



# TNT Toastmasters

Club No. 4533—Area 61—District 50

WWW.TNTTOASTMASTERS.COM

MARCH 2011

## SAVE THE DATE

4/14—New Member Orientation

4/29—Town North Division Area Contest

4/30—TNT 30th Anniversary Party

5/13-5/14—Spring Conference

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## President's Message

Kasey Smith, CC, CL



TNT will be 30 years old May 8, 2011. To honor this festive occasion, we will have a Birthday Celebration on April 30, 2011 at Sullivan's Steakhouse. All members, past and present, spouses, friends, and District dignitaries are invited to attend. Please make every effort to come. Invites are forthcoming;

TNT has a rich history of developing award-winning communicators and dynamic leaders. Three come to mind immediately: Pauline Shirley and JoAnn McWilliams for each serving as International President for Toastmasters International, and LaShunda Rundles for winning the 2008 International Speech Contest and becoming the 2008 World Champion of Public Speaking.

Many members, both past and present, have been champions in their own Toastmaster goals in both the Communication and Leadership Tracks.

This year is no exception. Many of our members will complete their CC, CL, and advanced awards in 2011. Supporting our members to reach their communication and leadership goals is our top priority, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth for every member.

Membership growth is another priority at TNT. We welcome all guests and encourage them to join TNT if Toastmasters fits their personal and business improvement goals. We invite all members to attend our New Member Orientation and Member Q&A on the second Thursday of every month.

Our mentoring program is another priority at TNT. Each new member is teamed up with a more experienced Toastmaster to mentor through their first three speeches, help them prepare for all the role holder positions, and answer any questions they might have.

We have had three months of dynamic action-filled meetings so far this year. We started off the year as a President's Distinguished Club, meaning we earned nine of ten DCP (Distinguished Club Plan) points. In February, after our TLI participation, we added point number TEN.

Way to go, TNT! Let's keep the momentum going for the rest of the year!

## The Top Ten Reasons TNT Is an Outstanding Club

By: Pauline Shirley, Past President, DTM, PIP

TNT is at the top of the list of excellent Toastmasters Clubs, and it is not by accident.

1. Our members are committed to the program.
2. We warmly welcome guests and encourage them to join.
3. The meetings are fun, educational, inclusive, on time and full of energy.
4. The club officers serve the needs of the members.

5. Our members respond promptly to the requests of the Vice President Education for scheduling information, to the Toastmaster of the day confirming participation and to the Treasurer when it's time to renew!
6. TNT holds regular new member orientation sessions.
7. All club officers attend Toastmasters Leadership Institute training.

8. Members and officers attend area contests, division contests and the District Conference.
9. Our evaluations always give the speaker encouragement, ways to improve and kudos for what the speaker does well.
10. In addition to mentoring new members, our experienced members keep us on track by making sure we stick to what works.

# History of Educational Levels

By: Kasey Smith, President, CC, CL



Toastmaster educational levels have changed a lot since Toastmasters first began in 1924. For example, the communication award names have changed from ATM (Able Toastmaster) in 1964 to CTM (Competent Toastmaster) in 1968 to CC (Competent Communicator) in 2006. The highest award title, DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster), was first introduced in 1970.

The requirements to earn these designations have changed as Toastmasters developed new and improved curriculums. The eight steps to DTM we have today is a process that was first introduced in 1997 and finalized in 2006.

Many Toastmaster members came up the ranks through the older systems when either the communication and leadership tracks were combined or the awards were called by other names. That's why occasionally you will see CTM after a member's name rather than CC. TNT doesn't have any members with an ATM designation. It's likely they progressed to DTM.

It is my hope that all TNT members will embrace both the communication and leadership tracks within the Toastmaster educational system. We have many members who have not completed their CL manuals. I challenge you to ask yourself why. Every week as we are assigned a role to perform to make our meetings run smoothly we are doing the required assignments for the CL manual. Why not get the award that goes along with the work? Please finish the manual and apply for the Competent Leader Award!

Think about how much of an impact Toastmaster training will have on your life, both personally and professionally. It is a very small financial investment of just \$78 per year to be involved in such high caliber training. Your time is well spent, and it is an investment in your future.

Please enjoy learning about Toastmasters history in the timeline below. Be proud of how far Toastmasters has come since the beginning. Be excited about all that Toastmasters has to offer us today.

**Oct 1924** - 1st TM meeting held in Santa Ana, California.

**Oct 1928** - 1st TM manual is copyrighted by founder, Ralph Smedley.

**Aug 1950** - 1st advanced TM manual, *Beyond Basic Training* introduced and first certificate issued for completing.

**Nov 1964** - 1st Able Toastmaster (ATM) award is issued.

**Aug 1968** - 1st Competent Toastmaster (CTM) award is issued for completing the manual *Basic Training for Toastmasters*.

**Aug 1969** - *Communication and Leadership Program* manual is introduced at the International Convention

**Mar 1970** - 1st Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award is issued.

**Jan 1978** - A multi-manual Advanced Communication and Leadership Program is introduced.

**Apr 1979** - Two Success/Leadership programs are introduced.

**Jul 1984** - *Communication and Leadership Program* manual is revised; Able Toastmaster Bronze (ATM-B) and Able Toastmaster Silver (ATM-S) are introduced.

**Jan 1997** - 2nd revised *Communication and Leadership Program* manual rolls out.

**Jul 1997** - An improved two-track educational recognition system begins: Communication track awards include: CTM, Advanced Toastmaster Bronze; Advanced Toastmaster Silver; Advanced Toastmaster Gold. Leadership track awards include: Competent Leader and Advanced Leader. Requirements for DTM award change to include new and improved educational program.

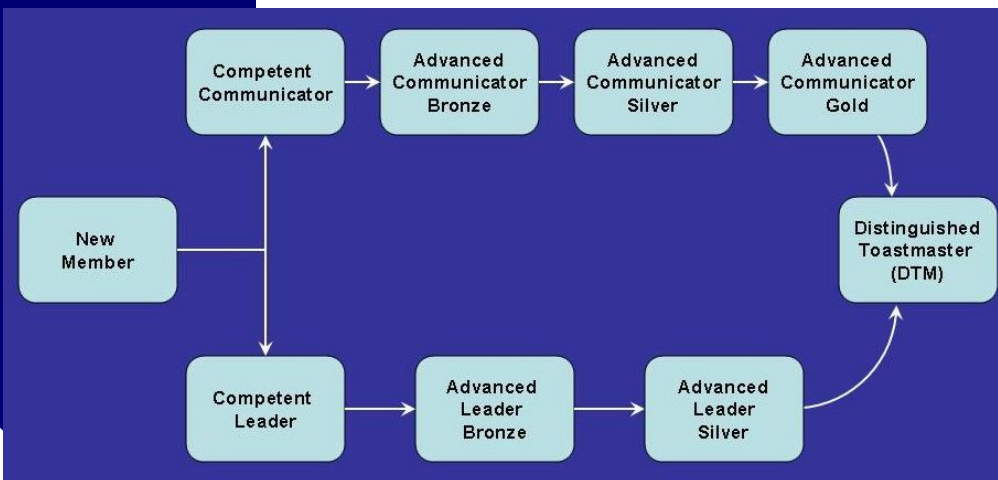
**Jan 2006** - *Competent Leadership* manual is introduced.

**Jul 2006** - Communication track award titles are renamed: Competent Communicator (CC), Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB), Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) and Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG). Leadership track is strengthened and expanded to include Competent Leader (CL), Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB), Advanced Leader Silver (ALS).

**2010** - CL manual is revised with updated format.

*Timeline from Toastmasters International*

Below: Example of current two-track educational system finalized in 2006.



# Mentoring, A Way of Life

By: Charlene Sims, CC, ALB

“Would someone mentor me please?” So many times in my life I have wanted someone to mentor me. The truth is, there have been many people who “mentored” me in my life. As I grow older and wiser, I realize that it is a way of life, the give and take of my everyday living.

I love to mentor people because of what so many people have given to me. Sometimes it sounds like an ominous term: to “mentor.” There is nothing magic about mentoring. It is caring for and wanting to help someone through the journey and process you have been through. There is always someone ahead of

you and behind you in a process.

Toastmasters has been an incredible opportunity for me to give back to many people because of the time, encouragement, and sometimes even a push that others have given me. Anyone can and should be a mentor.

Sometimes “mentoring” is just accepting that responsibility. There have been people in TNT who have mentored me, and yet the word has never been mentioned in that relationship. I also fondly remember my first official mentor in TNT. Without her encouragement I don’t know if I would still be here.

She believed in me a long time before I did. She encouraged me and gave me feedback to help me grow in my speeches.

Do you want to be mentored? I think we all do. You will be mentored as you arrive at TNT each week. Look around you and see all the encouragement and opportunities for others to mentor you on a weekly basis. The most important thing is to give back and mentor others by encouraging, giving feedback and believing in others. Your words have the opportunity of changing someone’s life.

**Don’t forget we have two of our very own members, Tish Gray and Charlotte Hudgin, who will compete at the Town North Division Area Contest on April 29!**

## New Member Spotlight

Puja Rathi

**Interests:** Movies, socializing, always open to trying something new.

didn’t think I would be nervous, but got butterflies in my stomach at the start of the meeting.

**How I was introduced to TNT:** Was looking at Toastmasters website in the area close to work. Decided to drop an email to the contact listed on TNT website. Went as a guest to a meeting and just loved it.

**How I felt after delivering my Ice Breaker:** I was still shaken right after the speech and also moved by the support and encouragement of everyone in the form of personal notes and comments.

**What impressed me most about TNT:** Level of effort everyone puts into making every meeting successful.

**What I learned from my Ice Breaker and evaluation:** Very helpful evaluation for the next speech. I will be paying more attention to gestures and my stance in my next speeches.

**How I prepared for my Ice Breaker, and my feelings/ thoughts before delivering my speech:** Thought of interesting facts about me that Toastmasters members should know and arranged them in a sequence. Practiced the speech several times. I

**Please share one strange fact about yourself:** I am a staunch vegetarian and have always been one.



**“I am from India but have lived in the US for about 10 years. I am a management consultant by profession. I am also a very dedicated (read obsessive) mother of three-year-old twin girls.”**

# New Member Spotlight

## Julie Chance

**Interests:** Snow Skiing, scuba diving, travel, spending time in nature and writing

**How I was introduced to TNT:** I was doing a training with Bruce Arfsten, and someone mentioned he was in Toastmasters. I had been part of a start-up club that didn't make it several years ago, and finding a club to join had been in the back of my mind since.

**What impressed me most about TNT:** Initially the day, time and place of the meeting. When I visited the first time I was surprised and delighted that I knew not only Bruce but had also met Pauline several times and knew Winn from a networking group we had been in several years earlier. I also like the hour format and the quick pace.

**How I prepared for my Ice Breaker, and my feelings/thoughts before delivering my speech:** I actually gave my Ice Breaker several years ago with the other club. My first speech with TNT was Project 4 in the Competent Communicator manual, so I don't really remember specifics of my Ice Breaker. I will share how I prepare for all of my speeches. Once I have decided to give a speech I start thinking about topics.

An idea will come to me—usually while I am walking the dog or taking a shower. I'll write the opening paragraphs and sometimes the closing in my head before I ever write anything down on paper. I then write out the entire speech and continue to practice it in my head and out loud for my dog and cats. They present some challenges as an audience though because it is difficult to hold their attention and they don't provide much feedback. I am always nervous before I give a speech and am just ready to "get it over with."

**How I felt after delivering my Ice Breaker:** I always experience a huge adrenaline rush after giving a speech. For me it is a real "high"—almost addictive. I guess that's what keeps me coming back.

**What I learned from my Ice Breaker and evaluation:** It was a long time ago—2007—so I've slept (a lot) since then, but a couple of things still stand out. One is "I am a better speaker than I thought I was." Second, it was the first time I had ever done a speech without notes so I learned that I could speak without notes.

**Please share one strange fact about yourself:** Just one? My first job when I was in high school was operating the elevator at Delta Downs Racetrack near Vinton, Louisiana. Talk about boring and real motivation to get an education.



Julie has over 20 years of experience in marketing , operations, and training and has taught marketing courses at two Texas Universities. Julie received her MBA from the University of Texas at Austin and completed her BBA at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Prior to starting her own company, Julie worked for Horizon Health Corporation in a variety of positions, including Vice President of Consulting.

## TNT Executive Members

President	Kasey Smith, CC, CL
Imm. Past President	Pauline Shirley, DTM, PIP
VP of Education	Lori McCaghren, ACB, ALB
VP of Membership	Sharron O'Neill, CC
VP of PR	Eve Rodgers
Secretary	Sandra Lewis
Treasurer	Bruce Arfsten, CC
Sergeant at Arms	Dawn Cruttenden

## Club Updates

- TNT has welcomed four new members this year already!
- Charlotte Hudgin and Tish Gray won both TNT and Area Contests for Best Evaluator and Best Speaker, respectively. They advanced to the Division Contest to be held April 29.
- TNT was presented a King Cake by District 50's Danni Babik for earning all DCP points for educational levels.