

# Lawson THRILL Reader



Volume 1, Issue 9

Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Club 7507 District 6



June 2004

## Toastmaster of the Year

He always comes to meetings with a cheery disposition. He greets current members and guests with a great smile and welcoming introduction. He is consistent with his dedication: editing newsletters, setting up the room, executive meetings attendance, regular club attendance AND a constant "I can do that" attitude that has created a standard in our club worth striving for. He is... **Harlan Johnson - Toastmaster of the Year** for Lawson Thrill Speakers. Congratulations Harlan! Thank you for everything you do.



Harlan Johnson



### President's Notes

Doug Petty

It has been a pleasure serving as your president this last year. Together we have achieved our goals as a club and as individuals. You have elected a new group of officers who will continue to help our club grow and achieve new heights next year. Welcome to our newest members. This coming year will be exciting for you as you work towards certification. I encourage everyone to continue to grow and participate not only in the club but within the area, division and district activities as well.

## Member Achievements

**Sarah Haase** completed her Competent Toastmaster certification (CTM) with her humorous speech titled: "Reclaiming the Great Outdoors". **Harlan Johnson** completed his 7<sup>th</sup> speech to earn his ROKS award (**R**ecognition **O**f **K**ey **S**kills) with his speech titled: "Decisions, Decisions".



Sarah Haase - CTM



Katie Vandendriessche presenting Harlan Johnson with the "ROKS" award

## Congratulations to the 2004-2005 Club Officers

May 20<sup>th</sup> was the big moment for electing the new executive board for Lawson Thrill Speakers. Thanks to all the newly elected officers for your energy, excitement and willingness to take on a leadership role for the club. We will be working towards our third year of earning the President Distinguished Club award. Watch for membership building, creative additions to the newsletter and our website, and many educational opportunities.

### Your new executive board for 2004-2005

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



**VP Education Notes**  
 Gabrielle Hamen-Kieffer

***“Parting is such sweet sorrow”***

from Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

Many thoughts and emotions come to mind as I prepare to step down from being the VP of Education and step into being a “civilian” Toastmaster again.

Two years ago, when Lawson Thrill Speakers began, I knew I wanted to be a part of the leadership team that would help grow and sustain the club. That opportunity came when Bill Johnson (our first VP of Education) formed the Education Committee. I quickly joined Bill and began learning what it takes to create a successful club. When officer nominations were being taken for the 2003-2004 year I quickly put my name in the running to continue what the first set of officers put in place and utilize my leadership skills.

One year later and this is what we have accomplished under the realm of VP of Education:

- ◆ Acquired a scheduling software program to easily and fairly assign TM roles each week
- ◆ Surveyed the club members to assess where the needs were for each member and the club
- ◆ Formed an Education Committee to analyze the survey results and plan 12 months worth of educational meetings
- ◆ Introduced Speechcraft (this will be implemented in the fall)
- ◆ Began a Mentoring program for all club members who want the added support

It has been a busy year and yet I believe my work is just beginning! That’s where the sweet sorrow comes in. Knowing that Katie Vandendriessche is taking over gives me great joy and optimism for the club! How can we lose with such a bright, enthusiastic

person like Katie! Personally I am looking forward to helping her ease into her new position in the club, but I don’t think she will need it.

By stepping out of leadership I am now afforded the luxury of:

- ◆ Being at every meeting as a club member only, no other agendas (unless I’m the meeting’s Toastmaster!)
- ◆ Connecting and encouraging everyone
- ◆ Offer assistance when necessary
- ◆ Continue to educate as I learn new things
- ◆ Focus on my speech progress and speaking career
- ◆ Win the National Speech contest!!

I am sad to step out of leadership but am motivated and energized by the new leadership team. I can’t wait to see what the 2004-2005 year has in store for Lawson Thrill Speakers!

**Thank you** all for your help and support this past year. Together we achieved many awesome goals!

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## Calendar of Important Events

- June 14, 2004: Executive Board meeting for current and new officers.
- June 17, 2004: District Governor Steve Lockwood will attend our club meeting to honor our club on being a President Distinguished club
- June 24, 2004: Induction of new club officers
- July 17, 2004: TELI at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington. Officer training offered in the morning. See the district website: [www.d6tm.org](http://www.d6tm.org) for more details.

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## Greatest Speech Blunders

1. **Dullness:** relying on only one or two illustrations to make your points. Use timely quotes, appropriate examples or personal stories to visualize and remember.
2. **Not repeating your message enough:** repetition is crucial to retention. Half an hour after a speech, the average listener has forgotten 40% of what was said.
3. **Not answering:** the audience's most major question, "What's in it for me?"
4. **Burying your point:** use phrases such as "What's important here" or "This can't be overemphasized" in order to focus attention on the most important part of a speech.
5. **Forgetting to practice:** (and time) your speech out loud.
6. **Forgetting to check visual aids:** for readability.
7. **Getting distracted before you speak:** take 5 minutes to collect your thoughts, focus on your message and breathe before stepping up to the lectern.

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### QUOTE *for the Month*

**Minds are like parachutes – they only function when open.**

Thomas Dewar

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## Officer Update – VP of Public Relations

By Joan Watson

What is Toastmasters? Where is a club close to my workplace? What goes on at those meetings? Burning questions that need to be answered for new members, guests and anyone who wants to know more about Lawson Thrill Speakers.

Conveying that type of information is the responsibility of the Vice President of Public Relations. Spread the word about Toastmasters and most importantly about our club. This is accomplished with news articles, flyers, club newsletter and our website - to name a few methods.

It has been an exciting position that has allowed me the opportunity to try something new and help promote the positive things about Toastmaster and our club. All it takes is a little time and the willingness to be creative and try anything at least once.

## A New Addition.... ***Supplies!!***

No, it is not a new baby or even a new member. Thanks to Harlan Johnson we have a new supply cabinet for all our club's meeting supplies located right in our meeting room - the White Bear Lake Conference Room. No longer does the Sergeant of Arms have to haul around the lectern, flag, and box of supplies and whatever else we need for every meeting. The two-drawer cabinet is located behind the speaker's countertop in the front of the conference room. There is a combination lock to keep the supplies safe. Ask any officer for the combination. It is only a secret to the outside world.

The reason for the cabinet was to make the setup of the room easier for the Sergeant at Arms and ease his/her responsibility to attend every meeting. Now the club supplies are always available and easy for anyone to help setup for our club meetings.



## **ADIOS AND GRACIAS**

As the second year for Lawson Thrill Speakers comes to an end, it is a time to say goodbye and thanks for a fabulous year. It has been a time of thrills and spills as we learned what works and what doesn't for our club. All of the current officers have been honored to serve you, the club members. As we complete the Toastmaster year with another President Distinguished award we can proudly say that all the club members have worked hard and been committed to achieving our collective goals. The club award demonstrates that you have earned CTM's and advanced certifications, paid your dues, welcomed new members and attended officer's training. Most importantly, we had fun and were able to practice our speaking skills and apply them at work and in our personal life.

### **A Little Humor....**

(From our departing VP of Public Relations – Joan Watson)

Two **green beans** are crossing the freeway when one of them is hit by an 18-wheeler. His friend scrapes him up and rushes him to the hospital. After hours of surgery, the doctor says, "I have good news and bad news."

The healthy green bean says,  
"Okay, give me the good news first."

"Well, he's going to live."

"So, what's the bad news?"

"The bad news is he'll be a vegetable for the rest of his life."

## **Noteworthy Firsts for Summer Fun**

As the summer heats up and we think of fun in the sun and cool treats, a few key dates helped make those things become common fare for all of us.

- Ⓢ June 22, 1847: the doughnut is invented
- Ⓢ June 21, 1893: the first Ferris wheel is premiered at Chicago's Columbian Exposition
- Ⓢ June 8, 1786: first commercially made ice cream sold in NY
- Ⓢ June 9, 1869: Charles Hires sells his first Root Beer

**Have a fabulous, fun and festive  
summer!**

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

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