

Lawson THRILL Reader



Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Volume 1, Issue 9

Club 7507 District 6

July 2004



LTS Member ROKS!

Jeff Conrad has completed his 7th speech to earn his ROKS club award (Recognition Of Key Skills) with his speech titled: "Delving into the Game."



Congratulations Jeff

Congratulations go out to everyone that achieved the numerous awards and honors that recognize our hard work.

We should all be proud that our club retained excellent membership levels and can boast about our contest and district award winners. I personally appreciated how we spiced things up with special meetings and guest speakers. I also liked the nice influx of experience and humor provided by our new members this year. Thanks for joining!

For this upcoming year I plan to keep our club focused on our mission. What is that mission? It is to make ALL of our members become more proficient and confident public speakers -- and what the heck, let's pick up another Presidents Distinguished award along the way.

As for all of the new officers, grab a paddle and pull up the anchor. Our shore lunch is on the other side of the rapids, and be careful -- don't jump off until we reach the dock!



President's Notes Steve Sheehan

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We've crossed over into the Toastmasters new year and I have to tell you, I am REALLY excited about being elected President! I want to thank everyone that voted for me, ESPECIALLY my friend Unopposed.

A huge thanks and round of applause goes out to our Executive Committee from last year. They did an awesome job guiding our club to its SECOND consecutive Presidents Distinguished Club (PDC) award. That's two for two and we have good reason to be proud of ourselves. Another huge thanks goes out to the members that achieved all of the requirements for our PDC award. We heard some great speeches this year and learned a lot from our extra push on education!

Welcome our New Members



Pablo Celi



Chong Sun

Our two newest members come from Ecolab and we are thrilled to have them join us on our journey to improving our speaking skills. Welcome Pablo and Chong!.



VP Education Notes
Katie Vandendriessche

Transitions

July is officially here! And with that, comes the changes in roles within Lawson Thrill Speakers. For the next year, I will be taking on the challenge of the position of Vice President of Education. I realize I have some big shoes to fill with this responsibility, but I am looking forward to it.

As VP of education, I hope to put a mentor/mentee program into place, look into implementing Speech Craft, and work on other possible projects that would benefit our group. Future articles in the Lawson Thrill Reader will include information about the role of the VP of Education and information on how members are scheduled to participate each month. Please let me know if there is a subject you would like me to explore or any other suggestions you might have now or throughout my term! Thank you for this opportunity.

Along with the changes in roles within Lawson Thrill Speakers, I have decided to change my role professionally. I put in my two-week notice at Bremer Bank and currently am looking for a new challenge. I will keep you all updated with the outcome.

QUOTE *for the Month*

"The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well."
Horace Walpole

Calendar of Important Events

- July 15, 2004: Steve Lockwood will visit club to celebrate President Distinguish Award
- July 17, 2004: TELI at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington. Officer training offered in the morning. www.d6tm.org for more details
- State Fair TM Booth: free ticket for 3 hour assignment (9-noon, noon-3, 3-6 and 6-9) www.d6tm.org for more details



L to R: Joan Watson, Katie Vandendriessche, Jeff Conrad, Adam Palmer, Steve Sheehan, Harlan Johnson. (Not pictured: Jeff Fishbach)

Welcome the New Officers

The new executive board members met on June 14 to transition into their roles. Please feel free to contact any of the officers if there is anything that could be done differently within the club, at the meetings or if you have any ideas for changes.

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Steve Sheehan |
| VP of Education | Katie Vandendriessche |
| VP of Membership | Joan Watson |
| VP of PR | Harlan Johnson |
| Secretary | Jeff Conrad |
| Treasurer | Adam Palmer |
| Sergeant at Arms | Jeff Fishbach |

News from VP of Membership

By Joan Watson

Membership is a living and breathing opportunity within our club. To be a President's Distinguished club we need to have at least 20 members on our roster. To have a vibrant and exciting club we need and want new members. To accomplish this goal, we all need to be spreading the word about our club and take every opportunity to encourage guests to join.

One of my first tasks this year is to contact all our members both active and inactive to take a check on how we are doing as a club. In addition, I would like to get a feel from our inactive members to see if they plan to renew again and what can our club do to help them achieve their goals.

Don't be surprised to receive a note from me asking for some information. It is just a new year check-up to see how each of you are doing with Toastmasters and what you are thinking about doing in the future. Let's start the new year with not only good intentions but also great ideas and opportunity for change.

Toastmaster's Organization Where do I fit in?

You, the member, are the most important person in the Toastmasters International Organization. District 6, covering most of Minnesota and part of Northwestern Ontario, has over 4000 members in more than 250 clubs.

Clubs are grouped into Areas consisting of 4 to 7 clubs. An Area Governor is appointed as a resource person and is the Club's principal contact with the District Governor and Toastmasters International. Our Area

15 Governor is Gretchen Coons. The clubs within Area 15 include the following:

- Lawson Thrill Speakers
- Minnesota Mutual
- Ordway Orators
- Republican Voice of the Lake
- Mears Park
- William Mitchell
- Northland Voices

Areas are organized into Divisions with four to six Areas per Division. A Division Governor is elected to help coordinate the activities of the Area Governors and to provide educational opportunities that benefit all clubs in the division. Our Eastern Division Governor is Joan Watson. Eastern Division includes Areas 11 through Area 16. There are 37 clubs within the Eastern Division.

Divisions are grouped together to form Districts. There are 8 Divisions in District 6 (Central, Eastern, Frontier, International, Metro, Northern, Southern and Western). The District Governor, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training, and Lieutenant Governor Marketing are elected by the clubs to coordinate the Toastmasters International program in the Divisions that comprise the District.

Districts are organized into groups called Regions, the largest administrative grouping. Two people from a Region are elected to sit on the Board of Toastmasters International to represent the members of their Region. There are 8 Districts in each Region. Regions IV includes the following:

- District 6 (our district) includes Minnesota and part of Northwestern Ontario
- District 17 includes Montana
- District 18 includes Iowa
- District 20 includes North Dakota
- District 24 includes Nebraska
- District 41 includes South Dakota
- District 42 includes Alberta and Saskatchewan
- District 64 includes Manitoba and part of Northwestern Ontario

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The Board of Directors are voluntary positions elected for 2-year terms. The Board consists of the President, a Senior Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Directors from the Regions and a Program Director. They work together to provide an educational program, which is then administered by the other levels of the Toastmasters International organization.

World Headquarters has approximately 54 paid staff headed by the Executive Director. They oversee the daily operation of the organization, providing materials and assistance to the Clubs and Districts and most importantly to **YOU**, the TM member.

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

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

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

IN THE BEGINNING - DISTRICT 6

Ralph Smedley's concept of a fraternal forum for the free exchange of ideas and the development of public speaking ability first materialized in Santa Ana, California in 1924. Dr. Smedley was able to organize a club and to conduct successful meetings at the YMCA. From these meetings, the first being on October 22, 1924, all that is Toastmasters today has evolved.

In the spring of 1927 numerous clubs were established and the beginnings of a national organization was in the making. A federation was formed late in 1927. The purpose was to form some type of continuity among the various clubs. Legal protection was taken out by Dr. Smedley in 1928 in order to preserve the concept and the name, "Toastmasters Club."

By 1930 there were about 20 clubs in one manner or another connected with Toastmasters. 1933 brought the first issuance of club charter numbers. Smedley Club No. One in Santa Ana received charter number one; Anaheim #2 and Los Angeles #3. The 1934 convention at San Diego brought into existence the establishment of the district organization. At first there were two districts authorized. District One consisted of the entire state of California while District Two had boundaries of the states of Washington, Oregon and the province of British Columbia.

By the spring of 1937, Toastmaster was becoming known in the Great Northwest - Minneapolis. District 6 was to become the largest District in Toastmaster International and the district with the richest heritage.

All the history of District Six has evolved from the formation of the first club. The first meeting was held at the Minneapolis YMCA on October 7, 1936 with five members present. As there were no clubs within 1000 miles of the area, all correspondence and assistance came from Dr. Smedley at Santa Ana.

By the end of 1937, three clubs (two in Minneapolis and one in Albert Lea) had formed which met the established requirements for a District at that time. Thus, District Six was born. Its beginnings were meager with four clubs (added a club in Waterloo, Iowa) and tremendous territory.

To be continued. (Courtesy of District 6 History Files)