

# Lawson Thrill Speakers

Volume 1, Issue 1

Club 7507 District 6

October 2003



## President's Notes

Doug Petty

This has been an exciting year so far. Our club was President's Distinguished. We hosted the Area 15 Humorous and Evaluation contest with a record crowd. One of our club members, Elle won and went on to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Eastern Division Humorous contest.

Our club is making great progress toward President's Distinguished for this year. We have several members close to completing their CTM, two members committed to ATM and CL certification. I will continue to update everyone on our progress.

## It is Finally Here

Believe it or not, the first edition of the Lawson Thrill Speakers newsletter has arrived. Look for it around the first of each month. This newsletter is to inform, educate and acknowledge accomplishments of all members and inform guests of Lawson Thrill Speakers. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome and encouraged. Send any of the above to [joan.watson@lawson.com](mailto:joan.watson@lawson.com)

## Oktoberfest

**District 6 Fall Conference  
October 24-25<sup>th</sup> in Duluth.**

**District Evaluation and  
Humorous Contest plus  
education sessions.**

**Register online at  
<http://www.d6tm.org>**

## Membership Update

Welcome to our newest members: Katie Vandendriessche and Jeff Fishbach.

Katie works at Bremer Bank located in the Lawson Commons Building. Jeff comes to our club from the City of St. Paul working in the zoning section.

**Congratulations to Jeff** for recently completing his Ice Breaker Speech called "Changes throughout Life".

## Area Contest Update



September 11<sup>th</sup> was the big day for the Area 15 Fall contest. Our club was the host to over 36 people who attended the Humorous and Evaluation contest. Muniesh Khandelwal in the Evaluation contest and Elle Hamen-Kieffer in the Humorous contest represented our club. The competition was fierce but Elle prevailed and placed first in the Humorous contest with her speech titled: "I'm Short". See page 3 for more photos.

Elle went on to the Eastern Division Contest on September 18 and brought home 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Awesome Elle!



**VP Education Notes**  
Elle Hamen-Kieffer

And the survey says!

Thank you to all who participated in the Club Survey. The information and ideas are invaluable for our club meetings and progress.

Before I share the results of the survey I want to inform each of you on what the VP of Education does for the club. In this role it is my responsibility to:

1. Maintain a positive and safe environment for you to learn and grow
2. Create meetings and programs that develop your communication and leadership skills
3. Give learning opportunities to you based on your needs and goals
4. Generate a monthly schedule that upholds the goals of the club and you

I will get back to the role of the VP of Education in just a moment. It's time to unveil the summarized survey results. Drum roll please...

1. Overall the members are Satisfied and Very Satisfied with our club.
2. The majority of the respondents Like or Love the business meetings, speaking, table topics and evaluations. To be fair, some respondents thought the business meetings and table topics were OK.
3. The quality of the meetings ranged all over the board. Regular meetings were rated Good. Communication with the members averaged in the Fair to Good range. Education of the members ranged from Poor to Excellent. Connection with members was Good to Excellent.
4. The majority want Special Meetings and Educational speeches. With the majority wanting them to occur every 6 weeks to once a quarter.

5. Most of our members gives presentations as part of their job and the level of skill has been rated as Intermediate. No one rated himself or herself an Expert, but a few rated themselves as a Beginner.
6. The majority of the individual goals range from CTM (Competent Toastmaster) to ATM (Advanced Toastmaster) to CL (Competent Leader) and yes we have those seeking to reach Distinguished Toastmaster!
7. Overall the respondents want to improve their ability to: persuade others, express ideas clearly, improve self-confidence in front of a group, think quick under pressure, be a skilled leader, listen effectively, give tactful evaluations and accept feedback gracefully. This is what Toastmasters is all about!

We also received terrific accolades and excellent ideas on how to improve our club. This brings me back to my role as VP of Education. I need some help to analyze the survey results and brainstorm on how we can increase the value of our club. For instance in the past we have talked about video taping the speakers so you can watch and hear your own presentation. We have suggested having guest speakers and evaluators who have been a Toastmaster longer than we have and glean from their wisdom. We have also discussed which presentation skills are important to be educated on.

As you can see this job is bigger than me and the club really could use your creativity, leadership and support in making Lawson Thrill Speakers a world-renowned club!

Contact Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer if you want to be a part of the valuable team at [youhavethepower@comcast.net](mailto:youhavethepower@comcast.net).

# Contest Highlights



A spare moment before the contest



Chief Judge preps the judges



Contestants after the competition



Accepting Certificate of participation

**Eastern Division Winner**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place **CONGRATS**



Taking care of the business of registration

Huge thanks to everyone who attended and setup and participated in the Area Contest. LTS is the BEST!



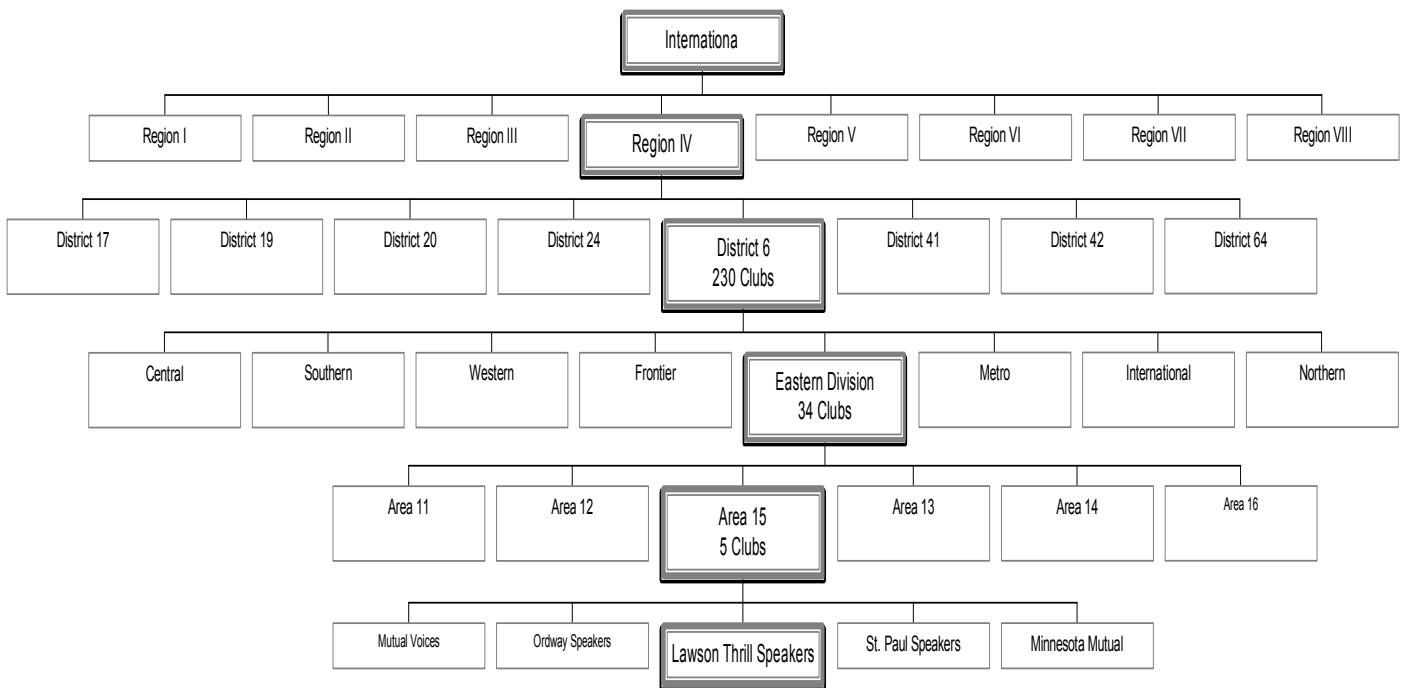
### What is an Area or Division?

Many times you will hear about the Area contest or District convention. If you have not had the opportunity to attend any events outside Lawson Thrill Speakers, it can be confusing to know what each of these levels means and how our club fits into the big picture of the Toastmaster Organization.

Toastmaster International, based in California, has 5 levels that make up the international organization.

Our club, Lawson Thrill Speakers, is one of 5 clubs within Area 15. There are 6 Areas that make up the Eastern Division. There are 8 Divisions within District 6 and 8 Districts within Region 4. The clubs in Area 15 are located in the downtown St. Paul area. Eastern Division covers St. Paul. District 6 includes central and northeastern Minnesota, south central Ontario, Canada. Region 4 covers Montana, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Toastmasters Organization



Lawson Thrill Speakers News is a monthly publication for all club members and future members.

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