

Lawson THRILL Reader



Volume 2, Issue 2

Lawson Thrill Speakers - Toastmasters International

Club 7507 District 6



September 2004

The Winner of Club Speech Contest – On to Area Contest

The competition was tough, but Steve Sheehan got the audience chuckling with his speech titled: "My Friend Sam" – and was selected by the club members as the winner of the Humorous Contest.



Harlan Johnson (left) Club Contest Chairman, presenting Steve Sheehan with the First Place Certificate for the Club Humorous Speech Contest.

Steve will now compete at the Area Contest on October 7th at Minnesota Mutual at noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend! Security check-in at table on the skyway level, then proceed to 6th floor. Lawson Thrill Speakers will not conduct a normal, Thursday meeting on the 7th so that all members can attend the Area contest and cheer on Steve! Contact: Joan Watson for further information.

QUOTE for the Month

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

Kin Hubbard

TOASTMASTERS AT THE STATE FAIR

By: Jeff Conrad

When I volunteered to help at the Toastmasters State Fair booth, I did not know what to expect. I really haven't been to any clubs but our Lawson Thrill Speakers, so I was unsure how prepared I would be to answer questions for people. But the booth was well-organized and pretty much ran itself. We had sample Toastmaster magazines to give out, sample manuals, maps of the district, District 6 handouts, area handouts with club contacts, and District 6 magnets. It wasn't flashy - we didn't have computers, but really Toastmasters is about personal communication, we were the product.

I volunteered for a Friday night, 6-9. I started out following the same approach as the Toastmaster before me of basically waiting for people that came forward and started a conversation. My counterpart showed up after I had been there a while, and she happened to be a former District Governor, which made for a better experience. She had a lot of history with the club and had a lot of stories. She also had worked trade shows and I adapted to her more direct "sales" approach. Really all these brochures and magnets do no good back in some office, and the district probably paid a lot of money for the booth during the fair. I changed from my "smile and let them come talk if they want", to making eye contact throughout their journey past the booth and, "Hello, care for a brochure approach". The three hours went by really fast.

There were also a lot of people that had a misconception that we somehow were involved with baked wheat goods, but I'd (Continued on Page 2)

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cheerfully provide them the real meaning. It was neat to hear people come by and tell how much they had appreciated Toastmasters, or how that they wanted to get back into it. I think I got a few people that were interested in clubs in their respective areas - people that wanted better careers, or students that wanted extra speaking experience. My hardest sell were seniors, but I tried to sell them on the idea of using storytelling as a vehicle to pass their wisdom on to the generations. Many younger people were also interested, or had participated in a speechcraft-like program that Toastmasters does to involve youth.

I moved of a lot of brochures, which was good, and magnets. Maybe someone will see the "Listen Think Speak" magnet on their fridge someday this fall and decide to attend a meeting in their area by going to the website on it.

I usually don't care for the fair, but being somehow involved with it gives you a slightly different experience I think than just a regular fair go-er. Overall, it was a fun chance to practice off-the-cuff speaking.

Welcome our Newest Club Member



Keira Thrasher

We welcome another new member to Lawson Thrillspeakers: Keira Thrasher. Keira works at Lawson as a courseware writer in Lawson University. Keira has already participated in several meeting roles and recently completed her Ice Breaker speech... well done! Welcome Keira!



President's Notes

Steve Sheehan

Greetings Thrillspeakers! Thanks again to those who worked the Toastmaster State Fair booth this year. Volunteers are being recruited for the Area Contest, so keep an eye for an email announcement with details.

We have turned the corner on summer and it's time to look toward our Fall Area Speech contest and renewing our commitment to Toastmasters. Our Area Governor, Gretchen Coons came and visited us on September 16th, and reminded everyone how your work in Toastmasters is enriching and fun. I encourage everyone to acknowledge your hard work and the achievements you have made over the last six months. Never look back Thrillspeakers, renewing your membership will take you places you've never been.

Saying hello to new members and goodbye to those that must leave is a natural part of every Toastmaster club. The club thanks all of our former members for their contributions to the club and their wonderful speeches. You are welcome to rejoin or visit the club anytime you like. As for our new members, you are the newest members of the family and as you know the youngest are always the favorite! Everyone else – keep on doing your awesome work - we can't wait to hear your next speech.



Reading

Corner

"Writing Great Speeches"

By: Alan M. Perlman

- Professional Techniques you Can Use
- Available in paperback at amazon.com



VP Education Notes
Katie Vandendriessche

(This month's column written by: Joan Watson)

Speechcraft – On the Way!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Looking for new members to join Lawson Thrill Speakers.

“Where will they come from”, you ask? One source is from hosting a Speechcraft program. Your executive board has been discussing the possibility of sponsoring a Speechcraft program to recruit new members into our club as well as give our members opportunities to do educational presentations.

Later in this article is some basic information about Speechcraft, club involvement and sample agenda. I am looking for feedback from you, the members. What do you think about having a separate meeting for Speechcraft? Are you interested in giving a presentation or evaluation for at least one meeting? Any and all feedback is encouraged. Drop me an email at: joan.watson@lawson.com or give me a call.

Speechcraft is a program designed to teach public speaking skills to members and non-members. During the program, participants have the opportunity to present three to six speeches, introduce other speakers and serve as evaluators. The program can be conducted in four, six or eight sessions.

Advantage to club meeting: makes it easier for members to participate and doesn't disrupt the club schedule. It will take at least an additional 30 minutes (depending on the number of participants) so business meetings and any extras would need to be trimmed.

Advantage to outside club meeting: more participants can be involved; program can be at a different location and time that might be more convenient to participants.

Club Involvement:

A Speechcraft coordinator would be responsible for planning and managing the program. Club members' roles include Topicmaster, General Evaluator, educational presenter, evaluator, timer. Topics for educational speeches include: selecting a speech topic, introducing a speaker, speaking with conviction, organizing your speech, body language, vocal variety and use of words.

Sample agenda for a Speechcraft meeting:

- ❖ Opening and introductions
- ❖ Table Topics
- ❖ Toastmasters speakers and evaluators (educational speeches)
- ❖ Speechcraft instructional program
- ❖ Speechcraft speakers and evaluators (TM help with evaluations)
- ❖ Speechcraft assignments for next session
- ❖ Announcements
- ❖ Adjournment

Calendar of Important Events

- **October 7, 2004:** Area 15 Fall Speech Contest at Minnesota Mutual in Downtown St. Paul. Noon start time.
- **October 13, 2004:** Special Toastmasters presentation at Minnesota Mutual celebrating TM's 80th anniversary. Keynote speaker: Bob Senkler – Chairman/President and CEO of MN Life. Contact Kim Cusick at MN Mutual for more details: 651-665-3578
- **October 14, 2004:** Eastern Division Fall Speech Contest at Holiday Inn East. 6:00PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Contest. See flyer.



*Our club banner with TWO "President's Distinguished" ribbons.
Well done Thrillspeakers!!!*

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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