

Lawson THRILL Reader



Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Volume 2, Issue 1

Club 7507 District 6

August 2004



Club Speech Contest – Sept. 9th

It's time again for our fall speech contest! All members (in good standing) are encouraged to take the next step to hone your public speaking skills... and speak competitively.

There are two separate opportunities within the speech contest:

- 1) Humorous Speech
- 2) Speech Evaluation

Winners at the club level move up to compete at the Area Contest on October 5th. Looking for a big audience on contest day - all club members are encouraged to make every effort to attend. Contact Harlan Johnson for further details and if you wish to participate in the contest.

Welcome our Newest Club Member



Dennis Fitzpatrick

The newest member of Lawson ThrillSpeakers is Dennis Fitzpatrick. Dennis is employed at Ecolab in downtown St. Paul. Welcome Dennis! Looking forward to your first speech.



President's Notes Steve Sheehan

Greetings fellow toastmasters! I am taking this opportunity to remind our members about some exciting things that our club has to look forward to.

- It's Fall Speech Contest season and we will be kicking it off with a club contest in September. Our subjects will be Humorous Speeches and Speech Evaluations. Everyone is invited to compete and we will select our Lawson Thrillspeakers winners who will then compete in the Area contest. Our Division contest is scheduled for September 30th.
- The State Fair Booth is still looking for volunteers! Many shifts have been filled but there are some still available. This is a great time to use your Toastmaster skills. See if you can get them to join and don't forget to tell them which club!
- Speaking of membership, do you have any friends that you think would like to join Toastmasters? Don't be shy -- recruiting new members is key to keeping our club healthy and strong. We have New Member Materials available for you to use. Just ask Joan!
- Sound off!! A new club survey will be coming out soon and your voice will be heard. It's important to us that we focus our club on what members want. Let your officers know what you think. There is a suggestion box if you prefer. Anonymous suggestions are welcome too.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

- Special Meetings. The Executive committee is fine-tuning our special meetings that help give some added spice to our routine. Expect a special meeting the first week of every month and stay tuned for our September schedule.

I hope you all have been appreciating the benefits of your Toastmaster work. Be sure to attend meetings to show your commitment to this fine club and remember, Keep On Speaking!



VP Education Notes
Katie Vandendriessche

Part 1 - Duties of VP of Ed

The role of the VP of education is an important one within the club for a number of different reasons, which I will explore for the next three months. The first, which I will be writing about this month, is scheduling the weekly roles of members. Another is facilitating educational programs to help members develop better communication skills, which is what we are all here for! Last, is maintaining a positive environment to boot!

Scheduling members for weekly roles is rather simple for one reason - Lawson Thrill Speakers uses a role-scheduling program provided by Toastmasters International. This magnificent scheduling program takes different variables into account from all members in order to produce the monthly role schedule. These variables include dates members are available, length of time since last participated in assigned role, and finally, the length of time within the club.

Currently the variables within our scheduling program are set as follows:

- Members will not be assigned a major role two consecutive weeks
- New members will be scheduled for Ice Breaker within first four weeks of joining the club
- New members will be assigned small roles before giving Ice Breaker, larger roles after, giving them a chance to ease into the club

The program also keeps tracked of how many times a member has taken on a role, giving them a rank of when to be assigned the role for the next time.

Neat, huh? It takes many pressures off of the VP of Education, including grumbles regarding favoritism, oodles and oodles of record keeping, and drawn out, sleepless nights.

Disclaimer: If you happen to have any comments or questions regarding the scheduling program, feel free to contact me.

Calendar of Important Events

- **State Fair TM Booth:** Free fair admission for 3 hour assignment (9-noon, noon-3, 3-6 and 6-9) See www.d6tm.org for more details
- **September 9, 2004:** Club Speech Contest
- **October 5, 2004:** Area 15 Fall Speech Contest at Minnesota Mutual in Downtown St. Paul. Noon start time.
- **October 14, 2004:** Eastern Division Fall Speech Contest at Holiday Inn East. 6:00PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Contest.

Interesting *History* of our Toastmasters - District 6

Part II – The Middle Years

(Continued from previous July 2004 newsletter)

The first District Speech contest believed to be held in District Six, was held in Minneapolis in May 1941. At that time there were no restrictions on officers participating so the contest produced some interesting results. The District Governor placed second.

George Benson ascended to the District Governorship in 1941. He is credited with the beginnings of the contemporary district structure. He was the first District Governor to divide the district into areas. Each area was under the supervision of a Lieutenant Governor (similar to our current Area Governors). Awards were earned that brought honor and prestige to the clubs and the district. District Six was recognized as the most outstanding district in Toastmasters. This award was the forerunner to today's Distinguished District Awards.

One of the most notable clubs that is still going strong in District Six, Eastern Division is the club 208, King Boreas started in 1941. No club in Toastmasters surpasses their record of consecutive weekly meetings. The name was chosen in recognition of the festivities which St. Paul has each year with its Winter Carnival. The club adopted a special club insignia, which was drawn by nationally known artist John Socha, a member of the club.

During the troubling war years, it was tough to keep the clubs going. However outside speaking was encouraged and flourished during the war. Dr. Smedley offered the services of Toastmasters to support the war effort through speeches in favor of selling War Bonds and so on. District Six

responded to the challenge and provided many speakers to support the war effort. It was a fine opportunity for national service for those not in the military.

1945 was a year of significant changes. One change required clubs to furnish a record of the time of their meetings. It was noted that clubs that were most successful limited their meetings to two hours. Makes one wonder how long the other clubs were meeting? Rules were established for who could judge in the Area and District contests to ensure impartiality of the judges. Induction of officers and officer training was started to allow the club to function effectively.

1949 was the beginning of a three year program in which a primary emphasis was placed on education. Evaluation was given a special emphasis. The District executive committee had a team who visited all the clubs during the year for evaluation purposes. Each club received constructive help in learning to give better evaluations. One of the questions asked : How can word whisksers (ahs, and-ahs, unnecessary pauses, ums, er's etc.) be eliminated?

1949 focus was on parliamentary procedures to help the clubs to conduct efficient and orderly business meetings. This was the first year that a member from District Six won the regional speech contest and was runner-up at the International Speech Contest.

To be continued.....

(Courtesy of District 6 history files)

QUOTE *for the Month*

"People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use."

Kierkegaard



Reading

Corner

"In the Spotlight"

By: Janet Esposito M.S.W.

- Overcome your fear of public speaking and performing
- Available in paperback at amazon.com for \$17.95

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



Steve Sheehan – with speech prop containing "all" known clichés.

Lawson Thrill Speakers Toastmasters Club 7507
Meets every Thursday at 12:00 noon at:
Lawson Commons
Second Floor – White Bear Lake Conf. Room
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St. Paul, Minnesota, USA 55102

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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