



## 52 Review: A Publication of District 52 Toastmasters

June 2009



Michelle Gilstrap, DTM  
District 52 Governor  
2008–2009

*“Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.” Orison Swett Marden*

This year our District will be measured not only by our accomplishments and by the opposition of the recession, but it will also be measured by the *courageous devotion* that each one of you has had as you marched on.

Yes, we have had obstacles and we have had hills to climb, but through our climbing we have grown stronger and we have realized our strengths. Our skills have grown as we have taken on new challenges in our clubs and in our workplaces. We have lost friends along the way as our workplaces have suffered layoffs and have downsized. Our clubs have seen members leave and have seen new members join as they have realized they needed to learn skills to sharpen their presentation and communication skills.

Every Toastmaster is a winner during this recession, because you have skills beyond those of the average worker, and your skills are highly valued in the workplace. Yes, a few of you have recently lost your jobs, but know that your Table Topic skills will help you in job interviews.

Your listening skills will help you as you interview, and your presentation skills will outshine other candidates. Most employers will choose someone who has good presentation skills over someone who has none when their skill sets are even. Leadership skills always put you ahead of others as well. Stay in Toastmasters because your next job lead may come from someone in your club who heard of an opening where s/he works. It is all about networking and you want to keep all your options open.

### Success and Struggle Against Overwhelming Odds

We will be looking back at our Toastmaster year on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and we will say that our club is distinguished, our Area is distinguished and our Division is distinguished, but will our District be distinguished?

It would be the first time in the history of District 52 to be Distinguished 6 years in a row. But it will take everyone's help. I certainly hope it happens.

The District will only be distinguished if we have clubs that are distinguished because we have individuals who have submitted their CCs and we have met our goals. We will be distinguished only if several clubs have added five more members and earned the **Beat the Clock Membership Program by June 30<sup>th</sup> and can earn \$25 Gift Certificates from the District. You can still earn a Ribbon for your Club Banner by June 30<sup>th</sup>** from Toastmasters International.

Our District will be distinguished if all clubs who have not paid their dues renew and continue their Toastmaster program to help their members continue to sharpen their skills.

Whatever happens at the end of this Toastmaster year, we will all come together on July 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate at our Awards and Installation Banquet at the Castaway in Burbank to honor everyone who made this year possible.

We will honor the Toastmaster of the Year, the Area Governor of the Year, the Division Governor of the Year, we will install the new officers for next year and we will say goodbye to this year's officers. (Separate Article)

Thank you to all of the Area Governors, Division Governors, and contest chairs, judges, conference chairs, audit chairs, and Newsletter Editor, Jean Harber, Communications Officer, John Reece, District Treasurer, Ted Phelps, District Secretary, Sam Majumdar, Public Relations Officer, Scott Miller, Lt. Governor of Education & Training, Wayne Sebera, Lt. Governor of Marketing, Carolyn Cousins-Goldman and District Parliamentarian, Hal Richardson. Your Courageous Devotion made this year possible for the 2,000 members and 103 clubs in District 52. You are all Heroes to our District!



*End of year wrap up*

**Wayne Sebera, DTM**  
**District 52 Lt. Governor**  
**Education and Training**

As we complete the 2008-2009 Toastmaster Year it is time to reflect on learning, achievements and recognition of the leading contributors. The number of events that were conducted is incredibly impressive, with many opportunities for leadership among our members.

**Educational Awards:** TI has developed superb educational programs for improving communications and leadership skills. That's why we emphasize following the guidelines in the TI manuals, and working the specific skill sets for each project. So how are we doing? Our June 5 reports from TI show that District 52 members have attained the following:

2008-2009 Statistics as of June 5, 2009	Competent Communicator (CC)	Advanced Communicator (AC)
Goal (June 30)	148	42
YTD Awards	104	61
Percent of Goal	70%	145%
Yet To Go for Goal	44	0
Highest Member	Peter Bunce = 4	R Bonner, D Lopez, M De Leon, Tie = 2
Highest Club	Renaissance = 9	Renaissance, POWER, Motivated, Tie = 3
Highest Area	Area 41 = 15	Area 32 = 6
Highest Division	Division B = 27	Division D = 15

Kudos for the recent awards that have been granted to our Toastmasters colleagues, as shown in the table elsewhere in this newsletter

**Officer Training:** For both summer and winter sessions, we held Quick Start, Toastmasters Leadership Institutes and five (or more) Division trainings. Special recognition is extended to our District 52 trainers and functionaries, who donated their time and effort to share their knowledge and experience with club officers.

This year 642 officers (352 summer 2008 / 290 winter 2009) attended District 52 official trainings. Forty-seven clubs had four or more officers trained in both summer and winter sessions, which earned them a point for Distinguished Club Program (DCP) credit. Kudos to LAUSD and Mindful, who had all seven officers attend both trainings.

**Spring Conference May 9, 2009:** Our members created an outstanding event with super speakers, rousing contests, fabulous food and networking galore. As Conference Chair, I want to extend special appreciation for creating this outstanding event to **Wendi Svoboda, Karen Hudson, Dick Churchill, Gordon Murley, Ron Oberon, Judi Baumbach, Diana Offen, Beth Neaman**, and many other volunteers who helped to work the event. This was the first event with online pre-registration from Sure-to-Meet.com, which worked extremely well and will be used for future events.

The best of class in the International Contest was **Terry Mayfield**, who represented District 52 at the Region II contest. Second and third place were taken by **Susan Mayberry**, and **Daniel Ferguson**, respectively. The Evaluation contest win, place, and show were **Lance Webster, Marcia Bruce Bush** and **Carlos Guerra**, respectively. Congratulations to each of these superlative speakers and to all the other District 52ers who competed.

It has been a great year with lots of super memories and cherished moments. I've enjoyed it all and look forward to speaking with you soon!

\* \* \*



*Say "Yes" to Leadership*

**Carolyn Goldman, CTM, ALS  
District 52 Lt. Governor of  
Marketing**

We are almost at the end of the year! What a ride it has been! Bumpy to say the least! Bumpy due to many factors which have affected us uniquely this year. Many of those factors have not been in our favor toward easily becoming Distinguished. However, as our District Governor Michelle Gilstrap so aptly expressed, "we have grown stronger and we have realized our strengths." Isn't that what Toastmasters is all about – growing within ourselves to become better communicators and leaders?

It has been my pleasure serving you and District 52 as your Lt. Governor of Marketing this year. This position is very exciting, offering tremendous personal and professional leadership growth opportunities. In the building of new clubs, the LGM has the opportunity to meet many new and interesting people, from the executives who are looking to start a corporate club to the potential new Toastmasters who come to the demo and organizational meetings. I've made many friends whom I would never have met had I not said "Yes" to being LGM. In addition, over the year I was able to get to know many of you better as I saw you at contests, at the Toastmasters Learning Institute trainings or as you helped me with demo meetings and other aspects of my position.

Yes, this has been quite a year of leadership growth! I would not trade it for anything. In fact, I would encourage each and every one of you to think about taking on a leadership position in your clubs or in the District. Being on the executive committee of your clubs or being a part of the District team will jump start you toward your communication and leadership goals. The experience you will gain far outpaces the communication skills gained in just being a member of a club.

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One of the greatest things I learned this past year is this: When a position becomes available, whether it is on your club's executive board or a position in the District, say "Yes." Take advantage of the opportunity! You will see yourself grow as you take on the challenges of your new post. I'm certainly glad I said "Yes" to our District Governor-Elect a little more than year ago when she asked me to be Lt. Governor of Marketing. As bumpy as the ride has been, it has been a ride well worth taking! I encourage each and every one of you to say "Yes" to Leadership!

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The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater number of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters International educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District educational and membership goals.
- Insuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for Club and District Officers

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*Remembrances*

Scott C. Miller, DTM  
District 52 Public Relations Officer

Just the other day I stepped outside and along the horizon there were scattered clouds. Not fun fluffy white clouds, but dark, heavy clouds with lots of moisture ready to rain on someone's parade. I had an immediate flashback to another morning 30 some years ago when I was dressed in a sweatshirt, gym shorts and combat boots. The place was Marine Corps Recruit Depot (basic training) where I was about to undertake my first phase physical fitness test. My early thoughts at the time were "What have I gotten myself into?" Then over a period of a few weeks my mind and body changed from "God help me" to "this place is sort of fun!"

So how does my Marine Corps basic training experience relate to being the District PRO? It comes down to three phases of experiences and thoughts. First, there is excitement about the upcoming new adventure (infantry and PRO), "Let's get started." Second, are the thoughts about actually having to do the new job and not knowing what to do, along with "What have I volunteered for?" Finally, the end is in sight, "This job's not that hard to do; hey wait a minute, my time is up, and it seems I just got started."

That's how things seem to go, just when you get a handle on the situation its time to move on to the next adventure. I have had a lot of fun fulfilling the PRO job and met some fantastic people along the way. Where else but Toastmasters can you step up to the plate and say, "Ok I'll give it a try!" Where else can you have so much fun and build your abilities and self confidence? This has been a fantastic and oh so short a year. I would not trade this past year for sitting on the sidelines and doing nothing because I know that I have helped people grow and improve there lives.

I want to thank the following people: Michelle Gilstrap, Wayne Sebera, Carolyn Cousins-Goldman, Jean Harber, John Reece, Daniel Ferguson and the Division and Area Governors for making this a year to remember.

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July just around the corner I want to say thanks to those who are out there in harms way allowing us at home the opportunity to be Toastmasters. Thank you:

- Marine Corps "Semper Fidelis"
- Army "This We'll Defend"
- Navy "Honor, Courage, Commitment"
- Air Force "Integrity First"
- Coast Guard "Semper Paratus"

\* \* \*

**Congratulations to all 2009 Contest participants.**

**Division Contest results:**

Division	Evaluation	
	Winner	Runner-up
<b>A</b>	Marcia Bruce Bush	Susan Mayberry
<b>B</b>	Lance Webster	Jennifer Coats
<b>C</b>	Michelle Maltais	Clare Anahu
<b>D</b>	Carlos Guerra	Ginny Tolkin
<b>E</b>	Bryan Neff	Debbie Ellish

	International	
	Winner	Runner-up
<b>A</b>	Susan Mayberry	Robert O'Donnell
<b>B</b>	Terry Mayfield	Laura Crocket
<b>C</b>	Josh Dann	Richard Stewart
<b>D</b>	Daniel Ferguson	Ron Code
<b>E</b>	Bob Steinberg	Kaarel Hamersky

**District 52 Spring Conference results:**

	Evaluation	International
<b>First</b>	Lance Webster	Terry Mayfield
<b>Second</b>	Marcia Bruce Bush	Susan Mayberry
<b>Third</b>	Carlos Guerra	Daniel Ferguson

# Education Awards: April 10, 2009 – June 17, 2009

## Competent Communicator

Baig, Mohammed I.	LAUSD Toastmasters
Cox, Matthew W.	Central Library Toastmasters
Yatkovskaya, Yana	Renaissance Speakers
Reyes, Paul A.	Prepared Speakers Toastmasters
Enterante, Anthony L.	Prepared Speakers Toastmasters
Lowe, Mary L.	Exec TM Breakfast
Ellish, Debbie	Figuratively Speaking Toastmasters
Grigorian, Marie Louise	Motivated Toastmasters
Rajsavong, Boonxoo B.	Pacemasters
Kolker, Stanley	Motivated Toastmasters
Tuchman, Sheryl L.	Agoura-Westlake Toastmasters
Kamenetz, Irvin	Brighton Gardens Toastmasters
Thompson, Alan	Regional Speakers Forum
Kator, Zabi	Salesmastery
Vice, Kelly S	Jewel City 29 Toastmasters
White, Ransom	Open House
Ozcan, Oprah O.	Nestle Toastmasters
Bunce, Peter Alan	Ernest Speakers
Singleton, Alynn	Fund Speakers
Hall, Lisa M.	Glendale 1
Kneifel, Alix A.	Northridge Toastmasters
Oberon, Ron J.	Toastmasters 4 Writers
Miranda, Bill	Daybreak Santa Clarita Toastmasters
Coleman, Alithea T	Open House
Jadhav-Ridout, Pallavi	Warner Bros. Toastmasters
Llamado, Ed E.	Glendale 1
Morris, Joan C.	Glendale 1
Peña, Enrico D.	Storytelling & Performing Arts
Korns, Raymond E.	Renaissance Speakers

## Advanced Communicator Bronze

Clark, David	Watermasters
Banyai, Ruth F.	Open House
Rahimzadeh, Javad	Caltrans Toastmasters
Uttamchandani, Pushpa	Spring Toastmasters
Lowe, Mary L.	Exec TM Breakfast
Au, Anderson	Glendale 1
Sanders, Jacqueline	Warner Bros. Toastmasters

## Advanced Communicator Bronze (continued)

Duran, Antonio E.	Los Angeles County Fired Up TM
Alessandrini, Jeanie	Leading Voices Toastmasters
Ellish, Debbie	Renaissance Speakers
Iwai, Yukari	Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters
Cousins-Goldman, Carolyn Marie	Northridge TM

## Advanced Communicator Silver

Moon, William C.	Renaissance Speakers
Bunce, Peter Alan	Sherman Oaks
Smith, John P.	Toastmasters 4 Writers
Herrmann, Eileen	Los Angeles Toastmasters
Oberon, Ron J.	Toastmasters 4 Writers

## Advanced Communicator Gold

Harman, Jeff	Renaissance Speakers
Carlisle, Elizabeth J	Mindful Communicators
Grover, Mary C.	POWER Speakers

## Competent Leader

Kagan, Oleg	Los Angeles Toastmasters
Sebera, Wayne	Spirit Speaks Toastmasters
Singleton, Alynn	Fund Speakers
Perry, Roberta	Renaissance Speakers
Phillips, Patricia Ann	Exec TM Breakfast
Perkins, Vernita	Warner Bros. Toastmasters
Bunce, Peter Alan	Sherman Oaks

## Advanced Leader Bronze

Bunce, Peter Alan	Sherman Oaks
Herrmann, Eileen	Los Angeles Toastmasters
Oberon, Ron J.	Toastmasters 4 Writers

## Advanced Leader Silver

Dollard, Edward	Nestle Toastmasters
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## High Performance Leadership

Svoboda, Wendi Sue	Advanced Speakers Of LA TM
Sebera, Wayne	Spirit Speaks Toastmasters
Powell, Sha'kel	Salesmastery
Lopez, Daniel A.	Calabajas Toastmasters

## Distinguished Toastmaster

Harman, Jeff	Renaissance Speakers
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## Division A – Report

Judi Baumbach, ACB, CL,  
Division A Governor

Welcome to Marie Grigoria, our new Governor for Area 12. There will be lots of support from our incoming Division Governor, Cookie Horwitz.

Many thanks to our current Area Governors Thelma Gzharian, Danny Lopez, Tim Mann and Cookie Horwitz who have shown commitment and exemplary leadership in supporting their clubs this year. They have been examples of how Toastmasters can be a source of encouragement and consistency during times of transition. Many club members have said that Toastmasters is the place where they can go and to find friendship and encouragement. Members have stated that they join Toastmasters to increase their communication and leadership skills as well as to have fun and find community. Division A has accomplished all these goals.

We have a newly chartered club, the Canoga Park Chamber Club, sponsored by the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce. The club chartered on June 11. Many thanks to our Lt. Governor of Marketing, Carolyn Cousins-Goldman and the club sponsor, Cookie Horwitz, for the successful chartering of this club.

Kudos to our other new club, Dole Foods, Pineapple Express. All their members have completed their Icebreaker speeches within the five months of the club chartering. These members are excited to give speeches, take on leadership roles and participate as functionaries during their club meetings.

We are down to the last couple of weeks of our Toastmaster year. Members are completing manuals for both their leadership and communication awards.

I am looking forward to our participation at the Awards and Installation (A & I) Banquet on July 18 at Castaways. This marks the end of our current year's leadership and the transition to the 2009-2010 Toastmaster year. This year has been a year of accomplishments and disappointments and everything in-between. New friendships have been made and some have moved on. Some clubs have disbanded and new clubs have formed. I personally thank all the Toastmasters who have encouraged me to take on new leadership roles and expand my confidence and skills.

There is much appreciation to everyone and I look forward to supporting our District and Division leadership.

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## Division C – Report

Edward Dollard, ACB, CL,  
Division C Governor

It has really been a wonderful year serving the district as Division C Governor. I have met wonderful people and have enjoyed almost every minute of it! (Yes, there are some difficult things to do.) I would recommend that all Toastmasters volunteer for a district role, such as Area Governor, Division Governor or District Governor. You will learn more about leadership and coaching. It will absolutely make you a better person.

Of course my time as Division C Governor has been made much easier by the fantastic team that I had -- Tawny Penuela (AG-C30), Mary Lowe (AG-C31), John P. Smith Jr. (AG C-32) and Ruth Frechman (AG-C33). All four have been fantastic resources. They volunteered their time to make a difference in the clubs they oversaw, the division they participated in and District 52. They were always willing to lend a hand whenever I asked and have espoused a terrific esprit d'corps by helping one another with their area contests. It has been a pleasure to serve with them during the 2008-2009 Toastmaster year.

I suggest that all District 52 Toastmasters provide a huge round of applause to our District Leaders: Michelle Gilstrap, District Governor, Wayne Sebera, LGET, and Carolyn Cousins-Goldman, LGM. Nothing happens in a vacuum. They have all stepped up to the plate to make a difference for District 52. They have volunteered countless hours of their time to ensure that District 52 had a successful year. If you see them, please give them a warm handshake and thank them for all of their efforts.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Division C Governor. I have enjoyed my time and will look back fondly at all of the fun I have had this year. Please help your incoming 2009-2010 Division C Governor, Ron Oberon, as you have all helped me. Thank you again.

\* \* \*



## Division D – Report

Theresa Carter-Mata, CC, CL  
Division D Governor

Devoted Toastmasters of District 52, we have come to the end of the race. This race has confirmed the commitment each one of us has made to becoming first-rate speakers, communicators and leaders. Every one of you has taken the steps necessary to fulfill your dreams and goals. Congratulations to the Division D clubs reaching President’s Distinguished: Renaissance Speakers, Warner Bros. and Voces Latinas and the clubs reaching Select Distinguished: Public Works Pioneers and Watermasters Club. Fifty-seven Educational awards have been accomplished in Division D at the time of this reporting.

Division D has endured even though we were down one Area Governor. Our clubs continued to meet and sent speakers to the contests. We have two new clubs on the horizon. The key to improving and accomplishing goals lies in staying power. Koichi Tanaka, the only person without a post-bachelor’s degree to have won a Nobel Prize, says he learned “the importance of working sincerely at things to which he had committed himself, and to persevere untiringly even in the face of little progress” from his father. Perseverance has been demonstrated by our contestants as they stepped to the podium to compete. Representing the Division were Ronald Code, Carlos Guerra and Daniel Ferguson at the District Contest. Two Area Governors, Barbara Lewis and Anthony Duran, exemplified leadership as they persevered throughout the year in the face of apathy and the economic downturn that affected club memberships. These Area Governors have demonstrated leadership abilities through time management, planning, implementation and more. We take this opportunity to commend their outstanding efforts.

The club member continues to benefit from Toastmaster meetings due in part from the commitment of club officers. Some of our newest members have been motivated by the positive feedback they received in their clubs and have volunteered as test speakers this year, overcoming stage anxiety. President Obama is quoted as saying “It’s only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential.”

As the Toastmasters’ year comes to a close, don’t forget to ask yourself, have you done what you wanted to do.

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If the answer to that question is no, go back to the basics and set your sights on where you want to be next year. Henry Kissinger once said “If you don't know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere.”

It was a great race this year, lots of fun and fellowship. Let’s do it again!

\* \* \*



## Division E –Report

Diana Offen, ACB, CL  
Division E Governor

Division E would like to report that all Division E clubs are Distinguished but the reality is that when this report was submitted only one club (#3629, Water and Power) was Select Distinguished. The hardworking Area Governors (Sanjiv Ekbote, Brad Jorgensen and Mohammed Baig) are very optimistic that more areas will be at least Distinguished by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Clubs have been working hard to have some of their members complete their CCs. So far, only 12 CCs out of a goal of 44 have been recorded for the 22 clubs. Expectations are very high that an additional 12 will be added by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Looking back, the Division is proud of what has been achieved by its leadership. Make up officers training was held in the downtown area. The area contests had many participants and attendees.

Area Governor Mohammed Baig mentored the Pacesetters Club and sponsored the new club White Memorial. Area Governor Sanjiv Ekbote visited all the clubs twice and served as Master of Ceremonies for the joint E50 and E53 contest. Area Governor Brad Jorgensen not only visited his clubs but also the Area E52 clubs. All Area Governors worked closely with their respective clubs.

With the job situation very precarious, achieving communication and leadership skill sets is more important than ever. Finishing the goals we set will help each of us and it will also help the District.

# Toastmasters International, District 52

“THE ROAD FROM AH'S TO OZ”

Governor Michelle Ann Gilstrap, DTM

and

Governor-Elect Scott Crandall Miller, DTM

Cordially invite you and your guests to attend the  
54rd Annual District 52

Awards and Installation Banquet



Saturday, July 18, 2009

The Castaway Restaurant  
1250 Harvard Rd., Burbank, CA 91501

Reception 10:00 a.m.

Gavel 11:00 a.m.

\$40.50 per person (pre-registration)

*Business Casual or theme costume*

for registration and payment options go to <http://www.district52.org/AI.html>

## TLI and Officer Training

Officer Training at the TLI August 1, 2009 at the Glendale Salvation Army center from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm flier, [map](#) and weblink to pay online will be ready on June 28, 2009

Glendale Salvation Army  
320 W Windsor Rd  
Glendale, CA 91204-2017

Other officer training dates will be posted on the district website when scheduled.  
[www.district52.org](http://www.district52.org)