

The Lilac City Lowdown

Lilac City Toastmasters Club # 687 April 2000 Vol. 3, #1

“Through the Years”

by Leo Pfeiffer, CTM
Sergeant at Arms



Fifty plus years ago, Lilac City Toastmasters Club established itself as the second Toastmasters group in the Rochester area. We have had many changes in membership and location, but through it all we have been of

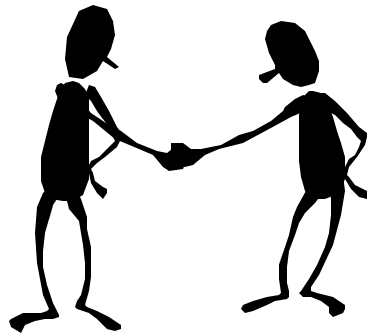
continuous service to the club members. Two present members joined more than forty years ago and have attended regularly; some others have been members for as long as ten or fifteen years. Many former members attended our fiftieth anniversary celebration. These individuals attested to the fact that without experience gained as a member of Lilac City Toastmasters, they probably would not have developed the confidence that allowed them to progress to their present positions.

Toastmasters in general, and Lilac City Toastmasters in particular, definitely assists individuals in finding their gifts and allows time, confidence, and experience to bring these issues to the fore. It's not just learning by doing, but also by contributing to other's progress. This is accomplished not only by calling attention to areas that need improvement, but also by making members conscious of their gifts that they might never have known existed.

Learning to speak is very important, but learning to listen may indeed be equally important in one's development. Proper listening most certainly stimulates one's thought process. In this manner, listening helps one to be properly prepared when a response is indicated. When listening is combined with other Toastmaster experience, the end result is effective and positive to the issues at hand.

It appears that the ideal membership is approximately twenty to twenty-five members; thereby making it possible for every member to contribute at each meeting. Lilac City can easily accept new members and remain friendly, personal, and effective. Other benefits of Toastmasters membership are holding elected positions in the club government, learning how to organize meetings, use Robert's Rules, and much more. If you have ever wanted to gain confidence and learn through participation, come to a few of our meetings and see for yourself. If you like what you see, join Lilac City Toastmasters Club- Rochester's most friendly and experienced club!





Welcome, New Members!

Four new members were inducted into The Lilac City Toastmasters Club April 27, 2000. V.P. Membership Lois Watkins officiated at the ceremony, leading them in reciting the Toastmaster's Promise and welcoming **Mike Andrews**, **Kathy Mannara**, **Dennis Cooney**, and **Jack Forster** into membership. Each new member was presented with a new member folder containing club information and procedures. Each member was also assigned a mentor to answer questions, offer encouragement, and assist them in their first assignments as Toastmasters. **Arnold Krueger** will be Mike Andrews' mentor. **Lois Watkins** will be mentoring Kathy Mannara. **Betsy Kalweit** will be Dennis Cooney's mentor, and **Bob Corbin** will mentor Jack Forster. Lilac City Toastmasters Club is pleased to welcome these new members into our club, and we are looking forward to learning more about them as they present their Icebreaker speeches in the near future.



**Keep an eye out for the
new Lilac City
Toastmasters Club's
official website!**

Baby Talk

By Robert Corbin, ATM-B CL
President, Lilac City Toastmasters



I can't believe I'm the only one who has noticed this phenomenon. Parents and grandparents of those very small people called babies must also have seen this very same thing. A baby is one of the most efficient input/output devices known to man.

Over these last years I have become quite proficient at operating a PC, at least for one so old. The rate at which you can load new software, receive email, or input data into a spreadsheet has increased at an exponential rate over the last twenty years. But babies - wow! - they have these devices beat by a country mile. My children are fully-grown so it has been many years since I last experienced this marvel of biological speed. But now I have grandchildren. I also have those life experiences that weren't in my brain's data banks as a young father. Besides, a grandfather or grandmother has the great advantage of being able to sit back and observe instead of having to dive into the chaos a baby sometimes generates with parents.

I have twin granddaughters about a year old. Until recently they lived with their parents in Charleston, South Carolina, which precluded my seeing them very often. Now my son and his family will be living in the Rochester area again, and I can observe these two little girls to my heart's content.

Babies talk with their facial expressions more than their voices, but it is talk just the same. Look at the way they move their eyes to look at something new in the room. They are really inputting mounds of raw data into their processing center. If they can get your attention, they ask with that mysterious combination of sounds and facial expressions, "What is that new thing I just looked at"? You respond with your best imitation of baby talk that "that is one of our cats". Maybe you make the sound of a cat or pick it up and let the baby touch it. This may be upsetting to the cat, but it provides tons of new data for the immense hard drive in the babies' little heads. When twins are involved there is an interchange of data between them as they talk about their experiences that day. And they do talk to each other very intently. All those baby talk words are really a very sophisticated exchange of software. Bill Gates has nothing on these kids and they change their operating systems much faster than he ever dreamed of.

I have seen this same intensity of absorption of data in Shannine DiMora's baby son Joshua. He is a little younger than my twin granddaughters and doesn't have the advantage of a parallel path operating system. However, I have watched his highly sophisticated scanning system at work, and it is a marvel to behold. He studies everything and at the same time asks everything. He is inputting and outputting at the same time, a truly remarkable operating system for one so young.

Now the next time anyone asks you why you are in Toastmasters, just tell them that you are trying to return to that part of your life when you had truly mastered the art of communication. The time when you spoke "Baby Talk".



**Take this quiz,
and your
knowledge of
Toastmasters
International
will improve
from this score--**



Toastmasters International Quiz

*by Arnold Krueger, DTM
Vice President, Public Relations*

How well do you know the Toastmasters International organization? Here is a short quiz for you to test your knowledge.

1. In what area is Lilac City Toastmasters Club?
2. A. How many areas are in the Central Division?
B. Can you name them?
3. In what District is the Central Division?
4. How many Regions are in the North American continent?
5. In what Region is our club?
6. Who represented our Region on the Board of Directors for 1999-2000?
7. How is District 65 unique?
8. In how many countries does Toastmasters International have clubs?
9. Where is the International Headquarters located?
10. What is Toastmasters International's web site address?

--- to this one!



(Answers on page 10)



Do you have an article you would like to see published in the next edition of the "Lilac City Lowdown"? If you do, be sure to bring it to a meeting and give it to one of the staff members listed below!

Lilac City Lowdown Staff
Bob Corbin, ATM-B CL
Shannine DiMora, CTM
Betsy Kalweit, CTM CL

Spring Is Just Around The Corner

by Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL
Vice President, Education
Area 4 Governor



Those who attended the Area 4 Tall Tales and International Speech Contest got a preview of spring Saturday, March 11, 2000. Although snow covered the ground outside, early spring flowers decorated the tables indoors at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon, New York, where the contest was held. The evening's theme, "Spring Is Just Around The Corner", gave those attending a chance to dream about warmer days ahead. Following a sit down dinner, those in attendance were entertained by both moving and humorous speeches.

Several members of Lilac City came out to support our contestants, **Art Drummond, ATM-B (Tall Tales)** and **Lois Watkins, CTM (International)**. Leo Pfeiffer, CTM, began the evening by giving the Invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. He also served as a judge. Bob Corbin, ATM-B, CL, performed the duties of judge and created the programs and flyers for the contest. Arleen Roth, DTM, acted as Chief Judge. Arnold Krueger, DTM, last year's Tall Tales Winner, served as Tall Tales Contest Master. Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL, Area 4 Governor, presided as Master of Ceremonies.

District officers Ruth Parmenter, DTM (acting District 65 Governor) and Carol Stafford, ATM (Central Division Governor) were among many other guests who helped to comprise the 48 people in attendance. Carol helped to greet guests at the registration table, and both Ruth and Carol assisted Area Governor Kalweit in handing out the awards at the evening's conclusion.

The winners were: Vernal Harris (Lyceum Club)-1st place International; John Gagnon (Rochester 476)-2nd place International; Arlene Brown (Frederick

Douglass)-1st place Tall Tales; and Robin Nowell (Lyceum)-2nd place Tall Tales.



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The District 65 Conference

by Arnold Krueger, DTM
Vice President, Public Relations



Betsy Kalweit, Arleen Roth, and I attended the District 65 Conference in Amherst, NY on April 15, 2000. Besides the business meeting and the contests, the morning and part of the afternoon were taken up with training sessions presented by Toastmasters from the District. For the most part, we attended different sessions. I will try to share with you some of the things I learned there.

“Story Telling”



I attended the workshop on story telling presented by Dave Mendenhall, ATM-S. We met with Dave in the usual formal conference room setting, but he immediately changed that. He had us count off by fours. (As usual, one joker said, “Five!”) After a second try, we reformed into our new groups of about six persons each. Each group was given a different story to learn and retell within their group in their own fashion. We then practiced retelling it to some inanimate object in the room as though that object was a person. Picture, if you can, a room full of people standing facing the walls and speaking in low voices to fire extinguishers, waste baskets, chairs, etc. That itself was a laughable sight.

We regrouped and then counted off by sixes to form new groups of four each. The stories were then retold without reference to notes. Since there was not twenty-four people in the room, I ended up in a group of three, so I did not hear all the stories. Not all the stories were funny, but the one I had to tell had a pun ending. I really liked it and look forward to telling it to the club sometime in the future.

The purpose of the workshop was to teach how to hear a story and then make that story your own by repeating it, not word for word, but in your own words with your own slant to it.



“Humor Is Serious Business”

John Montgomery, ATM-B, presented a workshop by that title. He emphasized that to be effective, humor used in a speech must be pertinent to the subject of the speech. No matter how funny a joke might be, if it bears little or no relation to the subject of the speech, it would detract from, rather than add, to your presentation. A speaker should always keep the humor in harmony with his speech’s objective. In addition, a speaker must keep it appropriate to both the occasion and the audience.

Certain types of humor can be offensive to some people. Ethnic humor is a good example of this, as is humor that abases someone. However, self-abasement is usually safe. If you make yourself the brunt of a joke, people will seldom get angry with you. For example: a Jew can tell Jewish jokes; an Irishman, Irish jokes; etc., with relative impunity. However, if the speaker attempts to cross over to the opposite side, it will be frowned upon.

Near the end of the session, John distributed a joke about a drunk in a barroom that went something like this:

A drunk staggers into a barroom through the front door. The bartender tells him, "I don't serve drunks here!" and throws him out. The drunk goes around to the side door and reenters the bar. Again, the bartender tells him, "I said we don't serve drunks here!" Again, he throws him out. The drunken man then goes to the back door and enters the barroom. Before the bartender can say anything he exclaims, "How many bars do you work in?"

The challenge John gave the group at the end of the session was to imagine you were delivering a speech to a morticians' convention and adapt that joke to the occasion. Why don't you accept the challenge right now? Try it! I will leave it to you to come up with something apropos.



Mardi Gras at Spring Conference



The Spring 2000 District 65 Conference was held April 14-15, 2000 in Amherst, New York. The theme for the Conference was "Mardi Gras". Arnold Krueger, Arleen Roth, and Betsy Kalweit attended as representatives from Lilac City Toastmasters. Arleen served as Timer and Arnold was one of the judges for the International Contest. Betsy, as Area Governor, represented Area 4 during the business meeting, as well as voting in her capacity as Educational Vice President for Lilac City and in place of President Bob Corbin, who was unable to attend the conference.

Conferences are another part of the educational experience Toastmasters has to offer its members. In addition to having the opportunity to learn more about communication in various workshops and hear two speech contests, those who attend these conferences can meet, share ideas with, and learn from other Toastmasters.

District 65 holds two conferences each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. This year's Fall Conference will be held in Syracuse, November 17- 18, 2000 at the Double Tree Club Hotel, 6701 Buckley Road, North Syracuse, 315-457-4000. You can attend both days, or only on Friday or Saturday. If you are planning to stay overnight, rooms are \$69 a night. If you prefer to just drive up for the day or part of the day Saturday, the cost breakdown is as follows:

Breakfast Buffet: \$10

Lunch (choice of lasagna or chicken) \$15

Evening Banquet: Roast beef or chicken cordon bleu \$25

Registration fee: \$10

The cost for Friday night (seminar and dancing) is \$10

The Full Package (meals, registration for both days) is \$65.

Send checks or money orders payable to District 65 Toastmasters, to:

Cindy Hiller
23 Echodale Avenue
Baldwinsville, N.Y. 13027
315-638-8616.

Plan now to attend, for a weekend of education and fun. Questions? See Educational V.P. Betsy Kalweit for more details (315-524-8123 or email: bkalweit@rochester.rr.com).



Area Governor Report

*by Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL
Vice President, Education
Area 4 Governor*

The clubs in Area 4 have been busy this year with officer training, speech contests, and membership building. Some of the clubs have had membership building contests between (or within) clubs to inspire growth. Others have been making a concentrated effort to get information about Toastmasters publicized. Arnold Krueger, for example, has been quite successful in getting short pieces published about Lilac City in local papers.

Club officers from Lilac City, Rochester Club 476, and the Lyceum Club participated in the Officer's Training Meeting January 29, 2000. Additional opportunity for training was provided at the Leadership Breakfast, with club officers from Lilac City and the Lyceum Club attending the Leadership Breakfast in February.

Following the January 29th training session, a third Area Council Meeting was held. Some of the ideas mentioned in the training were discussed and assignments were divided for the Spring Area Contest.

During my second round of club visits conducted in January and February, I spoke about the Distinguished Club Plan urging clubs to review their progress toward achieving Distinguished Rating.

I also visited the Teleconnectors, the club that Rosemarie Eskes and Marlene Markham have been working with at Frontier. Once chartered, Teleconnectors will be a part of Area 4. I've heard since then from Rosemarie that this club has exceeded their required number and is in the process of being chartered.

As we wrap up this Toastmasters season, reminders have been sent to the Club Presidents regarding Proxies, end of year elections, officer lists, the June Officer Training, which will be held Saturday June 24, 2000, and other details that should be attended to in leading our clubs to distinguished status for the year.

In addition, I am pleased to report that the winner of the International Speech Contest at the Spring District 65 Conference in Amherst was Vernal Harris from Area 4 (Lyceum Club). He will be representing District 65 at the Regional Conference June 9-10, 2000 in Ottawa, Canada. For those who would like to attend this conference but do not want to drive, arrangements have been made for a bus. You can contact Al Smith for details if interested (phone: 716-544-2839; email: asmith1@rochester.rr.com).





Plan For Success

*by Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL
Vice President, Education
Area 4 Governor*



People join Toastmasters for a number of reasons. Perhaps you joined Toastmasters, for example, because you needed to make presentations at work. Or maybe you had strong opinions and wanted to feel confident expressing them publicly. Whatever your reason, you believed that joining Toastmasters would help you develop skills necessary for accomplishing your goal.

Once you reached your immediate goal, however, your success may have led to your setting new goals. For instance, your newly acquired skill in making simple presentations at work might have led to a promotion requiring you to lead meetings or seminars. Perhaps your contributions to community discussions resulted in your being asked to lead a group that will make a difference in many people's lives.

Fortunately, Toastmasters can help us as we develop new requirements in communication. After successfully completing assignments in the basic manual and receiving the CTM (Competent Toastmaster Award), members are encouraged to select and complete advanced manuals tailored to meet individual needs. Some of these manuals have titles such as "Storytelling", "Technical Presentations", "Speaking to Inform", "The Entertaining Speaker", "Persuasive Speaking", "Special Occasion Speeches", "Speeches By Management", and "The

Discussion Leader". We have samples of each of these and many others on display during our meeting's break time.

After earning the CTM and completing two advanced manuals, a member can then apply for the ATM-Bronze Award. Upon earning the ATM Bronze, completing two more advanced manuals, and conducting two presentations from the Better Speaker Series or/and The Successful Club Series, the member can next apply for the ATM-Silver Award. Having received the ATM-Silver Award, a member can achieve the ATM-Gold Award by coordinating and conducting one registered Success/Communication, Success Leadership or Youth Leadership module, by coaching a new member with his first three speeches, and by completing two additional advanced manuals.

While progressing in this communication program, Toastmasters can also advance in leadership skills. The Competent Leader award requires that the member be a CTM, that he serve at least six months as a club officer and participate in a Club Success Plan, that he participate in a District-sponsored Club officer training program, and that he conduct any two programs from the Successful Club Series. A member then, having achieved the Competent Leader Award, can work toward the Advanced Leader Award. To qualify for an Advanced

Leader Award, the member must have earned the Competent Leader Award, served a complete term as a District officer, completed the High Performance Leadership program, and served successfully as a Club Sponsor, Mentor, or Specialist.

Upon completing both the ATM Gold and the Advanced Leader Award, the Toastmaster can finally apply for the DTM Award, which is the highest award in the Communication and Leadership recognition program. The learning never stops, however,

since members can then go on to achieve another DTM Award or to complete more CTMs.

Both the club and the members receive credit from International for these efforts. However the real prize comes from the individual growth that takes place as members gain skill and confidence with each new assignment. Participating in the Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Program can help us to achieve those original goals we set for ourselves and much more. Whatever our life's work, becoming better communicators is our best plan for success.

Answers to Toastmasters International Quiz

(from Page 4)

1. Area 4
2. A. Four
B. Areas 1, 4, 5, and 6
3. District 65
4. There are six Regions in North America
5. Lilac City is located in Region 6
6. James A. Vogeles, DTM (The names of the Directors can be found on page 2 of "Toastmasters" magazine.)
7. It is the only District wholly within New York State.
8. Toastmasters' clubs can be found in 54 countries.
9. Mission Viejo, California
10. www.toastmasters.org