

Lawson THRILL Reader



Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

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Club 7507

February 2004



Newsorthy Firsts In January

Lawson Thrill Speakers (LTS) had several firsts for some of our club members this month. Edward Ray and Shannon Zappa are our first new members in 2004. Welcome! We had several other guests including Kathy Dunkenfield and Michael Johnson. Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer completed her first ATM-B (Bronze Level) speech titled "Crafting a Speech with Speechcraft".



Elle - ATM-B



Ray - New Member



President's Notes

Doug Petty

Greetings Fellow Toastmasters.

January is a month for resolutions, commitments and changes. Our club's resolutions include inviting guests to our meetings and bringing in new members. Our commitments are to provide quality meetings and opportunity for all members to achieve their goals.

On behalf of the club, I want to thank Kari for all her efforts and glowing results from her term as VP of Membership. She contributed greatly to our President Distinguish Club achievement last year with the membership drive. Congratulations and thank you to Katie Vandendriessche for being willing and eager to take on the role for the rest of the year.

I would encourage everyone to think about participating in our club's speech contest on March 4, 2004. It is a fantastic opportunity to take your speaking to a new level.

We are making great progress on our Distinguished Club Plan for this year. Everyone is contributing to the growth and energy of the club.

Meeting Location Change February 19th

Please take note! Our weekly meeting on February 19th will **not** be held in the usual conference room (White Bear Lake). The meeting will be in the Hiawatha Conference Room - which is just down the hall next to the Lawson Café. Look for our club banner.

Congratulations and Thanks



Katie (left) and Kari

Kari McManus has served as our club VP of Membership since last November. She was willing to fill in after Cindy Peick was laid off from Lawson Software. Kari brought enthusiasm and exciting new ideas to help
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build our club membership. She was the foundation of our very successful membership drive last spring taking our club membership from 13 to over 21 members. She energized and encouraged everyone to bring guests and followed up on all the leads to invite guests to join. She contributed significantly to our President's Distinguish Club achievement last year. Kari has worked diligently to create a new member checklist and a new member packet. Thanks Kari.

Congratulations to Katie Vandendriessche who has been with our club since the summer of 2003. She said, "Yes" when asked to consider taking on the role to fill out Kari's term. She was elected unanimously during a weekly club meeting. We are very excited to have Katie in this role with her enthusiasm and new ideas for helping the club continue to grow.



VP Education Notes

Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer

Why Speechcraft?

Speechcraft is an 8-week course in public speaking. As in any persuasive speech you need to state the problem and communicate the benefits before you can persuade anyone to do anything. Consider this my persuasion to form a Speechcraft course at Lawson Thrill Speakers!

Why should Lawson Thrill Speakers sponsor a Speechcraft course?

Simply stated, Speechcraft solves two concerns in our club; Membership and Education. By offering this course to non-members we increase our chances of growing our membership. As members, it would be our responsibility to educate the participants in the basic skills of public speaking. This increases the skills and leadership of our club.

Who Benefits?

Everyone benefits. The participants learn about Toastmasters and topics such as, organizing your speech, how to write a great introduction, vocal variety, body gestures and using visual aids. Yes, these are the same topics that a member learns as they strive for their CTM. The difference is the educational speeches go in depth and help the participants learn what members generally only see during a club meeting.

The main benefits to members includes leading the meetings each week - which improves your leadership skills. If you give an educational speech you will be given 20 minutes time to speak which helps those members who are in advanced manuals and require longer times. It is a great way to give more speeches than our regular club schedule allows.

Our club benefits by mentoring others. We have so many talented and skilled Toastmasters that could (and should) help those who are beginning the journey of public speaking. We also benefit by gaining new members into our club. Upon completion of a Speechcraft course, participants can join Lawson Thrill Speakers (or another TM club) with three to four speeches already completed and work towards their CTM.

When do we begin?

Currently Joan Watson, Sharon Miller and Muniesh Khandelwal have agreed to form a committee to launch Speechcraft. My hope is Speechcraft will be up and running this spring. This much I know, the course will take place outside the regular club meetings.

If you are interested please contact Joan Watson. joan.watson@lawson.com

Being an instructor of Speechcraft at Twin Cities Rise for over two years I can tell you that my confidence has increased, my

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leadership skills have improved and I have the opportunity give back what I have gained from being a part of Lawson Thrill Speakers. If you are serious about advancing your presentation and leadership skills, I implore you to get involved with Speechcraft.

All Speech Meeting



Katie, Jeff C., Elle, Adam, Ray and Joan (left to right)

Our first meeting in 2004 introduced the first “All Speech Meeting” for the year. Another first time event was the ability for the speakers to have themselves video taped. Everyone was willing to be videotaped and expressed excitement about being able to review their own speech. Next special meeting with video taping will be in March for our club speech contest.

Distinguish Club - Update

Why should we always give manual speeches? Why complete our CTM and continue on for ATM or CL certification? Not only does it give us a great sense of personal accomplishment and improves our speaking and presentation skills, it speaks highly of our club within the Toastmasters International organization. Our club earns recognition for serving its members and providing a club environment that promotes learning and fun for Toastmasters. So, how are we progressing? There are 10 possible points and we have completed 6 points to date. Our club goal is to achieve at least 9 of the 10 to earn the highest level of recognition for the club: Presidents Distinguished!

Points Earned to Date

2 CTM – 1 point
1 ATM – 1 point
1 more ATM – 1 point
Officers Trained - 1 point
4 new members – 1 point
Dues and officer list - 1 point

Points to be earned:

4 more new members
1 CL and 1 more CL
2 more CTMs

Think **SPRING** - Spring Speech Contest That Is

Put on your thinking hats and come up with an inspirational or funny speech. The LTS club speech contest will be held on Thursday March 4 at noon. The two categories include International Speech Contest and Table Topics.

International Speech Contest

The speech must be 5-7 minutes and must be original.

Eligibility: Member must have completed six manual speeches in the CTM manual and the member and the club must be in good standing with current dues paid.

Table Topics

Each participant will answer the same question and must speak from 1 to 2 minutes.

Eligibility: Member and the club must be in good standing with current dues paid.

QUOTE *for the Month*

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Officer Update - Treasurer

By Steve Sheehan

Hello, my name is Steven Sheehan and I serve as Treasurer of the Lawson Thrill Speakers Toastmasters Club. I am excited about kicking off our new column within our newsletter, where our club officers get a chance to talk about their work and the work of the Executive Committee. As officers, our job is to help build and maintain a strong club that effectively develops all members into successful public speakers. And by all means, if you ever have a question about the club, ask us. We love to talk!

The officers, of the club, work together to develop ideas that make our club strong and our meetings fresh and enjoyable. We also work hard to position our club to achieve "distinguished club" goals.

The Treasurer is one of seven officer positions on the committee. The others include: Vice President of Education, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Public Relations, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, and our President heads the committee.

As an Executive Officer, I am invited to training courses twice a year and attend monthly Executive Committee meetings with my fellow officers. My duties as Treasurer include paying bills, collecting semi-annual dues, preparing our membership list for Headquarters, collecting and forwarding new member dues to Headquarters. The Treasurer also keeps records of all financial transactions and prepares monthly financial statements for the Executive Committee. The Treasurer assists the Executive Committee in the beginning of the year by creating an annual budget.

Our Toastmasters club is a volunteer organization and our funds are quite limited. Members who volunteer for an office typically are not reimbursed for many of the expenses they incur while serving. Our club funds are

utilized to purchase the club materials you see every week and to purchase resource books from Toastmasters International such as the "Successful Club Series" that the committee uses in its work. Included in the club budget are web fees and prize/award expenses.

I encourage our newer members to run for office when we elect new officers in May. Serving on the Executive Committee does mean a little more work but the rewards make it worthwhile. If you have ever had to participate on a hard project with difficult people, you will find this experience to be the exact opposite! I encourage you to run for Treasurer even if you don't have any accounting experience. Toastmasters International provides excellent instructions and training for all officers. After all, isn't overcoming challenges what we are all about? See you next week!

Toastmaster Skills at Work

Most of our members join Toastmasters to improve their speaking skills. But another very valuable skill we learn is how to evaluate effectively. It is the foundation for our improvement. Sharon Miller recently shared how her Toastmaster skills applied to her job. Sharon was responsible for organizing an 8.1 Technology Lead Adopter workshop at Lawson on January 13-15, 2004. Over 20 clients were coming to the Lawson corporate office from all over the world, to learn about the new features and functionality of Lawson technology. Fifteen presentations were planned to cover various subjects. Sharon decided to hold a practice session and asked consultants and support staff from within Lawson to attend to ask hard questions to help the presenters prepare for the big event. Sharon provided evaluations in general to all the presenters using the process of positive feedback and including areas to consider for improvement. As a result of this process,

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changes were implemented and a consistent message was the result. Changes included using a wireless mouse and podium to help maintain eye contact, put a clock on the podium as well as the schedule. The feedback from the clients was very positive. They noted the entire session was presented professionally. The participants appreciated the tips to improve and being able to give the audience a quality presentation.

The Lawson clients were scheduled to attend lunch at the Landmark Center but could not arrive early. Sharon utilized this time to share the history of the Landmark center and create enthusiasm and appreciation for the event. Without being in Toastmasters, she probably would have just left the clients to visit. By sharing information, it generated some excitement and interest to attend this historical landmark. The clients appreciated this insight about the location.

Toastmasters build skills that apply in our work atmosphere. If you have an experience where you were able to use your Toastmaster skills, please share it.



Reading

CORNER

The Little Book of After Dinner Speeches

By Jamie Stokes

- Great source for quotes, toasts and short stories to use in your speeches
- Great price of \$5.00 at Barnes & Noble

Read any good books lately? Share your discoveries here in the newsletter!

Introduction Ideas for Your Speech

(from "How to Give a Damn Good Speech" by Philip R. Theibert)

Last month we discussed how important an introduction for the speech can be. It should set the stage for the speaker and the audience.

For many of us, writing the beginning of your speech is the most difficult challenge. "Breaking the ice" or connecting with the audience, getting their attention and then introducing the top is perceived as daunting. We might just settle for the same old "today I am going to talk about ...". Below are some examples that might ignite your imagination and creativity to help you come up with the perfect introduction to your next speech.

➤ **Proverbial starting off on the Right foot:**

- The Portuguese have a saying: "*Visits always give pleasure – if not in the arrival, then in the departure.*"

I hope I can give a little pleasure today that you will hate for me to depart.

➤ **Look to the classifieds:**

- Illiterate? Write today for free help.
- We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it by hand.
- Stock up and save. Limit one.

That sums up pretty well what I wanted to talk about tonight. When is a great deal not a great deal?

➤ **Bad Headlines:** Here are some headlines you might have missed.

- Autos Killing 110 a Day, Let's Resolve to do Better
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Something went wrong in Jet Crash, Experts say

That last headline states the obvious. I don't want to state the obvious. In fact I want to get you thinking about....

Calendar of Important Events

- **February 21, 2004:** TELI Darren LaCroix 2001 World Championship Speaker
- **March 4, 2004:** LTS speech contest
- **March 16, 2004:** Area 15 Spring Speech Contest at MN Mutual
- **April 23-24, 2004:** District Spring Convention in St. Paul

Check district website for registration information.

Chairman

Or

Just Who's in Charge Here?

How many of us have been asked to head up a committee either for work, church or community activities? What exactly is the chairman?

As a chairman you are first an executive, organizing committees and directly policies. Part of your duties requires you to lead meetings, allowing a diverse group of people to discuss issues and make decisions in an orderly and timely fashion. For most organizations the generally accepted order of business is:

- Call to order
- Reading and approving minutes of previous meetings
- Reports of special committees
- Special orders
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

A program may be presented before or after the meeting is adjourned.

Where did we get the word "chairman"?

It comes from the custom during the Middle Ages when the master of the house and his lady were the only ones who owned and sat on chairs. The rest of the household, although it shared a communal dining table, sat on stools or cushions at a lower level. Being invited to "take the chair" honored guests of great importance.

Lawson Thrill Speakers Toastmasters Club 7507
Meets every Thursday at 12:00 noon at:
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Club website: <http://www.lawsonthrillspeakers.org>

District website: <http://www.d6tm.org>

International website: <http://www.toastmasters.org>

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

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