



The Lilac City Lowdown

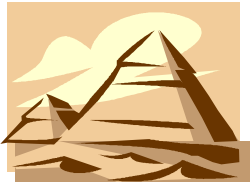


Lilac City Toastmasters Club # 687 / Area 4 / District 65 December 2000 Vol. 3, #3

How Strong is Our Pyramid?

by Shannine DiMora, ATM-B,
Secretary

Imagine that you are standing in the Egyptian desert. You can feel the hot sun beating down on your back, and the sweat dripping from your forehead. Your shoes are full of sand. You have to squint your eyes because the sun is so incredibly bright, and it is intensified even further as it reflects off the sand. You have decided to visit some of the greatest architectural sites known to man—the pyramids. As you stand there in the desert, gazing up, up, and up, you see the top of the Great Pyramid. As you stand there, your mind wonders, “How



did the ancient Egyptians create such a masterpiece?”

The answer, in one word, is Teamwork. I’m sure everyone in our club has been on a team at one point or another. Regardless of whether or not your team accomplished anything as magnificent as the pyramids, you know from experience that a team is only as strong as the members that compose it. Throughout history, teamwork resulted in great things, and as we explore historical projects that were the result of teamwork, we learn several important principles.

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Lilac City Toastmasters – How, When, and Why I Joined

by Kathy Mannara, TM

I finally decided to take the step to reach out to a public speaking club to help me overcome my nervousness. I had heard of Toastmasters, but there was no listing in the phone book. I searched for Toastmasters on the web, and the choices were “broiler oven, or 2-or 4-slice toasters”. Whoops, better be more specific! Back page, to a search on “public speaking”. I finally found “Toastmasters International” then got more specific to “club locations” and – boom – 20 club locations to choose from in Rochester! Wow! I downloaded the information, then narrowed my choices down to three clubs whose meetings jelled with my schedule. I left a voice mail message for Betsy Kalweit to call me back with information. Betsy called me back later that day. She was most gracious, extremely encouraging, and asked me to join her at Lilac City

Toastmasters’ next meeting later that week.

It was the beginning of a friendship with a warm, supportive, diverse group of people. I felt immediately welcomed by all and joined Lilac City Toastmasters the first night. Not too soon after that, I gave my first speech. The training manuals I received were extremely helpful, as was my mentor, Lois Watkins. I practiced until I was blue in the face, and had it not been for the pink make-up, my blue was sure to show through as I stood at the lectern! I got through my first speech and have since given two more. I’ve learned so much from others. I still face each responsibility given me (whether it is Table Topics Master, Toastmaster, Evaluator, General Evalua-

(Continued on page 2)

Lilac City Toastmasters – How, When, and Why I Joined *(continued from page 1)*

tor, Timer, Opener, or Closer) with great trepidation, but go home with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, knowing I’ve conquered yet another milestone. I’m gaining confidence. And, the most peculiar thing is, that I didn’t think it would be fun, but it is! Sometimes I have to drag myself to the meetings, but I’m always so glad I went. I always leave feeling elated.

Taking charge of where you want to go in life is a

good feeling. It’s like taking a front row seat in life. Challenging yourself to do different things, expanding your comfort zone, and taking on life with a zest is what I find to be fun. Joining and participating in Toastmasters International has enabled me to grow as a person. And, membership in Lilac City Toastmasters is something I hold dear to my heart. I’m so glad I joined!



Area Contests...Opportunities for Toastmaster Growth

*by Betsy Kalweit, ATM-B, CL,
Vice President, Public Relations*

On October 21, 2000, the Area 4 Evaluation and Humorous Speech Contest was held at Kodak Park. Clubs participating in this contest were: Lilac City, Frederick Douglas, Lyceum, The Rochester Club 476, and the newly formed Teleconnectors.

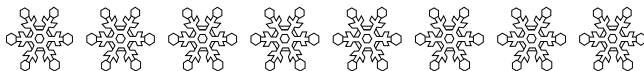
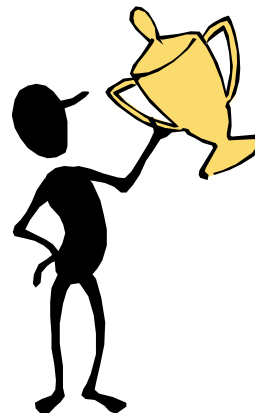
John Lum, from Club #9207 (Advanced Toastmasters Club) was Target speaker for the Evaluation Contest. Nancy Ellen Scott, recent recipient of a Presidential Citation from Toastmasters International, acted as Chief Judge. Several members of Lilac City attended and served in various capacities either as judges or in other parts of the program. Those attending from Lilac City were: Meg Burt, Casey Murphy, Leo Pfeiffer, Arleen Roth, Arnold Krueger, Betsy Kalweit, and contestants Bob Corbin and Lois Watkins.

Bob represented us well in the Evaluation Contest and Lois did a fine job with her Humorous Speech, “Feeling Crummy”. Lilac City Toastmasters can be proud of our contestants and of our members who attended this contest to support them. Having participated in contests myself, I know how uplifting it was for me to have several club members there to encourage my efforts.

Attending and participating in Area Contests gives Toastmasters the opportunity to learn beyond the club level. As a contestant, you will gain confidence and experience speaking before a different audience. Participating by serving as a judge, teller, timer, or in some other way, will also give you a chance to grow even more as a Toastmaster.

Lilac City Toastmasters are known for their participation in contests and faithful support of their contestants. If you have never been to an Area Contest, plan right now to attend the Tall Tales and International Speech Contest, which will be held this spring. President Arnold Krueger or Educational Vice President Lois Watkins should have the new contest rulebooks soon and will

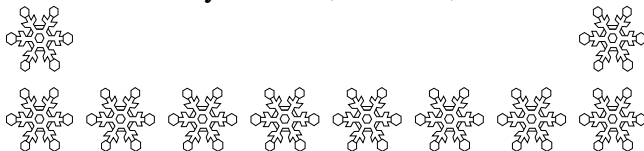
be glad to answer any questions you may have about qualifications for entering either of these contests. In the meantime, it’s not too early to begin thinking of speech ideas for the contests. Spring will be here before we know it!



Do you have an article you would like to see published in the next edition of *The Lilac City Lowdown*? Would you like to join the *Lowdown* staff? If so, be sure to contact one of the staff members listed below!

The Lilac City Lowdown Staff

Bob Corbin, ATM-B; CL
Shannine DiMora, ATM-B
Betsy Kalweit, ATM-B; CL



Toastmasters Etiquette

*by Betsy Kalweit, ATM-B, CL,
Vice President, Public Relations*

I didn't care what he had to say! That was my reaction to a guest speaker in a church we once attended. In a feeble attempt to appear clever, this guest speaker had made a racial slur against the person who had just introduced him! By his thoughtless remarks, that speaker had not only wounded his victim, but had also killed his message. The respect we show for our audience, as this speaker sadly discovered, affects how well our words are received.

Respect is just one of the many aspects of good speaking etiquette, useful to us both in Toastmasters and in other areas of our lives. Now I'm confident none of our Lilac City club members would ever treat someone so shabbily as this guest speaker did! But to avoid unknowingly slighting or even offending someone, we should always be alert to the subtler techniques of good speaking etiquette. Remember that we can practice these not only in public speaking, but also in informal situations.

For example, even before our meetings begin, or perhaps during the break, we should make every effort to introduce ourselves to guests and to greet our fellow members. Casual conversations like these may be at first a bit intimidating to more reserved members. Some people may even feel it is insignificant to do so. However, by extending ourselves to others in this way, we make our club more inviting to guests and ensure that everyone feels a valued part of the group. Since informal conversations such as these make up a great part of our everyday speech, members also benefit by gaining added skill in interpersonal communication.

This personal touch is so important in today's world, which is becoming increasingly impersonal. In Toastmasters we want everyone to know he or she is important. One of the ways we show our appreciation for our fellow members, therefore, is by first respectfully acknowledging the person (Mr. Toastmaster, Madame Table Topics Master, Madame General Evaluator, or

Mr. Presiding Officer) who introduces us. Next we address the general audience (fellow Toastmasters and guests). If we have a distinguished visitor, it is also appropriate to recognize him or her (Area Governor, Central Division Governor, etc.).

Another way we recognize the importance of our members and guests is by a hearty round of applause as each walks to the lectern after being introduced, and at the conclusion of each speech or speaking assignment (such as Toastmaster, General Evaluator, Table Topics Master, Evaluator, etc.) And of course we continue to show our respect for each speaker by listening attentively during the presentation.

Aside from showing the speaker at the lectern appreciation for his or her contribution, however, we owe them our attention because that person has control of the meeting at the time. The person in control should not, therefore, ever leave the lectern until the person speaking after him arrives there and assumes control. For that reason, it is correct to say, for example, "I will now return control of this meeting to Toastmaster Smith," rather than "I'm turning over the meeting to Toastmaster Smith."

There are many other little tips in speaking etiquette that we can learn as we attend and participate in Toastmasters meetings and other Toastmasters events. Incorporating them into our everyday speech can profit us socially, professionally, and personally. As we make good speaking etiquette a natural part of our public speaking opportunities, our speech will be powerful, but gracious, a good example of how Toastmasters can improve the quality of our lives and help us build a better world.

Membership News



Lilac City Toastmasters Club is proud to welcome new members **Tracy Moran** and **Chris Woeller** to the group!

Congratulations to **Shannine DiMora** on achieving her Advanced Toastmaster Bronze!



Celebrating Our Accomplishments

By Bob Corbin, ATM-B, CL,
Vice President, Membership

On Thursday October 26, 2000, Lilac City Toastmasters met to celebrate our efforts during the 1999/2000 Toastmaster year. We came very close to making "Distinguished Club" but more importantly, everyone in the club worked hard to make our meetings more interesting, bring new members into the club and accomplish their educational goals. To recognize these achievements and to have a good time doing it, we had a special meeting on October 26, 2000.

Starting the fun at six with a social hour, we enjoyed all the snack food brought by the members. Standing around the snack table or sitting at the meeting table, we took the opportunity to get to know one another better. In all, we had twenty members and guests in attendance. One interesting guest was the cousin of VP of Membership Robert Corbin. Riding horseback all the way from the western states, Bobby Nibroc added a touch of trail dust to the meeting. Other welcomed guests were Derek and Leticia Kalweit, Edna Krueger and Claire Pfeiffer.

Promptly at seven our regular meeting began, led by presiding officer and President, Arnold Krueger. Following the Invocation and Pledge, led by Dennis Cooney, and the Opener, given by

Jack Forster, our Toastmaster of the evening, Betsy Kalweit, was introduced. She welcomed Bob Corbin, Oops, Bobby Nibroc to the lectern, who then led the club in the Table Topics portion. His questions followed a Halloween theme and a spooky time was had by all.

We then had a break and enjoyed a special cake prepared by Kathy Mannara. Betsy promptly struck the gavel at 7:45, and we all waddled contentedly back to our seats.

Two excellent speeches highlighted the next portion of the meeting. Kathy Mannara instructed us all on proper parliamentary procedures using Robert's Rules and Meg Burt gave a stirring speech very effectively portraying the First Lady of the American Theatre, Helen Hayes Brown.

Shannine DiMora then led the Evaluation portion of the meeting calling on Leo Pfeiffer and Arnold Krueger to evaluate the speakers and Mike Andrews, the Table Topics. All agreed that the speakers did an excellent job. Even Bobby Nibroc was praised for filling in at the last minute for his cousin. Taking a bow, Bobby then attempted to lasso one

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How Toastmasters Membership Helped Advance My Career

by Meg Burt, TM

On March 7, 1998, I gave my annual sales talk to 75 Wegmans personnel. I represent Recycled Paper Greetings, which is a major greeting card supplier to Wegmans. The presentation was very well received, but I came away from the meeting with the nagging feeling that I could have done a better job. I spoke with some people at Recycled about my desire to become a better public speaker. That spring, my company embarked upon an aggressive campaign of personnel development for employees. All these events gave me the impetus to call Toastmasters. You see, I had carried around a newspaper clipping on the Lilac City Toastmasters Club in my daytimer for many months. I made the call and attended a meeting the next week. I was very impressed with the warm welcome I received as a guest and the meeting itself. I attended another meeting and joined the club. I was sold on Toastmasters! I had found a place to develop my presentation skills and develop confidence as a public speaker.

I was assigned a mentor, Art Drummond, a 40-year plus member of the Toastmasters organization. Art helped me to develop and practice my first speeches to the group. I won some awards, for best speech, best evaluator—this was fun! I remember Art telling me early on that the organization did great things for people on a professional level and he had seen several people get promoted as a result of their newfound confidence. I've been a devout member for almost 2 years, working to receive my CTM this spring. I've brought my vice president from Recycled to a meeting

as well as my husband and 2 children (ages 9 and 10). My company has encouraged my participation in Toastmasters and I've been asked to speak in small and large groups at Recycled Paper Greetings about this positive experience in personal development. Last week I was promoted to the position of Business Development manager at Recycled Paper Greetings. I think Art Drummond was right about Toastmasters -- I've no doubt that Toastmasters played a big part in the progression of my career.



Sudden Impact – A “Young” Toastmaster’s View

by Tracy Moran, TM

I finally did it. I went to my first Toastmasters meeting in June. After two plus years of procrastination and the help of a co-worker, I found my way to Lilac City Toastmasters. I was very impressed with the meeting I attended. It was organized, fun, interesting, and most of all, a very positive and comfortable atmosphere. For me, all the ingredients were there and in my mind that June night I had found the club I wished to join. The Toastmasters International web site advises trying a few clubs before making a decision, but I knew it felt right for me at Lilac City (even though it is almost an hour from where I live!).

So I joined this summer, and I have been regularly attending and participating in our meetings. I have given one “manual” speech and have participated in Table Topics. One of the greatest aspects of Toastmasters is the learning that is accomplished by watching other Toastmasters in the club speak. We learn so much just by being there! But I think what has amazed me the most is what an immediate impact my participation in the club has had on my confidence. It makes me feel like I CAN DO THIS – be a better speaker and communicator. Let me share a recent experience from my professional life as a CPA...

This was shortly after I had given my first ice breaker speech, September I think. I had the opportunity, with a partner I work with at the firm, to speak at four differ-

ent client board meeting presentations. Now, pre-Toastmasters these opportunities would have filled me with dread and anxiety, causing me to spend too much time over-preparing for the meetings. Well, I was preparing for the first of the meetings, and I realized I was not as nervous as usual. I got to the meeting, and I felt great. I presented my part of the agenda and answered a few questions from board members without the shake in my voice or the blush red-stained cheeks that usually plague me during these occasions. After the meeting, the partner and I were driving back to the office and I told him that I could not believe I wasn’t nervous presenting. He said he could tell I wasn’t nervous and then commented how relaxed and confident I had seemed. He actually noticed a difference in me! He knew I was involved with Toastmasters and proceeded to ask for the details on how the club works. He wants to recommend it to others at our firm. Needless to say, I was thrilled!

I know I just started Toastmasters, and I have a long way to go to be the speaker and communicator I want to be. But I am so **encouraged** by the experience I have had so far and the improvement I already see in my confidence and my communication skills. I’ll keep you posted...

Not a Member?

Are you reading this newsletter and wondering how you can learn more about Toastmasters International or Lilac City Toastmasters Club? Please call or email any of the individuals listed on page 9, or visit our website at: <http://lilaccity.dyndns.org>. You can also attend one of our meetings. Lilac City Toastmasters Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Main Street, Webster. There is no charge and refreshments are served.



We’re On the Web!!!

Be sure to visit the Lilac City Toastmasters’ Club’s Official Website!

<http://lilaccity.dyndns.org>.

You will find information about club meeting times, location, educational information, past editions of *The Lilac City Lowdown*, and much, much more!

How Strong is Our Pyramid? *(continued from page 1)*

Let's think about the pyramids again for a minute. First of all, the pyramids were not built overnight. They were the result of many years of hard, grueling work. We learn from this that even when we work as a team, we have to be willing to put some time and effort into the task at hand.

The pyramids also were the result of many people with different skills working together. We often hear stories about the back-breaking work that the laborers did. Certainly the laborers worked quite hard, but other people also had a hand in building these magnificent structures. What about the mathematicians and architects, for instance? Without them, the pyramids wouldn't exist today. Every team is made up of people with varying skills, and in order to have a successful team, we need to recognize everyone's unique skills and build upon the contributions they can make.

Let's fast forward in time to the early American settlers. Much of the work they did contributed to the success our country enjoys today. In fact, without their teamwork, we may not even be around today. The settlers worked together in many things they did. They helped each other build houses and plant crops. They even utilized teamwork for small chores— such as potluck dinners. But one of the most important things they taught us was that we need to work with people we may not necessarily like in order to succeed as a team. Many of the settlers didn't like or trust the Indians. But they had to learn to work with them in order to ensure their survival. So too, we may be placed on a team with someone we don't particularly like. But nevertheless, we must focus on the task at hand and find ways to work around our differences.

We have just entered the 21st century, and we still use teamwork every day. One example of this is the recycling program. Just a few small steps on each of our parts will someday save our planet. This small amount of work for us will make a tremendous impact on both ours and also future generations.

So we see that people working together to achieve a shared goal can have powerful results. So let's take it one step further— to our own Lilac City Toastmasters Club. We have seen the powerful effects of teamwork demonstrated within our club just in the past several months. We inducted new officers in July. This group of individuals has been working together as a team and will continue to do so for their terms of office. The parade in July was a success because a group of our members worked together at the last minute to pull it all together. Without having a team to accomplish this, we never would have been able to participate in the Webster Parade. The club website is the result of a team of individuals working together. This very newsletter you are reading is a direct result of team effort. Our club itself is a team, where we all work together to help improve our speaking skills.

However, we can do better. Let's go back to the pyramid concept. Every member of our club is a worker who has a

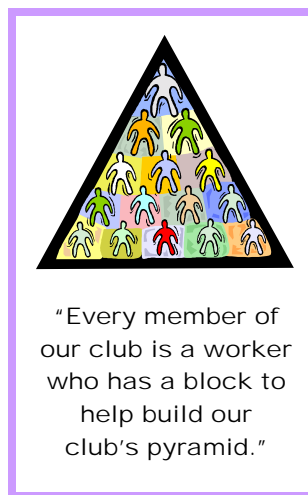
block to help build our club's pyramid. These blocks are key to whether our club stands or falls. If even one block is missing, our pyramid will be weakened.

If the block itself is weak, it will crumble, and our pyramid will not stand the test of time. So how do we create a strong building block? We do this by setting personal goals. Every individual will have different goals to make their block unique. But when each person's goals are all achieved, their block will be very strong. Some suggestions for personal goals are:

- Prepare for and attend all meetings
- Serve as an officer
- Join a committee
- Write article(s) for the newsletter
- Join the newsletter staff
- Earn next level educational achievement (or set goals for how many assignments you will complete in a given amount of time)
- Become a mentor
- Participate in contests
- Actively recruit new members

This list is not all-inclusive. But it is a springboard for building a strong block. Building blocks do not consist of just one component, or we'd just have a pile of dirt. Likewise, Toastmasters should have more than one component in their personal building blocks as well. This is why it's important for each and every member to attain a minimum of two of these goals each year. The more components we have in our blocks, the stronger we will be.

This year we are off to a great start, but we all need to become involved and strengthen our personal building blocks in order to build a sturdy pyramid— or, in other words, a successful club. Let's all make an effort to build the best club pyramid we can. With everyone working together in our club, we can accomplish great things.



Celebrating Our Accomplishments *(continued from page 4)*

of the pretty gals in the group but was promptly kicked in the shins by another pretty lady.

The highlight in this meeting of highlights was the awards ceremony where those who had made a special contribution to our successful year were recognized. Lois Watkins presented the primary designer and webmaster of our club's website, Derek Kalweit, with certificates of appreciation and a gift certificate. Immanuel Lutheran Church was given a certificate of appreciation, and a donation to the church was given to its representative, Jack Forster. Bob Corbin recognized the educational achievements of the following members: Lois Watkins, ATM-B; Shannine DiMora, ATM-B; Betsy Kalweit, ATM-B; Arnold Krueger, CL. Last but not least, those who recently joined our club were recognized. Members who joined in the 1999-2000 TM year are: Mike Andrews, Dennis Cooney, Kathy Mannara, Jack Forster and Valerie McAllister. Members who joined during the current TM year, 2000-2001, are: Tracy Moran and Chris Woeller.

After our president handed out the speech and evaluation awards, we listened to a fine Closer by Erwin Nunlist. As we left the church talking about all that had happened, Bobby Nibroc mounted his horse and shouted as he rode off into the night, "Hi Ho! Silver Away!" Unfortunately this was followed by a crash as his horse stumbled over the car keys that Lois had dropped in the parking lot.



Dennis Cooney speaking



Valerie McAllister speaking



Bobby Nibroc at lectern



Meg Burt as Helen Hayes approaching lectern



Kathy Mannara's speech on Robert's Rules



Snacking on treats



The New Millennia
by Arnold Krueger, DTM
President



As the twentieth century (yes, the year 2000 is still in the twentieth century) draws to a close, it is only natural for one to reflect on the century past. Lilac City Toastmasters has had the unique distinction of existing for better than half of that century. Not many clubs can say that about themselves! During that half century, our club has had good times when there were a large number of members, and times when it barely held together. It will enter the twenty-first century with twenty-one members. Fitting, isn't it?

This, however, is not the time to sit back and rest upon our laurels. There are many in the area served by our club that have never heard of Toastmasters, or if they have, do not realize how joining can benefit them. At the risk of sounding more like an evangelist than a club president, let me say that we have the opportunity to spread the word. Toastmasters can benefit everyone: the bosses, the workers, the students, the teachers, and the salespersons. In short, anyone who has ever had to speak to another person can benefit from our organization. Toastmasters has been called the best-kept secret. People know about the Lions, Kiwanis, the Elks, the Legion, etc., but when you mention Toastmasters, most do not know what you are talking about. It is our challenge for the New Year to make the name "Lilac City Toastmasters" known in the community. Let us not wait until the thirtieth century to reach a membership of thirty. Let us set a goal of twenty-five members for 2001 and thirty for 2002!



To speak well in public requires both learned skills and a certain style, or flair: "Eloquence is the essential thing in a speech, not information." -- Mark Twain (1835-1910)

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Meg Burt, TM, joined Lilac City Toastmasters about 2 years ago. Since then, she has enjoyed greater success in her career, which she attributes to Toastmasters training.



Betsy Kalweit, ATM-B, CL is currently serving as our club's Vice President of Publicity. She is also a member of "The Lilac City Lowdown" newsletter staff.



Robert Corbin, ATM-B, CL, is currently serving as our club's Vice President of Membership. He is also a member of "The Lilac City Lowdown" newsletter staff.



Arnold Krueger, DTM is currently serving as our club's President. He has been a member of several clubs in the past, and has conducted two Speechcraft programs and one Youth Leadership program.



Shannine DiMora, ATM-B is currently serving as our club's Secretary. She is also a member of "The Lilac City Lowdown" newsletter staff.



Kathy Mannara, TM joined Lilac City Toastmasters Club in April 2000 and has already given several wonderful speeches and served on several committees.

Tracy Moran, TM (no picture available) joined Lilac City Toastmasters Club in August 2000 and recently gave her icebreaker speech. She is on her way to becoming an accomplished speaker.