

The Georgia Gavel



District 14 Toastmasters

Summer 2008
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Toastmaster of the Year – Debi Merchant

Debi Merchant Named 2008 District 14 Toastmaster of the Year

During the annual District 14 Spring Conference, District Governor Joy Lewis announced the selection of Debi Merchant as this year's Toastmasters of the Year.

Debi Merchant, who has affectionately been known as the "Book Store Lady" for her tireless efforts in running the Toastmaster Resource Center for the past two years, was moved to tears in receiving this great honor from the District.

In this past year, Merchant has continued to ensure that her fellow District 14 Toastmasters have been able to purchase Toastmasters materials for their clubs and for themselves during each Toastmasters Leadership Institute and during the District conferences.

Merchant has been a Toastmaster since 1999 and has attained Toastmaster's highest award: Distinguished Toastmaster. Her husband, Matthew is also an active Toastmaster.



District Governor Joy Lewis presents plaque to Debi Merchant 2008 Toastmaster of the Year

★ Excellence In Action

Joy Lewis, M.Ed., DTM District Governor

As we approach the end of the year of **Excellence In Action**, I think of all that has been accomplished. Last July 1, each of you set personal goals for this year and so many of you have achieved your goals. Clubs did the same. We have welcomed countless new members to our Toastmasters family, along with some wonderful new clubs across the State of Georgia. There are more to come. It has been such a pleasure for me to participate in all of that growth. Although we are coming to the end of the year and look towards the closing of

this chapter, thoughts of starting anew come to mind. Perhaps it is the spring weather and blossoming flowers, or perhaps it is the renewal that comes from participating in a wonderful spring conference. Whatever the cause, I am excited about the new beginnings that lie ahead. At the conference, you elected a super team of new district leaders—congratulations to each person who has committed to continue the leadership of District 14. Additionally, clubs are electing new officers to continue the successes of our clubs and members beyond June 30. Thanks to each of you club officers who have served during 2007-2008; congratulations to the incoming club leaders.

June 30 will be here before we know it. Be sure to turn in your education and leadership awards. Reach out the hand of

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District 14 Governor Joy Lewis



Cindy Cannon, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training

Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.
 – Albert Schweitzer

2007 – 2008 Memories

Cindy Cannon, DTM Lieutenant Governor Education & Training

2007-2008 has been an awesome year for District 14.

Members came to the club meetings where they volunteered for many different roles

Educational goals for the club were something the members strived for

Members mattered at every single club

Officers of the clubs kept themselves and everyone else focused on their educational goals

Responsibility fell upon everyone in the club to have a President Distinguished Club

Inspiration came from listening to all of the different speeches

Excellence in action is what we saw from our officers this year

Successful endings are memories we won't forget for a long time

Thank you for all your hard work and let's continue to show our **Excellence in Action.**



The Secret Revealed

Theresa Spralling Lieutenant Governor Marketing



Theresa Spralling, Lieutenant Governor Marketing

Many of you may recall the excitement around Rhonda Bryne's book The Secret. The stir swept the nation. As Lt. Governor Marketing, I must confess. I too know the secret. I assert the secret in two words, *Members Matter*. The secret to our clubs' growth and overall development is through membership.

You know the secret too. You know that when you join a Toastmasters Club in

Georgia and you actively participate, success is yours for the taking.

Since the secret is out, you must act upon it. To do nothing will surely seal a life of mediocrity and regret. You **must** begin your search now for people who will benefit by becoming a Toastmaster. You already know who they are. Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. Urgent business is at hand. A great future awaits somebody you know.

Sign up a new member today. Share the gift of happiness and prosperity. Bring light to

someone's life. One by one we will achieve and transform prospects to members. Beat the clock. Build your club membership today!

I am asking each Georgia Toastmaster to sign up at least **one new member before the end of June**. We may double our membership and achieve Excellence in Action merely by this ONE GREAT ACT.

Now, the secret is out. Spread the word. Share the wealth. Recruit a New Member today!

PRO Corner

Roy Ganga Public Relations Officer



Roy Ganga, Public Relations Officer

We are on the home stretch of this 2007-2008 Toastmasters Year and there are still some loose ends to tie up. With our collaborative efforts, we will succeed in achieving our goals at the individual, Club, Area, Division and District levels. Drawing on our Toastmasters experience,

working as a team, let's finish strong. Share the joy of Toastmasters with your friends, families, coworkers and other acquaintances. Create awareness and build strong clubs and leaders of tomorrow. Reach out to past members and encourage them to return; reach out to your club leaders and suggest improvements to energize club meeting; reach

out to members and remind them of their Toastmasters promise; reach out to non-paying members and let them know it's time to pay their dues.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. Together, we have all demonstrated the true meaning of Excellence in Action.

A First Timer's Perspective

By Brian Winston

As I exited the highway and proceeded on that stretch of road leading to the conference center, I realized I was anxious, curious, and looking forward to the unknown – my first Toastmasters Conference. You see, before the conference I was truly excited about being a part of Toastmasters, even if it was only for about a year in my home club. However, by the time I left Saturday, I was a changed man.

It started when I checked into registration Friday afternoon. The people were tremendously friendly as if bottles of "happiness" were served and everyone had taken a drink. Then Friday night, I was fortunate enough to participate in the Table Topics contest. The other contestants were extremely cordial. We all had some level of nervous energy but as the Contest Master began her briefing, the excitement came over me. The competition was an awesome experience. Standing on the stage giving my answer to the Table Topic question, looking out into the crowd of 200+ Toastmasters, and seeing people actually LISTENING TO ME...wow -- it's a memory I will forever cherish. Congrats to Cathy Wendland-Colby on winning the event!

First thing on Saturday morning, our District Governor Joy Lewis addressed us at the First-Timers Welcome session. The fact that the District Governor took the time out of her schedule to welcome and familiarize us with how the conference would transpire demonstrated to me that no matter your level of achievement, "newbies" are welcome and appreciated. What a way to start the day!

Trying to choose an educational session to attend Saturday morning was about as hard as a techie trying to choose which piece of new software to buy – so many awesome choices! I attended the "Keys to an Effective Membership Building Campaign" seminar in the morning and served as a facilitator for the "Keys to Successful Contests" in the afternoon. Both seminars were extremely helpful for myself and my club. ALL the educational seminars offered would have been invaluable to me and my club. Training from seasoned members on a variety of interesting topics - you can't beat that. I am looking forward to TLI in July for additional educational experiences.

The Hall of Fame luncheon was another highlight. I thought that the luncheon would consist of a few people getting

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A Special CC Award

By Carol Lunsford

On March 25, 2008 High Noon Toastmasters honored member Paulette J. Bass with a celebration commemorating achieving her Competent Communicator (CC) level with Toastmasters International. Many Toastmasters reach this milestone. However, Paulette's journey took longer than for most Toastmasters. You see, Paulette is developmentally disabled. Paulette is one of the few individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve the CC level.

Paulette attended school when classes for students with special needs were not readily available. Through determination on her part, she graduated from high school in 1970 at the age of 24. Immediately she was enrolled in the Warm Springs

Rehabilitation Center for the developmentally disabled. After completion of her courses, she returned to Fayette County becoming an "assistant" teacher's aid to the severely developmentally disabled. She held this position until it was eliminated. Afterwards her employers were those who gave employment to the developmentally disabled. Now, at age 62, she works at the Fayette County Options center, a program run by the Department of Human Resources to provide employment to the developmentally disabled.

In April 2004, Paulette joined High Noon Toastmasters. Recognizing me as being one of her former co-workers with the school system, she asked me to be her mentor. Having taught special needs students for over 28 years I felt the exposure to the club environment would be excellent "social practice" for her. She had different ideas.

She listened to others present prepared speeches. She applauded when someone gave an icebreaker or received one of "THE BEST" ribbons during a meeting. She cheered along with the rest of the club when a member was presented with a badge. She learned to count votes, count AH's, she read out Table Topics questions and indicated which member should answer the question, she volunteered to create a club scrapbook. She was happy and involved. Or so I thought. After being a "watcher" for about six months, she turned to me and asked "When do I give my first speech?" The rest you would say is history.

Her journey to achieving the Competent Communicator status took four years. Paulette has speech and language difficulties as well as developmental disabilities. She has difficulty with verbal expression;

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Competent Communicator
Paulette Bass

*"What are you waiting for?
Confidence? Being artistic with
words? Toastmasters helped me
with both; it can help you too.
What are you waiting for?"
- Paulette Bass*



Table Topics Contest Winners: 1st Place Cathy Wendland-Colby, 2nd Place Martin Birkbeck and 3rd Place Shana Thomas

District 14 Contest Champions

Spring conference is the time for the exciting District 14 Table Topics and International Speech Contests and this year's contests did not disappoint! Congratulations to all who made it to the District competition and special congratulations to the winners.

Winners: Table Topics Contest

1st Place – Cathy Wendland-Colby - Club: Cherokee Toastmasters (#685064)
 2nd Place – Martin Birkbeck – Club: Horizon Toastmasters (#4465)
 3rd Place – Shana Thomas – Club: Clayton County Toastmasters (#4865)

Winners: International Speech Contest

1st Place – Brian McClellan – Club: Horizon Toastmasters (#4465)
 2nd Place – Pat Veal – Club: South Cobb Club (#678903)
 3rd Place – Clyde Anderson – City of Atlanta Toastmasters (#3411)

Brian McClellan now advances to the Region VIII International Competition in Atlanta. Good luck, Brian and well done to all the winners – you indeed are Excellence in Action!



International Speech Contest Winners: 3rd Place Clyde Anderson, 2nd Place Pat Veal, and 1st Place Brian McClellan

New District 14 Leaders

A vote of another kind also took place at the Spring Conference – election of new District Leaders. Congratulations to the leadership team for 2008-2009!

District Governor Elect: Cindy Cannon, DTM

Lt. Governor Education & Training Elect: Theresa Spralling, DTM

Lt. Governor Marketing Elect: Roy Ganga, DTM

Division A Governor Elect: Leon Wheeler, ACB

Division B Governor Elect: Debbie Rauers, ACB, CL

Division C Governor Elect: Karen B. Doctor-Gadsden, CC

Division D Governor Elect: Connie Stokes, DTM

Division E Governor Elect: Kathryn Soule, ACS, CL

Division F Governor Elect: Dick McCoppin, DTM

Division G Governor Elect: Luis Camacho, ACB, ALB

Division H Governor Elect: Alex Pate, ACS, ALS

Division I Governor Elect: Lawrence Clark, ATMB

Division J Governor Elect: Andrew Percher, CC, CL

★ Excellence In Action – Continued from Page 1

Toastmasters friendship to co-workers, family and friends. With your help, we will finish this year as a Distinguished District.

It has been my great privilege and pleasure to serve as your District Governor this past year. I have been fortunate to

travel all over this great state and meet so many of you. You have always made me feel welcome, and I have learned much from each of you. Thank you for all of your support and good wishes. And most of all, thank you for showing me the true meaning of **Excellence In Action.**

Sincerely,

Joy

Joy Lewis, M.Ed., DTM
 District Governor 2007-2008
 District 14 Toastmasters



How will you be:
Excellence In Action
 in 2007-2008?

Toastmasters:
 Shaping Ourselves . . .
 Shaping Our World!

Turn Up the Heat!

By Margaret Edinburgh

In their book, *212 – The Extra Degree*, Sam Parker and Mac Anderson explain the difference that turning up the heat can make. As they explain, dry heat is the temperature of any material at ambient temperature or greater if heated from another source i.e., if you put your hand on a radiator it is warm, but the heat is dry. Dry heat is just heat energy contained in air.

Steam is water that reached a temperature hot enough to turn into a gas. Steam is

generated from a boiling liquid when it condensates by cooling from the colder ambient temperature, hence, if you put your hand over the spout of a kettle, the steam or wet heat will scald you.

The difference between hot water and boiling water is just one degree of heat. While that may not seem like much, it's the difference between a relaxing cup of tea... and being able to power a 50-ton steam locomotive up a mountain. One extra degree of heat, that one extra degree of effort, can make all the difference in your life!

What does all of this conversation about dry heat, steam, hot water and boiling water have to do with Toastmasters? The answer is simple. Toastmasters is a participatory organization. You get out of it what you put into it. Goal setting and planning are two key objectives for reaching your goals. This is the dry heat scenario for implementing your plans, and reaching your goals while exerting minimal effort: you give your speeches randomly, rather than in order—over an extended

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A Special CC (Continued from Page 3)

retrieving the correct word for the occasion. Being a trained special needs instructor, I employed the Language Expression approach of writing her speeches. The process is simple but time consuming.

To begin with, we discuss the speech project being considered. When she did not understand the manual, I would re-worded the information into language she could comprehend. When words were put on paper, it followed a question answer format. I would ask something, "Paulette, what do you want to talk about?" She would answer, and I would write the response in sentence form. Then came the hard part. "Paulette what information do you want to tell the members about (name of topic)? Name at least three things, please." Paulette would answer and I would write down this information in a sentence format. Then I would read this information to her, and she would tell me if the vocabulary was comfortable for her. If it was not, we

would then choose wording more appropriate for Paulette. Following this format, enough information was gathered to cover the time requirements of her project.

Paulette memorized the beginning of any Toastmasters speech: *Mr. Toastmaster, fellow Toastmasters, guests, Good Afternoon!* She was so adamant about having the wording correct that she would inquire as to who the Toastmaster of the meeting would be so she could practice the correct wording; *Mr. Toastmaster or Madame Toastmaster*. She learned this part of a speech so well that she often told me when a member left it out or put it in a place she thought was incorrect.

At the end of her four-year journey to earn her CC, Paulette asked if she could invite some friends to her last "talk." The club did not say no. Paulette had an invitation list of almost fifty people. Paulette told everyone she knew that she was giving her last talk and would earn her CC level. High Noon, proud of her as well,

invited friends of their own. Mayor Harold Logsdon of Peachtree City, a former Toastmaster himself, learned of the celebration and came to make a presentation to Paulette. He read a proclamation designating that day to be Paulette Bass Day in Peachtree City and bestowed Honorary Lifetime Residency in Peachtree City to Paulette. The Fayette County Commissioners Office also presented a Certificate of Achievement to her. But best of all, in Paulette's viewpoint, High Noon thought ahead and had her Competent Communicator badge ready for presentation.

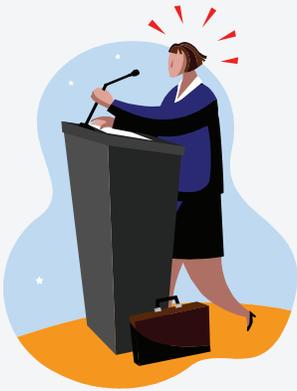
Paulette is not finished with Toastmasters. Her final words to me on the day of her celebration were: "When will I get my new books? When will I give my next speech?"

The ending of her tenth speech asked us all, "What are you waiting for? Confidence? Being artistic with words? Toastmasters helped me with both; it can help you too. What are you waiting for?"

"When will I get my new books? When will I give my next speech?"



Mayor of Peachtree City Harold Logsdon reads the proclamation designating Paulette Bass Day as Carol Lunsford looks on.



If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor.

- Neil Simon



Turn Up the Heat (Continued from Page 5)

period of time--until they are all done, and don't really read your **"Basic Communications and Leadership Manual."** You work on your Competent Leadership projects—jumping from project to project, not really reading the information, but you do manage to get your CL certification. You come to the meetings when you have a role, but don't really volunteer to do anything extra. If there is something special going on in the club, you make the decision that your job is too hectic for you to attend the meeting today. There is no way you will ever participate in anything

outside of the club's meeting room. You never move from your comfort zone or stretch yourself in any way, but you meet your personal goals and objectives—with no WOW FACTOR achieved—little commitment!

The steam generating scenario is the total opposite of the dry heat scenario. You come into Toastmasters fully engaged and committed to getting all you can out of the experience. You set your goals and formulate your plan, while voraciously reading through all of the material you received in your welcome package.

When your New Member Kit arrives from Toastmasters International, it is more of the same. You take advantage of every networking opportunity, and share all of the knowledge you've acquired. Before you know it, you're out of your club room and heavily involved in most of the District 14 events. Now, you are so far out of your box, that you have become a completely different person. People from across the state know who you are, they trust you, and are willing to present you with even greater opportunities to grow and network. This experience has been so rich, that you find yourself

"...WOW FACTOR achieved..."

running for a District office--WOW FACTOR achieved—total commitment!

And the moral of the story is:

Just one additional degree of commitment can be likened unto the difference between dry heat and steam.

If you would like to move from generating dry heat

to blowing steam in the 2008-2009 Toastmasters Year, let your club officers know. Remember to read pages 58 – 77 of your **"Competent Communication"** book, and refresh your memory of the club's meeting roles and the various award certification requirements. Your club and District 14 are here for you!



Margaret Edinburgh

First Timer's Perspective (Continued from Page 3)

inducted to the Toastmaster Hall of Fame - how naive was I! Instead I saw dozens of Toastmasters who accomplished their CC's, CL's, ACB's...it was motivating. When the new DTM's were called up one by one, I saw the pride on their faces. Not an arrogant sense of pride but a pride that they had fulfilled their goals, achieved a high-level of success, and worked extremely hard to get to

where they were standing that day. The luncheon inspired me to work hard to achieve my CC so I too could be on that stage at the Fall conference.

Due to scheduling conflicts I was unable to stay for the Awards Banquet and Speech Contest. After speaking with those who did attend I wanted to give myself a swift kick in the head for missing it. Congrats to Brian McClellan on winning again!

As I reflect on my first Spring Conference I truly had a feeling of awe. The excitement I now have about Toastmasters and how it can help me and many others is overflowing inside of me. I look forward to learning from seasoned members, hearing the Evaluation Contest and Humorous Speech Contest and again being a changed for the better.



District 14 Toastmasters Leadership Institute ("TLI") Saturday, July 19, 2008



REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7:30 AM; OPENING CEREMONIES BEGIN AT 8:15 AM.
Gwinnett Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097

Save time – register online at www.gatoastmasters.org

This form is for **ONLY** those who cannot or choose not to register online. Print or type all information. Use separate forms for each person registered.

Name: _____ Certification (CC, AC, CL): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Enter Club Name and Number and indicate the Office held for that club by placing a check mark in the appropriate box:

Club Name: _____ Club #: _____

President	VP Education	VP Membership	VP PR	Secretary	Treasurer	Sgt. at Arms	Member
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TLI Registration: Officer Training, Education Sessions, Opening and Closing Sessions

\$20.00

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline for Online Registrations is JULY 13, 2008

On-Site Registration: \$25.00

Registration and payment must be received by **JULY 13, 2008**.

Cancellation and refund requests can not be honored after JULY 13, 2008.

Make checks payable to District 14 Toastmasters.

Registration name badges will be required to gain admission to all sessions.

TLI registration fee includes educational sessions and continental breakfast.

Attire is business or business casual.

Officer training is required to receive Distinguished Club Program credit.

RETURN COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

Matthew Merchant, ATM, CL, Conference Registration Chair
2500 Dallas Highway, PMB 134, Marietta, GA 30064

Questions? E-mail d14confreg@bellsouth.net

DIRECTIONS: From I-85, take the Sugarloaf Parkway exit. Turn right off the exit ramp and cross Satellite Boulevard. The Gwinnett Center will be on your left. Enter the Gwinnett Center building closest to I-85.

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Toastmasters District 14
Excellence in Action



Calendar

June 19 – 21

- o Region VIII Conference in Atlanta

June 30

- o End "Beat the Clock" Membership Campaign
- o Deadline for Submitting Club Officer List to Toastmasters International for DCP Credit in 2008-2009

June 30

- o End of Toastmasters 2007-2008 Calendar Year

July 1

- o Start of 2008-2009 Toastmasters Calendar Year

July 19

- o Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) at Gwinnett Center

October 17 & 18

- o District 14 Fall Conference

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

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