

# Lawson THRILL Reader



Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Volume 1, Issue 8

Club 7507 District 6

May 2004



## The Votes are In!!

Multiple wins by Lawson Thrill Speakers in April 2004! Member, Elle Hamen-Kieffer competed in the Eastern Division International Speech contest in the category of "International Speech". She gave a fabulous speech and won second place among very stiff competition. Congratulations Elle!



This newsletter "The Lawson Thrill Reader" won first place in the District 6 newsletter contest. Great job writing and editing by Joan Watson and Harlan Johnson!

For the second year in a row, our club's website has won a District 6 award. This year earning second place! Special thanks goes out to our secretary, Sharon Miller, for a great job keeping our website current and looking good.



## President's Notes Doug Petty

By Joan Watson

Spring has arrived! Not only is it a time of renewal but also it means we are getting close to the end of the Toastmaster year. Great news – our club has earned enough points to become a President Distinguished Club for the second year in a row.

We continue to gain new members that are vital to our club's growth and excitement. Now is the time to plan for the future of our club. The nominating committee has been hard at work putting together a slate of officers for the coming year. If you have volunteered for an officer position, thank you. If not, please continue your support of the club by attending meetings and eagerly accepting roles to keep our meetings and club vibrant and fun. Everyone makes a difference within the club.

As we close the year, it is time to reflect on everything we have accomplished and recognize one member as Toastmaster of the Year. It is also a time to celebrate the addition of new members, the certifications our members have earned and the fun we shared throughout the year. Reflect, celebrate and continue to grow with Lawson Thrill Speakers.

## QUOTE for the Month

It's never too late to be who you might have been.

George Eliot

## **Newest member of Lawson Thrill Speakers**

Welcome to our newest member: John Farrell. We are thrilled to welcome John into the club. He is a seasoned Toastmaster and working on a professional speaking career.



Welcome John!

## **Toastmaster Skills and Lawson Presentations!**

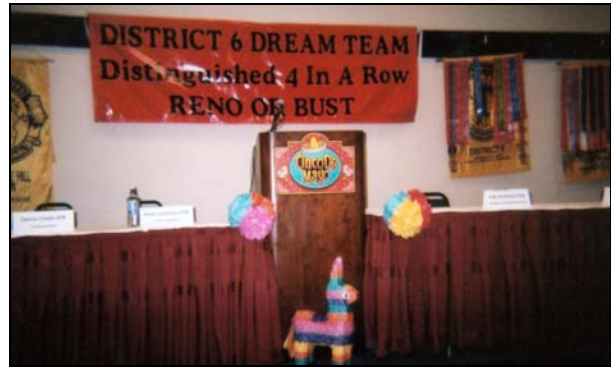
In early April 2004, several Lawson Thrill Speakers members assisted Lawson Software with speech evaluations for employees giving presentations at Lawson's annual customer convention: CUE (Conference and User Exchange). Sharon Miller, Harlan Johnson, Joan Watson and Muniesh Kandelwahl worked with professional speech coach Mary Milla to give brief evaluations (approximately four per hour) for an entire day. Not only did the evaluations provide important feedback to the speakers, it helped our Toastmasters improve their evaluation skills.



Thank you for your support and helping me win the Eastern Division Governor position for 2004-2005.

-Joan Watson

**Congratulations Joan!**



## **Spring Convention News Watson Wins Eastern Division Governor Position**

By Joan Watson

Katie Vandendriessche, Elle Hamen-Kieffer and I attended the Spring Convention on April 23-24<sup>th</sup> 2004. It was a wonderful event that culminated in several exciting moments for our club

The Table topic contest on Friday was unusual but interesting. The topic had to do with aliens and TV. Use your imagination!

Saturday was focused on education and awards. I was honored to represent LTS and accept the club web site and club newsletter awards. I accepted with great dignity by yelling all the way to the podium ☺

The educational sessions were informative and fun. But the big moment for me personally was the district officer election. I had to give a 2-minute impromptu speech as to why everyone should vote for me. Felt like Table Topics with lots of pressure! When the final vote was announced, I was thrilled. Once again I was dignified and only jumped up and down.

Elle volunteered to judge the International Speech contest on Saturday and it was a great contest as well.

I hope everyone will take the time to  
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(Convention News Continued from Page 2)

attend a district convention in the future. Not only can you learn a lot from the educational sessions and learn about the process of running the Toastmaster organization but you can meet some fantastic people who are all interested in the same goals that we have....to become better communicators and have lots of fun.



### VP Education Notes

Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer

*Let me introduce myself...*

Do you ever wonder what goes into a good introduction?

Do you notice that some people sound qualified and others don't?

Do you want your audience to believe they can't do without your message?

A good introduction is often underestimated and under utilized in Toastmasters and therefore in business. This article will explain the purpose of introductions and give you some helpful tips on how to create one that has you walking on cloud nine before you get to the lectern!

#### **Why do we bother with introductions? Doesn't everyone know us already?**

NO, the audience (who ever that may be) can always learn something new about you. Introductions get the audience's attention and give them a reason to listen.

A solid introduction sets the tone for your speech. If your speech is funny add humor to your introduction. If it's serious be serious. You tell the audience what they can expect from you and what you expect from them.

You also establish your credibility in an introduction. If you are speaking about cars then let us know why or how you know cars. If you researched a topic and have no

credibility, tell us why you chose the topic – what was your motivation for doing the speech?

#### **What exactly goes into an introduction?**

Just as a speech has organization (opening, body and conclusion) so does an introduction. The following are four steps to creating solid introductions:

- **Name (opening):** Your name and title as it pertains to the speech. One week you may be a programmer and the next a dad.
- **Topic (body):** Give us the overview of your topic. This is where you can add spice to your introduction.
- **Qualifications (body):** What makes you qualified to speak on the topic? If you're not qualified tell us why you are speaking on the topic.

If you have special instructions for the audience put them here in your introduction. Make sure your audience is prepared to hear you.

- **Conclusion:** Bridge the topic with the qualifications and welcome yourself as a speaker. Wrap up your introduction on a high note. You want to walk to the podium exhilarated and energized by your own introduction.

The conclusion is a good place to state the speech title, but you can put it anywhere in your introduction.

#### **How should I write the introduction?**

Write your introduction in the third person. Use words such as he/she, her/him, your name. There is nothing more awkward than someone reading your introduction and using the word "I". Also write out any pronunciations that are necessary. Don't expect the other person to know how to pronounce long, technical words or culturally different names.

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(VP or Ed. Continued from Page 3)

Make your introduction conversational. We write differently than we speak. Write as if you are talking to the audience, not reading it from a paper. Reading your introduction out loud will help develop the correct conversational language you need.

Be sure to pump yourself up, but not so much that you become super human! You want to insure that you feel confident giving your speech, and not ridiculous. I hear a lot of introductions and very few times have I heard people over inflate themselves. Give yourself permission to toot your own horn. If you won't, no one will.

### **I've written a good introduction, but the person who introduced me slaughtered it!**

One of the best deliveries of my introduction was from a Toastmaster. I wrote it out with the phrase "Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer is the president of You Have The Power, which is..." She read it this way "Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer is the president of **You Have The Power** (excited and emphasized), pause, which is..." By the time she was done I felt more than qualified and excited to give the speech.

After you have toiled and crafted your introduction don't leave it to chance that your introducer will say it the way you want them to. Instruct them how you want to be introduced. Write in the pauses or emphasize words you want emphasized.

Send your introduction before hand to allow the person introducing you to read it and get comfortable with it. Give **them** the time to prepare so you won't feel embarrassed when you walk up to give your speech.

As the introducer, give yourself permission to read it exactly how it was written. These are the words the speaker has chosen; honor them by not ad libbing.

### **One final note about introductions:**

As a club the Toastmaster creates a theme and asks questions to the various "speakers" for that meeting. You don't have to answer them for your introduction. Prepare and write your introduction you want. If it includes the answer to the question great, if not who cares. It's your introduction, it's your message – give it to us the way you want to.

Note: These guidelines apply to whom ever is being introduced, not just the speakers for that day.

***We can't be forced to listen to a speaker, but we can be enticed to listen with a compelling introduction!***

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## **Nominating Committee Report**

The 2005 officer nominating committee has been hard at work searching for our future club leaders. The club elections will be held at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks to the members who have volunteered for officer roles. Willing and excited volunteers are vital to the continued growth of our club. Everyone can participate in the leadership of the club through committees and being an active member. A special thanks to Sharon Miller, Katie Vandendriessche, and Shannon Zappa for taking on the task of creating the slate of candidates. Your energy and effort is greatly appreciated.

### **The Ballot for 2004-2005 LTS Officers:**

President	Steve Sheehan
VP of Education	Katie Vandendriessche
VP of Membership	Joan Watson
VP of Public Relations	Harlan Johnson
Secretary	Jeff Conrad
Treasurer	Adam Palmer
Sergeant at Arms	Jeff Fischbach

***Please make every effort to attend our weekly meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> to vote !***

## Officer Update – VP of Membership

By Katie Vandendriessche

What is the most important component to the growth and success for Lawson Thrill Speakers? Do you give up? The answer is you, the other members involved within the club, and potential new members.

Because membership is so important to the success of a toastmaster club, there is a designated position for it. The role of the Vice President of membership is to ensure all current members are satisfied with what they are receiving from the club, to develop and implement membership drives, and to help new members to become integrated and excited about being involved with Lawson Thrill Speakers.

The role of the Vice President of Membership is a large one to fill, but you can add to the growth and success by helping the Vice President of Membership by communicating your likes and dislikes as a member of Lawson Thrill Speakers. Is there something the club is lacking? Is there something you would like to change within the club? Is there something the club is doing exceptionally well? You can also add to the growth and success by helping the Vice President of Membership by inviting friends or co-workers to come to a weekly meeting, tell about personal experiences with the club, or how you have benefited from the time you have spent with Lawson Thrill Speakers.

Communication, along with teamwork is an unbeatable pair. Toastmasters offers unlimited opportunities and a great environment to practice and perfect these skills.

### Calendar - Important Events

- May 20, 2004 Weekly Meeting. LTS Club Officer election and Toastmaster of the Year Award
- June 17, 2004: District Governor Steve Lockwood will attend our club meeting to honor our club for being President Distinguished

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### Show and Tell Revisited

By Lois Dunn

Sound Appearance™Booster

I attended a conference with over 200 workshops to choose from. I heard some great material, but what I remember is a **prop**:

Lindsay Collier (author of *The Whack-A-Mole Theory*), making a point that you are either on the road, or, you are... (reaching behind him for a brown paper bag from which he pulled a wretched looking rubber chicken) ...road kill.

You may have product, brochures, Power Point or video, but an unexpected prop can make you *unforgettable*.

A **MEAN** prop can be a presenter's best tool!

**M** Memorable

**E** Entertaining

**A** Appropriate

**N** Nails the point

[www.loisduna.com](http://www.loisduna.com)

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## Club Member Resources

Every 6 months each club member pays \$6.00 for club dues. Have you wondered what the money is used for? One of the purposes of the club dues is to pay for our award winning web site. The web site facilitates gaining new members as well as keeping club members in touch with the club's activities and accomplishments.

In addition, the club has purchased educational material that is available for everyone to use.

### **Successful Club Series:**

- **The Moment of Truth:** a club self-evaluation tool
- **Closing the Sale:** helping a guest to join the club
- **Mentoring Program:** outlines how to create and maintain a mentor program
- **Finding New Members for your Club:** ways to find those vital new members
- **Creating the Best Club Climate:** creating and maintaining a healthy club
- **Evaluate to Motivate:** evaluation tips to motivate speakers
- **Meeting Roles and Responsibilities:** involving everyone in every meeting
- **Going Beyond our Club:** leadership opportunities outside the club
- **How to be a Distinguished Club:** how to promote the DCP program
- **Keeping the Commitment:** the 10 standards that comprise a Toastmaster's Promise
- **The Toastmaster Education Program:** explains all the education certifications

If you are interested in using one of these modules, please contact Sharon Miller. These speeches can be used for a CTM speech or as an educational speech to complete your Competent Leader award.

Lawson Thrill Speakers Toastmasters Club 7507  
Meets every Thursday at 12:00 noon at:  
Lawson Commons  
Second Floor  
380 St. Peter Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota, USA 55102

Club website: <http://www.lawsonthrillspeakers.org>

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

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

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Club President:  
Doug Petty  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 651-276-3470  
E-mail: [doug.petty@usfamily.net](mailto:doug.petty@usfamily.net)

Editor:  
Joan Watson, ATM-S  
31639 Forest Blvd  
Stacy, MN 55079  
Phone: 651-767-4557  
E-mail: [joan.watson@lawson.com](mailto:joan.watson@lawson.com)