

The Perfect Gift...

My nana used to always say "It's not the gift that counts but the thought behind it." For the most part this is true, but it may be time to face a truth: You do not know what most of the people on your list will actually enjoy. In fact, your whole concept of what makes a gift thoughtful - of what will be appreciated - is almost certainly wrong. There is good news: You can do better and it's not that hard!

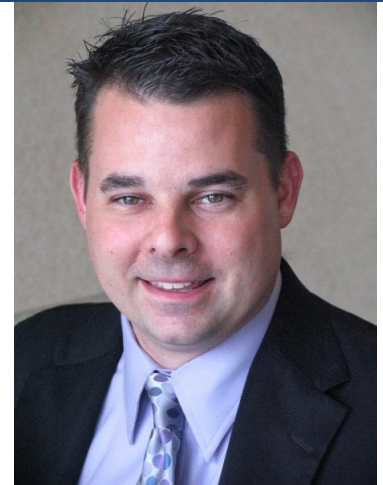
Although the holidays are behind us, the giving can continue. Have you ever thought about giving a gift which will help build self-confidence and personal growth while improving speaking and leadership skills as well as potentially igniting a career?

Toastmasters is the gift which keeps giving by providing a positive learning environment in a no-pressure atmosphere. I strongly believe that a Toastmasters membership is an outstanding first step on the path to becoming a more effective speaker and leader for many people. We all know someone who could benefit from the educational program. Why not remove any financial reasons they may have for not becoming a member? Membership dues for six months are a tiny investment with huge potential payoff. What other gift can you give that might change someone's life?

How about a gift for yourself? There are many gift offers in the form of opportunities with Toastmasters. If we don't take those opportunities, someone else will own what could have been yours. There are opportunities available for all of us to learn and grow. Step up and say, "I'll do it". While it's true that leadership can be daunting; it's also true that leadership offers the best learning opportunity that Toastmasters has to offer. You simply will not receive what Toastmasters is offering you until you speak those three little words, "I'll do it".

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year...

Bryan Walsh



***Bryan Walsh, DTM
District Governor
District 37 -2011-2012***

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Be the Best Toastmaster You Can Be!

All Hands were on deck at the **Toastmasters District 37 Fall Conference** at The Bordeaux Hotel in Fayetteville, NC from Nov. 11-13, 2011. 191 Toastmasters throughout North Carolina converged in Fayetteville to partake in the activities. The Co-Chairs, Paul Barnes and Renee Nichols, did a fabulous job!

Michael Notaro Visit

This conference was especially notable as we were visited by our Toastmasters International President, Michael Notaro, DTM,. He called on several new and prospective clubs in the District and delivered an inspiring keynote address on Saturday morning at the Conference.

Evaluation and Humorous Speech Contests

This was also an historic conference as we now have 10 divisions in the district. Because of this, we surpassed all previous years in the number of speech contestants! For our evaluation speech contest on Friday, target speaker, Steve Lord, persuaded us to become "Halloweenies" and declared Halloween as our "New Top Holiday." Winners included the following:

Evaluation Competition

1st place - Carol Van Zile

2nd place - Tucker Cox

3rd place - Carolyn Agosta

On Saturday, our best, brightest, and funniest speakers throughout District 37 entertained us with their wit and wisdom as they deliver their unique speeches. Winners included the following:

Humorous Speech Competition

1st place - Larry Brown, "Tips for Old Fat Guys"

2nd place - Calvin Duncan, "Like Mike"

3rd place - Jeb Sturmer, "Wet, Wild and What?"

This conference also added some new features based on feedback from members and adopting best practices from sister Districts. Some new features included the following:

- Agenda Schedules on Poster Boards
- Special tent card decorations honoring veterans in District 37 and their family members
- The DTM Reception
- The Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- The Sunday Morning Fireside Chat with the TRIO

Be sure to visit our Video galleries on our District 37 website at www.toastmasters-nc.org to view these speeches. [Note: Because of Toastmasters guidelines regarding videos featuring International Presidents, the Michael Notaro video links will only be available for 60 days until February 1, 2012.]

District 37 Spring Conference

Our next conference will be held May 3-6, 2012, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC. Co-chairs Nancy Johnson and Johnny Piercy are planning an especially fun time for family members since Toastmasters staying at the hotel will have an opportunity to utilize the many events and attractions at this indoor water park. Make sure you register early and reserve your room since we anticipate our room block will sell out quickly. Please visit our website for more information. Please do not hesitate to send your suggestions to Naomi Takeuchi at d37naomi@gmail.com.



Naomi Takeuchi, DTM
District 37 Lt. Governor Education and Training, 2011-2012
d37naomi@gmail.com

VISITS WITH THE CLUB DOCTOR

My thanks to the many of you who visited the Club Doctor booth during the fall conference. Here are some of the questions that were asked and the answers which will be helpful to many of you.



Can any Toastmaster help get a new club started?

Answer: Absolutely. If there are any ideas for clubs please let the Lt. Gov of Marketing know.

How can someone help in getting a potential new club?

Answer: There are potentials in several places. First, look at the place you work. If they do not have a club and have at least 25 managers and over 200 employees then there is potential. Next, look at some counties that do not have a club. There are around 60 in the state that do not have clubs. Finally, look at the colleges around the state.

How can someone help a club that is struggling?

Answer: There are many ways that someone can help a struggling club. First, there is a club coach which helps change the culture of the club and teaches the club how to build membership. There can be a group that can help a club. Maybe one person cannot do it alone. Some of the corporate clubs that are struggling would be advised to set up a meeting with the officers and maybe some of management to find out the best approach to boost membership.

What kind of incentives are provided from the district?

Answer: The district has many incentives for individuals and clubs who achieve specific goals during the year. The list of incentives is on the district website www.toastmasters-nc.org.

Again, thank you for all of your questions and suggestions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate and let me know.



Michael Beach, DTM
District 37 Lt. Gov. of Marketing, 2011-2012
d37michael@gmail.com

Spring Conference Is On the Horizon

Pumpkin pie is a distant memory, holidays are past, and many Toastmasters in District 37 are now counting the time until 2012 begins. Johnny Piercy and Nancy Johnson are counting down to another important date...the number of days until the 2012 Spring Conference. These two dynamic Co-Chairs are looking forward to bringing District 37 the biggest and best Spring Conference yet on May 3-6 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC. They are already hard at work to deliver their vision of District 37 "Leading the Pack".



Pictured above: Johnny Piercy, International President Michael Notaro, and Nancy Johnson

The selection of the Great Wolf Lodge is the first exciting step in putting together a conference like no other. The Great Wolf is not just a hotel; it is an indoor water park resort. The Great Wolf's spacious conference center means that the event can be all business when it needs to be, but the hotel itself is built for fun and families. The amenities of the hotel include the massive 84 degree indoor water park, outdoor pool, restaurants, shopping, and for those needing to decompress before or after their speaking gig...a world class spa. So while Toastmasters are enjoying the keynote speaker and high value educational sessions, their guests and family can be enjoying the resort.

"We wanted to hold our conference in a facility that would encourage Toastmasters to come and bring their families." says Johnny Piercy, Co-Chair. Nancy Johnson agrees, "The Great Wolf has a beautiful conference center for our speaking sessions, but there is so much to do here that we are encouraging folks to come in on Thursday night so they can enjoy a full Family Day on Friday". Every room at the Great Wolf includes a water park pass for all guests for the entire stay.

If shopping or NASCAR is what you enjoy, the hotel is conveniently located off I-85 (exit 49) between the Concord Mills Mall and the Charlotte Motor Speedway, with dozens of restaurants and hotels nearby. We have negotiated a very special room rate that will make it easy to bring the whole family (and your whole club!) to the District 37 Spring Conference.

Online registration is already open at <http://toastmasters-nc.org/conference>. **To get the Conference Early Bird rate of \$130 (with meals) registration must be made (or postmarked) by January 31, 2012. To take advantage of the special rate at the Great Wolf Lodge (\$134.46/night including taxes and service fee) make your reservation at the Great Wolf by March 31, 2012.** Call the Great Wolf Lodge directly at 1-866-944-WOLF (9653), identify yourself as a Toastmaster and use reservation #1205TOAS. All reservations after March 31, will be charged the full, non-Toastmasters rate. **Availability is limited so call early.** This will be a Spring Conference not to be missed!

Nancy Johnson
District 37 Area 31 Governor

2010-2011 Area Governor of the Year – Wendy Zapp

New clubs are the lifeblood of a district's success. Wendy Zapp made it her personal campaign to work with other district leaders to start clubs at Lowe's.

Not only did Lowe's have one new club, thanks to Wendy's efforts, Lowe's chartered two new clubs in 2010-2011 and is on the road to charter two more, an extraordinary accomplishment.

Wendy did all of this while still exceeding her Area Governor responsibilities, including the leadership of a President's Distinguished Area. Our thanks to Wendy for her efforts and dedication to District 37.

2010-2011 Division Governor of the Year – Kimberly Netter

2010-2011 were challenging years for Division B in Greensboro. The division had grown tremendously over the years, some clubs were on the verge of closing, and a realignment plan had to be solidified.

Kimberly Netter led the charge to ensure that Division B would end the year as a President's Distinguished Division despite all the adverse conditions.

She held regular Division Council Meetings to make sure all of her area governors were in the loop for all of the division's goals. When the District Governor scheduled conference calls, Kimberly was the only division governor who attended 100% of the calls and provided valuable input.

Kimberly presided over the always-difficult realignment discussions. Thanks to her persistence and strong leadership, Division B submitted its plan to the District Realignment Chair on schedule. It was thorough and needed minimal changes.

She used her leadership skills to work with Winston-Salem St. University to achieve the charter for a club within the school.

Finally, Kimberly met her goal of finishing the year as a President's Distinguished District.

Kimberly, please accept our appreciation for all you give in support of District 37.



Past District Governor Sharon Anita Hill with Division Governor of the Year 2010-2011, Kimberly Netter

2010-2011 Toastmaster of the Year Distinguished Toastmaster Chuck Blethen

Personal sacrifice, complete dedication, remarkable results. These three terms describe what Chuck Blethen contributed to the success of District 37. Chuck was the District PRO (Public Relations Officer) who consistently went beyond the call of duty to support the district.

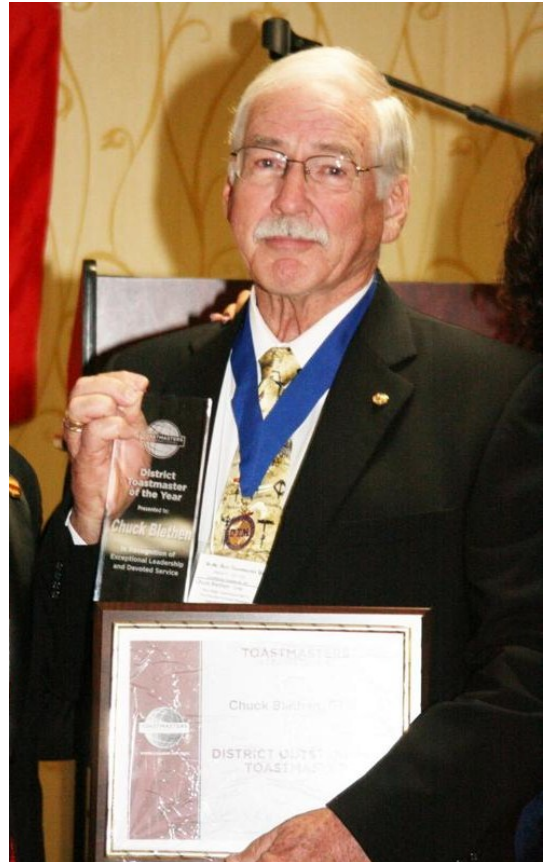
The District Governor decided she wanted a new, sassy web site for the district. It was Chuck who drove the project to get the site up and running. He worked consistently with the design team, and when the web master got ill, Chuck still kept the site current until a new web master was found.

When the district had technical support problems, Chuck used his own servers to help the district, never asking for compensation.

As a result of his devotion to District 37, our web site was spectacular. Chuck made sure it stayed current and provided the district user (and potential new Toastmasters) with the information they needed.

Chuck transformed the district's paper Tarheel Talker to a 100% online version, saving big bucks for District 37. He worked with the district team, even when he was seriously ill, to keep all items on track.

Our continued thanks to you, Chuck Blethen, a truly dedicated and distinguished Toastmaster.





SPEECHCRAFT = NEW MEMBERS

Over the last several months I have had the opportunity to speak with members from over 40 clubs in our District about assistance in running a membership drive. District 37 has 3 separate programs for assisting clubs to meet their membership goals required to achieve their Distinguished Club Program (DCP) award.

Our programs to help you achieve your DCP goals:

1. To get one or two new members – Ask for our **“Hundreds of Membership Building Ideas.”** The list actually has 236 different membership building ideas) including **“How Best to Run an Open House.”** This program works best for clubs over charter strength.
2. To get 5-15 new members – Ask for our **“How to run a SpeechCraft program in 4 weeks.”** (16 “cookie-cutter” documents to put you on a fast track to increase membership). This program works best for clubs that are just under charter strength. SpeechCraft is the number one membership-building program in the world. There are a few tricks to making it successful. Running the program at the same place and time slot as your regular meeting is one of the most important things to remember.
3. To triple your membership – Ask for our six-step plan called **“How to Triple your Membership in 6 months”** (If you REALLY want to build your club membership). This program was especially designed for clubs with 10 members or less.

These membership-building programs have been successfully used by hundreds of clubs in several Districts. We have the tools, the experience, and the know-how to help you succeed!

Contact your Membership Building expert:

Chuck Blethen, DTM
District 37 SpeechCraft Chair
Chuck@JeweloftheBlueRidge.com
828-606-3130



Our beloved Jay Nodine, DTM, PDG, PID, passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at Carolinas Medical Center-NorthEast in Concord, at the age of 74. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 17, 2011, at Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord. The Reverends. Michael Waters and Darrell Coble officiated this service. One knew they each cared for Jay and Willie and the entire family. They included humor, respect, and love in their remembrances and blessings for the Nodine family and Jay's friends. Distinguished Toastmaster and lifelong friend of Jay's, William L. "Bill" Mintz, contributed to the service with a beautiful poem that he wrote which ended with ***"Rejoice with me, I'm in a place free from pain. Let this parting not mean goodbye, but just so long until we meet again – until we meet again."***

Jay received Toastmaster's highest award, a Presidential Citation in 1995. He was a Distinguished Toastmaster, our organization's highest level of educational and leadership achievement, for over 35 years. He served as District 37's Governor in 1978-79. He also served two years on Toastmasters International Board of Directors in 1988-1990. He was a winner of numerous speech contests and received practically every honor and award of the organization. He was a much sought after speaker and Emcee. As a keynote address speaker in District 58 (South Carolina), Jay is quoted as saying: "I feel that what success I have had at the lectern comes from my philosophy of life, which is: *If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right.*" He recently wrote and published a book entitled Jay's Jokes, which is a whimsical collection of jokes, roasts, speeches and letters.

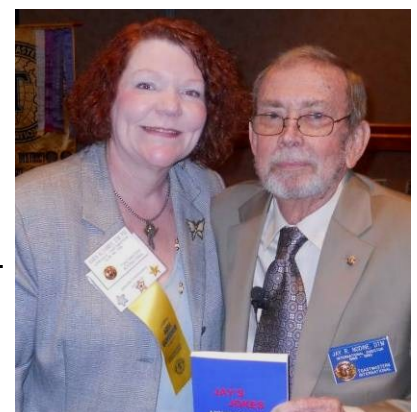
Following the service there was a touching tribute hosted by Willie Nodine and conducted by Distinguished Toastmaster Barney Barnum and members of the Goldmine Toaster club. Guests were encouraged to contribute a "table topic" speech in honor of our lost leader. The top three leaders of our District, Bryan Walsh, DTM, District Governor, Naomi Takeuchi, DTM, Lt. Governor of Education, and Michael Beach, DTM, Lt. Governor of Marketing and many, many leaders and members from several states were in attendance.

Jay was born May 15, 1937 in Boiling Springs, NC. He was the son of the late Jay K. Nodine and Cora B. Nodine. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Willie Little Nodine; one step-son, Mike Thomas and Sandra Sellers of China Grove; three brothers, Max Nodine and his wife, Jessie of Greer, SC, Jerry (Monk) Nodine of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Tony and his wife, Bonnie of Charlotte; and one sister, Teresa Ann Nodine Edwards and her husband, Ken of Landrum, SC. Jay was preceded in death by his grandson, David Elijah Thomas.

Jay served in the United States Air Force for eleven years. He was a graduate of the University of NC at Charlotte. His career included employment in both the hosiery/textile and the medical supply industries. Jay was an active member at Parkwood Baptist Church for 45 years. During this time, he held many offices at the church including Sunday School Teacher and Sunday School Superintendent. Additionally, he was a former chairman of the Kannapolis Planning and Zoning Committee and dedicated leader in his community.

If you would like to send a note or card to Willie Nodine, her address is: 1311 N Main St, Kannapolis, NC 28081-2260.

Jay, we will miss your contagious smile, your warm and wonderful humor; we will miss you as a leader and member of District 37.



Karen Alexander, DTM, PDG with Jay Nodine, DTM, PDG, PID, at the District 37 Spring Conference in May of 2011.

Upcoming Events

January 2012

TLI—Toastmasters Leadership Institute

East—January 7, 2012

First Baptist Church, 99 N Salisbury Street

Raleigh, NC

Co-Chairs, Sandy Campbell and Cathy Crowley

West—January 14, 2012

The Cannon School

5801 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

Co-Chairs, James Edgar and Tracy Threatt

Each will have a morning and afternoon session, a new component to this training, and an optional lunch if you are interested. There will be a District Executive Committee (DEC) (area and division governors and district leaders) meeting in the afternoon. To register at the “early bird” cost of only \$5, go to <http://toastmasters-nc/events/tli/register>

February—April, 2012

Club, Area, and Division International Speech Contest and Table Topics Contests

March 10, 2012. 10:00 am—2:30 pm

District Executive Committee

DG, LGET, LGM, All Area Governors, Division Governors, and Committee Chairs

Moses Cone Hospital, AHEC Building, Room 30, 200 East Northwood Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27401

Save the Date.....May 3—6, 2012

2012 Spring Conference

Great Wolf Lodge

10175 Weddington Road, Concord, NC 28027

Great Rates and Exceptional Program—Fun for All!!

**ATTENTION ALL
Newsletter Articles**
***If you have something interesting or informa-
tive to report for your club, area, or division,
please submit to our district Public Relations
Officer***
Kimberly Netter, at
kimberlynetter@aol.com. Articles
should be limited to approximately 600 words.