



TNT Newsletter

Club No. 4533—Area 61—District 50

WWW.TNTTOASTMASTERS.COM

MAY 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
TNT's Top Accomplishments	1
History of Educational Levels	2, 3
Calendar	4
Taking the Terror out of Table Topics	5
TNT's Recent Educational Accomplishments	5
New Member Spotlight Jessica Coffee	6
Club Updates	6

President's Message

Kasey Smith, CC, CL



April has been an interesting month at TNT! Week One we honored **Pauline Shirley, DTM, PIP**, for her service as our President last term. Week Two we had an Ice Breaker Speech from new member, **Steve Anderson** and a Number Ten Speech from new Competent Communicator, **Winn Fuqua** - both in the same meeting! What a wonderful way to showcase growth of our speakers for our members and our guests to witness. It is a joy to watch everyone improve speech after speech, developing new skills along the way.

Week Three was a laugh a minute as our talented and funny members, aka, **Honorable Judge, Ann Logan- Lubben, Defendant E. Bunny, Kelly**

Page, Prosecuting Attorney, Bruce Arfsen, and Defense Attorney, Winn Fuqua, created "**The Trial of the Easter Bunny**"! All role holders and Table Topic participants played their parts beautifully. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

When Dr. Ralph Smedley first created Toastmasters back in 1924, he called Toastmasters a "Laboratory of Learning". Each time any of us steps up to the lectern, stands to announce our roles, gives an evaluation, answers a Table Topics question, or even chats with a fellow member or guest, we are honing our skills as communicators and leaders.

Most Toastmaster members join to develop just their speaking

skills and are pleasantly surprised that the leadership training is just as valuable. I encourage everyone to step into a leadership position. It helps you develop as a leader and it helps the club because we need strong, dedicated leaders to pave the way for even greater successes in TNT's future. Also, keep in mind that receiving your Advanced Leader Bronze Award is partially earned by serving as a club officer for a six month term.

Dr. Smedley was right...TNT is definitely a "Laboratory of Learning" for our members. Another way to describe that is we "create and hold the space" in order to facilitate communication and leadership growth for our members. And TNT does that very well.

TNT Accomplishments in 30 Years

2008—**LaShunda Rundles** became World Champion of Public Speaking.

Jo Anna McWilliams received both Division Governor of the Year and Toastmaster of the Year from D25

Circa 1992—TNT was honored as one of the Top Ten Clubs in the World

Pauline Shirley and Jo Anna McWilliams were the second and third ladies, respectively, to become International President of Toastmasters

1984—TNT sponsored the District Fall Conference although the club was only two years old at that time.

TNT was honored as the Top Club in the District.

TNT currently has 9 Distinguished Toastmasters as members!

TNT celebrates 30 years on May 8, 2011 with a party June 26. We would love to see you there! There are not many Toastmasters clubs that can boast this accomplishment!

History of District 50

Compiled By: Jerry Coen, DTM



The following “ancient” history of the district was originally provided by Horace Caviness, DTM, formerly of District 25 (now District 50).

Dr. Louis E. Tompkins was a very determined man. You could see it in his face and the way he walked. With his short-cropped hair and his Germanic features, one would think he was a football coach or a successful farmer. Only his hands would indicate his true profession.

As he walked back to his office on that cool fall day in Wichita Falls, Texas in **1948**, this very busy and successful dentist was very happy. He had just received word from Toastmasters International founder, Dr. Ralph Smedley, that the widely scattered clubs in the whole state of Texas and part of Louisiana had been granted their charter as Toastmasters District 25. For three years Dr. Tompkins had been a faithful attendee at Toastmasters

International conventions, having begun as a charter member of the Wichita Falls Toastmasters Club, which was started in **April 1945**. Because he knew the Toastmasters organization at all levels and had spearheaded the drive to obtain the district charter, Dr. Tompkins was named as the first District Governor of the new district.

There were only twelve clubs in the district, and because of the large area the district encompassed, it was going to be difficult to govern them. Up to then, many of the clubs operated independently of each other. The structure of the meetings was different from club to club. Dr. Tompkins knew the job was going to be difficult, but he was excited about the challenge. He knew what Toastmasters training had done for his life and he wanted to share it with others and to help the organization grow.

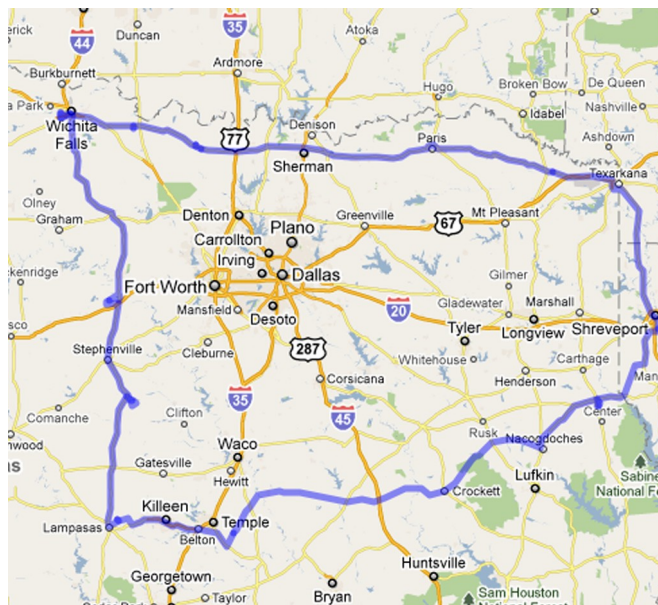
He sent a telegram to the president of each club, informing each of them of the good news, urging them to increase their membership, and to start making plans for their first district conference.

Dr. Tompkins visited several of the clubs during his term, which lasted more than a year, trying to mold the clubs into the desired structure. When their first District Conference was held in Dallas in 1950, the district had 19 clubs. At that conference, Joe A. Shirley was elected as the new District Governor.

By the time Dr. Tompkins handed the reins of the district to Joe Shirley, it was clear to him that the district was too large. Many of the clubs were in the northeast part of the state, the Shreveport Club was large, and some clubs were in Houston and several more in far west Texas. There were hundreds of miles between the clubs of north and west Texas, with no clubs in between. Discussions with the leaders of the west Texas clubs revealed a desire to establish their own district, and plans were made accordingly.

In 1953, District 25 voted to split into two districts with the creation of District 44 in the western part of the state, effective **July 1, 1954**.

District 25 was still enormous. The successful creation of District 44 proved that smaller districts could be governed more effectively and provided more opportunities for leadership training. So, just three years later, on September 15, 1956, at a District Council meeting at the Melrose Hotel in Dallas, Texas, District Governor Vic Ballowe gave a status report on dividing the district once again.



The map to the right shows District 25 after the formation of Districts 44 (West) and 56 (South).



...Continued

District 56 was formally established on **July 1, 1957**. The new northern district was allowed to retain the number "25." The new boundaries of District 25 were designated as shown to the left.

In August 1957, the geographically smaller but more efficient District 25, with 41 clubs and 781 members, hosted the International Convention in Dallas, Texas. International Director J. O. Grantham from Waco, Texas, and Bob Smith from Dallas, who had attended the 1956 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan, headed the steering committee for the International convention.

(Note: The International Convention was not held in Dallas again until 1990 when District 25 with 203 clubs and 4,258 members hosted the event, with DTM Bob Lanz as Convention Chairman.)

District 25 grew at a healthy rate until it peaked in 1966 with 61 clubs and 1,237 members. After that year, except for minor increases occurring in isolated years, the number of clubs and the total membership suffered a fairly steady decline until it bottomed out in 1976 with 41 clubs and 872 members.

From 1983 through 1989, District 25 was recognized as a Presidents Distinguished District. It was during this time period rapid growth was experienced and eventually led to the reformation of District 25 into Districts 25 and 50. In 1986-87 the District was the number one district in the world.

From that point on, District 25 has enjoyed tremendous growth, with the increase in the number of clubs each year usually exceeding the total number of clubs in existence at the time of its founding in 1948.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Tompkins and hundreds of other

past District 25 leaders. We now drink from these wells "we did not dig." But we are a part of the continuing history of this great district.

Gary Smith, DTM shared that on November 2, 1991, the District Council once again voted to pursue dividing the district. Keeping Dr. Tompkins' home club, 305 Wichita Falls, in District 25, the eastern section is to be designated as District 50.

The boundaries proposed to take



effect on **July 1, 1994**:

Pat Gallagher, 1996-97 District Governor, began laying the groundwork for her term during early June 1996, with 99% of the Area and Division Governors trained. July began with a bang! Jerry Clark presented a very well attended July Jubilee. The Executive Council meeting was postponed a week because of Pat's mother's death, but the help and support of everyone in the district helped to move the meeting along. Pat's goal was to get the District to President's Distinguished level, recognizing that the paperwork had to go in and that it wouldn't be over until the "fat lady sings."

Fall of 1996 was fast and furious with new members, new clubs, and the Fall Conference held in Shreveport. It was the first district conference held in the East for District 50. It had been eight years since the last conference in the East.

The Spring Conference was also a huge success, with Pat's term winding down but not over until June 30. At the "Hail and Farewell" dinner, there would be nine days left to make President's Distinguished. Three clubs were very

**Making the Best Better
1994 - 1995
Alice Willhoite,
DTM**

**Share the Experience
1995 - 1996
Rick Rose, DTM**

**Dare To Be
1996 - 1997
Pat Gallagher,
DTM**

**Take Your Passion
Make It Happen
1997 - 1998
Jerry Clark,
DTM**



**Setting the Gold Standard
1998 - 1999
Robin Doglio,
DTM**

close to chartering, and a chartering team was meeting with each club. On the night of June 30, everyone met. Papers were filled out, and checks were signed. Paperwork for three clubs was carried to the DFW Post Office at 10:00 p.m. It was an exciting night, and the "fat lady" sang a sweet tune.

District 50 was a winner, finishing No. 12 in the world and becoming Select Distinguished.

The first five District Conferences and the District Governors at the time are presented to the right. **Stay tuned for more on District 50!**

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 D50	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 	13 D50	14 D50
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31				




Save the Date

- } 5/1—Beat the Clock Membership campaign begins
- } 5/12—New Member Orientation/ Existing Member Meeting
- } 5/13-5/14—District 50 Conference
- } 5/26—Executive Committee Meeting

Save the Date

- } 6/9—New Member Orientation/ Existing Member Meeting
- } 6/23—Executive Committee Meeting
- } 6/26— TNT 30th Anniversary Party
- } 6/30—Beat the Clock Membership Drive ends

JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26 	27	28	29	30 D50		

Taking the Terror out of Table Topics

Written by Lori McCaghen; Adapted from the Impromptu Speaking Module from the Better Speaker Series

We've all been through the terror of the extemporaneous exercise known as Table Topics. Immediately after being asked a question, we are expected to give a one to two minute reply that is organized, coherent and entertaining in addition to working in the word of the day! No wonder many Toastmasters find this portion of the meeting more challenging than giving a prepared speech. Personally, I've used the skills learned in answering Table Topics questions outside of the club in "real life" more than anything else acquired in my 3 years as a Toastmaster. In fact, I now hope to be called upon because I enjoy the practice. Call me crazy, but my hope is that you, too will come to think Table Topics is Terrific, not Terrorizing!

Here are some pointers to use in your transition: I believe that in order to do anything well consistently we must have a systemized approach or a formula we can repeat. Some call it a "best practice". Below is a formula for successful impromptu speaking that many Toastmas-

ters use. It's a five step approach.

1. **Listen** – pay attention! Careful listening can provide part of your response. I often write down the question as it is being asked so that I'm forced to listen to every word.
2. **Pause** – Breath and pause for a moment before speaking. This will allow you to refresh your thoughts and formulate an answer.
3. **Confirm** – Repeating the question out loud gives your brain cells a better opportunity to absorb the concept.....and buys you a few seconds, too
4. **Tell** – Stay focused and tell only the essentials. This isn't the time to gush on the topic from A to Z.
5. **End!** – Bring your comments to a close, emphasize your main point, smile and sit down.

The 4th step requires a little more comment. There are several strategies you can take here. One thing I do is take a look at the theme of the day and as I drive to the meeting I pretend I'm table topics master and think of what questions I

would ask and how I might answer. Some Toastmasters will express an opinion and then use the time to justify it. Others will discuss cause and effect for their reply. Another strategy is to break the topic into components and discuss each individually. Finally, you could use a past/present/future outline to talking of your subject in a timeline fashion.

Now that you know how to handle Table Topics there are three definite DON'Ts to bring up. Don't apologize – EVER. Don't Ramble. It's best to be brief. Don't Invent. Strive for sincerity rather than inventiveness – AKA bluffing. Being able to think and speak on your feet in an organized, concise and coherent fashion is an excellent mental habit to cultivate, but like other good habits, it takes time and effort to establish. Once you practice the basic concepts reviewed here, you'll find yourself more than ready to accept the challenge of Table Topics. Who knows? You might just find them to be Terrific!

Don't forget that Charlotte Hudgins will be representing TNT Toastmasters at the District Conference Contest!

TNT's most recent educational accomplishments

Tish Gray, ACB
Charlene Sims, ACB
Eve Rodgers, CC
Winn Fuqua, CC
Drum roll.....
Kelly Page, DTM



After Kelly gave her last speech to accomplish her DTM

<

Winn receiving his CC and Charlene her ACB

>



New Member Spotlight

Jessica Coffee

Interests: Every aspect of food and nutrition - gardening, culinary arts, food chemistry, dietetics, metabolism and of course eating! I also enjoy skiing, but hate being cold!

How were you introduced to TNT? I was interested in polishing my speaking skills and came upon Eve's involvement in TNT. Knowing Eve, I knew she would have done her 'do diligence' and selected the best club in which to become a member.

What impressed you most about TNT? The high paced flow which is amazingly accurate according to Robert's Rules. The group works like a precision machine, yet is very inviting and accommodating.

How did you prepare for your Ice breaker and what were your feeling/thoughts before delivering your speech? I thought about important moments/experiences in my life and tried to understand how they were integral to bringing me where I am today and where I

plan to go. I wanted to make the speech fun an engaging to show a bit of my personality as well. I'm usually not nervous about speaking in front of groups, yet knowing every gesture and word was being analyzed brought on the butterflies. I tried to ease my nerves by realizing it wasn't the end of the world, but it didn't help much. I was finally able to relax a bit once I got into the pace of the speech.

How did you feel after delivering your Ice breaker?
Relieved!

What did you learn from your Ice breaker and evaluation? I learned to outline what I intend to speak about, writing down key words to prompt myself (a tip from Eve). I learned I was better than I thought and didn't have any major tics.

Please share one strange fact about yourself:
I was a flight attendant for 6 years.



"Jessica J. Coffee is a registered & licensed dietitian and co-owner of Urban Nutrition, LLC. She serves as Legislative Co-chair of the Dallas Dietetic Association and is a member of the Carroll Independent School District School Health Advisory Council. Through Urban Nutrition, LLC; Jessica focuses on promoting healthy eating through restaurant menu analysis, corporate wellness and family based weight management programs."

TNT Executive Committee

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, CC
Secretary	Charlene Sims ACB, ALB
Treasurer	Bruce Arfsten, CC
Sergeant at Arms	Winn Fuqua, CC

Club Updates

- TNT is acting as a sister club to a Toastmasters Club in Brasov, Romania.
- TNT's Anniversary Party was rescheduled. Mark your calendars for 6/26 instead!
- After the last membership renewal, TNT has 37 members! Help us get to 40 in this membership drive!
- Stay tuned for the new club officers which will be announced in May.