

# Lawson THRILL Reader



Volume 1, Issue 3

Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Club 7507 District 6



December 2003

## “ROKS” Award

By Doug Petty

What is ROKS? The Lawson Thrill Speakers Executive Committee has developed a new recognition award called the **ROKS** award. ROKS, an acronym for **R**ecognition **O**f **K**ey **S**kills, is presented after the completion of the seventh CTM speech as a marker for the end of the individual skill speeches and the beginning of the application speeches.



The first ROKS award was presented to Adam Palmer (left) on November 20th.

This award is being introduced as a way of recognizing the effort made to date in reaching CTM (Competent Toast Master) and providing a little extra rocket fuel to complete the 10<sup>th</sup> speech and reach the CTM level. Club members will be aware of a member's ROKS achievement by noticing the new sticker on their namecard. CTM is only the beginning of Toastmaster recognition, so we as a club, and Toastmasters International view CTM as a very important step in your Toastmasters experience. Lawson Thrill Speakers ROK. Each member ROKS in their own way... and now we know it!



## President's Notes

Doug Petty

Fellow Toastmasters.

For me, November is a month for thanks and reflection. As Thanksgiving approaches I like to reflect on the year that has passed, count my blessings, learn from the trials, and prepare for the new year. For our club, we are approaching the half-way point of the Distinguished Club year. Some notable progress: Joan Watson is one speech away from ATM Silver and Sharon Miller is one speech away from her CL.

Katie Vandendriessche has completed her first speech, the “Ice Breaker” speech. We are excited to have her on board and are looking forward to more great speeches from her.

Lawson Thrill Speakers welcomed another guest at the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ed Ray has completed several speeches as part of the Speech Crafters program. We hope he will consider joining our club and continue toward his CTM goals.



Members visiting with guest, Ed Ray (center)

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Membership is the key to our success and our club's goal is eight new members before June 30, 2004. We have a vibrant club that has achieved notable recognition and produced quality Toastmasters leaders in its short year and a half charter. We are exploring new ways to solicit members from area companies. If you could help us contact Human Resource professionals within your company, we would like to introduce our club to them. Share your experiences and people will come.

Thank you all for your participation – LTS is the club it is because of you. Make it a great December.

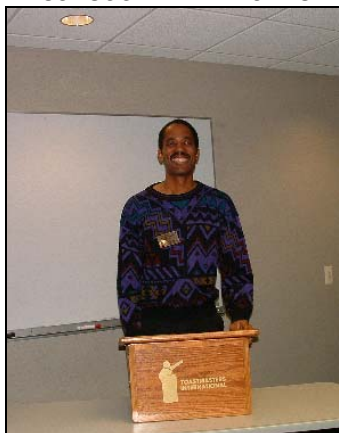
### QUOTE *for the Month*

I awoke this morning with devout thanks-giving for my friends, the old and the new.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Guest General Evaluator

On October 30<sup>th</sup> our club was visited by club mentor Keith Hardy, DTM. Keith served as our General Evaluator and provided positive feedback on our club's success as well as some areas in which to improve. It was great to have an outsider's view of our club and welcome similar opportunities in the future. Keith brings new ideas and high energy to any meeting he attends. We hope to see Keith again real soon. Thanks Keith!



### VP of Education Notes

Elle Hamen-Kieffer

**W**oo Hoo! Our Education Committee is off to a great start! Thanks to Dave, Doug, Jeff F., Jeff C., Katie, Mark, Muniesh, Sarah, Sharon, Simon and Steve for being a part of this extra-ordinary think tank!

The first order of business was to analyze the survey results. It was clear that the club wanted to have Special Format meetings and Educational Speeches. At our first meeting we brainstormed and came up with a variety of ideas for Special Meetings and Educational Speeches. The result was to put the ideas to a vote. Club members have had a chance to vote on their favorite ideas to implement and the committee to decide which fabulous fun we will be having in 2004 will analyze the results!

Through our discussions we have made a handful of decisions as it relates to our club's education. They are:

**Decision:** Ideas that are to be implemented will begin January 1, 2004

**Decision:** The Special Meetings will occur the first Thursday of every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November)

**Decision:** The Educational Speeches will occur the first Thursday of even months (February, April, June, August, October, December)

It is clear from the survey and the education committee that better communication regarding Toastmasters offerings, what comes after CTM, and assisting members with their goals, are needs of our club.

**Decision:** To formalize the VP of Education's role (Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer) to

(VP of Ed. column continued from Page 2)

meet with members who achieve their CTM to discuss “what’s next” for them.

**Decision:** Discussed the need to formalize a mentoring program, but decided that it was not this committee’s responsibility. It is part of the VP of Membership’s duties (Kari McManus).

**Decision:** We discussed if there should be a focus on leadership skills in our club. We decided at this time this should not be a focus of the committee or the club. We believe these skills will show up as more people achieve their CTM’s and pick the Advanced Leadership track.

**General Meeting:** the following will be brought to the Executive Committee for review.



## IDEAS !!

- ♦ Video tape speakers
- ♦ Mentoring program
- ♦ Guest comments as a placeholder on the agenda – proper procedures in handling a guest.
- ♦ Library with various resources to be checked out by all members
- ♦ Suggestion box that would be reviewed/answered by the Exec. Committee
- ♦ At the beginning of the meeting have an officer highlight what our duties are (suggested this occur after our training in January)
- ♦ Ongoing surveys – to continue getting input from members

The committee’s next steps will be to publish a consolidated schedule for the special meetings and educational speeches.

**What can you do as a club member? Get involved.** After we announce the schedule for the club events we will need your help in organizing and accomplishing the events. It will be a great time for those who haven’t had

time to jump in and help with one special meeting or give an educational speech.

I am looking forward to implementing the ideas and making Lawson Thrill Speakers a club that people are clamoring to belong!

## WORD of the Month

**Risible:** *adj. (Pronunciation: RIH-zuh-bull)*

**Definition:** capable of laughing; arousing or provoking laughter

**Example of usage:** “During recent table topics, the club was entertained by the risible answers of the responding members.”

## Table Topics Guidelines

By Harlan Johnson

Although there are so strict rules for the Table Topics impromptu speaking segment of our weekly meetings, the following “unofficial” recommendations may be considered by the Table Topic Master.

- 1) In order to provide speaking opportunities for as many members as possible, choose a member who does not have one of the four major speaking roles at the meeting. These roles are Toastmaster, General Evaluator, Speakers and Speaker Evaluators. All other meeting attendees are “fair game”!
- 2) Be creative – be unique. Use props. Draw on the whiteboard. Get more than one volunteer to speak and participate together. Come up with a twist just to throw off the audience a bit.
- 3) Mix it up! Sometimes explain the topic then choose the person ( more of an “on the spot” surprise). Sometimes

(Table Topics continued from Page 3)

choose the person then explain the topic.

- 4) Most of all – have fun with it. Even though Table Topics is somewhat of an informal part of our meeting, it still greatly benefits the participants by honing impromptu speaking skills.



## Reading Corner

### **Mysticism for Beginners**

by Adam Zagajewski

- Poet who delivers essential and eternal news, usually in the form of questions.
- Zagajewski writes modest, frank meditations that approach contemporary prayer.

*Read any good books lately? Share the news in the newsletter!*

## **PEBBLES AND STONES**

By Muniesh Khandelwal

*Calculated Pebbles*

*Can account for some stones*

*Read your mind*

*The theory beholds*

*Love your spirit*

*In the game of sorrows*

*Retrieve your conscience*

*Is the cry of your soul*

*Moods are thy pains*

*On this long road*

*Sketch out your plans*

*And believe in your shadow*

I wrote this back in September 1988. Whenever I feel I need an inspiration, I just read this poem in my mind and it inspires me back again. I hope it will do the same for you.

## Calendar of Important Events

- Officer Training:
  - Jan 12<sup>th</sup>: Monday Minn Mutual - noon
  - Jan 28<sup>th</sup>: Wed St Paul City Hall - noon
  - Feb 11<sup>th</sup>: Wed Hartford Insurance – 6:30 pm
- February 21, 2004: TELI Darren LaCroix 2001 World Championship Speaker
- March 16, 2004: Area 15 Spring Speech Contest at MN Mutual

## And, a little technology humor



## Attention Club members:

You too can contribute to the club newsletter. Any ideas for articles, questions or comments are welcome. Contributions are encouraged for the January newsletter by December 19<sup>th</sup>. Remember this is your newsletter.

## November Accomplishments and Highlights



David Cathcart (left) accepting his prize from Doug Petty, for the winning entry to name this newsletter



Sarah Haase sharing her positive speaker evaluation



Jeff Conrad explaining BLOG during his third CTM Manual speech



***Wishing everyone a fun and festive holiday season!***

Lawson Thrill Speakers Toastmasters Club 7507  
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International website: <http://www.toastmasters.org>

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