



# THE GEORGIA GAVEL

## DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS

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# Success & Multiplication

IN DISTRICT 14



Kene Iloenyosi, DTM  
District Governor

In December 1944, the first Toastmasters club, the Henry W. Grady Club # 289 was chartered in the state of Georgia. Today, that club is known as Alpha Toastmasters Club. Since then District 14 has grown to become one of the biggest districts in the world with close to 300 clubs and close to 6500 members, and we currently are ranked as the District with the most clubs today. Other Districts that come close to our size are made up of a country, or cluster of countries. No other single state District is as large as we are.

With our success come management challenges which are really growth opportunities. After deliberating on this for a few years, the District Council voted on a reformation proposal at the 2011 Spring Conference. This proposal was submitted to the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, and it was approved. (To read the full details of the reformation plan, please go to the District 14 website.)

What does this reformation really mean to you? It means that you can expect to see more of your District officers; it means that 7 more senior District officer positions just opened up, and more people can stretch their leadership skills in these positions. It is hard to describe what District service does to you. It will stretch you beyond what you ever imagined, but you will be a better leader through it. The offices I've held have taught me how to:

- Negotiate contracts better
- Plan and manage a large budget for a non-profit organization
- Plan conferences
- Resolve leadership conflict better
- Inspire followers and leaders
- Sell the Toastmasters program to corporations
- Opened doors to high offices for me
- Build a network of friends through our international officer training
- And so much more.

With these opportunities opening up for others, and a lower number of clubs per District, our officers will have more time to visit the clubs and really connect with the members.

Many Districts have gone through this process and grown back to the size at which they were originally. And they reformed again. Our success has come with a lot of growth which now requires creation of 2 new Districts from 1. With the number of clubs in the new Districts, both will still be ranked among the largest Districts in the world. Yes, you have done that much of a good job.

At the upcoming Spring Conference, we will elect two Lt. Governors Education & Training and two Lt. Governors Marketing. This is a historical event that you will not want to miss. Can you imagine what the early pioneers of Toastmasters in our District would say if they were here today? I'm sure they'd look at each other, smile, and say, "We done good! We done good!"

**Make sure you are at the Spring Conference on May 4-5 2012. Go to [www.gatoastmasters.org](http://www.gatoastmasters.org) for more information.**

# Know Your Numbers



Dwight Jones, DTM  
Lieutenant Governor Education & Training

Club Base	302
Paid Clubs to Date	263
Active Clubs to Date	299
Goals for June 30	311
District is behind	48

CCs to Date	391
Goal for June 30	445
District is behind	54

Membership Payments Base	12742
Membership Payments to Date	11166
Goal for June 30	12996
District is behind	1830

ACs to Date	187
Goal for June 30	127
District Goal MET!	

*\*Updated through 4/30/12*

**D**istrict 14 Toastmasters, the above chart is a guide and a score card on how District 14 is serving the clubs in the State of Georgia. As Lt. Governor Education and training, I want every member to achieve at least one educational goal. I want every club to be a President's Distinguished Club. Let's take a look at your DCP goals as of today and plan to achieve as many as possible. Membership retention is directly related to member achievements. If the members are achieving educational goals, they are being developed. If they are being developed, the members see value in their membership. Consequently, they renew their membership.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:** The educational program is the heart of every Toastmasters club. It provides members with a proven curriculum that develops communication and leadership skills one step at a time, with many opportunities for awards and recognition along the way. The communication and leadership tracks are not mutually exclusive; you may participate in both at the same time, if you wish.

**COMPETENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:** The Competent Leadership (CL) manual gives you an opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills by serving in club roles. It will help you gain self-confidence and skills that will help you in many ways: academically, professionally and personally. The CL manual offers training in time

management, organization, planning and critical thinking – all of which can be applied to everyday life. Use the Competent Leadership Achievement Chart. Post it on the wall during meetings and keep it up-to-date. Draw attention to the successes listed on the chart.

The CL designation is one of the most missed opportunities in every club. The members are coming to the meetings and performing the roles. They are not getting credit towards the CL designation because they are not bringing the CL MANUAL to the meeting. Increase member awareness by requiring that members bring their Competent Leadership manuals to every club meeting. The success of a Toastmasters International meeting depends on the program participants. There are many roles to fill, and each job is designed to improve the members' public speaking and leadership skills.

Toastmasters, take a look at your CLUB DCP status. Do you know your numbers? How will your club end the year? If every club achieves at least two more CC's, one more AC, pays the club dues before April 1st, we will see the strength of every club increase and the members will greatly benefit from the success. Take a look at the chart above and let the District know how we can help your club be the best it can be. **KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!**

## District 14 The Georgia Gavel

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## Stepping into Spring & out of your Comfort Zone

Spring is a season that invigorates us to take a fresh look at old routines, embark on new projects, and increase fitness activities to better manage our health or simply enjoy the beauty of an unbelievable glorious spring day. After months of cold weather and layered clothing that keep us nestled indoors and settled in the comfort of being caught up in the same old daily routines, spring is just the time to step outside of our comfort zone and take a fresh look at new ideas and energetic ways that will refresh and revitalize our lives.

As I anticipate the vigor of spring and began my personal quest of stepping outside my comfort zone to find new beginnings that will bring energy, excitement and enlightenment towards my personal growth, I also thought about my Toastmasters clubs. What new ideas could help energize and revitalize club members and make club meetings a lot more active and purposeful? I challenge each Toastmasters member to also think about ways your club can benefit from a “Spring Cleaning” to bring about new, fresh, and revitalizing ideas that will enhance club meetings and increase membership growth.

This year, the senior leadership team provided many of our club officers with the Master Your Meeting Manual, item #1312 as a guide to help with club meeting standards and strategies that would set the stage for developing the “Right” environment for quality meetings. This handbook provides the information needed to conduct dynamic, exciting, effective club meetings. It covers everything from programming, agendas and participant responsibilities to officer responsibilities, Table Topics ideas and lectern etiquette. Everything you need to know to have great meetings, all in one place.

I was inspired by the introduction in the manual because it provided a succinct meaning and analogy of a Toastmas-

ters club. A successful Toastmasters club is much like a successful business. The member is the customer and the club strives to keep the customer happy with the service it provides. In the case of Toastmasters, the service is the club meetings.



PHOTO: [HTTP://WWW.STYLEBOMB.NET/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2011/10/WALK-OUTSIDE1.JPG](http://www.stylebomb.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/WALK-OUTSIDE1.JPG)

The quality of a club’s environment is one of the most important aspects contributing to member satisfaction and club growth. Although Spring is a good start to spring cleaning, our Toastmaster members must frequently seek ways to refresh and revitalize the club’s environment. Set-aside those old routines and stretch the boundaries of the QM=QC club success formula to consistently raise the bar of excellence throughout the club meetings.

Take a moment to review the Master Your Meeting Manual. The benefits of this manual can help clubs at any level gain a fresh perspective of the member’s interest and club culture. So, whether you are newly chartered, a strong club or a challenged club, step forward into spring and take a fresh look at your club’s environment. Conduct the following member/club surveys to gain fresh input in mastering the quality of your club meetings and gain insight in the needs of Toastmaster members.

**Member Interest Surveys, item 403** - to help plan club programs around needs and interests as well as help members communicate their objectives and goals.

**Moments of Truth, item 290 & 290B** - Part of The Successful Club Series. How to recognize and deal with situations critical to club success. A club self-evaluation tool that includes a club evaluation chart, outline and PowerPoint presentation.

**How Good is Your Club?** - <http://www.toastmasters.org/clubchecklist> - This checklist offers you the chance to rate your club’s strengths and weaknesses against the “ideal.”

Bonnie Fauntleroy, DTM  
District 14 PRO



# Spring is in the Air

*Spring is in the Air and I see Toastmasters everywhere!  
On Facebook. Linked In, Twitter,  
On billboards. in schools and at fairs.*

The beautiful weather has me singing the praises of Toastmasters. Spring time is a time of rebirth, renewal and growth. For District 14, it's also a perfect time to generate positive brand awareness to attract and retain members. We're off to a tremendous start. We're one of the biggest districts in the world with close to 300 clubs and close to 6500 members. Just last month, noting the contributions of our organization, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal officially proclaimed April 30 – May 5 Toastmasters Week. Indeed, we have great momentum as we go into the remaining three months of the year.

Still, we can always strive for more. Do you remember why you joined Toastmasters? Was it because you were afraid to speak in front of an audience? Or maybe you wanted to further improve your public speaking skills or develop your leadership skills. Toastmasters' "Where Leaders Are Made" was there for you! Please share your personal story and "Toastimonials" with others. Word of mouth is one of the most effective forms of brand advertising. Who have you told lately?



**Rebirth** – With its budding blooms, spring always conjures up images of new beginnings. Let's ask ourselves what goals can we

achieve to start anew? As you achieve your personal goals you not only help yourself, you also help your club, your area, your division and the District. Become the great communicator and better leader you want to be.

**Renewal** -- It's also a time of refreshing. Let us look to complete our spring cleaning, take the time to shake off the dust and inject fresh, new, life into stimulating club meetings to engage

our members and our guests. Check out the great article on "how to have fun in meetings" for tips.

**Growth** -- Now is the time to see the first shoots of Spring! While District 14 is one of the biggest districts in the world there is always room to grow. Hold an open house, host your company's next "lunch-and-learn" or conduct a membership drive. Let's "spring" forth in leaps and bounds as we stay focused on our goals.



Kene & Janice posing for St. Patty



Welcome to the New Club Extension Chair, Connie Bates



# HOW TO HAVE FUN MEETINGS

Jatika Manigault, CL, ACG



**H**ow many times has this happen: You're at your Toastmasters' meeting, you look around the room and realize, everyone looks, well, bored. Why are all the speeches so serious? Why are the Table Topics questions so humorless? Why isn't anyone laughing?? Maybe it's time to have a little fun at your meetings!

## Playing Games.

When you don't have any prepared speakers on the schedule, and you want to do something more than a longer Table Topics segment, playing games is a sure fire way to get everybody energize and involved in the meeting. It's also a great way to engage your guests! Depending on the number of attendees, you can play games that are based on popular TV shows such as "Family Feud," "Jeopardy" or "Who wants to be a Millionaire?"; as well as board games such as "Pictionary" or "Taboo" where team members are trying to guess the secret word (without using any of the five Taboo clues) before time runs out. Another great game is "True or False". A contestant is given a story to tell (usually about 1-2 minutes long) and the opposing team has to guess if the story is True or False.

## Theme Meetings.

If your meeting time is limited (or your club is in a corporate setting) playing games may not work for your location. In that case, consider a fun theme for your meetings. You can have Oscar night to celebrate the movies, or best songs of the last ten years for the Grammys. Celebrate a decade (60s, 70s or 80s) or a destination (New York State of Mind; Chicago, the Windy City), Whether it's a fun theme, a humorous Table Topics segment or you create your own games, be on the lookout for ways to be creative in your meetings. Step outside the box, get inspired and have fun!

**QM = QC**  
Quality Meetings      Quality Clubs

# District 14 Toastmasters at the Southwestern Consulting Seminar

Alstenia Smith-Sellers, DTM

District 14 Toastmasters was involved in a volunteer opportunity with Southwestern Consulting during their one-day conference held at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta. Several Toastmasters joined the Southwestern staff to meet and greet attendees. Our Toastmasters materials were displayed in prominent areas which made them easily accessible to the attendees. This gave us the opportunity to speak face-to-face with persons interested in Toastmasters.

“Southwestern is one of America’s most successful private companies. It is built by, led by and owned primarily by graduates of their summer internship program. In this program, students have an opportunity to run their own business, marketing educational books and software to families in their homes. Southwestern has helped well over 190,000 students finance their college education

while picking up marketable skills in one of the most challenging sales environments imaginable.” The conference offered sessions led by leading motivational speakers and authors of sales strategies. Throughout the conference, the Toastmasters philosophy was presented as a tool that every sales person should have. The Co-Founder of Southwestern Consulting, Rory Vaden, encouraged conference attendees to stop by our display table to get materials and locate clubs in their area. We had a great turnout at our display table and many people expressed an interest in joining a club in their area. This gave us an opportunity to encourage them to find a club by using our website.

This was an excellent marketing opportunity for District 14 Toastmasters.

## Take the Stairs

Michelle Hanchey, ACB, ALB

**B**AM! I was struck between the eyes when best-selling author of the book “Take the Stairs” and fellow Toastmaster Rory Vaden said, “Success is never owned; it is only rented – and the rent is due every day,” during an event in which a group of District 14 Toastmasters were asked to help ‘man the tables.’

Rory’s insights on overcoming procrastination, creative avoidance and personal setbacks have been shared on shows such as Oprah radio with Dr. Oz and featured in print media such as Businessweek and SUCCESS Magazine. But here he was sharing with a group of high school students and their parents at Gwinnett High School as part of his bus tour across the country hosting live events to raise money for America’s schools.

Self-discipline is a calling to ignore the escalator and instead take the stairs. Taking the stairs is a metaphor ascribing to the self-discipline that requires people to make sacrifices in the short term for payoffs in the long term.

No matter how you define success, it requires one thing: self-discipline. International Speech contestant placing second in the Toastmasters World Championship of Public



Speaking Rory Vaden explains that we live in an “escalator world” one that’s filled with “short cuts,” “quick fixes,” and distractions that make it all too easy to slide into procrastination, compromise, and mediocrity. What seems like an easier path is really much harder in the end and won’t take you where you want to go.

That was my “BAM!” moment which resulted in a life-style change to not make compromises as to what food I put in my mouth. I am looking forward to having my picture taken again with Rory at the 2012 District 14 Fall Conference in Macon where he will be our featured speaker and show visible results of what a disciplined diet can produce.



# Who are you going to help?

Mary Williams

Last fall, a group of District 14's Past District Governors were invited to share their thoughts with the current District 14 leadership team. Many of these past leaders were Toastmasters for 25 years or more. Something has kept them active in Toastmasters all these years. Something caused them to go beyond their home clubs to take on higher and higher levels of leadership within the organization.

Together with Jana Barnhill, Past International President, each of these Past District Governors shared what makes Toastmasters leaders, clubs and districts successful. Even though they were speaking to district leaders, every recommendation they gave applies to us as club members.

Almost all of the PDGs were thankful for others who had mentored them and encouraged them to continue up the leadership ranks in Toastmasters. They encouraged each of us that as we encounter Toastmasters who would make great leaders, we need to encourage them on their journey. When was the last time you coached a fellow club member to take on a new role on the agenda? The last time you encouraged a newer member to be a club officer?

Deep down, all members want to know that others believe in them. As you coach someone, let them know that you have faith that they can accomplish whatever their heart desires: taking a leadership role for the first time, completing their DTM, speaking before a large audience, finishing their Competent Communicator manual, and so on. Be the person in their corner. Sometimes all it takes is to be the one person in the audience that they can look to when they are giving their speech, seeing you smile or nod as they give their presentation.

Help your team get to know each other as people, outside of the leadership tasks. When Lee Holiday was District Governor, he had time on the agenda at each District Executive Council meeting, for the Division teams to learn more about each other by giving Ice Breakers. Do your club's members have a chance to get to know more about each other than the hurried few minutes you pull together the agenda before the gavel sounds to start the meeting?

Remember that the Toastmasters Member is the most important part of the organization. Everything that we do as leaders and clubs should be focused on the needs of the member. Each member has different needs so we need to ask each one what their needs are and then listen when they speak.

Jana Barnhill shared that there needs to be a goal – otherwise how will the team know what they need to achieve? Lee Holiday complemented that with comments about stretch goals – don't just strive for exactly what you need, strive for more. Is your club/area/division only striving to achieve the minimum needed to be Distinguished? What would it take to be President's Distinguished? What would it take to get you there?



Offer outrageous "customer service." Jana shared a story about being on a business trip and getting sick. She called down to the front desk to let them know that she would be staying in her room and not meeting with her client that day. Imagine her surprise when there was a knock at her door several hours later and the hotel desk clerk who she'd spoken to was there with some hot soup for her and to see what else she might need to make her more comfortable. I bet you know where she now stays each time she's in that town!

Did you notice that each of these leaders mentioned how we could help others? Not a one told how great they were or how many goals they achieved. Who are you going to help? How are you going to make your club better for your club's members?

# District Governor visits Columbus

Susan Goodsell, DTM  
Division C Governor

In early March, Columbus Toastmasters had the honor of hosting District Governor Kene Iloenyosi, DTM. Kene attended four club meetings over the course of three days, including three public clubs (CCG Speechmasters, Columbus Uptown and Sundowners) and one combined meeting attended by four corporate clubs (All American, Toastmasters Too!, Excellent Enunciators from Aflac, and Ridgemasters from TSYS). In all, representatives from ten of the twelve Columbus Toastmasters clubs were inspired by the motivational message shared by our district leader.

Throughout the course of the visit, Kene encouraged club members to stretch themselves, to look beyond the last designation they earned and always ask, "What's next?" He challenged our members to grow their leadership skills by living the lessons they learn in the club setting.

Kene honored Aflac for its dedication to Toastmasters by presenting a corporate recognition award from the international headquarters to the clubs' sponsor, Gladys Williams-Tillmon, senior manager of Corporate Learning.

*Oooh! Kene Iloenyosi shows off the corporate award before presenting it to Gladys Williams-Tillmon, Aflac's senior manager of Corporate Learning.*



ing. Upon accepting the award, Gladys confirmed the company's commitment to the employees to provide an atmosphere where they can grow and be mentored to become great leaders.

Toastmasters who have served 20 to 40 years were also recognized, including Ann Porter and Bill Rucker, as well as distinguished Toastmasters Rachel McCallister, David Pope, David Caraway and Karen Jakes. District 14 Toastmasters can watch Kene's interview with David Caraway and Bill by checking out his weekly video address emailed on March 12.

Toastmasters in Columbus were inspired and uplifted by Kene's message. The Division C members in Columbus appreciated the time Kene took out of his busy schedule to come to Columbus. He's always welcome back to visit and make another attempt to clean his plate at Country's Barbecue.

## New Club Corner - District 14

*Please Welcome the following clubs:*

DIV	Area	Club	Charter Date	Div   Area GOV	Name
A	3	1825489	01/01/12	Parren Shannon / Lindsay Jordan	Speak Life Toastmasters Club
A	1	2053449	02/03/12	Parren Shannon / Mechelle Stanton	Voices of Potential
A	2	2386960	04/25/12	Parren Shannon / Lashay Cobb	Timber Ridge Toastmasters
E	41	2258081	03/16/12	Alstenia Smtih-Sellars / Jay Hickson	Clarkston Community Toastmasters
G	66	2271752	04/12/12	Kim Gibson/ Rozlin Broome	KC Roswell Toastmasters
H	74	2104140	02/07/12	Jan Youngers / Benecia Ponder	Ernst & Young Speak Out Club
I	84	2200230	01/05/12	Ron Krevat / Emma Reynolds- Middleton	MAG Mutual Insurance Company
I	82	2220531	01/20/12	Ron Krevat / Deborah Hamilton	City Club of Buckhead
K	86	2151683	03/05/12	Sadie Hannans / Monica McGhee	The Great Orators

# The District Mission

*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 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 for club and district officers.*

## SPEAK EASY TOASTMASTERS CLUB #7204

**K**icked off its 2012 “March Mania” Membership Drive and Department “Shoot-Off” Competition on March 7th – 21st. It was a great success! As with many clubs throughout the District, Speak Easy suffered a decrease in membership. The club went from Charter strength of 20 members down to an all-time low of 9 members. However, this didn’t stop us from setting a goal of becoming a “President’s Distinguished” club by year-end. In order to accomplish this, we would need to increase our membership, once again, to Charter strength. With this in mind, the club planned, organized and implemented a very successful membership drive and friendly department competition. We surpassed our goal and received approximately 15 new and/or reinstatement member applications...giving us two more DCP goals for increased membership.

The Membership Drive and Department “SHOOT-OFF” Competition was a big hit and netted big results in the growth of our club. We thank all participants and CONGRATULATE SPEAK EASY TOASTMASTERS CLUB 7204 on a job well done! Great FUN was had by all who participated. The PIM Department Champions, Team “Game Changers” received a trophy, cake and ribbon. This has been dubbed an annual event. See you again this time next year for another Membership Drive and Department Shoot-Off Competition!

### **SPEAK EASY TOASTMASTERS CLUB #7204**

#### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

President, Roderick Jackson

VP of Education, Monique Duncan

VP of Membership, Bonnie Harris

VP of Public Relations

Treasurer, Cedric Glover

Secretary, Crystal Neal-Deas

Sergeant at Arms, Lou Evans

Management Sponsor, Margaret McCrosson

Immediate Past Management Sponsor, Ralph McClain

## THE GEORGIA GAVEL DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS

*Have something you would like to say? We would love to feature you in our next newsletter. We are now accepting entries. All entries can be sent to Bonnie Fauntleroy at [pro@gatoastmasters.org](mailto:pro@gatoastmasters.org)*

## Calendar Events:

### MAY

- MAY 1ST – JUNE 30 - Beat The Clock Membership Campaign Clubs adding 5 new, dual or reinstated members May 1 and June 30 will receive a ribbon from TI and a 10% discount on your next TI order. dual or reinstated members between now and June 30 will receive a ribbon from TI and a 10% discount on your next TI order.
- FRIDAY MAY 4TH – SATURDAY MAY 5TH - The Leaders Network Spring Conference located at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, 800 Spring Street NW Atlanta, GA 30308
- SATURDAY, MAY 19TH – DEC- District Council Meeting
- THURSDAY, MAY 31ST - Deadline for Area Governors to submit second-round club visit to WHQ

### JUNE

- SATURDAY JUNE 1ST – Begin Transition for New District Officers
- SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH – 2012 – 2013 Division & Area Governor Training
- SATURDAY JUNE 19TH – DEC- District Council Meeting
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 - SATURDAY AUGUST 18 The 2012 Toastmasters International Convention will be held August 15-18 in Orlando, Florida, at the beautiful Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek resort.

Do you need help  
**MOTIVATING  
YOUR TEAM?**

Are you looking for  
**STRATEGIES OF  
SUCCESSFUL  
LEADERS?**

Do you want to  
**NETWORK  
WITH OTHER  
LEADERS?**

Guest Speaker



**CHLOE  
TAYLOR  
Brown**

Keynote Speaker



**DAVID W.  
Hollingshead,**  
CPA, MBB, DTM

District 14 Toastmasters  
@D14Toastmasters



May 4 - 5, 2012

Register online at  
[gatoastmasters.org](http://gatoastmasters.org)

*Various Price  
Packages available  
early bird registration ends April 7th*

## GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center

800 Spring Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

[gatechhotel.com](http://gatechhotel.com)

