I read each article with the anticipation of learning something new about public speaking – I have not been disappointed.

Because of my interest in influence and persuasion, I especially like David Garfinkel's articles on persuasive speaking. In the January issue, his article "Getting Your Audience to Say 'Yes!'" lists a five-step formula for the public speaker using persuasive techniques to influence his or her fellow club members to earn their CTM.

He breaks the five steps into bite-size pieces for a clearer and better understanding of the persuasion process for beginners and experienced speakers alike.

All the articles in your magazine have been beneficial to me, and I look forward to reading many more issues of the *Toastmaster*.

Mike Hooker • Do-Gooder Hill Club 6402 • Fort Worth, Texas

More On PowerPoint

If I never have to sit through another PowerPoint presentation again it won't be too soon. (I am a university student and my professors have an alarming fetish with PowerPoint.) So I was immediately intrigued when I saw that there was an article titled How to PowerPoint? by Kevin Lerner (January, 2006). Would a white knight finally tell the world how to PowerPoint correctly to avoid turning the audiences brains to spaghetti? Alas, no. It focused on pacing yourself on the development of each slide. But what about focusing on the poor, unsuspecting audience? What did we ever do to deserve PowerPoint? Mr. Lerner wrote an excellent technical article. But to be sure, if you cannot communicate well without PowerPoint, adding it to your presentation will only elicit snores.

P.S. The variety of articles are brilliant. Please have more like Kevin Lerner's.

Edmond Shin, CTM • Flying Toastmasters Club 4142
Richmond, Canada

Timely Poster Presentations Article

Two days before a conference, I was informed that our group was expected to do a poster presentation. Fortunately, there was an article in the *Toastmaster* magazine on "Try Poster Presentations."

Thanks for the timely article!

Ruth Levitsky • Quannapowitt Toastmasters • Quincy, Massachusetts

Terrence Holmes:

Champion for the Less Fortunate

By Julie Bawden Davis

Toastmasters training empowers this member to help others.

▼ Terrence Holmes

Ask Terrence Holmes how Toastmasters has helped him, and his answer will surprise you. While he has experienced all of the usual benefits the organization has to offer, he is most excited about how the organization has enabled him to help others.

Holmes, who is a volunteer on the legislative staff of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., says Toastmasters has given him the courage to stand in front of the Maryland General

Assembly and urge state lawmakers to help the less fortunate.

"Appearing in front of the General Assembly is exhilarating because I'm doing something for people who can't speak for themselves," says Holmes, who has successfully urged lawmakers to grant a moratorium on the death penalty, citing the example of a wrongfully accused man who had been on death row for many years and was eventually found innocent. Most recently he lobbied that individuals on welfare who work get an additional \$125 to \$150 monthly state supplement.

"Toastmasters has provided the vehicle for me to get involved in important causes and fight for the rights of the underprivileged," says Holmes, who is a member of the Komen Toastmasters in Washington D.C. "My goal is to make sure that our elected officials represent not just 10 percent of the people, but 100 percent, and my Toastmasters training has enabled me to work toward that goal. I'm able to thoroughly research and organize a topic and look government officials straight in the eye without flinching and say this is the way it should be."

Those who have seen Holmes in action agree that he has mastered the persuasive argument. "Terrence is an excellent speaker," says Willie V. McGhee, assistant director for administrative services for the National



Endowment for the Humanities in Landover, Maryland. "He is very concise, his delivery is good, and he definitely gets his point across. He's always in command and doesn't show any of the apprehension or fear that you see in some speakers."

Holmes also has the knack of addressing controversial issues and not offending anyone, says Deborah Jones, who is also a member of the Komen Toastmasters and considers Holmes her mentor. "In one speech, Terrance told about a particular time when his grandfather experienced racism. The audience was very

encouraged me to try to do the right thing," says Holmes, who also volunteers at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. "Considering all of the negatives you hear and read about African Americans being in jail and on drugs and coming from broken homes, I decided early on to take a strong role as a community activist and fight for the rights of those who are less fortunate."

Holmes says his Toastmasters training has enabled him to experience many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. "I acted as Bishop Martin Holley's aide two years ago when 40

"My Toastmasters training has enabled me to work toward that goal. I'm able to thoroughly research and organize a topic and look government officials straight in the eye without flinching and say this is the way it should be."

diverse, but thanks to his Toastmasters training, he related the story without insulting anyone. The speech was so effective that it opened the audience's eyes to the negative effects of racism."

Serving the needy is also an integral part of Holmes' Toastmasters club. In 1997, he co-founded the Komen Club #8714 in honor of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which is dedicated to helping eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. He has earned his DTM and was a District 27 Area Governor, for which he received the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Holmes grew up in Savannah, Georgia, where he attended Catholic and public school. He credits the influence of his parents and a parochial education for shaping his desire to help others. "I came from a strong Catholic background, and my mom was a nurse, so she was always helping people. Those experiences

of his family members arrived in Washington D.C. for his ordination," he said. "I also had the honor of being a personal aide to the legendary actor and civil rights leader, Ossie Davis, several years before he died."

As Holmes sees it, Toastmasters opens unexpected doors for members and transforms them. "Over the years I've watched many Toastmasters progress, and once they receive honors like their DTM, a totally different person emerges," he says. "How they walk and talk changes; this organization is almost like an inner divine confidence builder. Toastmasters gives you a spirit and confidence about yourself that you just can't get anywhere else." **T**

Julie Bawden Davis is a free-lance writer living in Southern California. Her work has appeared in many national and regional publications. Contact her at Julie@juliebawdendavis.com.

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The value of Toastmasters membership remains even when you miss a few club meetings.

Absent But Loyal

By Caren Niele, ATM-S

I saw an old movie once in which a Hollywood agent took a big chance on an unknown actress and made her a star – only to be tossed aside when she outgrew him. I've thought of that film a lot lately in connection with my membership in Toastmasters. I have been a loyal member of two clubs, yet I have attended only a handful of meetings in the past couple of

years due to my super-busy schedule. Here's the part that makes me think of the movie: That schedule became super-busy in large part due to the support I received in those clubs.

Former Toastmasters International Director Jay Nodine once told me, "I am a member of an international organization before I am a member of a club." He summed up – and made me feel a whole lot less guilty about – my feelings toward Toastmasters. I love my clubs. But whether or not I can attend meetings, I am proud to be a member of the organization that helped make me who and what I am today.

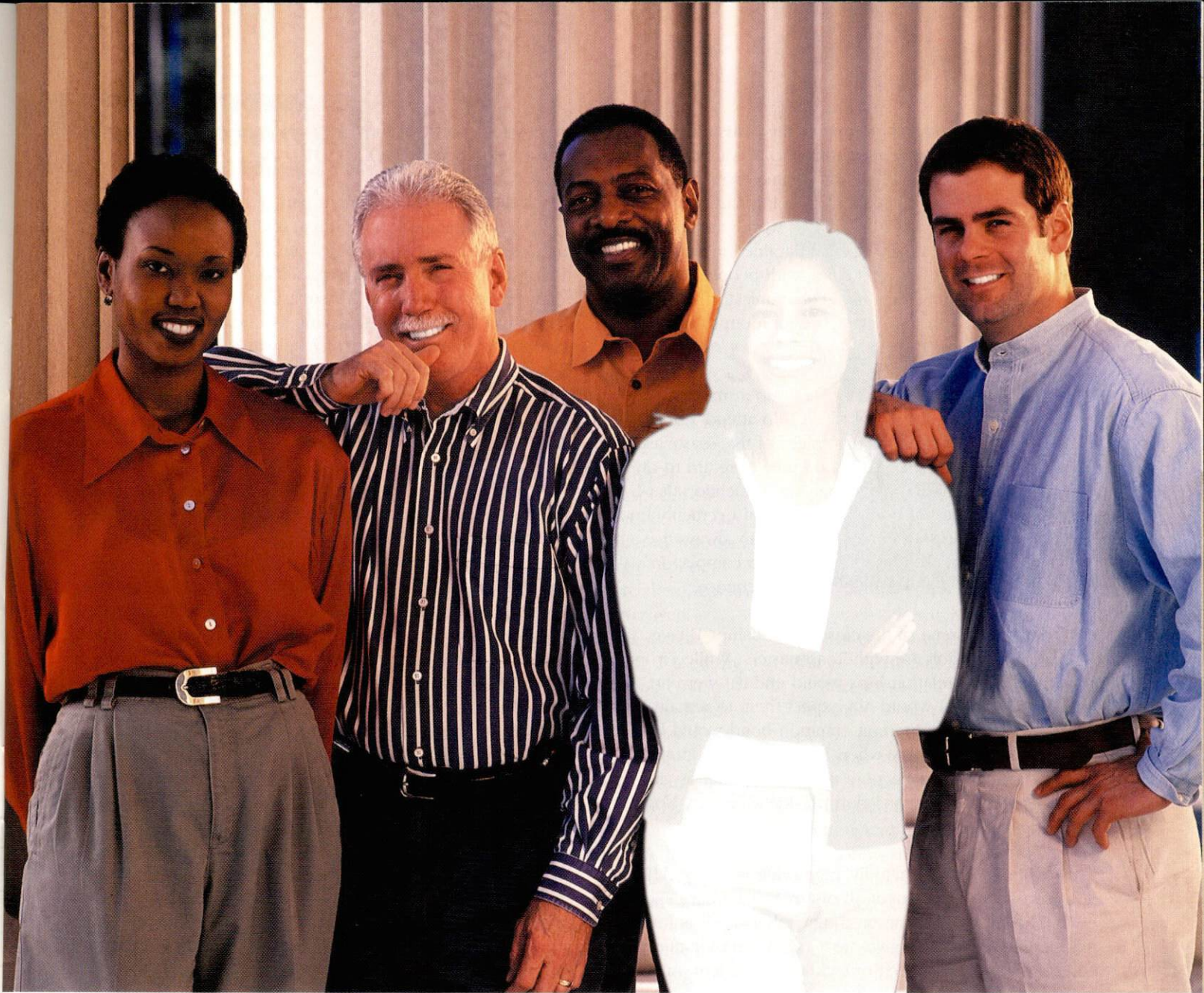
When I joined Toastmasters, I was slogging away in my family's creative consulting firm, teaching part-time at the local state university and doing everything I could to avoid speaking in public. Today, I head a university storytelling program and perform and speak all over the country. And I am never shy about speaking in public. All thanks to Toastmasters!

Yet most Tuesday and Wednesday nights, when I am too booked or exhausted to go to a club meeting, I ask myself: Do absentee Toastmasters have a place at the Toastmasters table? If I can't attend meetings, why do I continue to pay dues?

Perhaps you've asked these questions of yourself or others, too – or will one day. Here then, are some of the benefits I get from Toastmasters membership, and what my continued membership allows me to give in return.

1 The Toastmaster, Part I. Let's get the plug out of the way up front. This magazine is a monthly reminder (and even more frequently, when I go back over old issues) of the importance of good public speaking and leadership skills. It keeps me connected with the goals of the organization. And it gives me mini-refresher courses for all those lessons learned over the years. Among many others, articles on emceeding events, giving effective criticism and acing Table Topics often come in handy, even if I don't have too many chances to use these skills in club meetings.

Case in point: I took classes at a new, not-for-profit museum that recently faced a possible forced relocation by local lawmakers due to redevelopment of the neighborhood. An e-mail went out to all those associated with the organization: Would we please attend the town council meeting on a Tuesday evening to show solidarity with the museum? Yet again, I couldn't attend my Tuesday club meeting that week. But I was one of only two former students of the museum who felt comfortable enough to



give an impromptu speech to the town leaders on its behalf. Why? After all, I hadn't participated in Table Topics in a long, long time. But, I had been trained well. In addition, my speaking skills had benefited from constant tune-ups, courtesy of this magazine.

2 The Toastmaster, Part II. Then there is the opportunity to write for this magazine. Sure, we don't need to be Toastmasters to do it. But it's a lot easier to gauge the needs of the magazine when we can read it regularly and are still in touch with the organization.

3 Speaking out. A few years ago, an e-mail was circulated around my area asking if anyone wanted to take a speaking slot on a Caribbean cruise ship. The firm that sent the request, which hires "lifestyle lecturers," had a cancellation for a seven-day trip and was eager to find a replacement. Guess who grabbed a slot and did three hour-long lectures in exchange for an almost-free cruise?

Had I not been a member I still could have done it, but I probably would not have heard about the opportunity." I have also spoken at libraries and other venues and taken wonderful classes, all thanks to a call or e-mail from Toastmasters.

4 Giving something back. I have presented workshops at our division conference in another city, three workshops at Planet Toastmasters in my area and one in another, a regional conference out of state, and, two years ago, the *piece de resistance*: the International Conference in Reno. Was I compensated for any of this? Not in dollars and cents. In fact, I paid my own transportation and lodging. Nevertheless, I feel as though I had been paid in advance with my Toastmasters training, and I was delighted to be able to give something back. And when the "something back" takes place in one of my own clubs, such as doing a last-minute evaluation seminar in preparation for a contest, so much the better.

5 Bulking up the resume. In one of my clubs, the story is told of the veteran Toastmaster who was interviewing for a new job. You know how his resume earned him a call-back out of a pile of 100? His ongoing participation in Toastmasters. In much of the business world, membership in Toastmasters is shorthand for "well-trained in public speaking and leadership; gets along with people; knows how to conduct a meeting; great communicator." By not having to write all that down, we've got room to include our other sterling qualities!

6 Coming home. Even if I can't show up at many meetings, I still get a lot out of those I do attend. For me, the club meeting is still the centerpiece of the Toastmasters experience. When I have the opportunity to return to my clubs, it feels like a family reunion. Not to mention that I get a chance to work on new material. And I certainly find that when I've been away a long time, I can always use a brush-up for my skills. I also am eligible to compete in contests – always a powerful learning experience.

7 Friendships. Some of the closest friendships I have made as an adult are with Toastmasters. While I'm not saying that these relationships would end if I were no longer a member, I would not expect them to remain as strong, because an important common bond would be weakened. Not long ago, when I was unable to attend a meeting to rehearse a keynote address, my friends gathered to evaluate me at our club president's home. Now *that's* friendship.


8 A helping hand. Admittedly, mentoring is a little difficult when I'm not present at all of a new member's speeches. But keeping my name on the membership lists means that people feel free to give me a call when they need a hand developing a speech or tackling a problem. And I'm

happy to report that they do. I also call members when I need help. (See above.)

9 Feeling connected. Being a part of a prestigious, successful organization is a great feeling. When I present at a conference or workshop, I am proud to tell people that I am a member of Toastmasters. I also feel an instant connection when I meet Toastmasters on the road. A few years ago, I was at a networking meeting when I learned that the woman sitting next to me was a long-time Toastmaster. What an instant conversation starter! In addition, when I speak at clubs in other towns – please don't tell my club president that I can sometimes manage this – I feel like I've found a home away from home.

Now let's be perfectly clear about this: I am not suggesting for a minute that we get the full power and pleasure out of Toastmasters when we rarely attend a meeting. Club meetings are the backbone of this organization. They are the primary place to practice skills, to forge lasting relationships, and to get and give ongoing support. What I *am* suggesting is that even if there are periods in which we cannot be active on the club level, our Toastmasters membership provides us with enough benefits, and opportunities to give back, that I for one plan to remain a part of this organization for a long, long time.

Another half a year has gone by, and once again I've signed my dues check and sent it in to my club treasurer.

But who knows? Maybe next time I can hand-deliver it. 

Caren S. Neile, Ph.D., is an ATM-S/CL in the West Boca Toastmasters club – even if she doesn't know everyone's name there anymore. She directs the South Florida Storytelling Project at Florida Atlantic University and performs and presents workshops on storytelling throughout the country.

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In golf as in speaking,
attitude is everything.

Teeing Off at Toastmasters

I'm an ardent fan of miniature golf. When I first joined Toastmasters, I found public speaking to be quite unnerving. Fortunately, I was preparing for a golf competition. I soon realized that the same skills I needed to ace my golf game would improve my public speaking skills.

Much importance is attributed to the actual mechanics of golf, such as grip, stance or swing technique. But in his book *Golf Is Not a Game of Perfect*, Bob Rotella emphasizes the significance of psychological attitude. The same is true at Toastmasters. Of course, we need to watch our "ums" and "ahs." We have to clearly organize our thoughts into a beginning, middle and conclusion, to establish good eye contact and watch for distracting mannerisms. However, these techniques alone will not ensure the delivery of a dynamic speech.

When I discovered that both golf and public speaking required a shift in my attitude, I began to care less about my performance. I gave myself permission to fail on a particular hole

fact that it didn't matter if I did badly, I was able to forge ahead and schedule that dreaded first speech.

I rehearsed my first speech so many times that I sounded like Data on Star Trek! I was stiff and wooden. And when I made a joke, nobody laughed because my facial expression was so serious. But I survived.

Subsequent speeches got easier. Every step along the way, I used my tips for success on the golf course at Toastmasters. There were many times at golf when I would start out feeling energetic and optimistic, only to reach a disastrous hole. If I lost my momentum even temporarily, I got discouraged. I told myself that the game was over; I had failed. In order to get back on track, I had to reverse those thoughts. I abandoned my perfectionist tendencies. I was not Tiger Woods! I would simply do the best that I could rather than aiming for an impossible and unattainable score.

The same tactics worked in Toastmasters. If I started out speaking well but suddenly forgot what I wanted to say, initially I would panic. My mind was full of

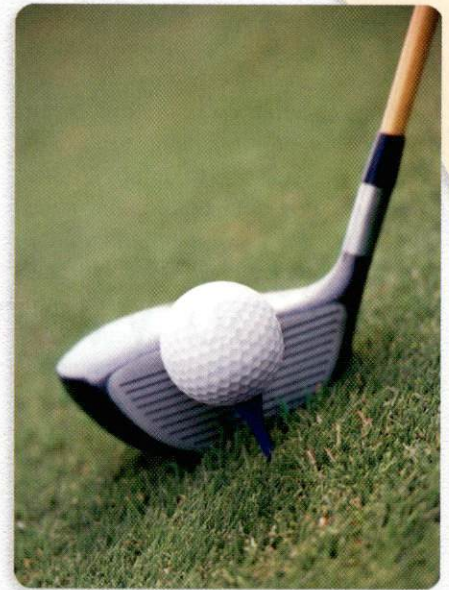
**"It's not the end of the world
if we slur a word, forget a line,
or draw a complete blank
in the middle of a sentence."**

on the golf course, and picked right up and carried on with my game. Likewise, I stopped worrying about what fellow club members thought about my speeches.

I was doing so poorly at Table Topics – stumbling, muttering and freezing in the middle of a sentence – that I procrastinated about giving my Ice Breaker. As soon as I accepted the

negative thoughts like, "You've really blown it now." But the truth was that I had only made a minor faux pas. I began to quickly regain my composure so that I could continue with my talk.

Lastly, I came to understand the importance of encouraging other Toastmasters. It's crucial for us to



give each other constructive criticism, but it's equally essential to nurture the confidence of our colleagues.

Recently, I had an MRI done on my knee. Some people feel claustrophobic lying motionless in the MRI machine. My technician did his best to inform and reassure me. Whenever he finished a scan, he said, "You're doing great! We're almost done." As soon as the man said I was doing well, I felt relieved, uplifted and encouraged; I relaxed. There was nothing to worry about. It was almost over and I was doing great.

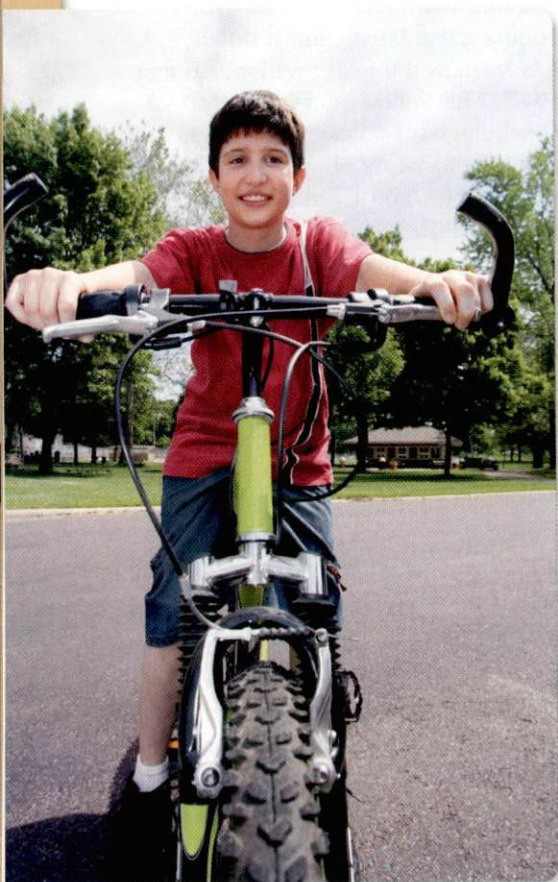
That's the kind of feedback we should be giving our fellow Toastmasters. We need to support and encourage every member of our group, and help them realize that it doesn't matter if they make mistakes when they talk. It's not the end of the world if they slur a word, forget a line, or draw a complete blank in the middle of a sentence. They will regain their composure. They will get back on track. They just need to keep their eye on the ball and visualize it going directly into the hole. **T**

Sigrid Macdonald, CTM, is an editor and the author of *Getting Hip* and *D'Amour Road*. She is a member of the Ottawa Citizen Toastmasters club and can be reached at www.sigridmacdonald.blogspot.com.

So You Want to Be a Speaker...

By Lance Miller, DTM

Just keep completing the manual assignments and watch yourself improve.



If you want to be a speaker, you have to speak. Sitting in a Toastmasters meeting won't make you a speaker any more than sitting in a hen house will make you a chicken. You have to speak!

When I was a young boy, I wanted to learn to ride a bicycle. I would get my bike out of the garage and try to ride it in the driveway. I'd make it a few feet and fall off. I'd do this for a half an hour, get tired of falling off and then put the bike back in the garage. I did this for weeks and I never learned to ride my bike.

One Saturday, my two older sisters took turns holding the back of the bicycle and running around our block while I pedaled away. They must have run around the block 50 times that day. But at the end of the day, I got on the bicycle and rode it! I just needed enough time riding the bike to figure out how to ride it.

Speaking is no different. It is like any other skill you want to attain. You have to do it, and do it a lot, if you want to be proficient. In 13 years, I have completed 235 Toastmaster manual speeches. That averages one speech every three weeks. Add the number of speech evaluations, Table Topics, serving as General Evaluator and Toastmaster and the number is over 500.

Like learning to ride the bike, or to play tennis or to type, it takes practice and repetition to become proficient as a speaker. When we watch Andre Agassi on the tennis court or Michelle Quan on the ice rink, we can marvel at how talented they are. But how much of what we see is talent and

how much is actually practice that developed their talent? How many times did they have to fail before they succeeded? How many missed serves or how many falls did they endure to gain the experience necessary to be a champion?

Toastmasters offers a unique opportunity in the speaking arena. Not only does it give us the opportunity to speak, it gives us the opportunity to fail with no consequence. It gives us the opportunity to develop specific speaking skills with each manual assignment and to get vital feedback for improvement.

It is important to remember that Toastmasters is a process. A *process* is defined as *A series of actions, changes or functions that bring about an end or result.* The process of becoming a speaker includes the actions, changes and functions listed in the Toastmasters speech manuals. If you do the manual exercises and complete the manuals, you will become a better and better speaker.

When you complete your CTM, immediately move on to your ATMB. When you complete your ATMB, you immediately move on to your ATMS. Just keep completing the manual assignments and you will watch yourself improve.

Each of the speech manuals complements the other. When you complete *The Humorous Speaking Manual*, it teaches you how to use humor in *all* your speeches; when you do the *Technical Speaking Manual*, it teaches you how to handle technical information in *any* speech. Andre Agassi does

not stop practicing his serve after he gets one right. He does it over and over again, every possible way, until he is confident he can do it right each time and under any conditions.

In the 13 years I have been in Toastmasters I have done 16 CTMs and two ATMGs, completing 31 manuals. The minimum goal I set for myself each year is to complete one CTM or ATM per year. That is 10 speeches in 52 weeks, less than one speech per month. I know how important it is to complete the manuals.

If every Toastmaster sets a goal to complete one CTM or ATM level each year, we would see a boom in Toastmasters. By completing the manuals you continue to improve as a speaker. You also become more confident as an individual, which improves your attitude and life outside of Toastmasters. When members are completing manuals, clubs become stronger because the members are winning. Winning members keep morale and enthusiasm high, which creates a great environment for new members.



For every member of a club to complete a CTM or ATM each year, there is the logistical question of getting scheduled to speak enough.

There are only so many speaking slots at each meeting.

Here are suggestions to maximize your speaking opportunities:

- Let your vice president education know that you want to complete your manuals by June 30th so they can schedule you as much as possible.
- Have two or three speeches prepared in advance and be ready to speak at each meeting if the scheduled speaker does not make it.
- Participate in each speech contest and do each contest as a manual speech and have it evaluated by someone. You can complete two to eight speeches per year by just entering contests.
- Check with other clubs in your area to see if they can accommodate additional speakers.

- Put together an extra Toastmasters meeting during the week. Get two or three other speakers and three or four functionaries and evaluators and meet at someone's house for a dinner and speaking evening. These are great fun, give an entirely different speaking environment and help your club achieve its goals.

- Each speaking level you are working on allows for speeches to be done outside the club. If you are doing a presentation at work, church, or with a civic club, have someone from your club come and evaluate you per your manual.

- Seek out speaking opportunities outside your club. There are numerous clubs and organizations looking for speakers. Pick a topic that you like or go out and talk about Toastmasters and how it can benefit them.

I have never had a problem finding a place to speak – if I really wanted to speak.

Remember: If you want to be a speaker, you have to speak! **T**

Lance Miller, DTM, of Glendale, California, is a member of Renaissance Speakers Club 2374. He won the 2005 World Championship of Public Speaking in Toronto last August.

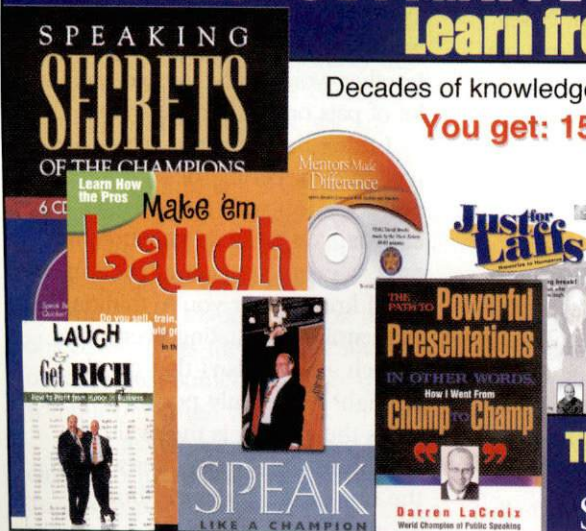
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Make Every Speech Noteworthy!

By Mark Buschena, DTM

Write a note to every speaker at your meeting.



There is a scene in the movie *Napoleon Dynamite* where Pedro asks the popular cheerleader to the dance. She replies with a tiny note with one word on it. "No!" Then he asks the cute but shy girl to the same dance. She gives him a little note. He unfolds it, and unfolds it and unfolds it again, until it's a great big note with one huge word on it. "Yes!"

When I was in grade school it was thrilling to get a note. We were always passing notes back and forth. "Meet me by the swing at recess." "Will you sit with me at lunch?" "Do you want to go to the movies tonight?" Notes were exciting. Especially since we knew if we got caught passing them we'd have to read them to the whole class.

Notes can still be exciting. If you want to get attention, walk up to two co-workers who are talking. Give one of them a note. Everything stops because "I've got a note." Notes are important.

In grade school for Valentines Day one year, we all had to give each classmate a Valentine along with one reason we liked that person. For some it was easy. For others, it required a lot of thought, because quite frankly I didn't like everyone in my class. But I wrote them all a nice note. When I got my Valentines I treasured them, because to me they were all important.

Maybe you don't get many notes anymore. You may not get many Valentines from people telling you what they like about you. At work, do you get notes from your boss telling you what a great job you've done? If you have a boss like that, congratulations! Often no news is good news. If you don't hear from the boss, that means everything is going well. Typically you'll hear from the boss only when you've done something wrong. In other words, most people don't get a lot of pats on the back at work.

I think most people are starved for recognition. People deserve recognition for a job well done. **That's why I suggest you write an encouraging note** to every speaker at each meeting. I know what you're thinking: An evaluator is evaluating everyone's speech already. Isn't that good enough? If the only person who evaluates the speech is the evaluator, how does the speaker know what the rest of the audience thought about the speech?

Writing your note to a speaker is that added value we are always talking about in Toastmasters. For me, after a speech, hearing my evaluation from my evaluator is rewarding. But just as important are the notes from the rest of the club members giving their impressions of my performance. My evaluation stays in the manual on the shelf. But I prominently display my notes on my bathroom wall. If I need a little inspiration, all I need to do is read a couple of the notes I've received over the years.

Likewise, if you get notes telling you what a wonderful job you did on a speech, post them in your home where you can reflect on them. Let them inspire you to do even better the next time!

Now a couple of warnings:

Remember that your note, like your evaluation, is just one person's opinion. It does not reflect the feelings of the entire group. It is up to you to decide how much of the note you want to accept or reject. You can accept it all, accept parts of it, or reject it all. If you don't want to believe what the person is telling you, don't believe it. But if several people tell you the same thing, you'd be wise to listen.

Don't Quit. Do not under any circumstances quit Toastmasters because of a club member's comment about you or your speech. I believe most written comments are made with the best of intentions. They should be taken that way. During certain portions of the meeting, especially during Table Topics and the evaluation portions of the meetings, we are forced to speak with less preparation than we would like. Because of this we sometimes say things that could have been said more tactfully. So think about the context in which the comment was made and look at it objectively: Was there really malice or was it just somebody who spoke without thinking?

Years ago there was a lady in our club who had trouble with a Table Topics response. During my recap as general evaluator, I mentioned

something to the effect that so and so had a little fumble in the beginning of her Table Topic but she managed to salvage it. A week later, she called me up at home, still upset over what I had said about her Table Topics response. I told her I didn't remember saying anything

"If I need a little inspiration, all I need

to do is read a couple of the notes

I've received over the years."

bad about it, certainly didn't mean to offend her and apologized. But she fixed me. She quit.

I don't want to be the cause of anyone leaving the club. But the only person you are punishing if you quit is you. If you don't like what one person says or writes about you, forget it. If you can't forget, confront the person about it. If that doesn't work, talk to a club officer. But don't quit.

Sign your name. Be proud of what you wrote. If I get a note that isn't signed, I'll look at it and think, "Oh, that's nice." But it doesn't have that personal value. It's a little like those anonymous endorsements you might see on a late night television infomercial. "I made \$100,000 with this program! "Signed" EB of Arkansas." Who's that?

If a note is signed, it gives you a better idea of how that club member is reacting. Some opinions may be more important to you than others. Let's say you get a note that isn't signed and it says, "Man, that was the greatest speech I ever heard!" Now would that make a difference to you if it came from a person who has been a Toastmaster for 20 years? How about if it came from the visiting area governor? How about if it came from a guest who has never been to a Toastmasters meeting? All feedback is important. It just helps to be able to put the feedback into the context of who wrote it.

Don't whitewash. If there is something you didn't like or you think could be improved, write that down. Remember to be gentle with newer members and don't "pour it on." One

or two suggestions for improvement is plenty. And be sure to sign your name.

The speech that generated the most notes for me was "My Dissertation on Regurgitation." I got 12 notes on that one. They all said things like "super job," "hilarious," "unbelievably funny for such a gross topic," etc. All,

except for one. One of my most

cherished notes, prominently displayed on my bathroom mirror, came from that speech. That note says: "I can't believe you did it. Have you been on hallucinogens? One or two references – OK. But a whole speech? Content D-. Presentation B+."

That's a great note. Heartfelt. Somebody took the time to compose it and tell me what he or she thought. But the author didn't sign it! I evidently offended someone, but I don't know who. So please sign your name to your comments!

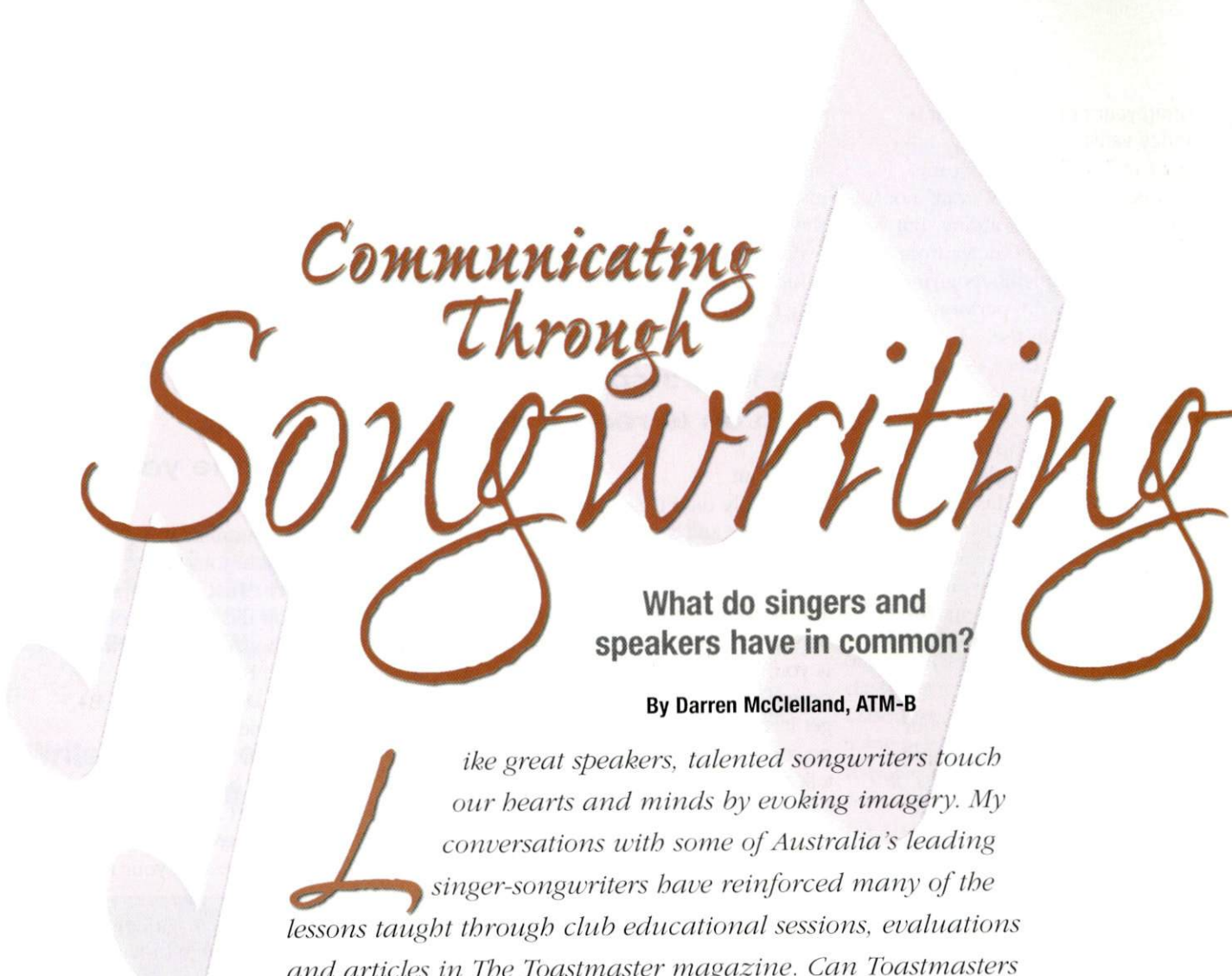
And when it comes to writing notes, don't feel you have to have your CTM, ATM or DTM to write someone a note. Notes are just as welcome from brand new members as they are from seasoned veterans.

If you want to start receiving notes, you need to start writing notes to other people; they will return the favor.

Don't limit your note-writing to scheduled speakers. If you think someone did an exceptional job as Toastmaster, or the club president did a great job of running the business meeting, or the ah counter was particularly precise in the timely reporting of *ab's*, tell him or her so!

Remember, recognition is the life blood on which we all thrive. Start writing notes to every speaker and make every speech "noteworthy." **T**

Mark Buschena, DTM, served as District 20 Governor in 1996-97. He joined the Bismarck North Dakota Club 717 in 1992. Reach him at **Buschena@msn.com**.



Communicating Through Songwriting

What do singers and
speakers have in common?

By Darren McClelland, ATM-B

*L*ike great speakers, talented songwriters touch our hearts and minds by evoking imagery. My conversations with some of Australia's leading singer-songwriters have reinforced many of the lessons taught through club educational sessions, evaluations and articles in *The Toastmaster* magazine. Can Toastmasters learn from these artists? Definitely. Songwriters are communicators just like us; we have a lot to learn from them.

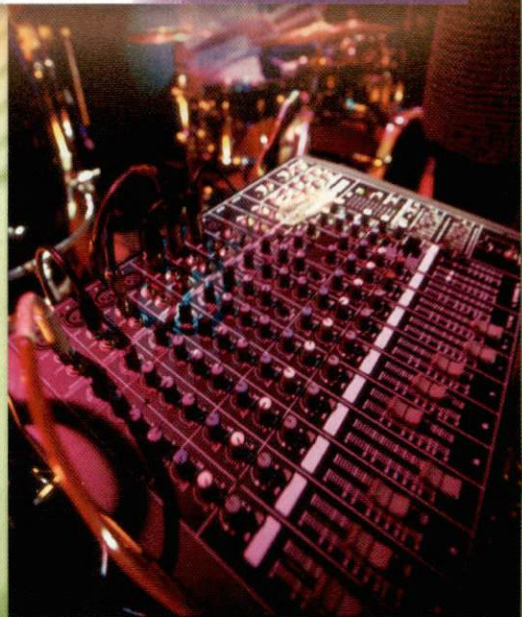
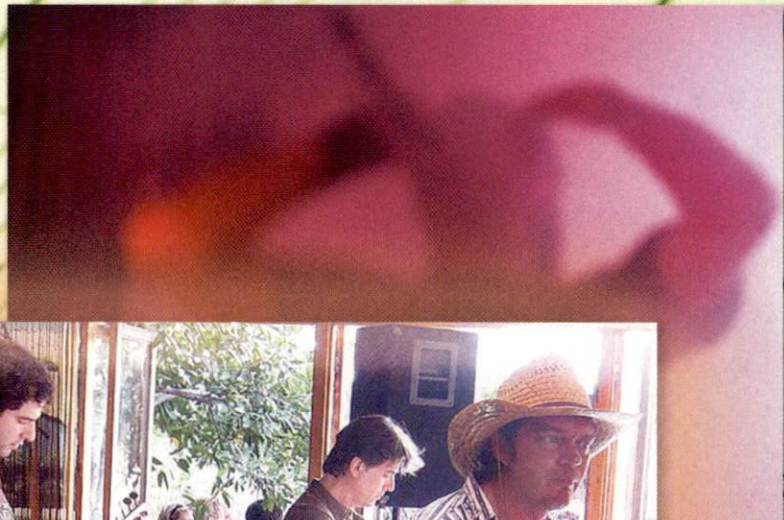
Just as songwriters take different approaches to writing a song, speakers seek inspiration from disparate sources to prepare for their presentations. As Toastmasters, we might adopt a theme, draw on a personal observation, work within a contest parameter (such as a humorous speech contest) or draw on a reserve of resources we collect over the years. Charles Jenkins is the lead singer of the independent group *Ice Cream Hands*, a solo artist and master of the pop song. He uses a wide range of sources. "Everything's fair game," says Jenkins. "I'm trying to feed in as many ideas as I can, from books, music, radio, general observation." As Toastmasters, we should never excuse ourselves from speaking at a meeting for lack of a topic to speak about.

Jenkins, who wrote a song about a rayon factory in his local neighborhood, says, "If you don't write about everything, then you can't call yourself a songwriter." Obviously, as speechmakers, we enrich our repertoire and the enjoyment of our audiences if we can present on a diverse range of issues. Having said that, we all have our favorite topics or sources. For example singer Neil Murray says that

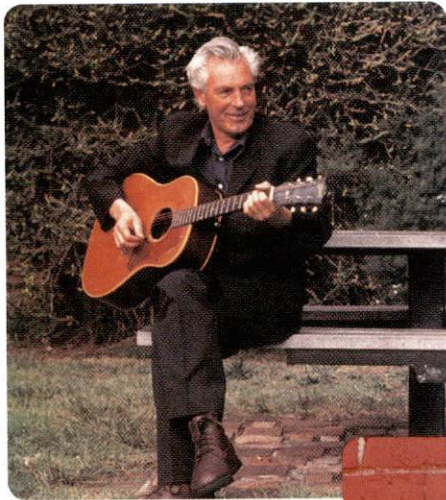
he draws on personal experiences. Murray, who lives in regional Australia, is renowned for exposing the wider Australian community to indigenous issues. Murray's life encounters provide him with a rich source of inspiration; he spent several years in outback Australia with Aboriginal communities, including a period with the pioneering Warumpi band. "I had this eagerness to go and learn more about these people," he says.

Songwriters' creative instincts can show us new ways to generate speech ideas. For instance, Jenkins says he sometimes sits with fellow musicians and they will each say a word at random, then they will write a song around those three words. He suggests that ideas may change as a song progresses. Likewise, we as Toastmasters need to be flexible in our approach to speechwriting.

We are constantly reminded that good communication is about much more than words. Songwriters know this too. "Some (songs) are far too wordy," says Stephen Cummings, a songwriter who was the former lead singer of the seminal '70s band, *The Sports*. "Tunes are a grabbing point for the listener. Words provide a theme or mood. Music doesn't



▲ Photo above, center. Charles Jenkins performing with his band, *The Swedish Cowboys*. His second solo album *The City Gates*, was nominated as one of the top five Australian albums for 2005 by the Music Australia Guide. For more details visit www.charlesjenkins.com.au



◀ **Stephen Cummings was the lead singer in the 1970's rock band *The Sports* and has since established a prolific career as a solo artist. "If rock critics could be rock stars, they'd all want to write songs like Stephen Cummings" (*Courier Mail Brisbane*, 30 July 1999). For details, visit www.lovetown.net.**



▶ **Neil Murray "(is) as good as Australian music gets," says music critic Billy Pinnell. Neil will perform in Nashville, Tennessee, this September. For details, visit www.neilmurray.com.au.**

need the intricacies of poetry." Jenkins agrees, "Words and music are tightly meshed. It's songwriting, not poetry or instrumentals alone."

As Toastmasters, we are communicators first and foremost, not speechwriters. We rely on the full range of tools available to us, including vocal variety and body language, to relate to our audience. This was illustrated in the article "Speechwriting 101" (*The Toastmaster*, October 2005) when author Colin Moorehouse noted that if you are writing for others you have no control over the extent of the speaker's "innate oratorical skills." However, like singers who write their own material, we all have ownership of how we present our own material to audiences. The songwriters I spoke with all agree that neither music nor words have precedence over the other. Murray says, "It has to be a lyrical marriage. It's not a spoken passage but a song, so the melody and words have to match. The most popular songs have a melody that underwrites lyrics that might look ordinary on paper alone."

Songwriters follow established formulas for writing successful songs, such as hitting hard at the outset with a strong chorus, building up a song with a premise, or throwing in a "curve ball" when a listener might lose interest, such as a change of key. Likewise, speakers have tried and true techniques at their disposal to speak successfully, such as the "Introduction-Body-Conclusion" dichotomy and

the use of dramatic pauses or variation of voice tone to bring effect to a change of emphasis.

As communicators, we sometimes put forth views that not all of our audience might agree with. But we hope that people will walk away and say, "that was a great speech." Similarly, songs and performances might connect with the audience without necessarily obtaining their rational attachment. "Songs work on emotions – they make memories for us. So music is not a rational thing," Murray says. "It's the same as your commitment to a football team regardless of their success." Likewise, the most effective presentations appeal to all members of an audience regardless of whether all agree with the presenter's views or position.

Songwriters want listeners to empathize with their lyrics. This holds even for those who do not write about controversial or political themes. Cummings, who writes principally about relationships, disagrees that it is less important that listeners relate to his lyrics compared to a songwriter who focuses on political themes. "Relationships are still about life," he says. "I'm interested in the human condition. Even Little Richard was trying to connect with audiences with his "Bop bop a loopa a bop bam boo" line [in *Tutti Frutti*]." While as Toastmasters we might hold weight in audiences taking a message out of our words, we should not rely on our words alone to communicate, as a message can be conveyed by an entire gamut of communication tools. Even our words can convey messages with subtlety. Jenkins says, "People can confuse political writing with a manifesto, but it can be sly or abstract... even weak lyrics can suck you in and that's the beauty of song writing".

Song writing can serve many purposes. As a form of communication it's more than just entertainment and information, it's also about self-exploration. Murray says, "first and foremost I am just expressing myself." Cummings says, "from the second album on I knew what I wanted to sound like, a song that represents who I am".

Cummings, Jenkins and Murray have demonstrated a canny ability to harmonize lyrics and melody to convey

"Words and music are tightly meshed. It's songwriting, not poetry or instrumentals alone."

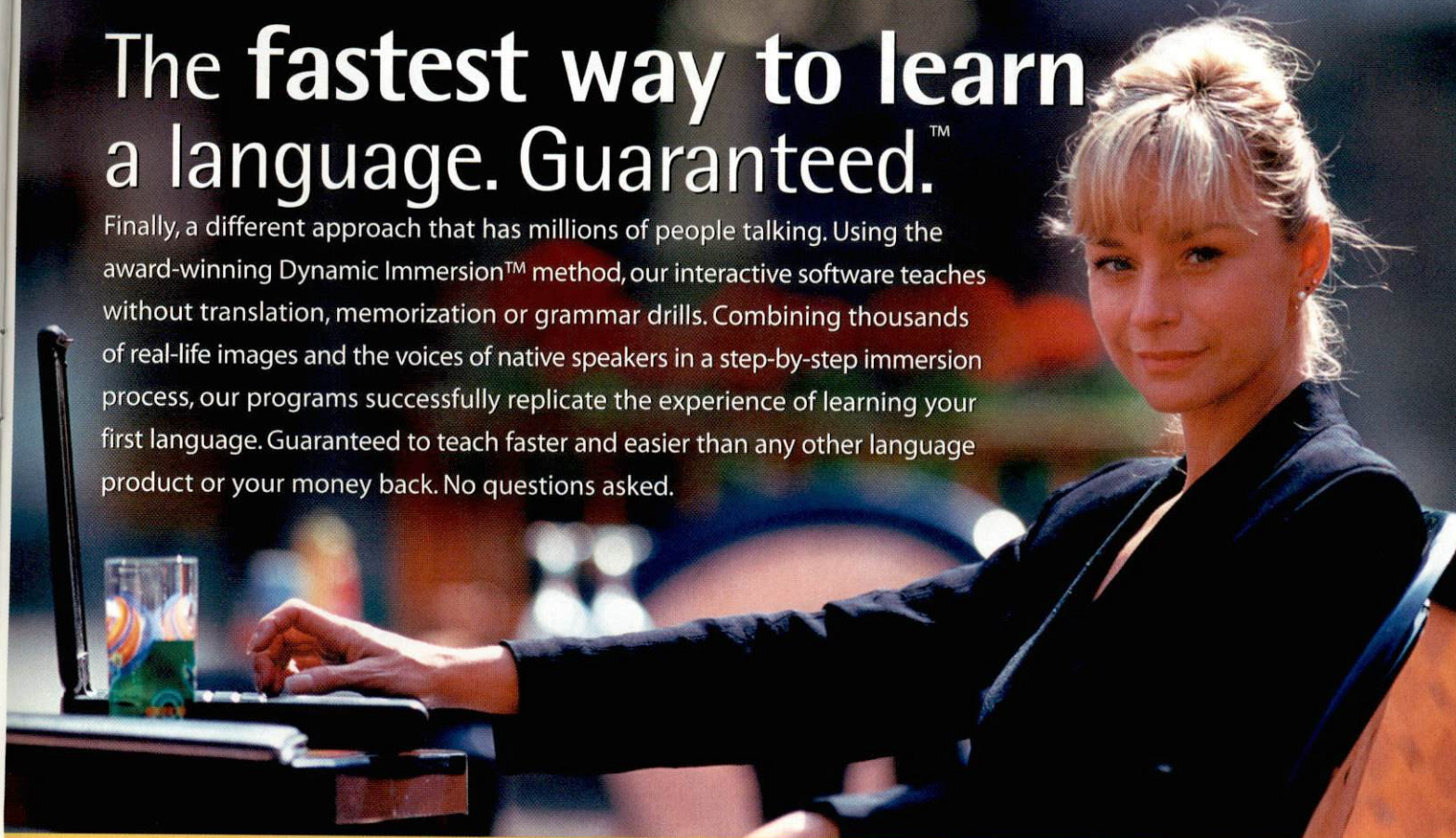
- CHARLES JENKINS

their personalities. Just as music complements these songwriters' written words, Toastmasters are privileged to have the full array of skills at our disposal when we relate with an audience. So why not make complete use of the full range of techniques we can employ? Toastmasters also provides a unique venue to express who we are. We should take every opportunity to learn about ourselves and encourage other members' self-development. **T**

Darren McClelland is an ATM-B and CL, and a member of Moonee Talks Club based in Melbourne, Australia. He enjoys all forms of music and writing for public audiences.

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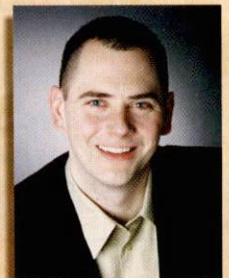
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About Bo Bennett, DTM

Bo Bennett is a distinguished Toastmaster, business man, author, programmer, philanthropist, martial artist, motivational speaker, amateur comedian, and most of all a husband and a father devoted to improving the lives of others. Since age 10, Bo has started several companies and sold them anywhere from \$1 to \$20,000,000.00. Today, Bo remains active President of Archieboy Holdings, LLC. and CEO of Boston Datacenters, Inc. Bo is also the creator of FreeToastHost.org, the Toastmasters service that currently provides free websites for more than 2000 Toastmasters clubs around the world.



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Mr. Kouzes will accept the award at the Golden Gavel Luncheon in his honor on Thursday, August 24, 2006, during the International Convention in Washington, D.C.

Don't miss this chance to meet one of the most influential authors and leadership experts of our time!

Kouzes is best known for co-authoring many award-winning books on leadership, primarily *The Leadership Challenge* with his colleague Barry Posner, a professor of leadership at Santa Clara University. The third edition of *The Leadership Challenge* was released in 2002 and made the No. 4 spot on *BusinessWeek's* best-seller list, the only 3rd edition of any book to ever make that list. The book, available in 17 languages, has been a fixture in many book clubs and has received many awards,



Jim Kouzes

**“So I ask: what do you really care about?
Find the answer to that question and
you're on the path to becoming a better
leader. Ignore that question, and you're
on the road to an empty life.”**

— JIM KOUZES

among them the 1995-96 Critics' Choice Award.

The team's success with the *The Leadership Challenge* prompted them to create the highly acclaimed *Leadership Practices Inventory* (LPI), which Kouzes describes as a “360-degree questionnaire assessing leadership behavior.” It is considered one of the most widely used leadership assessment instruments in the world. Kouzes and Posner have co-authored many other books on leadership,

including *Credibility: How Leaders Gain It and Lose It, Why People Demand It*, which was chosen by *Industry Week* as one of the best management books of 1993. Their other books include *Encouraging the Heart*, *The Leadership Challenge Journal* and *Christian Reflections on The Leadership Challenge*. He and Posner are among the country's top leadership educators. Their newest book, *A Leader's Legacy*, will be released this fall.

Kouzes' work has been featured in many books and training courses, and he is a popular seminar and conference speaker. *The Wall Street Journal* called him “one of 12

most requested non-university executive education providers to U.S. companies.”

From 1988 to 2000, Kouzes was the president – and later CEO – of the Tom Peters Company, a well-known professional services firm that specializes in leadership development. (Tom Peters was Toastmasters' Golden Gavel recipient in 1990).

Don't miss this opportunity to bear Mr. Kouzes speak on August 24 during the Toastmasters International Convention in Washington, D.C. For details and registration forms, please see pages 29-31 or visit www.toastmasters.org.

▼ The author, right, poses with 2000 International Speech Contest winner Ed Tate.



The 2005 International Convention, Revisited

By Naman Arora

A first-time convention attendee shares his enthusiasm for the 2005 convention. If you attend this year's convention in Washington, D.C., you'll have a similar experience!

▼ A.J. Burke, a fighter pilot and president of The Afterburners, spoke at last year's Opening Ceremonies.

Excited. Eager. Enthusiastic. That was how I felt during the last week of August, 2005. A week during my first Canadian summer changed my life.

From August 24 to 27, the Toastmasters International 74th Annual Convention took place in my new home city of Toronto. Two thousand delegates from around the world came and stole, I mean, *discovered* ideas from the best of the best communicators in the world. The world champions of public speaking spoke and people listened, comedians joked and people laughed and professional speakers talked and people learned. Mr. Phineas Fogg traveled around the world in 80 days, but I could have given him a run for his money. I traveled the world in 80 hours!

an audience of people from diverse countries. Making friends here can give you a network of people in the different continents. Believe me, it is a gift to have such a multitude of ideas, variety of cultures and proletariat of emotions!

Day Two

Imagine being awakened by your two irate roommates who are ready to do anything but let you get a good night's sleep. That was how I felt on Thursday, August 25, 2005. My roommates – namely Mom and Dad – woke me up and threw me into the washroom. They dragged my snoring body onto a bus bound for downtown Toronto. By the time the fog in my head had cleared, we were at the Westin Harbour Castle hotel. We attended Gene Perret's great session in the morning. I laughed, laughed and laughed some more. Next, we witnessed a session by 2004 World Champion Randy Harvey titled, "Speaking in 3D."

Harvey's most powerful point was about the effectiveness of body language. His body literally spoke more than he did! He proved by example that what he said carried weight.

This was followed by the famous and fabulous Golden Gavel Luncheon. The speech by Golden Gavel recipient Marcus Buckingham managed to keep a group of sleepy people who had just finished a heavy lunch wide awake. My respect for him increased hundredfold when he performed this "mission impossible."

Day One

On Wednesday evening, the convention began with pomp and circumstance with the opening ceremonies hosted by International President Jon Greiner. A glamorous flag ceremony officially opened the convention with many flags from diverse countries, followed by a glittering keynote presentation by "The Afterburners" with speech material from diverse countries for



He talked about the difference between leadership and management. He added sprinkles of humor as well. Later, he was signing his book, *"The One Thing You Need To Know..."* Many people, including my dad, waited in line to buy the book.

After this, I rushed to the session, "To Lead or NOT to Lead," presented by Mark Brown, the 1995 World Champion of Public Speaking. He involved the audience and he was more than involved himself. Another speech contest champion, David Brooks, ran around handing mikes to members of the audience who wanted to express themselves. Watching these champions can give you bundles of ideas!

Day Three

The day started off with a visit to the Toastmasters International Bookstore to buy some stuff. At one minute to 1 p.m., we went to the Toastmasters and Guests luncheon and were entertained by Mimi Donaldson as she joked about "the battle of the sexes." She made people laugh a lot. By the end, everyone felt as if they had known Mimi since childhood. Such speakers give excellent tried and tested speech material.

Dim lights greeted us as we entered the Hall of Fame after a filling lunch. The Toastmasters spirit hung in the air. We saw many worthy leaders basking in the limelight as

the best districts were honored. In the evening, we went to the baseball game between the Blue Jays and the Cleveland Indians held at Toronto's Rogers Centre. It was a very close match. The day was mind-blowing, yet tiring. Until then we had experienced only the appetizers. The main course was yet to come!

Day Four

I woke up without an alarm and got ready. Saturday morning at 9 a.m., I took my seat at the World Championship of Public Speaking, where 10 finalists (out of 25,000 contestants worldwide) tried to win the most prestigious communication award, the World Championship of Public Speaking. That year's competition was tougher as there were 10 contestants – unlike nine in the previous years. After the speakers were interviewed, the most anticipated moment came. And then President-elect Dilip Abayasekara announced, "And the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking is... LANCE MILLER." Lance's speech, titled, "The Ultimate Question" focused on validation. His style, manner and delivery made him the Champion.


At 1:30 p.m. we went to Harry Wong's lecture. He gave a nice speech with lots of humor as he talked about setting up the platform. That night, we attended the President's Dinner Dance. This was the dessert. We enjoyed the food that evening. We

also witnessed the installation of the next set of international officers. We saw the new president, Dilip Abayasekara, who proved to be an excellent orator. He moved people and explained his motto, "Find your Voice, Serve your World." Celebration was in the air and sadness was in the hearts as the convention was concluding.

I felt as if I had earned a billion dollars in 80 hours!

When I read the interview with International President Dilip Abayasekara in last year's September magazine, one line struck me the most. He said, "Toastmasters are many, yet they are one."

This summarizes the whole convention, which truly proved to be a world within a city.

Toastmasters' 2006 convention will take place this August in Washington, D.C. So join the best communicators as they celebrate the Toastmasters International spirit. Trust me, once you experience it, you will not want to stop coming! 

Naman Arora is a high school student in Toronto, Canada. He has recently migrated from the Kingdom of Bahrain to Canada. He writes columns regularly for the *Gulf Daily News*, the national newspaper of Bahrain. He can be contacted at naman91@gmail.com

Take your career to new heights! - Great Leaders are Great Communicators -

How do you get from good to G-R-E-A-T? The key is to become more creative and persuasive. Great thoughts deserve great presentations.

Learn: Preparing with pizzazz
Remember, you are the message
Setting the hook
The power of stories
Using the p-a-u-s-e
The Grand Finale and Call to Action



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WASHINGTON, D.C.

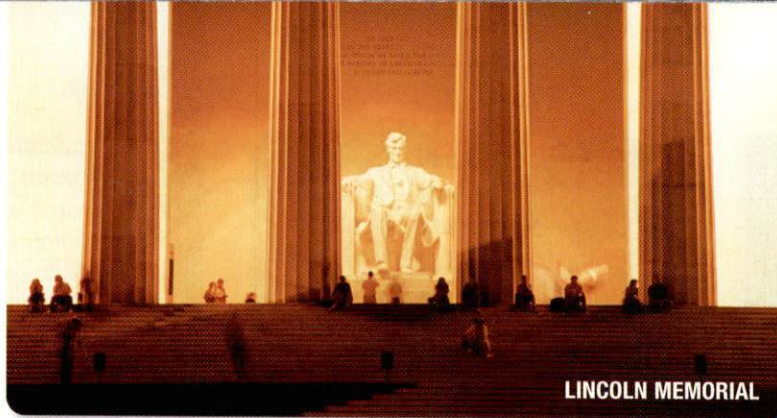
A Capital Experience!

Come to the 75th Annual International Convention, August 23-26, at The Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C.!

REGISTER EARLY! Toastmasters International offers registration options so you can save money. Registering for the convention is easy. Simply complete the convention registration forms on pages 29-31, or register online by visiting the Toastmasters International Web site at www.toastmasters.org.

Convention Schedule

The convention begins Wednesday, August 23, and ends Saturday evening, August 26, featuring great speakers and fun events. Join friends in a week filled with learning, achievement and entertainment! Take advantage of an educational program that lets you choose from four tracks: Communication, Skill Building, Leadership, and Club and District Success.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Interdistrict Speech Contests - 6:30 p.m.

Be sure to attend one of two concurrent Interdistrict Speech Contests and watch speakers from districts outside North America compete for a final spot in Saturday's 2006 World Championship of Public Speaking. Be sure to mark your registration form to reflect the contest you wish to attend.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

If you're preregistered, you may pick up your ticket packet beginning at 10 a.m. World Headquarters will automatically pre-select your seats for the Golden Gavel Luncheon, the World Championship of Public Speaking and the President's Dinner Dance. You can purchase remaining event tickets, but remember, these are subject to availability. So pre-register and buy your tickets early.

Visit the District 36 Information Desk. Our hosts will introduce you to Washington's popular attractions. The Candidates Corner and Credentials Desk open Wednesday afternoon.

TI Bookstore

Visit the TI Bookstore beginning at 1 p.m. It's stocked with great items that you can take back to your club. Browsers are welcome!

Board of Directors Briefing – 1 p.m.

Your Board of Directors briefs you on recent actions taken to help achieve the mission of Toastmasters International.

First-Timers Orientation – 4 p.m.

International President **Dilip Abayasekara, DTM**, personally welcomes you to your first International Convention. Meet other first-timers, make new friends and learn about exciting events taking place throughout the convention.

Opening Ceremonies – 7 p.m.

The traditional Parade of Flags kicks off this popular event at 7 p.m. Hear the report of International President **Dilip Abayasekara, DTM**, and get motivated by keynote speaker and past president of the National Speakers Association **Mark Sanborn**.

Candidates Reception

Meet this year's international officer and director candidates at an informal reception immediately following the opening ceremonies.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Education in the Morning – 8:30 a.m.

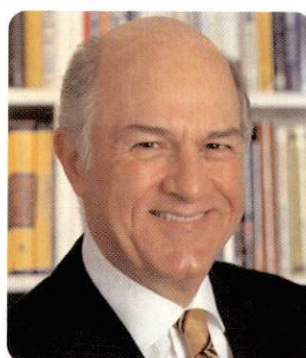
Begin your day with a lineup of outstanding speakers. Choose from four tracks: Communication (*Track #1*), Skill Building (*Track #2*), Leadership (*Track #3*), and Club and District Success (*Track #4*).



International President
Dilip Abayasekara, DTM



Keynote Presenter
Mark Sanborn



Golden Gavel Recipient
Jim Kouzes



General Session Speaker
Marilyn Sherman



Brent Kisilevich



Shelia Spencer, DTM



Lance Miller, DTM



Penny Post, DTM



Judith Pearson, ATM-B



Craig Valentine

■ **“Negotiating Your Way to Win-Win”** (Track #1)

Brent Kisilevich

Brent shows you how to transform an adversarial conversation into an empowering win-win negotiation. Get past the “no” in conversations and discover how to build curiosity and engage others in a collaborative dialogue.

■ **“Right Brain/Left Brain: Creative Solutions for the Organizationally Challenged”** (Track #2)

Shelia Spencer, DTM

Discover why some people receive, process and organize information differently. Shelia reveals how to recognize your strengths and understand your weaknesses to achieve success in all areas of your life.

■ **The Power of Emotion as a Leader”** (Track #3)

Gilles Robert

Don't let your emotions detour you from success. Learn to manage your emotions for optimum results. Gilles helps you become a better coach, leader and motivator.

■ **“Building a Championship Club”** (Track #4)

Lance Miller, DTM

Your club's meetings have a tremendous impact on member participation and retention. 2006 International Speech Contest Winner Lance Miller shares how to bring quality and consistent programming into your club. His valuable tips will turn even the weakest club into a great one.

Education continues in the morning – 10 a.m.

■ **“From Bards to the Boardroom”** (Track #1)

Penny Post, DTM

Speakers send messages through the stories they tell. Penny shows you how to use those stories consciously to connect emotionally to your audience so you can inform, persuade and inspire others more effectively.

■ **“Building Rapport: How to Read People”** (Track #2)

Judith Pearson, ATM-B

This Toastmaster and psychotherapist will help you sharpen your observation and listening skills and enhance your ability to communicate with others! Judith shows you how to focus on another person's subtle physical and verbal cues and use those cues to enhance rapport and get your message across more effectively. You'll also learn how to manage your own body language and put others instantly at ease.

■ **“The Way of the Champions: Three Keys to Unlocking your Leadership Potential”** (Track #3)

Craig Valentine

In this fast-paced and entertaining session, this International Speech Contest winner will teach you timeless leadership principles and lessons from history to successfully design your future as an effective leader.

■ **“From the Outhouse to the Penthouse”** (Track #4)

Janice Coleman, DTM

Janice shares strategic information that will quickly propel your club, area, division or district from the bottom of the heap to the top. Learn how to create a winning team, identify and focus on what's important, use online reporting and other Toastmasters tools for success.

Golden Gavel Luncheon – Noon

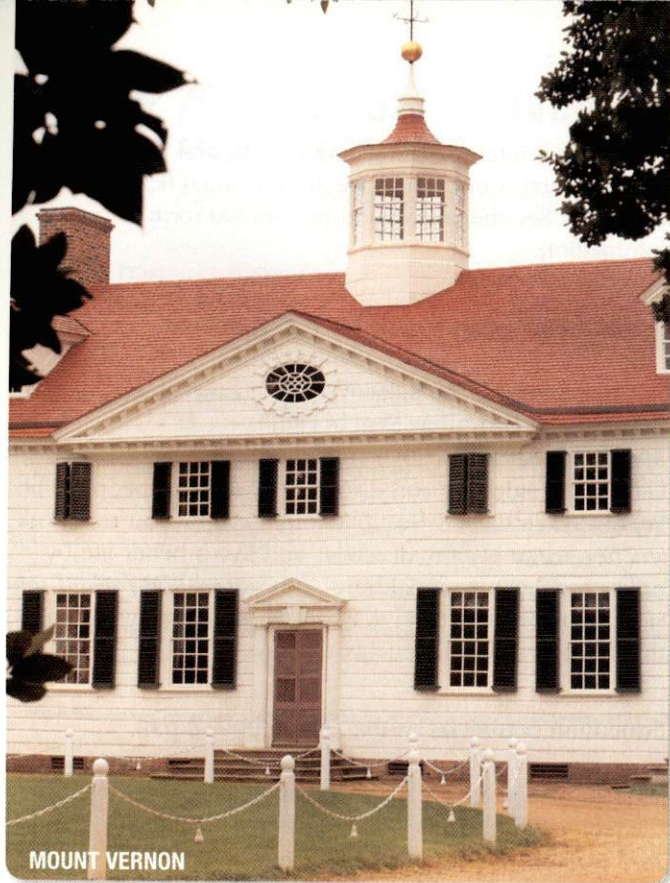
Toastmasters International proudly presents **Jim Kouzes**, a highly regarded leadership scholar and experienced executive, with **The Golden Gavel**, Toastmasters' highest honor for communication excellence. *The Wall Street Journal* has cited Jim Kouzes as one of the 12 best executive educators in the United States. Jim shares lessons learned about leadership from over 20 years of research.

Spouse/Guest Tour Package - Day #1 - 2:15 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.

Back by popular demand! This tour features the Smithsonian Museums, stopping at the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Natural History, the Air and Space Museum, and the Museum of American History. Spouses and guests can pick and choose or see all four museums. Along the



U.S. SUPREME COURT



way, you'll learn interesting facts about some of the historic monuments and buildings throughout Washington, D.C. **Tour does not include refreshments.**

Afternoon Sessions – 2:45 p.m.

- **“Attitude Food: Breakthrough Thinking that will Enrich Your Life”** (Track #2)

Jerry Conrad, DTM

How you think is intimately connected to the way you act, the degree of joy you experience, and the way other people may treat you. Jerry takes you on a positive mental, physical and spiritual journey that can reshape the way you view the world and others around you.

- **“Leadership Lessons You Can Learn in Your Club”** (Track #3)

Ted Corcoran, DTM

Discover how to incorporate Toastmasters International's exciting new *Competent Leadership* manual as part of your club programming. Past International President Ted Corcoran shares the benefits of the manual and how to use it to help “sell” your club to potential members.

- **“FreeToastHost.org: Promote Your Club Through the Internet”** (Track #4)

Bo Bennett, DTM

Join Bo in a non-technical session on how to use FreeToastHost.org. to design and host your club's Web site. FreeToastHost also has software to help you with meeting schedules and agendas, all at no cost. Bo also shows how to attract new members by following one of the major rules of marketing and how to use on-line discussions to keep members interested and involved.

Candidate Showcases – 5 p.m.

Meet your international officer and director candidates as they address convention delegates.

Open Evening

Stop by the host district information desk for some great dining and entertainment ideas.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Annual Business Meeting – 8 a.m.

Dilip Abayasekara, DTM, Chairman

Herb Nowlin, DTM, Parliamentarian

Delegates gather to elect international officers and directors.

Spouse/Guest Tour Package - Day #2 - 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a full day at America's most visited historic house, *Mount Vernon*. This guided tour shares the rich history and significant historical events that took place at this beautiful mansion situated on the Potomac River. You'll see the mansion, the estate's outbuildings and the beautiful gardens that have been meticulously groomed for decades. **A boxed lunch and beverage are included.**

Club Leadership Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.

Don't miss **Ross Mackay's** keynote address at this special luncheon for DTMs, immediate past and current club officers. Join fellow Toastmasters leaders and celebrate the success of Toastmasters International's 2005-2006 Distinguished Clubs.

Toastmasters and Guests Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.

Join professional storyteller **Caren Neile, ATM-S**, as she reveals **“All I Really Need to Know I learned in Fairy Tales.”** This popular event is open to everyone, so be sure to buy your tickets in advance.



Janice Coleman, DTM



Jerry Conrad, DTM



Ted Corcoran, DTM



Bo Bennett, DTM



Ross Mackay, DTM



Caren Neile, ATM-S



Gilles Robert



Joel Goodman



Kevin Lerner



Paul Lawrence Vann, ATM-G



Ed Sykes, DTM



Joy Fisher-Sykes, ATM-B

Hall of Fame – 1:30 p.m.

Toastmasters International's top performers are recognized for outstanding accomplishments for 2005-2006.

Fun Night Pre-Tour Mixer – 5:30 p.m.

Unwind and relax with other Toastmasters and guests at this casual pre-tour mixer. Visit with old friends and socialize with first-timers while enjoying a few appetizers. Cash bar provided.

Fun Night Tours:

“Monuments by Moonlight” - 7:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

This evening promises to be spectacular! Join your friends on a Monuments by Moonlight tour of Washington, D.C. Expert tour guides take you to see popular monuments and memorials and share some of the secrets of this capital city. The tour includes transportation by bus. A portion of the tour includes walking, so bring a pair of sensible shoes, comfortable pants or shorts and your favorite t-shirt. Don't forget your camera!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Witness the best in public speaking as 10 finalists compete for the title “World Champion of Public Speaking.” This is a popular event, so order tickets now!

Take the hassle out of registering for the convention. Register online at www.toastmasters.org. Receive a confirmation of your convention registration *instantly!*

For information about airline and travel, tax deductibility and automatic seat selection, visit the Toastmasters Web site at www.toastmasters.org.

Members interested in attending only the International Speech Contest may purchase an individual ticket at a special price. See the convention registration form for more information.

General Education Session – 1:30 p.m.

■ “Why Settle for the Balcony? How to Get a Front-Row Seat in Life!”

Marilyn Sherman

Get off the sidelines and discover the traits of people who are always in the VIP section. Find out how you can work smarter, make healthy decisions and live a better life by practicing these essential traits. This adrenaline-packed session helps you find your way out of the balcony and in that front-row seat you richly deserve.

Education continues in the afternoon – 3 p.m.

■ “Fun Fu!: Mirthful Martial Arts to Manage Conflict and Difficult People” (Track #1)

Joel Goodman

Join humor expert Joel Goodman and learn the lighter side of managing conflict and dealing with difficult people. This black belt-like session playfully explores alternate paths to diffuse unpleasant situations.

■ “PowerPersentations” (Track #2)

Kevin Lerner

Develop your next PowerPoint presentation with great efficiency, agility and creativity. This informative and high energy session will help you create a presentation that will wow your next audience.

■ “Living on High Ground for Today's Leaders” (Track #3)

Paul Lawrence Vann, ATM-G

Paul helps you discover your core desire as a leader. Take on your next leadership role with essential tools that propel you to success.

■ “The Business of Toastmasters: How to Create Vibrant, Productive Clubs” (Track #4)

Ed Sykes, DTM

Joy Fisher-Sykes, ATM-B

Learn to lead your club as CEO (Chief Educational Officer) and conduct your club as a growing business. Work with the share holders (area, division and district officers) and most importantly, show your customers (the members) the value of your service. Learn bottom line results that will produce a healthy club.

President's Dinner Dance – 7:30 p.m.

Dine and dance in elegance at this extravagant closing event. Past International President **Jon Greiner, DTM**, is the Toastmaster for the evening, presiding over the installation of newly elected officers and directors.



75th Annual Convention August 23-26, 2006

REGISTRATION FORM

For quick, easy and instant registration confirmation, register online at: www.toastmasters.org.

(Please Print) Member No. _____ Club No. _____ District _____

Name: _____ First Name or Nickname (as you wish it to appear on your badge): _____

Addl. Registrants' Name: _____ First Name or Nickname (as you wish it to appear on your badge): _____

Address _____ Check if this is a new address

City _____ State / Province _____ Country _____ Postal / Zip _____

Daytime Telephone () _____ E-mail Address _____

This is my first TI Convention I require special assistance

1 "PRE-CONVENTION" INTERDISTRICT SPEECH CONTESTS

Note: These contests run concurrently! Immediately following the contests is a reception open only to members of districts not assigned to regions (DNAR).

Interdistrict Speech Contest A (Tuesday)
(Districts 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 and 76)

_____ Member(s)/Guest @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

Interdistrict Speech Contest B (Tuesday)
(Districts 51, 59, 74, 75, 79 and 80)

_____ Member(s)/Guest @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

For district locations please visit our Web site at www.toastmasters.org

SECTION 1 TOTAL = \$ _____

2 "FULL" CONVENTION PACKAGE... ONLY \$520.00

A Full Convention Registration Package includes one ticket for each of the following:

- Access to all educational sessions
- Golden Gavel Luncheon (Thursday)
- Fun Night Tour: Monuments by Moonlight (Friday)
- International Speech Contest (Saturday)
- President's Dinner Dance (Saturday)

• **PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Club Leadership Luncheon (Friday)

OR

Toastmasters & Guests Luncheon (Friday)

_____ Member(s)/Guest @ \$520.00 = \$ _____

SECTION 2 TOTAL = \$ _____

3 "SPOUSE/GUEST" PACKAGE... ONLY \$330.00

Spouse/Guest must be non-member. This registration includes one ticket to each of the following:

- Tour: Smithsonian Museums (Thursday)
- Golden Gavel Luncheon (Thursday)
- Tour: Mount Vernon (lunch provided) (Friday)
- Fun Night Tour: Monuments by Moonlight (Friday)
- International Speech Contest (Saturday)
- President's Dinner Dance (Saturday)

No access to any educational sessions!

_____ Spouse/Guest(s) @ \$330.00 = \$ _____

SECTION 3 TOTAL = \$ _____

Mail or fax this form to: Toastmasters International, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690 USA • Fax: (949) 858-1207 • Phone: (949) 858-8255

4 SATURDAY PACKAGE – ONE DAY ONLY

This registration **includes** a ticket to the International Speech Contest and access to all educational sessions on Saturday, August 26. You may also purchase a ticket to the President's Dinner Dance.

_____ Member(s)/Guest @ \$110.00 = \$ _____ _____ President's Dinner Dance @ \$75.00 = \$ _____
SECTION 4 TOTAL = \$ _____

5 "A LA CARTE" REGISTRATION

In order to purchase additional event tickets, you must have purchased package 2, 3, 4 or the "A La Carte" registration #5. A maximum of two additional tickets per event may be purchased – no exceptions! Access to all educational sessions included.

STEP 1		_____		_____ Member(s)/guest registration @ \$195.00		= \$ _____
				_____ Golden Gavel Luncheon (<i>Thursday</i>) @ \$75.00		= \$ _____
				_____ Toastmasters & Guests Luncheon (<i>Friday</i>) @ \$55.00		= \$ _____
				_____ Club Leadership Luncheon (<i>Friday</i>) @ \$55.00		= \$ _____
STEP 2				_____ Fun Night Tour: Monuments by Moonlight (<i>Friday</i>) @ \$65.00		= \$ _____
				_____ International Speech Contest (<i>Saturday</i>) @ \$110.00		= \$ _____
				_____ President's Dinner Dance (<i>Saturday</i>) @ \$75.00		= \$ _____
				TOTAL STEP 2		= \$ _____
STEP 3				SECTION 5 TOTAL		= \$ _____
				<i>(Add Step 1 and Step 2 totals)</i>		

6 REGISTRATION TOTALS

SECTION 1 TOTAL					= \$ _____
SECTION 2 TOTAL					= \$ _____
SECTION 3 TOTAL					= \$ _____
SECTION 4 TOTAL					= \$ _____
SECTION 5 TOTAL					= \$ _____
AFTER JULY 28th, ADD \$50.00 TO YOUR REGISTRATION					= \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE					= \$ _____

7 METHOD OF PAYMENT (U.S. DOLLARS)

DEADLINE: Advance registrations must reach World Headquarters by July 28. After this date, registrants will be charged an additional \$50.00. Cancellations and refund requests will not be accepted after July 28. Cancellations will not be accepted on-site – sorry, no exceptions!

SEATING PROCEDURES: World Headquarters will select your seats for the Golden Gavel Luncheon, Fun Night, International Speech Contest and President's Dinner Dance. *Toastmasters who wish to sit in a group must mail their registration forms together in the same envelope or register online together.*

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (U.S. dollars) payable to Toastmasters International.

MasterCard VISA American Express Discover Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

For quick, easy and instant registration confirmation, register online at: www.toastmasters.org.

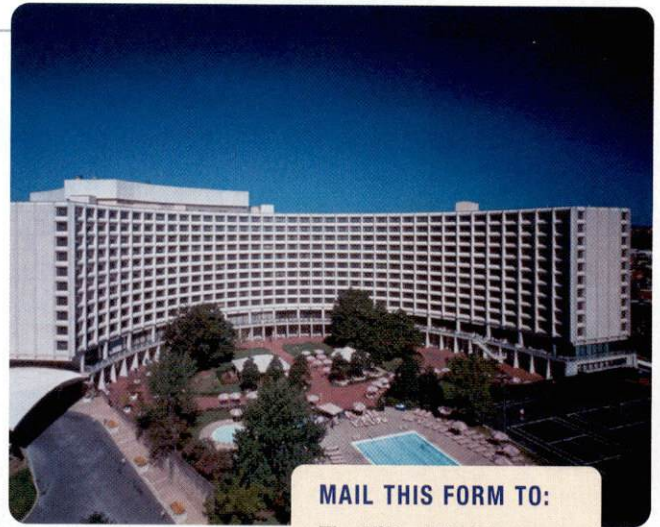
Mail or fax this form to: Toastmasters International, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690 USA • Fax: (949) 858-1207 • Phone: (949) 858-8255

By attending this convention, attendees and speakers are hereby notified that their image or likeness in the form of live video, recorded video and still photography may be captured.

The Hilton Washington

Welcomes...

Toastmasters International's 2006 Convention August 23-26, 2006



MAIL THIS FORM TO:

The Hilton Washington

1919 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Hotel: (202) 483-3000
Toll Free in Canada and
U.S. 1 (888) DC-HILTON
FAX: (202) 797-5755

Hotel Registration Form

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Number of nights you will stay: _____

Number of people in room: _____

Approx. arrival time: _____

(CHECK-IN 3:00 P.M. - CHECK-OUT 12 NOON)

Method of transportation: Car Air Other

Late departures will be charged a full night's rate plus taxes.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE RATES

STANDARD GUEST ROOM	SUITE
\$151.00 Single/Double	Phone hotel directly if suite is desired. Cost and availability vary.

Please Note: Special conference rates are based on reservations received by July 25, 2006, and room block availability.

After July 25, all subsequent reservations will be subject to availability at the current hotel rack rates.

Please Reserve Accommodations For: *(please print or type)*

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ Company _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____ Fax () _____

Sharing Room With _____ E-mail _____

Special Requests: King 2 Double Beds Non Smoking Smoking Other (specify) _____

(Note: Every attempt will be made to honor your request, however we cannot guarantee a special request.)

To guarantee your reservation we require first night's deposit by credit card or check. All rates are subject to applicable taxes (14.5% per night).
DO NOT SEND CASH.

Make check or money order payable to the **The Hilton Washington**.

Credit Card type _____

Credit Card # _____

Check # _____ Amount _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Don't Be a No-Show

To cancel your reservation call (888) DC-HILTON or (202) 797-5820. If you fail to arrive by midnight the day of your scheduled arrival, your room will be released and may not be available. **You must cancel your reservation 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid being charged one night's room and tax.**

A room confirmation will be mailed to you as soon as possible.

DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM TO TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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\$100,000 in public seminars

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“This workshop has trained more million-dollar speakers than any program in history.”
-Larry Wilson, founder, Wilson Learning.

“I was a Toastmaster when I attended this workshop in 1996. Today, I’m in the top 1% of income earners worldwide in the speaking business. I owe my success to what I learned in the Bill Gove Speech Workshop.”
-Steve Siebold, CSP

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