

# the transmitter district 19



I couldn't say it any better.  
--LeAnn Blankenburg,  
District 19 Governor

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A Las Vegas Adventure  
--Michael Anderson,  
DTM

p. 6

Toastmasters Rock! District 19  
Fall Conference  
--Laura Meade, DTM

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My  
Toastmasters  
journey began in  
2000 when my boss  
at the time invited me  
to a Toastmasters  
meeting. I was hooked on  
Toastmasters in one hour.  
Where else can you be  
referred to as an  
"Honored Guest?!"

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Lauri Hughes

fall 2011



The first publication of the Transmitter in each new Toastmaster year usually begins with the District Governor giving a message that highlights their theme for the year. If you were at the Spring District 19 Convention in May, in my District Governor acceptance speech, I explained that Toastmasters International (TI) was asking the incoming District Governors not to have an individual theme, but to adopt the TI Branding theme.

The goal is to make all Toastmaster Districts, Divisions, Areas and Clubs to all look like TOASTMASTERS and not an individual entity with a different theme, tagline and look. As I thought about how to introduce this to you, I really struggled. I really believe in the tag line AND the message - it gave me goose-bumps when I first read this message. The statement TI has developed is great and I couldn't say it any better. So here's the message that Toastmasters International has developed.

I wasn't born a leader. They were all around me though. In the community, at work, at school. Leaders were everywhere. They were the heads of families, coaches of teams, business leaders, mentors, organizational decision-makers.

I admired these leaders. They influenced who I was and who I was becoming. Whatever they did professionally or how they became what they were, I aspired to walk in his or her footsteps.

And, so, I committed myself to becoming one.

Finally, it came to me. It wasn't just what leaders knew that enabled them to lead. They had a voice. They could tell their story. They could listen and answer. They didn't just accomplish, they communicated.

So I set out to find my voice. Learn to process information on my toes. I needed to learn to listen. Learn to give feedback – and accept it. I needed to organize, plan, deliver, follow up. I needed a place where all the ingredients were there, and someone would guide me along the way.

I found that place. I found a community of learners and the path to leadership.

I am a leader – and I was made.

--from the district governor  
LeAnn Blakenburg

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# District 19 - Congratulations! Kelly Nielsen, Lt. Governor Marketing

Due to your hard work and effort last year, you earned Distinguished District. I am proud of each and every one of you. Now, we have a new Toastmasters year with new leaders. Thank you for believing in us. You developed a fantastic team! Continue the momentum you displayed last year into this year. I know your energy and enthusiasm will bring District 19 to Distinguished again. How can we accomplish this goal for a second year? There are several ways to accomplish this task while earning benefits for you or your club. You will see many opportunities in future updates. Below are a few options for you to demonstrate your talent:

- (1) A Team: I am looking for Toastmasters who have experience chartering new clubs to form our Dream Team. Each Division will have up to two representatives on the committee. The committee will develop a cheat sheet or step-by-step guide to help you charter new clubs in District 19. The Dream Team will then become the subject matter experts (SME's) this year to offer advice and support when you sponsor a new club. Contact me at 563-513-9569 or [nielsendtm@yahoo.com](mailto:nielsendtm@yahoo.com) to join this committee. The goal set for chartering new clubs is 4 for District 19. I know with your knowledge and can-do spirit, you can make this happen. You can demonstrate where leaders are made. The A Team loves it when a plan comes together!
- (2) YouTube Hits - **UPDATE:** This campaign is going on now through November 1. Record a short video about your club and place the video on YouTube. The videos may showcase how your club is unique, interesting aspects about your club or reasons why new members want to be a part of your club. Send the YouTube

link to Kelly Nielsen ([nielsendtm@yahoo.com](mailto:nielsendtm@yahoo.com)). The video with the most hits on November 1<sup>st</sup> earns a new Banner for their club. Be the first club to showcase the updated Toastmasters brand with a new banner. The video will also be shown at the Fall Conference in Marion, IA.

I don't want to overwhelm you at this time with all the marketing campaigns and future committees being developed for our District. All of them aim to give us the skills to be Distinguished a second year in a row. Look for the announcements in future Updates and Transmitters and let the fun begin. Toastmasters is where Leaders are made. I have faith in you - faith in your ability and your talent to make District 19 Distinguished two years in a row. Together we can show that District 19 is the cream that has risen to the top!!!





I am the Lieutenant Governor Education and Training (LGET). Here are the education and training campaigns for this upcoming Toastmasters year.

**First, the ever popular "7 X 7" club officer training promotion** continues for the summer and winter 2011 training events. Any club with all seven officer positions trained is entered into a drawing for a free conference registration. One club from the qualifying clubs in each division will be selected in a random drawing. Each winning club then decides who will use the registration.

For summer training (June through August 2011), the free registrations are for the Fall 2011 District Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For winter training (December 2011 through February 2012) the free registrations are for the Spring 2012 District Conference.

The next drawing will be held at the September Executive Committee Meeting in Ankeny, Iowa and winning clubs will be notified soon after the drawing. Encourage your Division Governor to submit training records to the LGET as quickly as possible. We want all qualifying clubs to be entered in the drawing.

**The second promotion encourages educational and leadership advancement.** All members listed in Toastmasters International records for receiving a communication or leadership designation from July through September 2011 will be entered into a drawing for:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - a free Fall Conference registration (a \$100 value for early registration),
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – any two manuals (value not to exceed \$25),
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – any one manual (value not to exceed \$12).

Here is the fine print on this new promotion. You will receive one chance per communication or leadership designation received July through September 2011 as per TI records on October 15. You must be a Toastmaster in good standing, in a club in good standing within District 19 to qualify for this drawing. So be sure your club membership list and dues are submitted on time by September 30. There is only one first, second and third place winner for the entire District. Notification of winners will occur before the District 19 Fall Conference and be announced in the Conference Edition of the Transmitter. Winners must redeem prizes at the Fall Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**The third promotion encourages our more experienced members** to complete a "High Performance Leadership" program while helping the District achieve education and training goals. If you volunteer as a District Conference Chair (or Co-Chair) for Spring or Fall 2012, or Spring or Fall 2013, and the District accepts your proposal to host a conference, you will receive a High Performance Leadership kit. Up to two kits will be awarded per conference!

If you volunteer to chair a Division level Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) for Winter 2011 or Summer 2012, and the Division Governor accepts your proposal to chair the event, you will receive a High Performance Leadership kit. Only one kit will be awarded per Division TLI!

Other promotions are in the works. So please keep reading future articles to see who receives a campaign award. It could be you. Make this your year!

# Make this YOUR year!

Cliff Scherrer Sr., Lt. Governor  
Education and Training

# What we talk about when we talk about toastmasters

Diane DeBok  
Public Relations Officer

*First of all*, let me say I am honored to take on the role of PRO from Julia Venzke. Julia, who is great fun to work with, did a wonderful job last year.

At a recent TLI, a member of a newly formed club asked our group, "When someone asks you about Toastmasters, what do you say?"

I replied that when I explain Toastmasters, I have observed two reactions. People who are not familiar with the organization seem confused and might even think it sounds a little odd while people who *have* heard of it respond with enthusiasm. They think Toastmasters is great!

The club member had noticed similar reactions in her conversations.

Sometimes it's hard to summarize all that we acquire from our participation such as speaking and leadership skills, self-confidence, effective teamwork, mentoring abilities, and how to give constructive evaluations, all of which we can put to use in our everyday lives. There is so much to share. How we talk about Toastmasters is important. The goal of the Toastmasters rebrand is to bring our mes-

sage into clearer focus and share it more effectively with the world. Toastmasters is where leaders are made—and more. If you're looking for a better way to talk about Toastmasters, have a look at pages 4 and 6 of the September *Toastmaster* magazine. Members offer good perspectives on the topic.

In the coming year, your District 19 public relations team will work together to celebrate members' achievements, highlight events and opportunities, and share news and information both within District 19 and the wider world. Allow me to introduce you to your 2011-2012 Public Relations team members:

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# A Las Vegas adventure

## Michael Anderson, DTM

I got to watch a rerun of the old TV show *The A-Team*. Watching Colonel Hannibal Smith and his team was part of my morning exercise routine, but this summer it was put on hold so I could use the time to recite my speeches while on the elliptical. Same with listening to the radio in the car. Or while cutting the grass. But now it's all over with, and life is returning to normal. Except now I'm a better speaker, a better Toastmaster ... maybe even a better person. Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

I started this year's contest back in January when I began adapting an old speech for the International Contest. I never really had a goal of reaching the worldwide stage. I enjoy coaching others through speeches, and, frankly, my goal was to pad my resume by at least getting to the Division B Contest (I had never before advanced beyond the Area Contest). Winning at Division, and then at District, was unexpected and bewildering. This contest started in March with more than 30,000 contestants around the world! The thought of being one of the Final 82 would be enough to make Mr. T's knees shake. I had a pretty good idea what it would take to prepare for the International semi-final – and wasn't sure I wanted to do it. I very much felt the weight of responsibility. There were four excellent speakers on that stage with me at District, and each also deserved, and presumably desired, the opportunity I was getting. I felt a personal responsibility to them, as well as to all of the contestants I faced through the Area and Division contests – a responsibility to make the most of this opportunity.

In May, Michael Anderson, representing Division B's 5 Seasons Parliamentarians, won the District 19 International Speech Competition. We asked him to review what happened after that, including the speech contest finals at the Toastmasters International World Conference in Las Vegas.

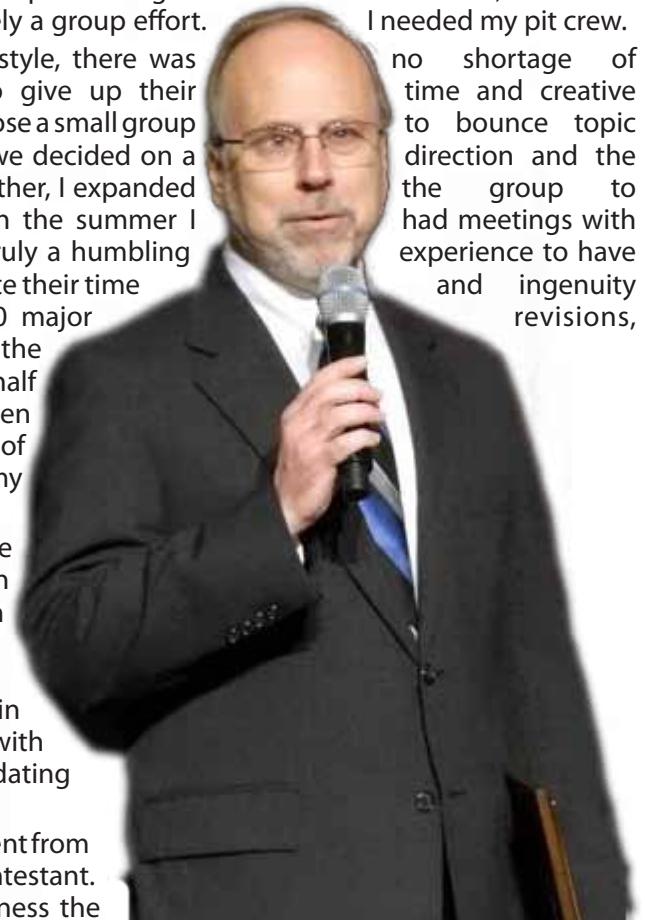
The biggest challenge of the summer was coming up with the new speech I'd need just in case I beat the odds and won at the semi-final – one with a message so strong it could compete with the Top 10 speakers in the world! It was a challenge big enough that it was obvious it was time to get help. Plus I needed to keep my District-winning speech in shape, fine-tuning it for the semi-final. A speech might look like a solo effort, but at this level, it's absolutely a group effort. I needed my pit crew.

In true District 19 style, there was no shortage of volunteers willing to give up their time and creative energy to help. First, I chose a small group to bounce topic ideas off of, and then as we decided on a direction and the group to include more people. Through the summer I had meetings with the group to have experience to have and ingenuity and dozens of people eager to contribute their time and revisions,

to help me and my speech improve. I would end up with 10 major and dozens and dozens of minor ones – and that doesn't count the delivery: stage movement, gestures, vocal inflections. We'd spend half an hour debating a specific word choice or gesture. I have never been through anything like this experience in my life, and the memory of it warms me every time. Oh, it was agony at times, but I knew my critics wouldn't be there if they didn't care.

I began giving the speeches in front of clubs. Some invited me spontaneously. Others cleared their speaking schedules for me on my request, sometimes with very little notice. My competitor from Minneapolis who would win the semi-final in Las Vegas told me (and everyone else who would listen) that he spoke in front of more than 40 clubs during the summer. I didn't do nearly as many – in hindsight, maybe I should have! But as it was I was overwhelmed with everyone's generosity and willingness to help me face this intimidating challenge.

That brings us to Las Vegas. An International Convention is far different from a District or Division contest, at least from the viewpoint of this contestant. While nearly everyone I met was friendly, there was also a wariness the



pervaded the contestant briefings. Everyone there had earned the right to be there with a strong performance. It just added to the building sense of excitement as we eyed each other, wondering who among us would emerge as world champion.

There were about three hundred people watching when I finally took the stage. I had drawn the #3 position. Not good; there's evidence that those who speak later have a definite advantage by being fresh in the judges' minds when it's time for them to rank the contestants. But at least I'd get to relax early! I'm normally pretty reserved, and I knew that to even look like I belonged on the stage, I'd need to dig down and find energy and intensity like never before. I did it (at least, according to what others tell me), but it really wasn't that hard – I was able to tap into the tension and electricity of the moment.

Much of the advice I received through the summer was on where my "head" should be as I first walked on stage. Connect with the audience! Keep that eye contact! Confidence! Energy! Tell your story! And when the moment came... my main thought was, "Geez, I hope I don't trip walking up that big ramp."

It was exhilarating. . . bright and hot stage lights in my eyes, hundreds of people hanging on every word I had to say. The work of a full summer all came together like one of Hannibal Smith's plans, and a memory of a lifetime was created. I found a new level of accomplishment – a new standard for me to strive for in the future.

I did not finish in the top three. Based on what others tell me and what I imagined, I couldn't have been too far away. Disappointing, but only momentarily, because I knew what was important was the journey, not the result. The ranking was just a detail. I thought back to what I owed my competitors at District, Division, and Area contests, and felt I could look them in the eye and say I represented them well.

The list of very special District 19 people who helped through the summer is long. At the horrible risk of forgetting someone, I have to give special thank yous to Kory May (who as last year's District Champ was generous in his unique perspective), Anne Chapman, Martha Hedberg-Latta, Mark Latta, Doug Nelson, Kristin Bruchmann, Stephanie Merrick, Gary Whitehill, Laura Meade, and all the oh-so-supportive members of the Crossroads Storytellers, Five Seasons Parliamentarians, and Sunrise Marion clubs. And a thank you to the members of the various clubs I visited, many of whom gave me some great advice.

A special hug of gratitude to those who came out to Las Vegas to keep me focused: Jamie Ward, Julia Venzke, my wife Jeanie (who also put up with my frequent absences through the summer), and my best non-Toastmaster friend, Jessica. I called them my "J-Team." And, of course, it helped to see there the familiar faces and warm smiles of District 19 friends LeAnn Blankenburg, Thomas Lindaman, Michelle Holmes... and Fluffy.

I know I've left off some names, but be assured that every one of you who supported me – whether it was watching me practice, or sending me an encouraging email – will forever in my mind be a very important part of this amazing experience.

Do not for a moment let this essay dissuade you from competing. It should be just the opposite. Every eligible Toastmaster has the potential to ride this roller coaster, and I encourage you to try. It's inspiring to see the people in District 19 rallying to give you the support you need, and you can't help but come out of it better than you've ever been before (except maybe a little more tired).

Start pulling together your plan to be in Orlando next summer (or even Cincinnati in 2013). Whether as a spectator, a District Officer, or as a contestant, it's a goal that will make you better. And try competing in a speech contest. You never know how far it'll take you.



# District 19 achieves Distinguished District Thomas Lindaman, IPDG

Walking across the stage at the International Convention for any reason isn't just a walk; it is a moment. The eyes of thousands of Toastmasters from around the world are on you as you stride from the side to the middle, their hands clapping as for one shining moment you are the center of attention.

And that, my friends, is a good thing.

Being a Distinguished District for the first time in six years was, and still is, an amazing feeling. It is a reflection of the hard work and dedication everyone in the District undertook to achieve a lofty, yet attainable, goal. Without your efforts, a walk across the stage at International would have been a pipe dream. Yet, because of your efforts, it was a dream realized.

Standing on stage with the District 19 members in attendance was a memory I will always cherish. Now, it's time to make it not just a single moment in time, but a series of moments that future District Governors can experience as they stride across the stage at International as a Distinguished District.

Left to right: Immediate Past District 19 Governor Thomas Lindaman; District 19 Governor LeAnn Blankenburg; Immediate Past D19 PRO Julia Venzke; and Fluffy, D19's unofficial mascot



Immediate Past International President  
Immediate Past District 19 Governor Thomas Lindaman

# Our International Convention experience

## Julia Venzke, DTM, IPPRO

In mid-August, Jamie Ward and I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Toastmasters International Convention at Bally's Hotel on the strip in Las Vegas. We wanted to be in the audience when Mike Anderson competed in the International Speech Contest Semi-finals!

This article highlights the experiences of two convention attendees with few responsibilities, unlike our top-three district officers, who spent much of their time sequestered in training, or our stressed-out contestant (for that see Mike Anderson's article.)

An International Convention is like a District 19 Conference on steroids. Approximately 2000 Toastmasters and guests from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia were in attendance for the following:

**Opening ceremonies and inspiring keynote presentations** (featuring comedian / Toastmaster Dan Nainan and Dave Logan, expert on cultural transformation in the workplace)

**12 communication and leadership skill-building sessions** (presenters included Past International Speech Contest winners Darren LaCroix, Mark Hunter, and Dana LaMon) *Continued p. 10*



President Pat Johnson congratulates Immediate Past District 19 Governor Thomas Lindaman

Left to right: Immediate Past International President Pat Johnson is pictured with Immediate Past District 19 Governor Thomas Lindaman; District 19 Governor LeAnn Blankenburg; Immediate Past D19 PRO Julia Venzke and Fluffy, D19's unofficial mascot; Mike Anderson who represented Five Seasons Parliamentarians in the 2011 World Championship of Public Speaking; Michelle Holmes D19 Treasurer and Division A Governor; and Jamie Ward, D19 2010-2011 Parliamentarian.



# International

Continued from p. 9

**Nine International Speech Contest Semifinals** and the **World Championship of Public Speaking**

**Hall of Fame Ceremony**

**Golden Gavel Dinner** (Communication/Leadership award given to a non-Toastmaster)

**President's Dinner Dance**

Jamie and I had been to an international convention before, so we opted to spend part of our time this year as our vacation, exploring parks outside of Las Vegas (including Death Valley!) before and during the convention. We registered "a la carte," where we saved money by not attending the Golden Gavel and President's Dinners. But here's what we did get to see and do:

The room is at fever pitch during the **opening ceremonies**, where old friends are reunited and new friendships are made. After an inspiring parade of flags representing the countries with Toastmasters clubs, the audience received a warm welcome from outgoing International President Pat Johnson, followed by the keynote speakers.

A proud moment for District 19 occurred at the **Hall of Fame Ceremony**, when our district accepted a certificate for achieving 2010-11 Distinguished District status. In convention tradition, all members of our District attending the convention went on stage to receive the award from Pat Johnson. This was also an opportunity to unfurl our new District banner with the rebranding design (see photo).

The next day, Jamie and I attended **the International Speech Contest Semi-finals**. There were three groups with three contests each, and our tickets allowed us entry to one contest per group. The first group started at 2:30 pm, Mike's group competed at 7:30 pm in Group 3. By the end I had seen 28 speeches in six hours! These contests were a highlight of the week for me, with speakers from Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, Canada and the US. The speech topics revealed how much Toastmasters have in common no matter our upbringing or mailing address- family loss

and love, the challenges of change, and finding humor amidst despair.

Watching Mike in his contest gave me a 5-7 minute lifetime memory. He presented "Son in the Shadow," the speech that won him the D19 trophy, taking it to a new level of emotion and presentation style. Mike didn't place in his group, but his reward was knowing he did well and truly deserved to be on that stage. Kudos to Jamie for professionally handling Mike's props.

Two days later we attended the early-morning International Speech Contest. This is an unforgettable experience—2000 Toastmasters in the room, professional videographers recording the event with multiple cameras, Toastmasters watching the contest online, live podcasting, contestant images projected onto a giant screen... definitely the big league of public speaking! Awards were presented at the end of the contest- the winner was Australian Jock Elliot, who'd been trying for 20 years to win 1<sup>st</sup> place—he had been a finalist six times. More information in this [news release](#).

Jamie and I missed the final event, the President's Dinner Dance. We've attended this at a past convention and highly recommend first-time attendees go to this dinner. People really dress up in tuxes and gowns, and the dance is a wonderful way to wrap the conference. LeAnn Blankenburg and Michelle Holmes can tell you what it was like! Since we WERE in Vegas, Jamie and I went to see the Blue Man Group, dined with Mike and his wife at a legendary Vegas Italian restaurant, Battista's Hole in the Wall, and had the "Fremont Street Experience" in old Las Vegas.

I encourage you to attend an International Convention. Often you can get a great hotel/plane ticket package as these are held in large cities (2012 convention in Orlando, FL). Some conventions are within driving distance, such as the 2013 convention in Cincinnati, OH. At a Toastmasters International Convention you truly get a taste of the wonderfully diverse peoples and cultures within our worldwide membership.

# Toastmasters rock! 11-11-11

Laura Meade

If you're of a certain age, you may remember "Schoolhouse Rock!", the catchy songs and cartoons that helped a generation learn math, science, civics, and grammar in a fun way. There were songs like "Conjunction Junction," "I'm Just a Bill," "Interplanet Janet," and "A Noun is a Person, Place, or Thing."

Well, here's an "Inter-jection!" The Fall District 19 conference theme is "Toastmasters Rock!" and Division B is showing its EXCITEMENT! Here are ten reasons why you should plan to attend:

1. You'll attend fantastic educational sessions that will give you in-depth information about speaking and leading.
2. You'll hear the best humorous speeches in the state (will one be yours?).
3. You'll hear the best evaluators in the state (will you be one of them?).
4. You'll participate in an important and exciting district business meeting.
5. You'll see Toastmaster friends from around the district, and you'll make new friends.
6. You see people from your club, area, and/or division being recognized for their Toastmaster achievements for the year that ended June 30.
7. You'll eat great food.
8. You'll enjoy the Friday night entertainment hosted by Crossroads Story Tellers.
9. Crossroads Story Tellers is challenging any club in the district to take the coveted Traveling Trophy from them. The trophy is awarded to the club who has the most members travel the farthest distance. This would be the year to take it from them, since the conference is in their backyard.
10. The date is easy to remember. It's 11-11-11 and 11-12-11, at the Longbranch Convention Center in Cedar Rapids. You can download the registration form from <http://district19.me>.

Some of you may think these conferences are out of your price range, especially if you stay in a hotel for two nights. That's why you should think about it NOW. Plan for it, budget for it, get a roommate.

Don't wait to see if you win the division contest or the Powerball Lottery. The conference is more than just great contests. District 19 Toastmasters come back every six months not because they have a lot of money, but because the conferences are worth it.

Here are a few catchy "Toastmasters Rock" songs in the works:

"What's the Value in E-valuation?"

"Good Humor Isn't Ice Cream"

"Make a Point, Tell a Story"

"If You're Coasting, You're Going Downhill"

"Robert Wrote the Rules of Order"

And more. You're welcome to make up your own "Toastmasters Rock!" songs, too. Attend and participate in the fall conference -- for the speaking, for the leadership, for the networking, for the fun. We all know that "Toastmasters Rock!" (and that's an interjection!).

11-11-11 & 11-12-11  
Longbranch Convention  
Center in Cedar Rapids  
Register Now!

<http://district19.me>

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# October is Toastmasters Month

On August 11, D19 Immediate Past District Governor Thomas Lindaman and Barbara Cochran, Mercy Speak-easy Toastmasters, were present when Iowa Governor Terry Branstad signed a proclamation declaring October to be Toastmasters Month.





## Youth Leadership



Tri-State Toasters is a corporate club at Prudential Financial in Dubuque, Iowa that gives back to their fellow colleagues by hosting Youth Leadership workshops for the children of the parents working in the firm. Cyndie Crossland was a coordinator for a recent workshop. Mickey Kelchen, Tim Brockling, Marie Cook, Brenda Martinek, Kathy Wilgenbusch and Kelly Nielsen assisted Cyndie in this program to help the youth build communication and leadership skills so they can become tomorrow's leaders. The belief of the Youth Leadership Program is every child has the potential to become a good communicator and leader. However, these skills are not innate, they need to be developed – to grow. The recent Youth Leadership program consisted of 30 youth who were able to develop their potential through practical experience. The youth spoke about their favorite subject in school, favorite summer activity and their family pet. Many of the youth's face lit up when they spoke about their dog. Everyone involved benefited from this program.

# Iowa State Fair Parade



"Nothing Compares to...District 19 Toastmasters walking in the 2011 Iowa State Fair Parade!" It was a balmy summer night on August 10<sup>th</sup> in downtown Des Moines. Five enthusiastic local Toastmasters, plus one teenage amigo who decided to tag along, robustly trekked the parade route. Banners in hand, they waved, smiled and mingled with spectators sitting on curb, hanging

## Toastmasters new look

Last month Toastmasters International unveiled its new look. If you have visited the TI website, ordered new materials, or glanced at the September issue of *Toastmaster* magazine, you have seen the main features of this "brand refresh" such as the new color scheme, logo, and tagline *Where leaders are made*.

This rebranding will help us tell the Toastmasters story in a more unified way. In the coming months, District 19 will adapt its website and other materials to this new look. You are encouraged to do the same with your club websites, newsletters and other communication pieces.

Many resources exist to help you make the transition. Here are a few links to get you started:

District and Club Leader Brand Manual: [www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal/BrandManualandGuidelines/BrandManualPDF.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal/BrandManualandGuidelines/BrandManualPDF.aspx)

Brand Manual, Brand Guidelines and Brand FAQs: [www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal/BrandManualandGuidelines.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal/BrandManualandGuidelines.aspx)

Virtual Brand Portal: [www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal.aspx)



Although small in size, the group was big on public relations spreading the word about their favorite organization. Mark your calendars for next year. A new District 19 tradition has been born.

from balconies and leaning against trees. There were sporadic whispers overheard like, "Toastmasters? What's that?" The crowd favorite were the recycled "ears" (the clapping hands headbands first showcased in Dubuque).



## Make a video about your club Kelly Nielsen, LG Marketing

Record a short video about your club, now through November 1 and place the video on YouTube. The videos may showcase how your club is unique, interesting aspects of your club or reasons why new members want to be a part of your club.

Send the YouTube link to Kelly Nielsen, Lt Governor Marketing ([nielsendtm@yahoo.com](mailto:nielsendtm@yahoo.com)) so the link can be added to our Facebook page.

The video with the most hits on November 1st earns \$25 gift certificate to the District bookstore. The video will also be shown at the Fall Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA. For more information, contact Kelly Nielsen at [nielsendtm@yahoo.com](mailto:nielsendtm@yahoo.com)

# Toastmasters talent is an inspiration across America

Lauri Hughes, ACG, ALS

My Toastmasters journey began in 2000 when my boss at the time invited me to a Toastmasters meeting. I was hooked on Toastmasters in one hour. Where else can you be referred to as an "Honored Guest?!" I joined Kirkwood Keynotes, Club 1564 the following week. Since then I've regularly attended club meetings and served in numerous club officer roles. I continue to learn from my fellow Toastmasters friends and hone my skills. I've found our weekly meetings to be energizing, refreshing and inspiring. There's always something new to learn! This past April I traveled to Chicago to meet with Dr. Janet Szlyk, President of the Chicago Lighthouse. For those of you unfamiliar with the Chicago Light-

house, it's an organization that works with blind and visually impaired individuals across the state of Illinois. We were scheduled to meet for 30 minutes. However, in sharing with her my life experiences with a visual

## Speakers of the Corn

Zombies meets professional development with the chartering of the new corporate Toastmasters Club Speakers of the Corn at Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), a division of NextEra Energy, in Palo, IA. The club that started in April, already has 25 members.

"A club was started at our Headquarters in Florida," tells Paul Wood, the Charter VPE, "and I thought it would be a good idea to start one at Duane Arnold. I knew that Jason Dubois had been a TM before, so we got together and started the club."

Dean Garrison, right, receives the Best Speaker Award on August 24 at the Speakers of the Corn club meeting and Charter Party. Dean presented a speech on three types of zombies and tips for surviving a zombie apocalypse. Andy Lee (center) assisted Dean by demonstrating the three zombie types. Club president Jason Dubois (left) presents the award.

The company is the proud sponsor and sees Toastmasters as a professional development strategy for NextEra Energy employees. It appears that they are having a great time building speaking and leadership skills.

The club name was the brain child of Dean Garrison, who presented the talk on tips for the a zombie apocalypse. So Palo has a new Toastmasters club, a smart company, and is safe from the zombie apocalypse! Or is it?



impairment she was inspired to listen to me for 3 hours while I shared my challenges, struggles, persistence and success. In fact, she was so inspired that she invited me to return in July to give the keynote address for the Chicago Light-house Scholarship event. I agreed. I was allocated 20 – 25 minutes on the program agenda.

I spent the next 6 weeks working on a first draft of my speech. Knowing that attendance at our weekly club meetings drops during the summer months I gave an advanced manual speech on my upcoming keynote address as a way to persuade (and invite) my fellow members to attend an upcoming meeting so they may get a sneak peak at my speech and to evaluate and provide me with feedback. In fact, I asked for a round robin

evaluation experience. This was new for our club members but it was amazingly successful! I spent a few weeks tweaking my speech based upon the feedback I received. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> I shared my story with an audience of approximately 130 people. In 25 minutes I touched hearts and souls with “My Train Ride to Success.”

Following the program individuals stood in line to speak with me, expressing their amazement at my story and presentation. It was a day I will never forget. Little did I know that one of the Board of Directors from the National Lions Club was in the audience. He approached me and told me he was so impressed with my story he invited me to be the keynote speaker at the National Lions Club Conference next spring in California. I don’t know all the details about this new opportunity but I’m certain my Toastmasters skills will again be put to the challenge and my fellow club members will provide me the evaluation feedback that will lead to another successful experience. I’m honored and humbled to know that my journey is an inspiration to others.....and that Toastmasters change lives!

## Website Committee members wanted

We are seeking committee members to offer assistance to District 19 clubs as we all adapt our websites to match the new brand.

If you are interested or to find out more, contact Cliff Scherrer, Sr., Lt. Governor of Education & Training at [dtmcliff@machlink.com](mailto:dtmcliff@machlink.com)

## Dues Increase

In October, Toastmasters dues will increase from \$54 to \$72. For more information, see <http://www.toastmasters.org/NonNavigableDocs/DuesIncreaseFAQs.aspx> Club officers, remember that dues may now be paid online. Go to [www.toastmasters.org/DuesRenewals](http://www.toastmasters.org/DuesRenewals) for details.

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Name	Location
972362	E	91	CC	6/3/2011	Nielsen, Kelly	Tri-State Toasters	Dubuque
7858	C	51	CC	6/3/2011	Kratzer, Scott R.	Crosswinds Toastmasters Club	Marshalltown
1443	B	34	CL	6/6/2011	Anderson, Michael H.	Crossroads Story Tellers Club	North Liberty
972362	E	91	CC	6/6/2011	Gruhn, Tracey Marie	Tri-State Toasters	Dubuque
1937	C	54	ACS	6/7/2011	Willett, Patricia Rae	Statesmen Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
1089	E	92	CC	6/8/2011	Marie, Ferdinand	Washington Toastmasters Club	Washington
1463191	B	34	CL	6/8/2011	Harrison, Deborah K.	Financial Park Toastmasters	Cedar Rapids
1104627	C	55	ACB	6/9/2011	Peterson, Shawn	Stagecoach Speakers - Downtown DSM	Des Moines
2382	A	11	CC	6/9/2011	Mejias-Sarceno, Gloryann	Sweet Talkers Toastmasters Club	Le Mars
8669	B	31	CL	6/9/2011	Lutz, Barbara J.	Loud Speakers Club	Waverly
6628	E	92	ACS	6/9/2011	Piper, Karen K.	Burlington Area Toastmasters Club	Burlington
1564	B	34	ACG	6/9/2011	Hughes, Lauri J.	Kirkwood Keynotes Club	Cedar Rapids
1274432	B	36	CC	6/10/2011	Owings, Martin G.	GEICO Dynamos	Coralville
3515	B	33	CC	6/10/2011	Schultz, Paul L.	Sunrise Marion Club	Cedar Rapids
645182	C	54	CC	6/10/2011	Kramer, Judy Kay	Nexus Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
1205	B	33	ACB	6/11/2011	Chapman, Anne B.	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
617	B	34	ACS	6/12/2011	Sample, Sue	Hawkeye Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
1282753	B	32	CC	6/13/2011	Ruppert, Jennifer B.	Aegon Articulators	Cedar Rapids
1567904	E	91	CL	6/13/2011	Heinrich, Shelley A.	McGraw-Hill Winspirational Speakers	Dubuque
2670	A	11	CC	6/14/2011	Hohenstein, Janice L.	Siouxland Ciceros Club	South Sioux City
5295	A	11	ACB	6/14/2011	McClaren, Lori K	Reddy Club	Sioux City
1991	C	53	CC	6/14/2011	Bowers, Peters F.	Prairie Voices Toastmasters	Des Moines
2790	E	94	CL	6/14/2011	Emmert, Bradley David	Moline Toastmasters	Moline
164	B	36	ACS	6/15/2011	Stunz, Laura L.	Old Capitol Club	Iowa City
2790	E	94	ACG	6/15/2011	Hayden, John C.	Moline Toastmasters	Moline
2790	E	94	CL	6/15/2011	Ward, Linda D	Moline Toastmasters	Moline
7813	C	52	CC	6/16/2011	Li, Guofu	Opportunity Knocks Club	Des Moines
7813	C	52	CC	6/16/2011	Gordon, Connie M.	Opportunity Knocks Club	Des Moines
6787	A	11	ACB	6/17/2011	Hennings, Jason	Future Communicators of America	Cherokee
1205	B	33	ALB	6/17/2011	Hinkel, Nancy Ellen	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
1205	B	33	CL	6/17/2011	Hinkel, Nancy Ellen	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
187	C	55	CC	6/17/2011	Stegman, Jedediah	Toast I.T.	Des Moines
1205	B	33	CC	6/18/2011	Venzke, Julia Kay	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
1205	B	33	CC	6/19/2011	Boardrow, Melissa L.	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
9047	C	52	ACG	6/21/2011	Covalt, Doris A.	Mid City Toastmasters Club	Des Moines,
1564	B	34	CC	6/21/2011	Allen, Danielle Marie	Kirkwood Keynotes Club	Cedar Rapids
1443	B	34	CL	6/22/2011	Tracsel, Ben D.	Crossroads Story Tellers Club	North Liberty
4477	C	51	ACB	6/22/2011	Carlson, John D.	Ankeny Club	Ankeny
1282753	B	32	ALB	6/23/2011	Oehler, Mark	Aegon Articulators	Cedar Rapids
2388	C	52	CL	6/23/2011	Sowers, Dusty Lee	Esquire Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
711779	E	94	CC	6/23/2011	Anderson, Scott A	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
6787	A	11	ACB	6/24/2011	Mauro, Adam	Future Communicators of America	Cherokee
1089	E	92	ACB	6/24/2011	Martin, Mary Louise	Washington Toastmasters Club	Washington
3515	B	33	ACB	6/24/2011	Hartson, Angie	Sunrise Marion Club	Cedar Rapids
2670	A	11	CL	6/24/2011	Jensen, Melissa Rene	Siouxland Ciceros Club	South Sioux City
7858	C	51	CL	6/24/2011	Hosek, Jamie Lynn	Crosswinds Toastmasters Club	Marshalltown
164	B	36	CL	6/24/2011	DeBok, Diane R	Old Capitol Club	Iowa City
617	B	34	CL	6/25/2011	Reuter, Julie C.	Hawkeye Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
184	D	74	ACB	6/26/2011	Kim, Ki-hwan	iToast Toastmasters Club	Ames
684	B	32	CC	6/27/2011	Zweigart, Regis J.	Downtowners Watts of Talk	Cedar Rapids
2388	C	52	CC	6/27/2011	Sowers, Dusty Lee	Esquire Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
645182	C	54	ACB	6/27/2011	Gulbranson, Jason Patrick	Nexus Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
7858	C	51	ACS	6/27/2011	Cox, Leah Rae	Crosswinds Toastmasters Club	Marshalltown
9047	C	52	ACS	6/27/2011	Hansen, Lona J.	Mid City Toastmasters Club	Des Moines,
617	B	34	ALB	6/28/2011	Hart, Brenda S.	Hawkeye Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
8826	D	72	CC	6/28/2011	Surber, Aaron David	Stagecoach Speakers	West Des Moines
6582	D	72	CC	6/28/2011	Schroeder, Andy W.	Hy-Vee Corporate Club	West Des Moines
6787	A	11	CL	6/28/2011	Shearer, Brett N	Future Communicators of America	Cherokee
1564	B	34	CL	6/28/2011	Allen, Danielle Marie	Kirkwood Keynotes Club	Cedar Rapids
711779	E	94	CC	6/28/2011	Johnson, Amy J.	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
7978	A	13	CC	6/29/2011	Simmons, Elizabeth A	WIT Masters Toastmasters Club	Sioux City

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Name	Location
645182	C	54	CC	6/29/2011	Backstrom, Maureen K.	Nexus Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
3135	D	72	CC	6/29/2011	Shultice, Blake Thomas	Early Risers Toastmasters Club	West Des Moines
164	B	36	CC	6/29/2011	Kersten, Rachel	Old Capitol Club	Iowa City
7978	A	13	ACS	6/29/2011	Kock, Ann	WIT Masters Toastmasters Club	Sioux City
5819	C	53	ACG	6/29/2011	Vipond, Robert J.	Talk of Des Moines Club	Des Moines
5819	C	53	DTM	6/29/2011	Vipond, Robert J.	Talk of Des Moines Club	Des Moines
5819	C	53	ACG	6/29/2011	Freeman, Paul	Talk of Des Moines Club	Des Moines
3135	D	72	CC	6/29/2011	Kordick, Ed J.	Early Risers Toastmasters Club	West Des Moines
1209	B	36	ALB	6/30/2011	Williams, Reginald	Affirmationists Club	Iowa City
9047	C	52	ACB	6/30/2011	Stone, Diane C.	Mid City Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
760340	C	54	CC	6/30/2011	Heidt, Sally	High Voltage Club	Des Moines
1567904	E	91	ACB	6/30/2011	Nielsen, Keith A.	McGraw-Hill Winspirational Speakers	Dubuque
1567904	E	91	ACB	6/30/2011	Dausener, DeAnna M.	McGraw-Hill Winspirational Speakers	Dubuque
684	B	32	CC	6/30/2011	Rieger, Steven E	Downtowners Watts of Talk	Cedar Rapids
3595	D	74	CC	6/30/2011	Little, Sharon Kay	NADL Early Risers Club	Ames
711779	E	94	ALB	7/1/2011	Binder, Tamra J.	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
711779	E	94	ACB	7/1/2011	Binder, Tamra J.	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
617	B	34	ACB	7/6/2011	Sposato, Anne	Hawkeye Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
684	B	32	CL	7/6/2011	Heitt, Tammy A.	Downtowners Watts of Talk	Cedar Rapids
2670	A	11	ACB	7/7/2011	Jensen, Melissa Rene	Siouxland Ciceros Club	South Sioux City
1205	B	33	ACB	7/9/2011	Matthews, Joshua Caleb	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
2187	D	74	CL	7/11/2011	Chung, Kueier	Ames Toastmasters	Ames
6628	E	92	ACB	7/11/2011	Creagan, Samuel Joseph	Burlington Area Toastmasters Club	Burlington
1463191	B	34	CC	7/11/2011	Harrison, Deborah K.	Financial Park Toastmasters	Cedar Rapids
1463191	B	34	CL	7/11/2011	Whitson, Michael John	Financial Park Toastmasters	Cedar Rapids
875	D	74	CL	7/13/2011	Kimura, Kayoko	Town And College Club	Ames
875	D	74	CC	7/13/2011	Sychra, Andrew Robert	Town And College Club	Ames
3250	B	33	ALB	7/19/2011	Munoz, Jairo	Collins Avionics Club	Cedar Rapids
8826	D	72	CC	7/19/2011	Lindaman, Thomas	Stagecoach Speakers	West Des Moines
8826	D	72	ALB	7/19/2011	Johnson, Erik P	Stagecoach Speakers	West Des Moines
645182	C	54	CL	7/20/2011	Paul, Rosanne	Nexus Toastmasters Club	Des Moines
711779	E	94	LDREXC	7/20/2011	Hayden, John C.	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
875	D	74	ACB	7/21/2011	Ng, Kam Weng	Town And College Club	Ames
2790	E	94	ALS	7/21/2011	Hayden, John C.	Moline Toastmasters	Moline
711779	E	94	DTM	7/22/2011	Hayden, John C.	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
164	B	36	CC	7/26/2011	Dobrian, Joseph L	Old Capitol Club	Iowa City
4991	D	75	CL	7/26/2011	Johnson, Gina R.	John Deere Financial Toastmasters Club	Johnston
5295	A	11	CC	7/26/2011	Livingston, Ellen G.	Reddy Club	Sioux City
1588583	B	34	ALS	7/26/2011	Hughes, Lauri J.	Imagination Speakers	Cedar Rapids
7515	E	92	ACB	7/28/2011	Denbaum, Diane M.	Golden Speakers Club	Fairfield
2316	A	12	CC	7/29/2011	Robert, Herbst W.	Wright On	Clarion
2316	A	12	ACB	7/29/2011	Young, Burdette A.	Wright On	Clarion
4477	C	51	CC	7/29/2011	Nolte, Nathan Ryan	Ankeny Club	Ankeny
164	B	36	ACG	8/1/2011	Roalson, Eric B.	Old Capitol Club	Iowa City
1567904	E	91	CC	8/1/2011	Behnke, Leonard J.	McGraw-Hill Winspirational Speakers	Dubuque
184	D	74	CC	8/5/2011	Haga, Takanori	iToast Toastmasters Club	Ames
184	D	74	CC	8/5/2011	Zhang, Yanan	iToast Toastmasters Club	Ames
1205	B	33	ACS	8/6/2011	Wood, Paul	Heritage Toastmasters Club	Cedar Rapids
605919	C	55	CC	8/6/2011	Reddy, Sireesha B.	1100 Toastmasters	Des Moines
4605	D	75	CC	8/7/2011	Frana, Emily	Johnston Club	Johnston
2382	A	11	CL	8/8/2011	Gengler, Denise	Sweet Talkers Toastmasters Club	Le Mars
4477	C	51	CL	8/8/2011	Breaux, Harry Bruce	Ankeny Club	Ankeny
4804	C	53	CL	8/10/2011	Tinker, Martha I.	Tower Toasters Club	Des Moines
9513	E	92	ACS	8/10/2011	Wolfkill, Travis	Conscious Communicator Club	Fort Madison
1463191	B	34	ACB	8/10/2011	Reuter, Julie C.	Financial Park Toastmasters	Cedar Rapids
711779	E	94	CC	8/11/2011	Pike, Dale	Quad Cities Executive Toastmasters Club	Davenport
1463191	B	34	CC	8/12/2011	Blocher, John L.	Financial Park Toastmasters	Cedar Rapids
101	B	31	ACB	8/17/2011	Coleman, Carmel J.	Waterloo Toastmasters	Waterloo
4804	C	53	CC	8/18/2011	Rajasekhar, Vishnusekhar	Tower Toasters Club	Des Moines
1325	E	94	CL	8/22/2011	Bruchmann, Kristin K.	Quad Cities Advanced Toastmasters Club	Moline
1325	E	94	CC	8/22/2011	Bruchmann, Kristin K.	Quad Cities Advanced Toastmasters Club	Moline



# Toastmasters Rock!

November 11 – 12, 2011  
 District 19, Fall 2011 Conference  
 Longbranch Hotel and Convention Center  
 90 Twixt Town Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Name (to be printed on badge): \_\_\_\_\_

TM Level(s) achieved (CC, AL, DTM, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your first District 19 Conference?: Y / N

Home club name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home club number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Full Conference Registration

May 28 – June 30	\$100
July 1 – Sept 15	\$115
Sept 16 – Oct 15	\$125
Oct 16 – Conference	\$135

### Individual Event Registration

Registration Only (no meals)	\$75
Friday Night BBQ Buffet	\$25
Saturday Breakfast	\$15
Saturday Lunch	\$20
Saturday Dinner Banquet	\$35

Saturday Dinner Selection (circle one): Beef                      Salmon                      Ravioli

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Saturday Dinner choice cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after November 5, 2011*

**Make check payable to: DISTRICT 19 TOASTMASTERS**

Send registration to the registration chair, Joshua Matthews:  
 1625 49<sup>th</sup> St  
 Marion, IA 52302  
 Questions can be directed to Joshua at [josh.jcmatthe@gmail.com](mailto:josh.jcmatthe@gmail.com)

*Accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Longbranch Hotel and Convention Center. Call 800-443-7660 and ask for the Toastmasters rate of \$89.99 for one queen bed or \$98.99 for two queen beds. The rate is based on availability.*