The Georgia Gavel

District 14 Toastmasters

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In This Edition

Think about Tomorrow	2
Members Matter	2
PRO Corner	2
Experience is Everything	3
Acing the Silent Interview of Your Club	3
Announcement of District 14 Business Meeting	4
My Toastmasters Story	4
Don't Drift – Grow More!	6
Positioning for Growth	6
Region VIII Conference	8
Confessions of a Textbook Toastmaster	8
District 14 Proxy	9
Calendar of Events	9
District 14 Spring Conference	10
Registration Form	11

The First Lady of Georgia Toastmasters

Ann Henderson Johnson
A Leader and a Friend

District 14 is saddened by the loss of Ann Henderson Johnson who passed away on March 13, 2008. Ann was the District Governor for District 14 in 1988-1989, and she was the first female governor of the District. Not only was she the first woman to serve as district governor, but she also led the District to #1 President's Distinguished District. She lived in Columbus for many years and was a friend to many. Her close friend, David Caraway, says, "We are all surprised at the suddenness of her illness and are shocked beyond belief.

"She was a Toastmasters' Toastmaster and a person who was a total people person. We will miss a dynamic leader and personal friend." Many today enjoy better communications and leadership skills due to the contributions Ann made to Toastmasters and District 14. She will be greatly missed.

Anyone who wishes to remember Ann is invited to make a contribution to the John B. Amos Cancer Foundation, 1831 5th Avenue, Columbus GA 31904.

Ann Henderson Johnson

☆ Excellence In Action

Lessons Learned and Second Chances

Joy Lewis, M.Ed., DTM
District Governor

How quickly the months have passed since July. And how much I have learned! As I write this article, I am at the end of another school quarter, reflecting on the students' accomplishments as they complete the courses that I teach. Yes, completing the course is a real accomplishment for them. It is, in a way, a second chance for these students.

I teach reading, English and writing in a developmental studies program. Generally, the students are college freshmen. Some are ESL (English second language) students; some are adults returning to school after years away from academia; most are young adults just out of high school. For whatever reason, they were not able to score high enough on their entrance exams and have to take my classes in order to continue with their college careers. My classes offer the second chance to learn things they missed earlier in their lives. And, they often have a bit of resentment about having to take these classes.

You might well ask what this has to do with Toastmasters. First, every single day I'm in the classroom, I'm using the

Continued on Page 5

Cindy Cannon, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training

Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them. They make the impossible happen.
- Dr. Robert Jarvik

Theresa Spralling, Lieutenant Governor Marketing

Roy Ganga, Public Relations Officer

Think About Tomorrow

Cindy Cannon, DTM
Lieutenant Governor
Education & Training

In high school I used to listen to a song by Fleetwood Mac. The lyrics were, "don't stop thinking about tomorrow, don't; stop, it'll soon be here, it'll be, better than before, yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone. Why not think about times to come, and not about the things that you've done. If your life was bad to you, just think what tomorrow will do."

Over the years I have had over 10 major surgeries; because of that I focused on yesterday. I wanted to think of the things that I have done, and what tomorrow will do.

Toastmasters gave me something to look forward to. I was so excited to be able to speak in front of a supportive group and be part of an organization that had specific goals not only for me but for the entire club. I was excited about the opportunities that were laid out to me by my mentor; I didn't have time to focus on the pain that I had. I loved the educational program because it helped me stay on track to reach my goals.

So many of you are working on your education and leadership tracks, and you have received or are about to receive your CC, CL, AC, etc. You did think about tomorrow, you planned, you remembered the Toastmaster promise, and

Continued – Page 5

Members Matter

Retain Members and Guarantee an Excellent Membership Experience

Theresa Spralling
Lieutenant Governor
Marketing

As LGM, I have primarily focused on dues collections, membership growth and membership retention. It took me a while to figure out that, member satisfaction is directly correlated to "on time" dues payment and active participation at club, area, division and district levels.

I am convinced that when members have a GOOD member experience, we don't have to run them down for renewals nor do we have to beg them to participate. I believe that when members are fulfilled, they are also eager to renew their dues on-time and they are eager to serve their clubs and support others within the district.

How well does your club support the overall member experience? What is your moment of truth as it relates to membership retention? Are your members getting what they expect from the club and each meeting? I urge each club to candidly answer these questions. If you determine that your club's actions don't align with member expectations or a positive member experience, stop; regroup and realign to focus on the overall satisfaction level of each member. I am convinced that satisfied members equate to strong, growing clubs.

What can you do to immediately impact the overall satisfaction level of your members?

I suggest that you start with reassessing the quality of your club meetings. I believe that members show

Continued – Page 7

PRO Corner

Roy Ganga, DTM
Public Relations Officer

We have turned another corner and are heading toward the finish line. With three months to go to conclude this Excellence In Action Toastmaster Year, stay focus on what your goals were on 7/1/2007, and take a quick look to see where you are with respect to attaining those goals.

In the Public Relations arena, you have demonstrated Excellence in keeping your fellow members informed, by continuing to publish quality newsletters or having a well-developed website for the public to peruse. Our challenge still lies in the area of utilizing the media a bit more and for the next three months, I am hoping to see us utilize this medium more effectively.

The incentive contests have worked extremely well and for the big finish, the Spring/Summer contest focuses on the same three areas of Publicity – Media, Website and Newsletter. However, Media Relations is heavily weighted amongst the other two. Submit your

Continued – Page 4

Experience is Everything

By Margaret Edinburgh, DTM

There is a famous old story about a company that had a problem, and they called out a repairman to fix it.
The entire company was on the verge of shutting down production because no one at the company had been able to identify this problem, let alone fix it.

The repairman soon arrived, checked out the situation, went over to one of the many miles of pipes running through the building, and started banging on one particular pipe. He banged for about a minute. He then ordered the crew chief to restart the machinery. Production was restored and everyone was happy.

A few days later, the company received the bill for the repair. The company manager was shocked to see that the amount due for the repair was $10,000. The manager called the repairman and shouted in the phone, "This repair bill is for ten thousand dollars! Where do you get off charging me $10,000 for what amounted to banging on a pipe for all of about 1 minute?!"

The repairman calmly replied "Oh, I only charged you $50 for banging on the pipe. The other $9950 was for knowing precisely what pipe to bang on."

And so the moral of this story is...experience is everything.

The repairman spoke of experience, and that is how his story relates to Toastmasters. We provide a penalty-free-lab-environment for you to develop the confidence and experience you need to successfully grow. I hope you will take this story to heart. You've made the monetary investment required to be a member of Toastmasters. The next step is to center your personal goals and on developing your leadership and communication skills. To reap the full benefits of Toastmasters—developing your leadership and communication skills, listening skills, evaluation skills, networking skills, and having fun—YOU MUST BE ACTIVE.

Being active in the club ensures your growth. Being active by visiting other clubs and participating in various District 14 activities will move you to another level in your business and personal life. Not only will you experiment with things you didn't even dream existed; you will learn a lot of new things, while teaching others. Simply stated, Toastmasters is a group of friends helping friends to succeed. Like the repairman in the story, you will get experience.

People never improve unless they look to a standard or example higher and better than themselves.

-Tyron Edwards

Acing the Silent Interviews of Your Club

by Michael A. Cicero, President – Colony Square Toastmasters Club

The Colony Square Toastmasters Club experienced explosive growth in recent months. Of our 16 currently-active members, 8 of them joined since August 1st. To what can we attribute this growth? Polling of our newer members revealed that several credit our meetings as the main influence behind their decision to join. Some admired how we end on time despite scheduling three speeches and a Table Topics session, in addition to other agenda items. Others commented on the quality of feedback provided by speech evaluators.

At the beginning of my term as President, I wanted all club officers to understand one important reality: we are being watched! As a result, just as we want to put our best foot forward in a job interview, we also want to do so as a club, since all guests visiting us conduct a "silent interview" of our Club by observing everything we do – before, during, and after meetings. Bottom line: we do everything we can to make our Club as attractive as possible. I credit my officers in taking this to heart and executing their roles with a high degree of professionalism and enthusiasm. This serves as an example to all our members and projects an aura of positive energy throughout our Club.

What have we done to enhance our image in the minds of prospective members? We strive to excel at Toastmaster fundamentals:

- **Being Friendly.** We greet visitors as soon as they walk into the room, make them feel welcome, recognize them during the meeting, and express our interest in seeing them again at the end of the meeting. One of our polled members stated: "I felt immediately that it was a group that cared about individual success, but also collaborative support. Everyone I have met has been so gracious and supportive, you couldn't help but be drawn in . . . ." In addition, we e-mail follow-up 1-page surveys to new visitors so that we can get feedback on the impression we are making.
- **Keeping an Attractive Meeting Environment.** We were extremely fortunate to move meet in conference rooms within the law firm of King & Spalding. The air of professionalism of the rooms certainly make a good impression with visitors.
- **Being Prepared and Positive.** This is key and cannot be overemphasized. It requires a team commitment from all role-players in the meeting.

Continued – Page 10

Notice of District 14 Toastmasters Annual Business Meeting & Announcement of Slate of Candidates for District Office

District 14's Spring business meeting will be held during at the Spring Conference, Saturday, May 3, 2008, starting at 3:15 p.m., at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center, 2443 Highway 54 West, Peachtree City GA 30269. Among the matters to be addressed at this meeting is the election of District officers for 2008-2009 by the District Council. Club presidents, club vice presidents of education, District Executive Committee members, and their proxy holders should check in at the Credentials Desk to obtain voting materials.

The Nominations Committee, led by Nominations Committee Chairman, Joseph Beckenbach, has announced the initial slate of candidates for District 14 elected offices for the Toastmasters year of 2008-2009. Candidates are listed by position, and then alphabetically by surname.

Slate of Candidates for District Office

District Governor
Cindy Cannon

Lt. Gov. Education & Training
Theresa Spralling

Lt. Gov. Marketing
David Bodder
Roy Ganga

Division A Governor
Leon Wheeler

Division B Governor
Patricia Clark
Mark Tidrow

Division C Governor
Karen Doctor-Gadsden

Division D Governor
(no nomination)

Division E Governor
Kathy Soule

Division F Governor
Dick McCoppin

Division G Governor
Luis Camacho

Division H Governor
(no nomination)

Division I Governor
Lawrence Clark

Division J Governor
Andrew Percher

PRO Corner

Continued from Page 2

Public Relations contest entries by Tuesday April 15, 2008. For more information go to the District 14 website at **www.gatoastmasters.org** and click on the "**Incentive Contest**" tab on the left margin. I am looking forward to an influx of entries!

Additionally, the District 14 website contains information on every aspect of starting a new club, information for members, and club and district information, including contest dates and conference information. Please continue to let **gatoastmasters.org** be your first place of contact to obtain up-to-date information on what is happening in the District.

As we reach for the finish line, remember it's all about you, our members, attaining your respective goals and challenging yourselves to raise the bar of Excellence. It's time to re-energize and put action to our voices to ensure District 14 remains a President's Distinguished District and becomes #1 in the World.

My challenge to you is to attain your goals and overcome your fear so that you move closer to fulfilling your dreams, one step at a time.

My Toastmasters Story

By John Letlow
Area J1 Governor

I joined Toastmasters to learn how to make presentations. Little did I know that Toastmasters would have a huge impact on my life! I found that I actually enjoy public speaking. I was very nervous when I delivered my "Icebreaker," but I gave the speech anyway. I still have some nervousness when making a speech, but as I soon learned Toastmasters does not make the butterflies go away, Toastmasters makes the butterflies fly in formation.

I joined Toastmasters in the 1990s and then dropped out after completing the ten speeches for the Competent Toastmaster Award. However I noticed my communication skills deteriorating after a few years so I re-joined Toastmasters in 2002. My communication skills started improving immediately, but I also decided to become a club officer and develop my leadership skills. I am now serving my second term as Area Governor. During my years in Toastmasters I have developed skills and confidence beyond what I could have imagined and have led to professional opportunities including the development of technical

Continued – Page 7

Think about Tomorrow

Continued from Page 2

you continue to follow your dream. It shows us that the club also worked on the Distinguished Club Program.

Sometimes we forget that the club has goals to reach. We even forget our own individual goals. We get caught up in missing a meeting because of work; a few members may have gotten laid off from their jobs. Sometimes we get stuck in a pattern at the clubs where the members just show up and wing the meeting. They don't volunteer to help, they stop using their manuals, and the meetings are no longer fun. Our Toastmaster year is coming to an end, and now these clubs start to feel the pain. They have forgotten the Toastmaster promise.

It is time to refocus and time to think about tomorrow. What are your individual goals and how do they play into the Distinguished Club Program? Where does your club stand? You can plan for tomorrow. Your club can become a Distinguished Club. You can do it! Your club can do it! Don't think about yesterday, think about tomorrow.

Pope John XXIII said, "...Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

Whatever your grade or position, if you know how and when to speak, and when to remain silent, your chances of real success are proportionately increased.

-Ralph C. Smedley

☆ Excellence In Action

Continued from Page 1

Lessons Learned and Second Chances

skills I learned from being a Toastmaster. I am challenged to keep the attention of success-challenged students for two hours, twice a week. I call upon vocal variety, gestures, facial expressions, organization, persuasion… well you get the picture. I'd be lost in this without the many skills I learned just by attending my meetings every week. How many times in your professional life have you found yourself calling upon those Toastmasters skills to get you through a report or a meeting?

Second, those students are giving me my second chance. This is my second career, one that is incredibly satisfying, one where I get to make a difference in people's lives. A difference that means success and future rewards for the students. This is just what happens in Toastmasters. We have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives every time we reach out to someone with an invitation to attend a meeting, answer a question for a new member, or become a mentor. This Toastmasters thing that we do enriches people's lives and offers them an opportunity for future success.

Finally, teaching these classes reminds me of how people can lose their confidence. One low score on an entrance exam can squelch the dreams of an aspiring student, discourage that woman just divorced who needs schooling in order to get a job to support her children, disappoint the man who is losing ground in his career because he didn't finish his degree back in his 20s. My job is to create an environment where the students feel they can work without embarrassment and where they can see their success. Does that sound familiar? We take people from the most shy and fearful and show them how a warm supportive environment can help them grow in confidence and be more than they had ever dreamed. We give them the confidence to do something new, to take that second chance.

That's what being a Toastmaster is about. Over the last 10 years, I've learned so much from Toastmasters. Now I have an opportunity to make it work for me. And I make it work for others, too. What have you learned in Toastmasters? How are you using the lessons you've learned to help others, to give someone else (or yourself) that second chance at success?

"We have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives every time we reach out to someone with an invitation to attend a meeting…"

Don't Drift – Grow More!

By Merrilee Morris, ATM

In 1997 a stranger named Gloria Barnes called me. I was on guard, suspecting a telemarketer when she spoke the magic word, "Toastmasters." Gloria and her husband Jim were chartering an advanced Toastmasters Club with special requirements - you had to have your CTM or be a professional speaker, and you had to be a member in good standing at your "home" Club. She named the person who had recommended me, and I felt quite honored.

The Advanced Club idea, plus the Jim and Gloria Barnes can-do attitude, convinced me this would be an exciting adventure and what an adventure it has been! As the Speakers Roundtable Advanced Toastmaster Club, we mentored clubs, we judged contests, we developed a unique form of evaluations, we hosted a conference, plus we coached members in our home clubs.

Guests at Speakers Roundtable (SRT) are frequently shocked when evaluation time rolls round and the speaker is invited to the front of the room. A two minute written evaluation is followed by a six minute oral evaluation. The Toastmaster facilitates the evaluation period and several club members give feedback. One concerned visitor commented that her first impression of the oral evaluation was "a firing squad." She worried about the speakers standing there while members stood and thoroughly evaluated them, even demonstrating how parts of their speech could be improved. However, when the six minutes had passed, she was totally amazed at the quality of the evaluations and how smoothly the knowledge had been exchanged.

SRT speakers often choose to have DVD recordings made of their speeches along with the evaluations. Members are able to review their speeches and evaluations in a quiet setting and work on member recommendations. There is a sample speech with evaluations on the SRT web site, www.toastmastersatlanta.com.

"...more to learn, bigger speaking challenges to meet..."

As for me, it's been an even greater adventure than I had anticipated. I strongly recommend that when you achieve your Competent Communicator or when your career requires you to give more speeches and presentations, that you seriously consider forming an advanced club. Stay involved in Toastmasters. Don't drift away once you complete your ten speeches. Visit Speakers Roundtable and sample a meeting. There's much more to learn, bigger speaking challenges to meet, and evaluators to help you develop and hone your speaking skills to the next level.

Speakers Roundtable meets each Monday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Sandy Springs Baptist Church on the corner of Glenridge Drive and Mt Vernon Road. For more information, call our Vice President of Public Relations is Paul Johnson, (770) 271-7719.

If you consider what are called the virtues in mankind, you will find their growth is assisted by education and cultivation.

- Xenophon

Positioning for Growth

LaTonya McClain, ACG, ALB
Speakers Bureau Chair

Get ready! District 14's Speakers Bureau revitalization program is not only underway, but it is building a momentum of passion with Excellence in Action!

As we cultivate the seeds that have been sown in years past, we are working to not only position ourselves as one of the leading organizations that provide a pool of quality speakers to fulfill speaking requests around the district and region. We are laying a foundation that will position our members for opportunities for personal growth.

Beginning this spring, as we peek over the horizon of new partnerships with our local communities and continue to collaborate with other internal chairpersons to provide a seamless flow that connects all components of our organization, we will address and resolve questions of what our Speakers Bureau has to offer and the path to travel and expectations in return.

In the coming weeks, you will hear and see more about the Speakers Bureau! If you want to become involved, contact LaTonya McClain at speakersbureau@gatoastmaster.org or 404-545-7249.

Members Matter

Continued from Page 2

up when meetings are exciting, informative, well organized, start on time and end on time. Take a look at how your club runs its meetings. Unsuccessful meetings result in wasted time, member and guest frustration and a "no go" for return visits.

Successful meetings include the following:

- A well prepared agenda that:

  1. Includes a start time, end time and breaks, if appropriate. It also includes the meeting address and the actual location within the premises.

  2. Shows the names of meeting leader, presenters and key players, i.e. Toastmaster of the Day, Speakers, Evaluators, Table Topics Master, Grammarian, etc.

  3. The agenda is distributed to members via email at least 48 hours prior to the start of the actual meeting. Hard copies should also be made available at the meeting.

- Guests are greeted by members and are made to feel welcome during the entire meeting.

- All members know their program responsibilities and are prepared to carry out all assignments to the best of their abilities.

- Speeches originate from the basic and advanced Communication and Leadership Program manuals.

- Creative Table Topics and Exciting Program Themes.

How are your meetings run?

Send in your club's "Best Practices"

- Evaluations are POSITIVE, helpful and based upon the project objectives and the speakers' learning and developmental needs. *Constructive feedback is a cornerstone of Toastmasters International's educational program.*

When our meetings are well planned and exciting, members willingly accept responsibility for fulfilling their assignments. When each of us accepts the responsibility of a well planned meeting, we ensure the overall satisfaction of our members.

Satisfied members enable us to recruit and retain other satisfied members. What are you doing to retain members in your club and ensure that overall satisfaction at the club level?

I am interested in compiling your Best Practices. Please feel free to share your meeting and member experiences with me via email at theresaspralling@comcast.net

Help us maintain healthy, successful clubs that fulfill our members' needs.

Members Matter!

"Satisfied members enable us to recruit and retain other satisfied members."

My Toastmasters Story

(continued from page 4)

and public speaking training courses. The communication skills I learned have also led to more numerous and more meaningful personal relationships inside and outside Toastmasters.

Watching members learn and grow is one of my favorite parts of Toastmasters. The Distinguished Club Program contains the goals that determine how well a club is helping its individual members and the strength of clubs. A strong club provides a laboratory where skills and confidence are developed in a supportive and challenging environment. Helping clubs meet the Distinguished Club Program goals has also helped me develop leadership skills. I plan to continue my personal development in Toastmasters and use my skills to help others achieve their goals.

Rise to Stellar Success! - **REGION VIII CONFERENCE 2008**

The Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport

June 19-21, 2008

Enjoy . . .

Networking opportunities
Focused educational sessions
Entertaining fun night
Inspiring Communication and Leadership Luncheon
Exciting International Speech Contest
With optional tour of Atlanta's world-famous attractions

JOIN THE VOLUNTEER TEAM!

- Meet, greet, and converse with Toastmaster leaders
- Interact with and establish friendships with Toastmasters from all over the southeastern U.S. *and the Bahamas*
- Expand your knowledge of how Toastmasters International establishes policies and procedures that govern clubs all over the world
- Expand your horizons and find out how you can improve your club environment

Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to:

* Registration * Hospitality
* Door Monitors * Decorations
* Publicity * Resource Center
*Conference sponsorship (donations)
* Information Desk/Lost & Found

To Volunteer Contact Volunteer Chair Janice M. Wesley, DTM at:

Email: jae51@mindspring.com
Phone: 404-656-1724 (Day), 770-944-9553 (Evening & Weekend)

Please provide the following info:
Your Toastmasters educational achievement, name, home phone, work phone, home club name & number

Confessions of a Textbook Toastmaster

By Alex Pate

I am a Textbook Toastmaster. What is a Textbook Toastmaster? That's someone who believes that the key to success in Toastmasters is in following the time-tested training manuals to the letter. When I joined Toastmasters three years ago, I was looking for a structured, easy to follow vehicle to improve my speaking and leadership skills. Based on my reading and research, Toastmasters was perfect. Over the past three years, I have:

- ❑ Visited too many clubs to count.
- ❑ Been a member of eight clubs
- ❑ Held officer positions at five clubs
- ❑ Given five club leads to the district
- ❑ Personally sponsored four clubs
- ❑ Mentored two almost defunct clubs to membership of 20+
- ❑ Coached one of the clubs to President's Distinguished
- ❑ Been an Area Governor

I mention the above to make a point. Whenever I've noticed that things aren't going well, I've found that the Toastmasters program isn't being followed.

For example, membership is always an issue at clubs. The issues usually fall into one or more of the following areas:

- ❑ Lack of leadership
- ❑ Lack of quality programming
- ❑ Lack of member participation
- ❑ Lack of advertising

Quality leadership will correct all of the above.

To get thriving membership in a club, the following must occur:

- ❑ The club must have committed officers who are students of the program. They must be willing to go to club officer training and read their manuals.
- ❑ Because of the demands of running a club, the need for continuity, and a need to develop leadership skills in the members, each club officer should have a sub-committee of at least two people.
- ❑ Each club officer should be assigned one of the six club quality standards documented in Moments of Truth. The club must have dynamic programming. It must be compelling enough that members make the time meetings.
- ❑ The meetings must be of such a supportive nature that all members, new and seasoned, feel mutually supported.
- ❑ The club members must participate in membership building activities meetings. This means the club members must be willing to recruit their friends.
- ❑ The club must advertise its presence. Membership building activities, a dynamic web presence, a newsletter, and the rest of the information available to the VP of Public Relations will help in this area. All of this takes time and work, hence the sub-committees.
- ❑ The club must have monthly Executive Committee meetings to check the club quality standards and get reports from the officers on their respective duties.
- ❑ The club must have fun outside activities that build camaraderie and friendships.

In all of my activities over the past three years, I've had to solve and am continually solving membership issues. I regularly consult:

- ❑ Competent Communicator Manual
- ❑ How to Build a Toastmasters Club
- ❑ Club Officer Manuals and related references

I am a Textbook Toastmaster. All I know about Toastmasters is what I read in books. I need 10 more members to charter by June. Where did I put that manual?

DISTRICT 14 PROXY

For use at 2008 Spring Conference

I, _____, _____ President _____ V.P. Education

of club name _____, club number _____

assign my voting rights at the District 14 Council meeting to the following member in good standing from the aforementioned club.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Officer Signature: _____

This proxy is for use only if you will not be attending the District Council meeting. In order to obtain voting ballots, the above-named member must take the proxy to the credentials table at the conference and exchange it for the ballots. The credentials table is open for a limited time only at the conference. Please check the schedule early the day of the conference for specific hours. If you have not exchanged your proxy by the time the credentials table closes, you will not be eligible to vote at the District Council meeting.

Note on Different Procedures for
Regional Conference and International Convention Proxies

Proxies for Regional Conference and International Convention are mailed by Toastmasters International directly to the club president of record in March of each year. We recommend that the propositions to be considered at these events be discussed with the membership and that the proxies be marked in accordance with the wishes of the club members.

These proxies are then signed by the club president and mailed directly to the District Governor, Joy Lewis, DTM, P.O. Box 1076, Cumming GA 30028. This enables the club to be represented in the event that a club member is not present at the Regional Conference or International Convention. The actual certificate must be exchanged for voting ballots. Clubs may receive, upon request, only one duplicate proxy certificate if the initial proxy is lost or misplaced.

Calendar of Events

April 1-30
- Clubs not sending representatives to regional conference or international convention send proxies to district governor
- Clubs form nomination committees for club officer elections

April 5
- Deadline for Toastmaster of the Year and Communication and Leadership award nominees

April 10
- Semiannual reports due at Toastmasters International

April 15
- Deadline for Newsletter, Website and Media Publicity contests

May 1-31
- Clubs elect new officers for 2008-2009

May 1
- Begin "Beat the Clock" membership campaign

May 2-3
- Spring Conference, Peachtree City GA

May 5
- Clubs begin conducting humorous speech and evaluation contests

May 10
- Deadline for submitting articles for the Summer edition Gavel to PRO.

May 15
- Final date for semiannual dues reports to be received by Toastmasters International for distinguished club program credit.

June 19-21
- Regional VIII Conference, Atlanta GA

June 30
- End "Beat the Clock" membership campaign.
- Deadline for submitting club officer lists for 2008-2009 DCP credit.

July 19
- Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), Gwinnett Center

"Sow the Seeds of Excellence"
District 14 - Georgia Toastmasters
2008 Spring Conference - May 2 & 3

District 14 and Division D
cordially invite you to
cultivate and celebrate your life's garden with Toastmasters!
Enjoy education sessions, district speech contests,
an awards luncheon, a banquet, a Parade of Banners and much more!!
Come Sow the Seeds of Excellence!

Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center
2443 Highway 54 West
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Acing the Silent Interviews of Your Club – Continued from Page 3

- Lack of preparation will very likely impair a club's ability to attract new members. If someone muddles through a speech or a meeting role, the lack of preparation projects a lack of care and enthusiasm, and causes visitors to feel ill-at-ease. The opposite is true when all role-players put in the proper amount of preparation time in advance. Good preparation leads to smooth flow of speeches and transitions, meaningful evaluations, and the overall "crispness" that allows meeting to end on time. The positive energy generated by a collaborative effort is downright infectious!
- **Being Persistent.** The designated Toastmaster regularly monitors the club's duty roster in the days leading up to the meeting to ensure that all roles are filled in as far advance as possible.
- **Maintaining Time Discipline.** Time discipline shows respect for the schedules of guests and members. Getting a timely start requires the Sergeant-At-Arms to set up the room in advance and begin the meeting on time. The Toastmaster prepares the agenda, breaking down each event by time increments (for example, scheduling Speech #2 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:08 p.m.), and keeps the meeting moving along by adhering to the agenda.
- **Playing to Win.** We aggressively pursue the Distinguished Club Program. In addition to new members, this means providing members with the maximum opportunities toward their CC or AC awards. Though we meet only semi-monthly, we schedule three prepared speeches per meeting, which should allow us to meet both the "2 CC's" and the "1 AC" goals in the
- Distinguished Club Program. Believing that "success breeds success," we anticipate a "Distinguished Club" ribbon on our club banner will stand as a reminder of how we conduct ourselves, making our Club all the more attractive to future guests.

Good luck to all of you as you pursue your Club goals.

Remember that you can score big by Acing the Silent Interview.

District 14 Toastmasters Spring Conference
"Sow the Seeds of Excellence"
Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center
Peachtree City, GA 30269
May 2-3, 2008

****Save time – register online at** www.gatoastmasters.org **
This form is **ONLY** for those who cannot or choose not to register online. Print or type all information.
Use separate forms for each person registered

Name: _____ Certification (e.g., CC, AC, CL): _____

Address: _____

City: _____State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____Club Name: _____ Club #: _____ Club Officer? _____

Indicate Current Office: _____

Conference Packages	On or Before April 25th	After April 25th
Package 1: Full Conference Registration - Includes Friday afternoon and evening activities with dinner, Table Topics Contest Saturday and evening activities with Hall of Fame luncheon, Saturday banquet and International Speech Contest	$99.00	$109.00
Package 2: Conference Registration, Friday activities, no dinner, Saturday activities, Hall of Fame luncheon, Saturday Banquet and International Speech Contest	$90.00	$100.00
Package 3: Conference Registration, Saturday activities, and Hall of Fame luncheon	$75.00	$85.00
Package 4: Conference Registration, Saturday activities *without lunch,* Saturday banquet and International Speech Contest	$80.00	$ 90.00
Package 5: Friday evening dinner and Table Topics Contest	$65.00	$75.00
Package 6: Hall of Fame luncheon - Awards luncheon	$55.00	$65.00
Package 7: Saturday banquet and International Speech Contest	$65.00	$75.00
Package 8: Conference Registration Only (No Meals)	$50.00	$60.00

Package Selected: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ First Timer: _____ Vegetarian: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS
Make hotel reservations at: Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center, Peachtree City, GA 30269
Phone 770-487-2000 Room Rate: $99 plus tax. Rate effective until **April 11, 2008**

RETURN FORMS:
Matt Merchant, Conference Registration Chair
PM Box 134, 2500 Dallas Highway
Marietta, GA 30064
Email: d14confreg@bellsouth.net
No cancellations or refunds after April 25, 2008

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Toastmasters District 14
Excellence in Action

Distinguished Club Program

How is your club measuring against the goals of the Distinguished Club Program? Check your progress now!

1. Two Competent Communicators

2. Two More Competent Communicators

3. One Advanced Communicator

4. One More Advanced Communicator

5. One Competent Leader, Advanced Leader or Distinguished Toastmaster

6. One Additional Competent Leader, Advanced Leader or Distinguished Toastmaster

7. Four New Members

8. Four More New Members

9, Four Officers Trained in June-August and in December-February

10. Submit on time October & April renewals and Officer List

Show your Excellence in Action!

About District 14 Toastmasters

The Mission of the District

The mission of the district is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.
- Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership opportunities for club and district officers.

THE GEORGIA GAVEL

DISTRICT 14 OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.gatoastmasters.org