

THE LILAC CITY LOWDOWN

Lilac City Toastmasters Club # 687 August 1999 Vol. 2, #2

Welcome!!!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Lilac City Toastmasters Club newsletter, *Lilac City Lowdown*. This newsletter provides you with valuable information about what is happening in our club. In it you find helpful tips, information about upcoming contests, and notices of member accomplishments. We also include articles written by experienced speakers, to help you in achieving your speaking goals. We welcome your suggestions, comments, or articles for this resource available to members of the Lilac City Toastmasters Club. Any active member of the Lilac City Toastmasters Club is welcome to join the staff of our newsletter. If you are interested in this opportunity, please see one of the staff members listed below.

Lilac City Lowdown Staff

Robert Corbin, ATM-B

Betsy Kalweit, CTM

The Executive Committee

Robert Corbin, ATM-B, CL
President

Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL
Vice-President, Education

Lois Watkins, CTM
Vice-President, Membership

Arnold Krueger, DTM
Vice-President, Public Relations

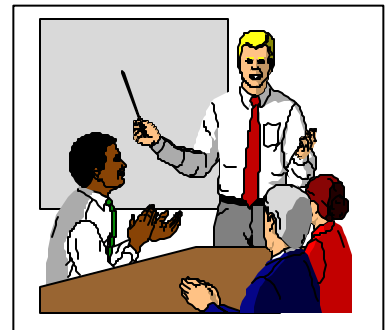
Arthur Drummond, ATM-B
Secretary

Casey Murphy, TM
Treasurer

Leo Pfeiffer, CTM
Sergeant at Arms

New Officers Attend Training

In preparation for their future responsibilities, the newly elected officers of Lilac City Toastmasters participated in Officers' Training Saturday morning, June 19, 1999 at Kodak Park. Those attending were: **Bob Corbin** (*President*), **Betsy Kalweit** (*VP Education*), **Lois Watkins** (*VP Membership*), **Arnold Krueger** (*VP Public Relations*), **Art Drummond** (*Secretary*), **Casey Murphy** (*Treasurer*), and **Leo Pfeiffer** (*Sergeant at Arms*). Lilac City was well represented, with one hundred percent of its newly elected officers in attendance at this training. In addition, **Arnold Krueger, DTM**, served as one of the instructors, leading the session for Treasurers. Following the morning's training session, Bob, Casey, Art and Betsy met for lunch, discussed the morning's activities and how they could use what they had learned about carrying out their roles as officers of Lilac City Toastmasters during the future 1999-2000 Toastmaster year.



New Officers Installed

The last meeting of The Lilac City Toastmasters club for the 1998-1999 Toastmaster year featured a new officers' induction ceremony conducted by President Betsy Kalweit. In keeping with the evening's theme, "The Changing of the Guard", President Kalweit presented certificates of appreciation to the outgoing 1998-1999 officers. Following a brief summary of the past year and words of encouragement to the new officers, Betsy led the outgoing officers in transferring their officer pins to the newcomers. New officers were next welcomed into their new roles. As newly installed President, Bob Corbin then assumed control and conducted the remaining items on the meeting's agenda as the new Presiding Officer.

"A Half Century of Communication" A Success

Saturday May 8, 1999 marked the date for Lilac City's fiftieth anniversary celebration at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon. Fifty-five former members, present members and guests gathered to recognize the accomplishments of Lilac City Toastmasters through the years and to reminisce about good times during the earlier days of Lilac City.

The program, "A Half-Century of Communication" included participation by past and present members of Lilac City. The thought provoking keynote speech, given by former member retired **Judge David Boehm**, highlighted events which took place in the fifties and sixties. The theme of communication during the past fifty years was continued in other speeches and table topics given by former members. **Bill Burks** gave an inspiring speech entitled "*Toastmasters I Have Known*", sharing his observations and learnings from Toastmasters through the years. **Donald Raines, MD** spoke about "*Compressing Forty-two Years*", and **William Hosley** entertained the audience with "*Turning the Clock Back Forty-eight Years*". Former members **Ed Wentworth**, **Sanford Leibschutz**, **Sheldon Brayer** and **John Metcalf** participated in a lively table topics session, bringing back memories for many.

Present members also contributed to the program. **Mary Ann Marchand** and **Arleen Roth** greeted guests upon their arrival. **Arleen Roth, DTM**, began the program with the Pledge and Invocation, featuring a special tribute to recently deceased Lilac City member, **Liz Logan**. **Arnold Krueger, DTM** acted as Toastmaster, **Art Drummond** offered the Toast and **Erwin Nunlist** headed the Table Topics session. Educational Vice President **Bob Corbin** served as timer and President **Betsy Kalweit** presided. Closing remarks were presented by our guest, **Donna Sokolowski**, District Governor.

Members from other Area 4 Toastmaster clubs attended. Area Governor **Jackie DiBella** and **Ray Drouin**, from the Rochester Club were present, as was **Leon Blake** from the Frederick Douglas Club. **Dr. Al Smith, DTM**, from the TNT Club attended from Area 1. **Nancy Scott, DTM**, and **Ray Tardiff, DTM**, both members of clubs in Areas 4, 5 and 6, also were with us for this occasion.

Lilac City was also honored by the presence of district officers who traveled a distance to share in the celebration. Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training **Pam Occhino, DTM**, and her husband came from the Western Division. Both Lieutenant Governor of Marketing **Ruth Parmenter, ATM-S**, and District Governor **Donna Sokolowski, DTM**, came from the Eastern Division.

The afternoon gave many in attendance a chance to talk, laugh, renew friendships, and relive old times. Having the opportunity to spend this time together gave all present a chance to look back and remember the spirit upon which the club was built and has grown during the past fifty years.

Lilac City Represented at Spring Conference

by *Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL*

Held in Syracuse, New York, the 1999 Spring District Conference, "Success Is More Than A Dream" took place the first weekend in May. Lilac City's **Arnold Krueger**, DTM represented the Central Division at the conference's Tall Tales contest Saturday morning, May 1st. Arnold placed second in that contest for his creative and humorous speech, "*The Night After Christmas*". Competing against other Division contest winners in District 65, Arnold did a fine job. His competitors were Pauline Burnes with her speech, "*The Little Horse Who Could*" from the Southern Division; Rich Franke with his tale, "*The Musical Box*" from the Western Division; and Tim Mahar with his story, "*The Simmering Skull*" from the Eastern Division. Tim Mahar, from The Empire Statesmen Club in Syracuse won the contest.

Present at the contest to support Arnold in his efforts were his wife, **Edna**, and other members from Lilac City Toastmasters, **Arleen Roth**, DTM, and **Betsy Kalweit**, CTM, CL and her husband **George**.

Later that afternoon, Arleen and Betsy attended the District 65 Conference business meeting. As President, Betsy represented Lilac City in the voting. New District Officers for the 1999-2000 Toastmaster Year were elected. Among them, **Pam Occhino**, DTM was voted to be the new District Governor. Under new business, the Ray Castle Plaque was voted to be replaced.



Lilac City Members Receive Awards

Along with performing his duties as Educational VP during the 1998-1999 Toastmaster year, Bob Corbin earned recognition in both the communication and leadership areas of his Toastmaster training. Early in the year, Bob completed the requirements and received his ATM- Bronze award. Toward the end of his term as Educational VP, Bob also succeeded in earning his Competent Leader award.

Betsy Kalweit, President during the 1998-1999 year, also earned her Competent Leader award. Both Bob and Betsy conducted educational presentations for the club from The Successful Club Series, part of the requirements qualifying them for this award. To be eligible for the Competent Leader Award, applicants must have earned the CTM award, served at least six months as a club officer just preceding their application, participated in preparing a Club Success Plan and attended a District-sponsored Club officer training program while serving as an officer.

Betsy and Bob will be recognized for their achievements in an awards ceremony when Lilac City resumes its regular schedule in September.



The "Five Foot Rule"

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

If you have ever met **Pat Panfile**, Past International President, you have heard his "five foot rule" for Toastmasters. It is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, ways of getting the Toastmasters message out to the public. It costs nothing but a little of your time. Simply stated the rule is: "Every time you come within five feet of a person, tell that person about Toastmasters International and how it can help them. Then follow with an invitation to one of our meetings. You may not believe it, but there are people who are just waiting to be asked to attend a meeting. Some people are not bold enough to come to a meeting uninvited. Some have to be asked. Sometimes they have to be asked more than once. Do not be bashful. You know how Toastmasters has benefited you. Tell others how it can benefit them, too. A personal invitation does more than all the posters, newspaper announcements or web sites combined.

The Employment Interview

by Art Drummond, ATM-B

If there was ever a single most important reason for being able to express yourself effectively, it is during the employment interview. Having a mellow, commanding voice doesn't ensure success. Being properly attired may help, but even if you are, it would be for naught if you cannot speak and present yourself correctly. You can surmount the usual problems with Toastmaster training.

For example, one thing which employers watch is your conduct. If you are unsure of yourself or too self-conscious, you emit negative signals. If you have too many "Uh's, uhm's and other vocal pauses, you give the impression that you are not too sure about whatever you are speaking. Toastmasters can teach you how to avoid these speech patterns that detract from the confident image you want to portray to potential employers.

Being prepared is important, not only in attitude, but in how you present your message. Toastmasters presents a formula for doing this and will also allow you to practice. You get a personal evaluation, often supplanted with a group evaluation. The whole idea is to assist you. By doing so, the other members also assist themselves. Remember, the three goals of Toastmasters are to *listen* better, to *think* better and to *speak* better.

You learn to *listen* better as you help other speakers in evaluating their talks. (Don't worry, there are evaluation forms to show you the things to watch for) Better *thinking* is promoted by a special part of the Toastmaster program called Table Topics. During this segment, speakers are given a subject on which to speak with little or no advance warning. Sounds horrible, but actually this can develop your ability to think on your feet, an especially valuable asset during an employment interview! Nobody loses at Table Topics, as each session is a learning experience for both speakers and listeners. Participating in Table Topics and giving prepared speeches from manuals designed to help you build your speaking skills also helps you to *speak* better.

Once employed, annual evaluation interviews can be instrumental in earning a promotion. You list your accomplishments, but they are not enough all by themselves. It is how you deliver those important events which can make the difference. I personally have found this helpful for my own progress in industry. I was awarded a \$5,000 fund to develop a better machine attachment. My immediate managers were not interested. The judges in this case were some hard headed engineers and managers. The manner of my presentation and my confidence made an impression, I was told.

Joining a Toastmasters club is a step ahead. You can develop a strong sense of your own worth. Most people would rather have a root canal than give a talk. Yet these same people talk all the time, but not in front of an audience. On their feet before a group of people, they become inarticulate, shaken by embarrassment subdued by self-doubt.

It doesn't have to be that way. We have found people with personal problems that have not only conquered them, but found it challenging and rewarding to learn how to speak to a group as easily as they would to a single person.

A visit to our club can be entertaining, and educational. You will be asked if you would like to join, but you are under no pressure to do so. From September to the end of May, we meet at 7P.M., on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 131 W. Main St., Webster, N.Y. . If you would like, call Betsy Kalweit (315-524-8123) or Arnold Krueger (716-872-7335) for more information. Guests are always welcome.

Will we see you there?

Be good to yourself, visit our club and see what it is all about.

A TOAST TO A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

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

Being a thirty-year veteran of Xerox Corporation, it is natural to have developed several strong friendships over the years. One of these, John, was an upper level manager of a program I worked on for several years. He is uncommon in that besides being strong in the technical profession he is also a people person. He gets as much enjoyment interacting with those working under him as he does completing a complex new product.

About a year ago John was diagnosed with brain cancer. The tumor was small but located in an area of the brain which would be damaged if any attempt to surgically remove it were made. John remained optimistic throughout months of radiation and chemotherapy and thought he could return to work by late spring. Unfortunately the tumor did not respond to treatment, which forced him to take an early retirement. With the tumor growing again, his speech and vision centers becoming increasingly affected, the prognosis was that he had at most, until the end of this year. Since he was not up to a retirement party, his wife suggested that we instead put together a video from his friends and co-workers that would be both humorous and sentimental. Acting upon her advice, about ten of his friends, including myself and Lois Watkins, decided to put this project together as fast as possible with the help of Xerox experts in the video field.

My Toastmaster leadership training helped during this period as we generated ideas for humorous skits and personal messages. Coordinating the activities of some seventy-five people and keeping everything on track was vital due to time limitations. I participated in two of the eight skits, humorous versions of meetings he had chaired. The video director told us to really ham it up, so I used exaggerated voice projection and gestures during my speaking roles. I'm proud to say that while others required up to three takes, mine only took one. Lois also acted in one of the skits and did an excellent job. Only a couple of years ago nervousness prevented her from giving a speech at one of our club meetings. How satisfying it was to see the confidence she projected during her performance. The taping took place over a two-day period, was edited, and presented to John a little over a week later. The person taking the tape to John gave the following account of what happened:

"On Friday afternoon July 23rd I called Mary to let her know that the video was ready. As I was asking her to call me back sometime to let me know when it would be a good day and time to stop over and deliver the video, I could hear John in the background shouting, "HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW?!"

When I arrived at John's residence later that afternoon, Mary answered the door and John walked out into the foyer and gave me a big bear hug! Looking very good, he was in excellent spirits and seemed just like the John that we all know and love.

After first looking through a huge pile of photographs that they had -- pictures of all kinds of Xerox functions, parties, trips, etc., I realized that John was obviously ready to see that video! Although I hadn't intended to stay to watch it with them, John insisted. I am so glad that I did stay, because seeing the pure looks of joy on John's face, and experiencing the laughter and enjoyment that he and his family were getting out of the tape, was a very moving experience for me. I didn't watch the whole tape as it was soon time for them to eat dinner. But while I was there, it just struck me what a great idea this was --- to allow John to be with his friends with whom he had worked and laughed over his years here at Xerox, and to bring him even a few minutes of joy during what must be such an ordeal for him and his family.

I talked with Mary's mother later and she said they had watched the video three times over the weekend and every time they looked at it, they laughed more. She said she thought the video was "the most precious gift" that John could have received and that he absolutely loves it. She said they were very appreciative for all the hard work that went into the production of it.

This was a truly gratifying undertaking for me, one that I probably would not have experienced if I had not joined Toastmasters some six years ago.

Postscript: On August 21, 1999 John passed away peacefully with friends and relatives at his bedside.

Youth Leaderships are Multiplying

by Al Smith, DTM

Toastmasters in the Central Division of District 65 have opportunities to help students learn to listen, think, and speak.

Al Smith, DTM (phone:716-544-2839) and *Bob Babcock, CTM* offer other Toastmasters opportunities to do manual assignments, earn credit for their club, meet Distinguished Club Plan requirements, and help youth.

Schedule and Location of Youth Leaderships

--Mondays at School #36 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at St. Jacob St. and Carter St.
from 3:00 to 4:30 PM September 20, 27 October 4, 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15

--Tuesdays at Freddie Thomas Learning Center, on Scio St.
from 2:45 to 4:15 PM September 28 October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 9, 16

--Thursday at School #2 Clara Barton at Reynolds and Cady of Bronson
from 3:30 to 5:30 PM September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4, 18

--Thursday at various city schools from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM .
Call **Bob Babcock** for schedule. Phone **716-728-9167** in Wayland, NY

--Saturdays at East High School at 1801 East Main St. from 10:00 AM to 12 noon.
September 11 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 5/6 and 20, and
December 4 and 18

We also have an opportunity for a **Speechcraft** on alternating Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30.

There are several opportunities to do **Success/Leadership Modules** or **Successful Speaker Series**.

Why participate?

As April said in her speech at TNT in July, "because of the Toastmasters' support and encouragement, I am no longer shy and afraid to express myself. I once again enjoy writing poetry and dedicate my first poem to the Toastmasters."

As Jodi and Kadi said in their speeches, they enjoy being around Toastmasters because "they are so supportive". Also "I feel like if they can give up an afternoon or a Saturday morning to help me then I surely can take the time to be at each meeting."

Jose and Jennifer have found Toastmasters good for their English and writing classes. Carlton and Taylor find the Toastmasters and their events so much fun that they don't want to miss the meetings.

Roxlyn and Rebecca are being encouraged to get parental support so they too can be at more Toastmaster events.

The Gavel Club Students even are willing to help with contests as Target Speakers, etc.



Toastmaster Excellence

by Leo Pfeiffer, CTM

Sergeant at Arms



In May Lilac City lost a friend and also a very special member, Liz Logan. Her presence set a standard for all of us because her close knit family background and God-given talents made her a very effective Toastmaster. She captivated attention not only with serious thoughts and topics, but also as an entertainer. No matter how many times she presented her "Rum Cake" speech, it tore the audience apart.

Liz shared her talents at Sunday School, public school, and even demonstrated her clown character to young people and encouraged them to do the same. St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church not only composed a dedicated part of her life, but the church was also blessed by her presence. In fact, once a year they read her favorite Scripture, Isaiah 6: 1-8. This passage was read at the memorial service for her, which her relatives and many friends she made during her lifetime attended, including the Mayor of Rochester.

Often Liz referred to her husband Howard Logan Sr., who was wounded during World War II, an inspiration to many patients at the Veterans Hospital and father to her only son, Howard Logan Jr. During Liz's latter years, she dedicated much of her time and resources to help her great granddaughter, Quiana Burch.

In spite of Liz's quiet and composed nature, she radiated encouragement by her presence wherever she went. Our club isn't quite the same without her. Liz, we sincerely miss you.

Newsletter Contributions Needed!

Learning to speak well and to present a well-constructed speech often helps us to be better writers, also. The same principles for organizing a speech can be applied when putting those thoughts on paper. Why not put your writing skills to work and tell us in the next issue of *The Lilac City Lowdown* just what Toastmasters has done for you. Maybe some of the more experienced members of our club would like to write an educational article about some aspect of speaking or leadership opportunities in Toastmasters. Perhaps some of our newer members might care to share with us why they joined Toastmasters and how our club is helping them to reach their goals. Possibly your involvement in Toastmasters and improved communication skills have led to a promotion at work, and you would like to make others aware of how Toastmasters can help them, too. Have you read an article or attended a conference or workshop, and learned something you would like to share? The newsletter can be a good place for you to give us a report or summary on what you learned. If you are a club officer, the newsletter can also be a good place for announcements or progress reports on the work you are doing for the club. We are looking for members to contribute any articles relating to Toastmasters, public speaking, or noted accomplishments of members belonging to Lilac City Toastmasters. Our next newsletter is scheduled to be published in December. Now is the time to start thinking about our next issue of *The Lilac City Lowdown*, and what you can contribute to it. This is your newsletter and the more people become involved, the more interesting it will be. Please send or give these to Betsy Kalweit by November 18th.

On the Move With Lilac City Toastmasters
by Betsy Kalweit, CTM, CL
Educational Vice President

Lilac City Toastmasters have had a busy summer. On June 12th we had our annual picnic at Erwin Nunlist's farm in Bristol. The weather was pleasant and the day provided a chance for members and their guests to enjoy fellowship and good food in an informal setting. We were especially glad that former member Lisa Contestible was able to attend.

On June 28th, Betsy Kalweit helped with Officer Training for Al Smith's Gavel Club. The training took place at East High, and Betsy presented an overview on the responsibilities of the various officers.

Our club tried something different this summer for the months of July and August. In past years, Lilac City would adjourn for the summer since it is difficult to maintain full attendance during the warmer months when many go on vacation and are busy with other activities. For the last few years, though, we have tried to meet once a month during the summer, even if only a few can attend. This year we have participated in joint meetings with The TNT Club, Speechcrafters, The Communicators, and Al Smith's Gavel Club.

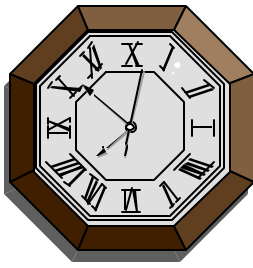
Educational Vice President Betsy Kalweit and Al Smith have worked together to put together three programs involving members from all clubs represented. The first one was held July 14th at the Mandarin Chinese Buffet in Henrietta. At that meeting, our club was represented by several members who contributed to the program. Bharat Sahay spoke. Betsy Kalweit and Arnold Krueger were evaluators. Bob Corbin was Chief Evaluator. Arleen Roth led the Pledge and did the Invocation. Casey Murphy and Arnold Krueger participated in Table Topics.

The second meeting took place on July 29th, at our regular location, the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster. Preceding that meeting, we had a social time with pizza, during which members from the different clubs could get to know one another. Again several of our club members contributed to the program. Casey Murphy and Betsy Kalweit both spoke. Art Drummond and Leo were evaluators. Bob Corbin was Toastmaster. Mary Ann Marchand and Arleen Roth participated in Table Topics. Also present was Karl Obine, a member of the Wayne Articulators, who attended and gave a speech.

Each of these meetings had about 25-30 people in attendance. The third meeting, scheduled to be held August 25th at the Mandarin Chinese Buffet, is still in the planning stages at the writing of this newsletter. If it is anything like the first two, however, this meeting should be a time for learning and for making new friends.

This fall holds more opportunities for Lilac City Toastmasters. Our club will hold its Evaluation and Humorous speech contest on September 23rd. The winners will then represent our club in the Area Contest in October. How about you? Do you have a humorous story to tell? Why not enter it in the Humorous Speech Contest? Or maybe you'd like to sharpen your skill at evaluating by participating in the Evaluation Contest.

As each of us sets and works on our individual educational goals for the 1999-2000 Toastmaster Year, may we all strive to make it memorable both personally and for our club.



The Importance of Time *by Casey Murphy, Treasurer*

As a relatively new member of the Lilac City Toastmasters, I can appreciate how long a five-minute speech can seem the week before I am scheduled to give one. After giving a speech, particularly one on a subject I feel strongly about, I also can appreciate how short the time up there really is!

However it was not that long ago that there was no reason to measure time in a detailed manner. Until some 10,000 years before Christ, there was really no accurate way man had to measure time. Early man would mark his existence by tallying the passage of days on a rock wall. The rising and falling of the sun was his only measure of time. Five or ten minutes here or there had no practical meaning to these people. They literally had no meaning at all because none of these terms had even been invented yet. Not until societies began to settle into an agrarian and then industrialized economy, did the measurement of time become more and more necessary.

As the Egyptians and other great societies settled along rivers for the abundant water supply, only then did they become very adept at using the stars to predict the rising and flooding of these great rivers. As these peoples became more sophisticated, they found they could travel on these rivers and send their excess supply of goods to different locales for trade. It became necessary to create schedules and stick to them. Soon enough other means of transport and trade became wildly popular, demanding ever tighter and more formal ways of measuring time.

These changes occurred at an incredibly rapid pace until now we are forced to think of time in the hundreds and even thousandths of a second. As an accountant I am forced to measure billable time by the quarter hour. Athletes win gold medals by the one hundredth of a second. Scientists measure time in the millionths of a second.

Time and the constraints of time are crucially important to the Toastmaster. The predetermined times for table topics and speeches help the meetings move along and prepare us for speaking in public. A well-disciplined speaker organizes a speech in order to communicate his ideas in the allotted time. No matter how you feel about the pace of society today, Toastmasters teaches us how to use time effectively in speech as well as on the job and in our personal lives.



Announcing the Arrival...

Shannine and Scott DiMora are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Joshua Joseph, on Sunday, August 15th. Joshua weighed seven pounds, one ounce, and was nineteen inches long. The proud grandparents are Betsy and George Kalweit, and great-grandparents are Millie and Art Drummond.

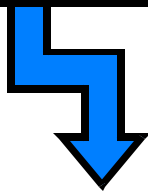
REMINDER

Calling All Comedians and Evaluators!

It's not too early to start thinking about the fall Area Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contest. Participating in these contests is a valuable experience, as anyone who has done so will tell you. Our club will hold its Humorous and Evaluation Contest on September 23rd. The Area Contest is scheduled for October.

The Humorous Speech is 57 minutes and the Evaluation speech is 23 minutes. To participate in either contest, you must be a member in good standing of a club in good standing. Many members of Lilac City Toastmasters have an excellent sense of humor. We're sure this can be put to good use in representing us at the Area Humorous Speech Contest. Practice your funniest story and share it with us. You may then be voted winner and go on to compete at the Area.

One advantage of participating in the Evaluation Contest is that there is no preparation. You simply bring the skills you have developed in doing evaluations at club meetings and in listening to your fellow Toastmasters do theirs. During the Club and Area Contests, participants will evaluate a target speech. Please let Betsy Kalweit know as soon as possible if you have any further questions



Attention!

Semi-Annual dues will be collected during the month of September. They must be in Treasurer Casey Murphy's hands before the first of October so they can be mailed to International Headquarters. Details will follow in the September meetings.