



# 52 Review

Empowering Toastmasters To Realize Their Dreams



Volume 2005/06-8

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## A Publication of District 52 Toastmasters

Home of Toastmasters Clubs in Downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Burbank, and Glendale, California.

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### Mission of District 52

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 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 opportunities for club and district officers.

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## Passport to Success - A World of Opportunity By District Governor, Peter Geissler, DTM



I would like to extend my special thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated in District 52's Spring Conference held on May 20, 2006 at the Hilton Convention Center, in Burbank, CA.

It was a wonderful day of entertainment, education and inspiration.

Our Spring Conference Chair is Lt. Governor Education and Training Gale Young. Gale has previously served as District 52 Conference Chair many times. Also working on the Conference Committee are: Area Governor Beth Neaman, Ruth Deutsch, Susan Mayberry, and District Treasurer Kirsten Stahl. I thank Gale and her team for taking on this major project. She and her team have worked very hard over the past several months to bring this conference together - so please take the opportunity to thank them for their efforts.

Thanks to the following contestants who participated in the contests:

#### Evaluation Contest

Susan Mayberry (Division A)  
Marc Breen (Division B)  
Roberta Perry (Division C)  
Debbie Elish (Division D)

#### International Contest

Susan Mayberry (Division A)  
Robert Faust (Division B)  
David Gilman (Division C)  
David Cruz (Division D)

Susan Mayberry will be competing in the International Speech Contest at the Region II Spring Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Thanks to our Chief Judge, Marcia Bruce Bush, and the judges who, indeed, have their work cut out for them.

We had four outstanding educational presenters. International Director Ann Hastings, DTM, gave us a presentation on updates of the progressive changes taking place within our international organization. Ann has been a fantastic resource and aid to District 52 this past year and we're very happy to have her as one of our presenters. In addition, we have two past International Presidents: John Latin, DTM, and Alfred Herzing, DTM, who both gave us powerhouse presentations on maximizing the opportunities offered by our Toastmasters education and experience; as well as candidate for International Director, Richard Snyder, DTM, who gave us a very entertaining and educational presentation on the Magic in Membership Building.

At mid-morning, we had our bi-annual business meeting, where we elected our District Officers for the coming year. Our new officers are:

#### District Governor

Edwin Bernard, DTM;

#### Lt. Gov. Education & Training

Roland Cariveau, DTM

#### Lt. Gov. Marketing

Michelle Ann Gilstrap, ATMS/CL

#### District PRO

Beth Neaman, CTM/CL

#### District Treasurer

Patricia O'Donnell, ATMB/CL

We switched gears during the second half of the Conference. In this part of the conference, we applauded and honored our District's Toastmasters who have earned their educational

(Continued on page 5)

## Developing Your Full Potential By Division A Governor, Peter Bunce, DTM



The following words, written by William James (1842-1910), the leader of the philosophical movement called pragmatism, have stuck with me for many years. Dr. James wrote, "Compared with what we ought to be, we are only half awake. We are making use of only a small part of our physical and mental resources. Stating

the thing broadly, human individuals thus live far within their limits. They possess powers of various sorts which they habitually fail to use."

This hit home in 1993. I returned to the United States after having lived and worked in Japan's countryside for seven years. I discovered that my fluency in English, my mother tongue, had eroded. I could no longer express myself effectively. Then I joined a Toastmasters club and gradually improved my speaking ability. The experience demonstrated that old rhyming maxim: "Use it or lose it."

How can we, as Toastmasters, develop our full potential? Certainly, as club members, we have taken the first small step toward self-improvement by joining a club. The reasons we join are as many as there are members in our organization, but I have found that there are two main reasons: (1) we are ambitious; and (2) we are dissatisfied. After we join, the next step is to get involved with the meeting programs. We develop better listening skills by serving as ah-counter or grammarian. We practice time-management skills by being the timer. We demonstrate critical-thinking skills as speech evaluators. We improve our speaking skills during Table Topics and by delivering manual speeches. This is where it starts, but it doesn't end there.

Completing all ten projects in the Communication and Leadership Program is an important milestone. We earn the Competent Toastmaster (CTM) award by achieving each project's objectives step-by-step. It requires more than just going through the motions of delivering a speech; each project must be started with the purpose and objectives in mind. That demands study of the C & L Program, preparation, practice, and a review of the project's presentation. Members who neglect these cheat the program, cheat Toastmasters, cheat their club, and worst of all, cheat themselves. If our aim is to develop our full potential, then we must demand of ourselves our best effort.

After I earned my CTM, I felt ready to start delivering projects from Advanced Communication and Leadership Programs. What I discovered is that although I had practiced all the basic skills once through the C & L Program, I frequently received comments from my evaluators such as, "Your voice lacked the variety I had expected from someone at your level of development," or "Your presentation could have benefited from effective and timely gestures." It was still time for me to move ahead in my progress toward my next educational achievement, but it was also necessary to stay focused on the fundamentals. I decided to repeat the C & L Program projects and alternate them with my Advanced

C & L Program presentations. This allowed me to practice the specialized skills in the latter while staying grounded in the vital skills of the former.

I have worked through many levels of Toastmasters programs, and they have taught me much. Another important way to develop our full potential is to pass on what we have learned to others. I would argue that a member is more of a CTM after helping another member become a CTM; that member is more of an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze after helping another member become an ATM-B. And so on. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "When we are good to others, we are best to ourselves." I helped another Toastmaster friend of mine earn his Distinguished Toastmaster award a short time ago. I really feel like a DTM now and just sent in the application for my second DTM!

*Div. A Governor, Peter Bunce is the President of Salesmastery Club No. 6178 and Secretary of Sherman Oaks Club No.147.*

## Experience the Islands of Hawaii

Toastmasters International  
Region II Annual Spring Conference  
June 22-24, 2006

*Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort  
2552 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii*

Registration form and schedule of activities may be downloaded from the District 52 website at:

<http://www.district52.org/events/contest/>

Please visit Region II's website at [tmregion2.org](http://tmregion2.org) for more information and updates. Or, you may call Tricia Evans at (808) 372-2793

Special Hotel Conference Rate of \$160 per night valid June 19th through June 27th. Reservations must be made by May 23rd to receive special conference rate. For Reservations, call: 1-800-367-5370 and ask for Group Code: TOATOOA

## Transferable Marketing Skills found in Toastmasters

By Area 20 Governor and Lt. Gov Marketing Elect, Michelle Ann Gilstrap, ATMS/CL



Remember when you took your first step in Toastmasters and gave your ice breaker speech to your club? The knots in your stomach that rose up into your throat, the trembling of your knees, and the quick pace of your voice as you gave your first speech?

Remember when you completed your first 10 speeches and moved on to advanced speeches, you found it easier each time you stepped up to the front of the room to give your next speech. Your Toastmaster skills mastered in your club meeting have made you a more marketable employee and a better presenter!

You acquired greater confidence each time you stepped forward to fill a role in your club. Did you notice that you can answer questions from your boss quicker and with greater ease? And how about when you are asked to make phone calls to inquire about projects? Don't you find it is easier to formulate questions as to the status of each item?

You have acquired transferable skills from those roles served in your Toastmaster meetings. Transferable job skills and leadership techniques are all found at Toastmasters.

If someone would have told me that I would be able to pitch a screenplay, 7 years ago, I would have laughed in their face. First, I didn't even know how to begin, and I wasn't concise with my story. I didn't know how to convey my feelings about the project. Today, after being in Toastmasters, I can pitch an article, screenplay or project without even breaking a sweat.

Transferable skills into the employment sector are invaluable to your bottom line. How much you can earn, can only be limited by you. If you know how to answer questions, because you have trained with Table Topics, you will be a more confident employee and a better leader when you assume the role of manager for a department or a project.

Learning how to listen when you are an evaluator helps you to pay attention to not just the words, but the feelings in the words. You will be able to hear what your boss or your employees are truly saying when they are talking to you. You will give them your true focus, because you have developed this skill and practiced it in Toastmasters.

Table Topics trains all of us to think on our feet. When you go into a job interview, the prospective employer will ask you questions that you had not planned on, but you will not be thrown, because you have done this in your meetings. Your confidence level will out shine other candidates.

In Toastmasters, we learn to harness the nervous energy and to use it to be more effective speakers. Doing research for speeches helps us to hone skills to learn quickly about a topic and be able to discuss it. How often in our jobs are we asked to do the same thing?

If you are asked to sell an item, service or a project, you will be able to deliver the qualities that will make you a better salesperson because Toastmasters has strengthened your muscles to illustrate the good points and deliver those points with confidence.

Would you buy a car from a salesperson, that didn't appear confident about the car? No you would back away from that car and the salesperson. But when you find someone who is enthusiastic, can tell you the good points of that car, you listen and you decide if that car is the right car for you.

Toastmaster club members appear more confident and enthusiastic, because they have learned transferable skills in their meetings. Think about it! Don't you want to share those skills with your friends and your family? Of course you do, that's why each one of us as a Toastmaster is the best salesperson for our club.

We illustrate in our everyday lives, how Toastmasters has instilled confidence in our presentations. Use your skills to not only bring more members to your club, but to market yourself in the job arena. Present yourself with enthusiasm for those projects at work or for that job interview. Your confidence and knowledge will strengthen your skills and you will walk away a winner!

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*Area 20 Governor, Michelle Ann Gilstrap, is District 52's Lt. Gov. Marketing Elect 2006-2007, and the President of Toastmasters for Writers Club No. 748804. The club meets two Saturdays a month at Write Brothers Software 138 N. Brand Blvd. 2nd floor Glendale CA 91203 For meeting hours and dates please visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tm4writers/>*

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## BEAT THE CLOCK!!!

The final Membership Building Contest for the year "BEAT THE CLOCK" runs from May 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006. For clubs adding 5 new, dual or reinstated members they earn a choice of one item from the Better Speaker or Successful Club Series from TI. This is a great opportunity to add to your club's educational library. By Beating the Clock, your club will also receive a handsome ribbon to display on your club banner.

## Men in Tights Will Soar Again

### By Yvonne Liu



The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club of Area 43, participated in a whirlwind competition against three other clubs on Thursday, April 27th, at the Toastmaster International, District 52, Division D International Speech and Evaluation Contest held at Hubbard College.

Returning champions from a prior Toastmaster International Area Contest, Public Works Toastmasters Dominic Buenaventura and Yukari Iwai were ready to leap the tall City of Los Angeles Public Works Building in a single bound.

Dominic Buenaventura, Civil Engineering Associate IV, was slated to represent the club at the Evaluation Contest. However, he was hit by laryngitis, the Kryptonite to Toastmasters, and had to forfeit his bid for the Division D trophy. Nevertheless, Dominic attended the contest to lend moral support to Kari.

Management Analyst II Yukari Iwai, known to her friends as Kari, stepped forward doing a super hero of a job presenting “Men in Tights”. This is an original speech throwing punches against our American phobia of bringing up our boys as male ballet dancers. While some countries highly revere the endurance and vigorous training of male ballet dancers, our country keeps our boys from the association of such a mislabeled “feminine” art. It is a little known fact that many male athletes, such as Michael Jordan, have taken ballet to enhance their performance in other sports. Her explosive speech was capable of stopping a moving locomotive!

Yet, her competitors in the International Speech Contest, David Cruz of Voces Latinas Toastmasters Club, Police Officer III Michael Skiff of LAPD Code One Club, and David Berkowitz of Transamerica Toastmasters Club were unstoppable orators having 10 to 20 years of speech making experience under their Batman utility belts. David Cruz took First Place. Michael took his crime fighting to Toastmasters and won Second Place.

For the Evaluation Contest, Debbie Elish of Figuratively Speaking took First Place; Enid Gomez of the LAPD Code One Toastmasters Club, Second.

Kari sharpened her spider sense in selecting a speech topic, getting the audience’s attention, controlling time, using the stage comfortably and involving the audience’s visceral reaction. The winners spoke with magnetic charm. Although she did not return with a trophy, her cape is still flying high ecstatic from what she learned at the Toastmaster International Division D Contest.

Kari’s courage is noteworthy. During her last two years with Toastmasters, she had taken a long family leave and returned after the club moved to a new location. During her absence she kept constant contact with club members and followed club events by reading the minutes. As a non-native speaker, she started out intimidated to speak full sentences. After two years, when she steps behind the lectern, she truly transforms herself, changing from the shy, hesitant speaker to her Toastmaster alter ego, a Speech Contest Winner. She also worked hard to correct her pronunciation.

“Going to these contests is like studying abroad at a different country. From just one visit, I learned so much more than just studying in my home club,” said Kari.

Like every super hero who faces a formidable adversary, Kari will return when she has advanced her powers. Kari is a member of Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club.



Yukari Iwai

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*Yvonne Liu is the Vice President Public Relations of Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club, No. 616895. The club meets every Wednesday at 12:05 PM in the main conference room of the 6th floor at the Public Works Building, 1149 S. Broadway in Downtown LA. Visitors are always welcome to come, to observe and to participate. You do not have to be a Public Works Department employee to join. For further information regarding Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club, contact Ivan Gerson at (213) 485-1169 or Yvonne Liu at (213) 978-1766.*

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## Skills Development and Career Assessment

**Contributed by: Div B Governor, Linnaea Mallette, DTM, PDG**  
**With opening comments by Area 30 Governor, Beth Neaman, CTM/CL**



Serving as a Club or District Officer offers invaluable skills development opportunities. Besides becoming an effective Communicator, the Toastmaster Communication and Leadership Program prepares us to become effective leaders by developing marketable skills that will help us advance in our careers. The following skill grid was taken from a campaign material developed by an International Director Candidate, **Velma P. Latmore, DTM**. Linnaea found it to be one of the best tools yet in helping people appreciate what can be gained by serving as an officer.



The key to acquiring the following skills is active involvement. We all learn best by carrying out the role and performing the job. There is no better way to develop one's skills than actually experiencing what you're learning. The Toastmasters program, by design, works in direct relation to the amount of active participation and hands on application. Moreover, these cross-functional skills work very well in enhancing skill sets that is so effective in helping us become more successful in our life and career. The Toastmaster program is not a rigorous course in public speaking and leadership. It is a time-honored and self-paced program consisting of a progression of experiences that directly expose you in a variety of situations involving the basic principles of good interpersonal communications and leadership competence.

May is the month when new officers are elected for the coming Toastmasters year. If you signed up for one or more of these positions, you can glean the many benefits of serving as a Club or District Officer.

President	VP-Education	VP-Membership	VP-Public Relations
Team building/ Leading Strategic Planning/ Guidance Conflict Resolution Negations/Project management Meeting Facilitation Time Management Parliamentary Processes Consulting Coaching Networking	Scheduling Conflict Resolution Negotiations Strategic Planning Time Management Recognition Incentives Event / Meeting Planning Personnel Development Career Planning Training Networking	Personnel Orientation Personnel Development Career Planning Customer service Public Relations Reward / Incentive Planning Campaign Development Marketing & Sales Consulting Seminar Development Networking	Media Relations Campaign Development Reward / Incentive Planning Consulting Journalism Publications Advertising & Promotion Photography Graphic Design Seminar Development Networking
Treasurer	Secretary	Sgt-at-Arms	Past President
Budget Preparation Revenue Tracking Revenue Forecasting Revenue Generation Money Management Policy Administration Purchasing Consulting	Report Writing Policy Administration Purchasing Order Processing Historian / Librarian Research Document Control Event Coordination	Inventory Management Master of Ceremonies Interpersonal / Communication Skills Customer Service Negotiations Consulting Event Planning	Team Building Strategic Guidance Consultation Training Coaching Career Planning Parliamentary Processes Policy Administration.

## Passport to Success - A World of Opportunity

### By District Governor, Peter Geissler, DTM

*(Continued from page 1)*  
 goal. Those earning their DTM get to cruise the "Hug Line" among fellow DTMs.

We had a breakout session where attendees participated in different round table discussions. One of the key subjects this educational session is the new communication and leadership track.

It has been a challenging, yet immensely rewarding experience

to serve as your District Governor, and I thank you for the opportunity to do so. I am confident that all of the clubs and leaders in our District will pull together for the remainder of this year so we can become an even stronger district in Toastmasters International. I am certain that District 52 will be on stage at the International Convention in Washington D.C., this summer, as a Distinguished District.

Thank you all for your hard work -- you are the best!

Division Evaluation and International Speech Contests

**DIVISION B**  
**Div. B Governor, Linnaea Mallette, DTM, PDG**



Debbie Ellish & Linnaea Mallette



Toastmaster Roland Carriveau and Test Speaker James Lee



Contest Chair Sue Paoletti & Linnaea Mallette



Best Costume went to Jeff Harman



International Speech Winner Robert Faust with Linnaea Mallette and Peter Geissler



Evaluation Contest Winner Marc Breen with Linnaea Mallette and Peter Geissler

Division Evaluation and International Speech Contests

**DIVISION C**  
**Div. B Governor, Jorge Ribeiro, ATMB**



Karen Mahmalji & Lisa Roye



Toastmaster Maurice DiMino and Test Speaker Erin O'Neill



Evaluation Contestants: David Taylor, Bill Larkin, Roberta Perry, & Michelle Gold



International Contestants: Jeff Harman, Kathy Van Houten, David Gilman, and Jorge Suarez



Evaluation Contest Winner Roberta Perry with Jorge Ribeiro and Peter Geissler



International Contest Winner David Gilman with Jorge Ribeiro and Peter Geissler

## Special thanks to the following...

Gale Young, DTM, PDG  
Kirsten Stahl, DTM, PDG  
Enrico Pena, DTM

Michelle Gilstrap, ATMS/CL  
Linnaea Mallette, DTM, PDG  
Peter Bunce, DTM

Yvonne Liu  
Yukari Iwai

**District 52 circulates the newsletter monthly via email and sends quarterly issues by regular mail.**

To receive your copy via email, please log on to the District 52 website at : [www.district52.org](http://www.district52.org) to register your email address.

You will also receive important District information, including Contest dates, Club Officer Training dates, District Conference dates, and other valuable notices on District events.

Thank you for supporting District 52.

*Peter Geissler, DTM  
District 52 Governor*

**52 Review** is a journal of Toastmasters District 52, a non-profit educational organization serving Toastmasters Clubs in Downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Burbank, and Glendale, California.

52 Review is published monthly to keep members of the District posted on upcoming events, training opportunities and conferences, as well as provide news, announcements and editorials geared to promote our speaking, listening and thinking skills. Most of all, we love to celebrate our members' successes and we'd love to publish them.

**Comments**

Email your comments to Editor, Beth Neaman, at [bneaman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bneaman@sbcglobal.net) or to our Publisher, District Governor Peter Geissler, at [governor@district52.org](mailto:governor@district52.org).

**Suggestions**

We love to add new features, so please feel free to submit any and all suggestions. We may not be able to incorporate them all, but we really do want to improve our newsletter.

**Article Submission**

If you would like to contribute articles, please email to Editor, Beth Neaman, at [bneaman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bneaman@sbcglobal.net) on or before the 10th of the month.

