



One Community
Many Voices

District 7 Toastmasters
August 2015

LAS VEGAS



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2015 CONVENTION RECAP

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EDITORIAL

Accidental meeting – or was it?

by Phyllis A. Harmon, DTM

Are chance meetings ever chance meetings? Or are they something more? Could it be that there are no accidents, that what was meant to be was meant to be? Sounds very esoteric, doesn't it?

Yet. . . I was standing in one of 8 hotel registration lines at Caesar's Palace last Tuesday waiting to check into my room. In the line next to me, I noticed a woman, about my age, with two men, inching forward with their luggage. "Isn't she a Toastmaster? Don't I know her from a prior convention? Isn't she a past International Director?" I made eye contact, waved, and waited for that look of recognition to wash across her face. To my chagrin, it didn't happen.

The next morning I was seated in Payard's for breakfast. There she was! The same lady I had seen in the registration line! She too was eating alone. Being a Toastmaster, I called out to her, inquired where her family was, and ended up asking if she would like to share a table. After introductions, I asked if she was attending the Toastmasters Convention. (At that point, I was still sure she was a Toastmaster.) It turned out that Sherry was associated with Wealth Smart, a two-year-old fund management organization in Kentucky. She was attending her first conference as a new agent.

The inevitable happened! She asked "What is Toastmasters?"

"Toastmasters saved my career. . ." I began, sharing my story and lauded the transformations that members experience when they find their voices. The conversation evolved to a sharing of work careers, family, and travel. In the 30 minutes we sat together, eating and sipping our morning beverages, Sherry and I connected. We exchanged contact information, and headed off to our respective meetings.

Later that morning, I received a text from Sherry: Phyllis, this is Sherry from breakfast. I told Greg and Jonathan about meeting you. When I did they were SO excited. Both said we are planning on joining Toastmasters. Wealth Smart encourages all of their people to join it. Isn't that cool? Thank you for telling me about it!

Are chance meetings ever chance meetings? Or are they something more? Could it be that there are no accidents, that what was meant to be was meant to be? I was meant to connect with Sherry. From the moment I spotted her in line, inching towards the registration desk to our connection at Payard's, I believe I was there, at that time and place, to introduce her to Toastmasters. Sherry and her husband and son are looking for a club in Louisville, Kentucky. They will find their voices and use them to help their clients secure their futures.

Your story is powerful. Use it when you talk about Toastmasters. You may just be in the right place at the right time, and your story may fling open the doors of possibility for someone else to find their voice.

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Voices! is published monthly by District 7 Toastmasters. First issue published August 2014.

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

What we did in Vegas . . . Won't stay in Vegas!



By Dottie Love—ACB, ALB, Triple Crown Award
and Allison Bennett—CC



Who would have thought going to a Toastmasters Convention would have caused us to laugh ourselves silly? Be awe-inspired by high-caliber speakers all while getting our 10,000 fitness steps-a-day in... by getting lost in Caesars Palace?

The first day started with a run. We entered into this grandiose ballroom just in the nick of time to hurriedly join the band of District-7 members giddily prancing across the stage in front of over 3,000 attendees as our leaders (Immediate Past District Governor Phyllis Harmon, DTM, Michelle Alba-Lim, DTM, Leanna Lindquist, DTM) and a host of District 7 members carried our Distinguished District Banner! District-7, You Rock!

Motivated starts with "E" - Yes, indeed! How could we not be with the extraordinary leadership training? Our presenters included CEOs, a Vice President of fortune-500 company, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, best-selling authors, award-winning speakers and trainers. The most poignant: the words of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Muhammad Yunus, which left us enraptured, excited, and enriched. He transformed financial lending with a concept called 'microcredit' that helps poor people create businesses and helps end poverty around the world. He said, "We are instinctively creative beings with the power to enhance the world. . ." It was a glimpse into the opportunities we all have, especially as Toastmasters, to change impossible to possible.

Too many other memorable quotes, but we had to share a few more. . .

"You are meant for something. . .Find your life's purpose and it will take you through your obstacles." -- Marilyn Tam author of Happiness Choice and presenter of Leadership Excellence, How You Can Achieve It.

"Laughter is a celebration of life. According to new research, writing down your negative thoughts and then throwing them in the trash can help a bad mood. I tried it and although happier, I really miss my iPad." -- Tim Gard presenter of Laughter Becomes You

Give yourself an everlasting gift of the videos: www.toastmastersondemand.com

Debit or Accredit

We didn't realize the power of Toastmasters until we saw the by-product of Toastmasters at its highest level! Did you know Toastmasters has an Elite Program for paid, professional speakers? Oh, you did. Well. . .we bet you didn't know that our District 7 member was in the Accredited Speakers Competition. We proudly cheered as Cathey Armillas, DTM presented an excerpt from her award-winning book, The Unbreakable Rules of Marketing. She promised and proved, "Creativity is the smallest investment with the potential for the biggest return." Check her out at www.CatheyArmillas.com.

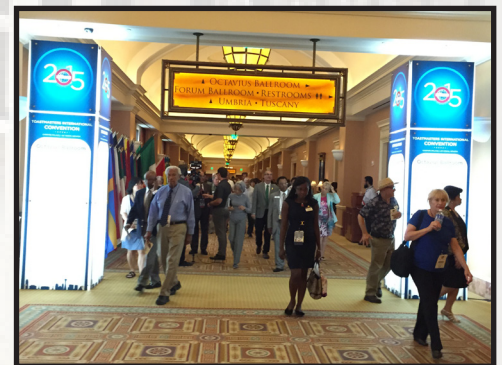
Lunch was a Contest Hero Sandwich

A big shout out to our "Superhero", Libra Forde, District 7's semifinalist. She showed up in a big way. . .all 6' 5" of her. Watching the contestants perform, we garnered the ingredients for the sandwich.

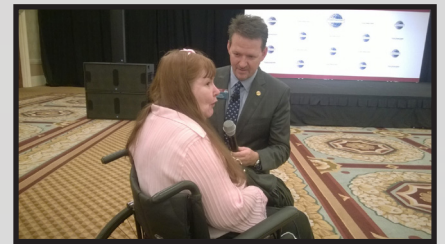
- 2 Slices of whole-hearted laughter
- All meaty prose
- Special sauce of enthusiasm
- With a side of crunchy content

Libra, we will be rooting as you continue your hero's journey. Finalist, Mohammed Qahtani, who didn't speak until the age of 6, and had a terrible stutter, rose to become the 2015 International Champion of Public Speaking!

What we did in Vegas . . .



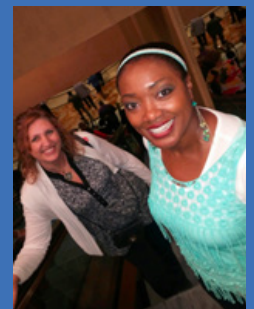
Won't Stay in Vegas!



And Another thing!

We had expected to be inspired. What we didn't expect was to be blown away! Luckily for us, Allison brought hair spray. Haha. Other Lessons' learned: Enthusiasm wins hearts. Traversing Caesars Palace can replace a Stairmaster. Conventions can also be a verb, adjective or adverb: Tremendous. Transformational. Transcendence. Want growth? Then join us at the 2016 International Convention to be held in Washington, D.C.

Us leaving Las Vegas. Bye for now .



VIEWPOINT



Servant Leadership Personified

By Michelle Alba Lim, DTM – District Director

Nowadays, we often hear of “servant leaders” or “servant leadership.” What is the quintessence of servant leadership? What differentiates servant leaders from other leaders?

In the words of Robert K. Greenleaf (who coined the phrase “servant leadership”) “The servant-leader is servant first...It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead...” <http://www.greenleaf.org/>

Servant leaders make sure that other people’s needs are being served. Unlike traditional leaders who lead with the “my way or the highway” approach, servant leaders share power, put the needs of others first, and truly care for people. They are patient, kind, and humble.

Immediate Past International President Mohammed Murad impresses me as servant leadership personified. Allow me to share three examples. . .

On the last day of the international convention in Vegas, Pat Lynch and I met Mohammed as he hurried towards the ballroom. When he learned that Pat wanted a photo with him, without a moment’s hesitation, he stopped and posed with her. Others crowded around, wanting photos. He graciously obliged. He could have said “I’m busy” or “I’m in a hurry!” Not Mohammed. He probably had to walk really fast to make up for lost time!

Last May, I unexpectedly saw Mohammed at the ATD international conference. We agreed to meet for lunch. Unfortunately, I couldn’t locate him. He walked across the humongous exhibition area to find me. Instead of looking impatient, he greeted me with a radiant smile.

Some years ago, as a member of Mohammed’s campaign team, I was assigned to download district performance stats. When I encountered technical glitches, I emailed his campaign manager to let her know. Imagine my surprise when Mohammed emailed me the stats for my two districts at that time (Founders and D75). He also offered to help me download any other information that I needed. Wow! How many other leaders would respond the way that he did?

In my opinion, Mohammed personifies the essential characteristics of servant leaders. He is truly a leader worth emulating.

“Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It’s about impact, influence and inspiration. Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion you have for your work, and you have to inspire teammates and customers.”

Robin S. Sharma



FROM THE DESK

The Secret

by Leanna Lindquist, DTM Program Quality Director

I learned a big secret at the Toastmasters International convention. It is the secret to attracting more club members, keeping the ones you have, and earning educational awards. The secret is Club Quality. How do you know if your club demonstrates quality? The tried and true method is to conduct a Moments of Truth.

This secret has been staring us in the face all along. The clubs that we hold in high esteem all do the following:

1. Welcome guests with open arms
2. Hold well planned meetings that are lively and professional
3. Support member growth with good evaluations
4. Provide leadership opportunities
5. Earning education awards is a given

When you visit one of these clubs you sense the camaraderie. There is a full agenda and everyone has a copy. At the end of the meeting people stand around to enjoy one another's company. First time guests fill out member applications. Members anticipate the next meeting. Everyone leaves feeling their time was well spent.

If your club isn't quite there and you want a place to start try Moments of Truth. MOT is a club self-assessment done by the members. It will lead to a Club Success Plan, the road map to a Quality Club. Check out the latest issue of Toastmasters Magazine to see how one club turned themselves around.



Corner Club Coach

Wanted: Club coach coordinator

Our District mission says, "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." To help achieve the second part of that mission—support all clubs—we need coaches willing to help a low-membership club reach Distinguished or better status.

District 7 also needs a member to manage the club coach program. This role involves matching a veteran Toastmaster with any club with fewer than 12 members that requests coaching help. Most coordinator duties can be done by e-mail or phone. You can also help the Club Growth Director recruit more coaches.

Even as a Distinguished District, we have more than 50 clubs with 12 members or fewer. Not all ask for coaching help, but those that do deserve our support. To be considered as club coach coordinator, contact cgd@d7toastmasters.org.

Welcome, club coaches!

This month, Peter De Graff stepped up to coach Leader's Edge Club in Vancouver, and Diane Allen will coach Highnooners Club in Bend. We wish these coaches and clubs a year of growth and success!

From the Desk

Awareness, engagement and participation will drive club growth

By Erik Bergman, DTM, Club Growth Director



I'm writing this at my first Toastmasters International director's training, a two-day marathon of presentations, workshops and networking. Three hundred District Directors have gathered in Las Vegas, and I'm in awe of their energy, knowledge and commitment. Looking around the room, I see fellow Directors from Finland, Zimbabwe, France, China, India. . .and our sheer diversity is remarkable.

We're here to train in our particular Director duties. We also want to see the big picture of our global educational organization and to better grasp our role in making Toastmasters the best it can be. Outgoing International President Mohammed Murad told us that Toastmasters International (TI) strategic plan will address three key areas:

1. Club excellence
2. Member achievement
3. Awareness, engagement and participation

It's up to us to make the strategic plan happen locally. Each of these items is something each one of us can and must help advance. Clubs that help members achieve goals are most likely to be excellent. And what we accomplish as members—education awards achieved or officer roles filled—makes for an excellent club. Excellence depends on all members supporting and encouraging each other and making the club a fun, safe place to grow.

Item No. 3 is what I'm personally focused on as Club Growth Director. Let's look at its separate parts. Awareness. Before they can become members, people need to hear about us. They must be aware that we exist. Raising awareness is an ongoing process, a journey not a destination. We'll be actively promoting the Toastmasters program to new communities, new audiences and new venues to spread the word. Outreach projects this month include a parade and a labor union picnic. These are member-driven opportunities at which Toastmasters show up and talk about our program.

Engagement. We're engaging with companies, groups and individuals who express interest in starting a new club. Some requests come through TI, while others come from members like you who alert us to an opportunity for club-building. We're engaging with all the leads you send in, so keep them coming. Our goal is to bring the benefits of our program to as many people as possible.

Participation. Toastmasters works when every member is engaged. That means taking on meeting roles and giving speeches, of course. Some of you want more so you can grow faster. If you want to reach higher, consider helping at the Area, Division and District level. We have marketing and promotion roles for you that can be a High Performance Leadership Project: club coach coordinator, kickoff meeting team member, club coach and club mentor, to name a few.

If you know of a community event where Toastmasters can play a role, or an idea for a new club, please send your suggestion to cgd@d7toastmasters.org.



Journeys...

Spotlight on Success – Rusty Lee

By Alexis Mason, DTM

What do you really know about Rusty Lee? Did you know that he grew up in Commerce City, Colorado? Did you know he received a full academic scholarship to Colorado State University? Did you know he made it through one term before his life was forever changed?

Rusty went to college with the intention of pursuing a degree in physics and/or engineering. It only took one quarter before he suffered the dreaded “sophomore slump”. You probably know the one . . . it’s the, “what’s-the-use-of-this-stuff slump.” During that fateful term, Rusty was introduced to Fortran, an early computer programming language that remains an active part of the engineering and scientific software developmental world today. Rusty fell in love with the technology and resolved to become a certified programmer.



In 1971, he attended one of the few trade schools that taught computer programming. With his certificate in hand, he quickly discovered that jobs were not to be found. At that time, the United States was suffering from a national unemployment rate of 5.9%, with most inner cities hovering around 9.0%. Coupled with a sluggish economy and political unrest, employers slowed or froze all hiring.

Fast forward to 1985. Rusty purchased his first computer for about \$6,000 which was more than the price of a new car. He worked for a company that installed monitoring equipment in trucking fleets. He was their star sales representative, and was rewarded with a transfer to the northwest.

In 1995 Rusty learned that the corporate ladder he had climbed was leaning against the wrong wall, and left the firm. Because of his ongoing interest in computer technology, he launched a computer support and repair business. He had been doing this work for family and friends for some time. It was a good fit. One of his clients was asked how he was able to get his computer fixed so well and so quickly. The client’s response was, “I just call my pc doctor.” That’s how the business that we know as CallMyPcDr.com was born. Rusty now is extremely busy, serving both corporate and private clients.

He also serves District 7 Toastmasters. A few years ago, Rusty was instrumental in setting up the District’s PayPal account for conference registration. He served three times as area governor and twice as division governor. He has also earned two Distinguished Toastmaster awards. He is a long time member of two Vancouver, Washington clubs Evergreen Toastmasters and Leader’s Edge.



When time permits, he is a NASCAR fan and would love to find time to go fishing. When asked about what’s next, he stated, “I’d like to get a life, with time for home improvements and relaxation.”

We thank you for your exemplary service, Rusty.

Journeys is a monthly column focused on members and what they do outside of Toastmasters.





WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

www.toastmasters.org

Constitution Day Open House



Carla Pletka

Patriot Talkers
Toastmaster member,
Constitutional Advocate,
Founder of
Oregon Patriot Camps
and
Lake Oswego
9-12 Project
She is a talented singer.

www.oregonpatriotcamps.com

Patriot Talkers Toastmasters

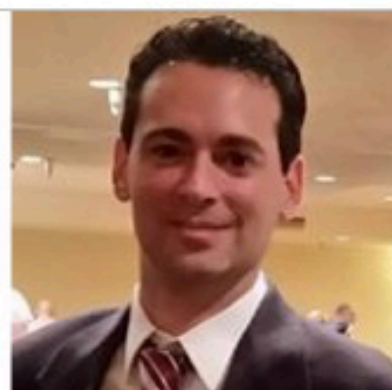
2 Guest Speakers

Standard TV & Appliance
5240 SE 82nd Ave
Portland, OR 97266
September 15th, 2015

6:30PM Networking &
Hors d'oeuvres
Meeting 7-8:30 PM

President: Kay Bridges
503-671-0218
KAYLBRIDGES@GMAIL.COM

Patriot Talkers meets every
Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 PM
You're invited!



Scott W. Jorgensen

Scott's new book:
"On the Cusp of Chaos"
His resume includes
Award Winning
Newspaper Reporter,
News Director and
RadioTalk Show Host.
Jorgensen has worked in
the Oregon House of
Representatives and is
currently the Chief of
Staff for an Oregon
Senate office.

Guests Welcome!



FB: Patriot Talkers

BURIED TREASURE

1940 – District 7 is Born!

By Harvey Schowe, DTM – District 7 Historian



Newspaper headlines screamed Germany invades Denmark and Norway. Bonneville Dam was two years old generating electricity to Portland and surrounding areas, Troutdale boasted a population of 227, and the Shakespearean festival in Ashland suffered a backstage fire that destroyed nearly all of that season's costumes. This was the backdrop to the formation of District 7 Toastmasters in 1940 by Ernest C. Davis and Frederick H. Eley.

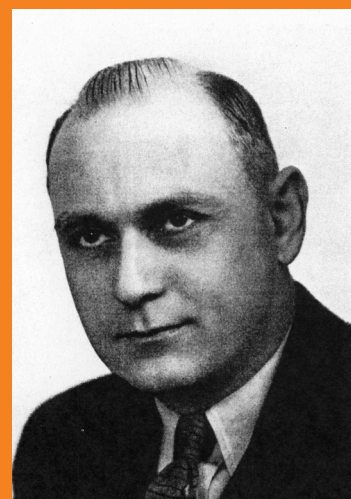
Ernest C. Davis and his family moved to Portland from Texas in 1929. In 1937, he joined Portland Toastmasters after learning about the program from members who were participating in various civic clubs and organizations. He became very active which led to being elected the District 2 governor for 1939-1940.

Frederick H. Eley emigrated from Canada to the United States in 1907 and settled in Santa Ana, California where he established a successful architectural business. He was the first registered architect of Santa Ana, California, and was regarded as the area's most prolific and finest early architect. He designed more than 30 schools and many other buildings. A number of his works are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1922, he received a commission from Ralph Smedley, YMCA Secretary and Construction Superintendent, for designing the YMCA Santa Ana Building. They became friends and Smedley invited Eley to join Smedley Chapter One, the original Toastmasters club he started in 1924 in the basement of the YMCA in Santa Ana. After Toastmasters International incorporated in 1931 he was appointed as director and treasurer from 1932 to 1934.

Eley and his family moved to Salem, Oregon in 1937 where he joined the Forum Club, a Salem YMCA speech club. He persuaded members to organize it into a Toastmasters club and was the club's first secretary. In June 1940, Ernest Davis, 1940-1941 International Director, announced the formation of District 7 and appointment of Frederick Eley as first District 7 Governor.

On the world stage, tensions were building towards conflict and destruction. In Oregon, a bright beginning was launched for people eager to improve their communication and leadership skills. Today, District 7 continues to thrive. It's grown laterally to include clubs from its northern border in Longview, Washington to its southern border in Alturas, California. The district spans westward from the sandy beaches of southern Washington to northern California.



Ernest C. Davis

SUCCESSFUL CLUB



WE Toasted Toastmasters Builds for Success

By Robyn Knox, President, WE Toasted

Every Toastmasters club faces challenges. It's how the members respond that makes the difference. At the start of the 2014-15 year, WE Toasted, a noontime community club in Lake Oswego, was down to 14 members. The reasons were many: job layoffs, members moving out of state, new work schedules and the lack of a consistent meeting room from week to week. Low membership meant that the three remaining officers had to take on multiple officer roles, which put more pressure on them to keep the club running.

The club's turnaround from small and shrinking to President's Distinguished in one year holds lessons for others. Here's what we did and what we learned.

Start with the basics. We set about upgrading all aspects of our club, starting with key details. We reply to visitor email inquiries immediately — within the hour if they arrive by day. We print name cards for all visitors who let us know they will come by, which they say impresses them. We keep refreshing our website, as it shows we're up-to-date and active. Make it fun. No matter how many or how few attend, make your club a fun place to be. Guests and members alike respond best to laughter and friendship. Table Topics can keep people loose and enjoying themselves. We enlivened the schedule with special events such as holiday celebrations, potlucks and guest speakers. Members invited their friends, which further raised the energy level.

Make over the meeting room. Our club was being shuttled from one room to another due to the needs of our host company. This was far from ideal, but in the long run we ended up in a freshly painted and refurnished space of our own, complete with big-screen monitor and space to store all our club supplies. Our venue now matches what we want our club to be: bright, welcoming and inspiring.

Expect more. It might seem illogical, but when things don't meet expectations, expect more. We found that by raising our standards and expectations of club members, we generated more excitement and participation than we imagined. We jump-started speech contests, which the club had not embraced before, in both fall and spring. As a result, more members attended the Area and Division contests.

Recruit new officers. We devised a plan to attract members to club officer roles through prepared speeches, Table Topics and a drumbeat of announcements in the months leading up to club elections. The result: a full slate of seven officers, six of them first-timers. We'll continue to identify and support promising new talent and put them in charge where they can succeed.

Grow beyond the club. Several club leaders took a big step to the next level. We entered the 2015-16 year with members in these leadership roles: Area 64 Director, Willamette Division Director and District 7 Club Growth Director — and a past Area Director as club president. (Expect more, right?) Connections and friendships formed through District duties means these leaders can bring a wealth of new ideas and opportunities back to our club.

None of this happened overnight. First-time guests became regular guests and then members. Diligent pursuit of our Club Success Plan helped us meet 10 of 10 DCP goals. The bottom line: At year's end, membership has risen to 26, with average meeting attendance of 15, and prospects for a strong year ahead.

SUCCESSFUL CLUB PICS



RYAN AVERY

2012 World Champion
Public Speaking



MAKE IT MATTER

November
6 & 7, 2015

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

KEYNOTE

Warner Pacific College
2219 SE 68th Ave, Portland, Oregon

Fri - \$25 Sat - \$40
Both days - \$60

After September 15

Fri - \$25 Sat - \$60
Both days - \$85

REGISTER AT

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE

Friday Evening

RYAN AVERY Speak Up

Oregon Medical Association
11782 SW 68th, Portland, Oregon

6:30 - Hors d'Oeuvres
7:30 Program

\$25 at the door or online



Leadership

Ryan Avery, DTM



Humor

Tara Rolstad



Evaluations

Eric Winger, ACS, ALB



Stage Presence

James Wantz, DTM



Time Management

Yaswanth Rangineni



Personal Branding

Glen Anderson



Leader Growth

Jason Leon, CC

Saturday Workshops

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE

- 7:00 Hot Breakfast & Networking
- 8:15 Keynote - Ryan Avery
- 9:30 Workshops
- 10:45 Table Topics Contest
- 11:50 DTM Ceremony & Lunch
- 1:00 Business Meeting
- 2:30 Workshops
- 4:00 Humorous Speech Contest
- 6:00 Close

Register Today



"Time management is not filling up every minute with a tedious list of A-B-C prioritized tasks"

Yaswanth Rangineni, Workshop Presenter



Hate making lists? Bored with the tedium of keeping track of every waking moment? Plan to attend Effective Time Management: Organize and Execute around Priorities at the District 7 Fall Conference: Make It Matter, and gain insights into developing habits so that you can accomplish results, meet your emotional needs, develop rich relationships, and enjoy spontaneous moments now and often.

"By understanding stage psychology you can become a much more dynamic and interesting speaker."

James Wantz, Workshop Presenter



What do Ryan Avery, Randy Harvey, and Mohammed Qahtani, all World Champions of Public Speaking, have in common? Stage presence. They wow their audiences with great material that's well delivered, and most importantly, memorable. You can learn how to be a more dynamic speaker using a few simple techniques by attending Introduction To Linear Stage Psychology 101: How To Use

Movement To Make Your Presentation More Dynamic at the District 7 Fall Conference: Make It Matter.

"Branding Your Influence and Leadership"

Creating differentiation with your message

Glen Anderson, Workshop Presenter



"Family is important," "Love helps you overcome difficulties," "Perseverance leads you to success" are three of the most clichéd and overused themes speakers employ to deliver their messages. BORING and (yikes!) PREDICTABLE. As speakers, our audiences want us to be current, relevant, and entertaining. If you are looking for ways to move away from overheard and overused universal messages

(and discover how to separate yourself from the herd) attend Branding Your Influence & Leadership: Creating Differentiation with Your Message at the District 7 Fall Conference: Make It Matter.

Register today at: <http://d7toastmasters.org/Fall2015/>

.....

The following story was a collaboration by three members of Storymasters during a meeting dedicated to Table Topics. They were given a theme (the man in the striped pajamas), 5 minutes to craft their story, and 5-7 minutes to deliver it. (Editor)

.....

The Man in the Striped Pajamas

By Tylor Merritt, Joe Anthony, and Greta Hartman

Tracy Ray was a born grifter. It was said by his own father, "he could con a rooster out of his feathers, and would sell them back to him afterward." However, his natural propensity for extravagant lies couldn't keep him from landing in the harshest prison in the southwest, where the sun tanned the men of the chain gangs to the color of soil, and the flies were liable to carry a prisoner away if he watched them too often.

During the hottest hour of the hottest day on the hottest year on record, Tracy Ray was putting his back into deepening a ditch along the highway. Men to either side of him mopped sweat from their heads and drank warm water from a ladle and bucket. Tracy, sipping, one eyebrow characteristically arched, called to the guard who was inspecting the line.

"Boss?"

"Yep." The guard answered.

"Bucket's drier than a powder house."

"Well, fill 'er up then."

Tracy rattled his chains, holding up the cuffs for the guard. The hog put a boot into the ditch, leaned forward with his keys, and made the worst mistake of his career.

"Quick like a hare, Tracy."

"Yes Boss." Tracy said.

He made for the transport truck and opened the tap on the water tank. The valve was rusty and squealed when he turned it. Tracy barely opened the valve to allow a thin stream of water the width of a flea's tongue, and the patter of water in the empty bucket was like a tiny drum beat. Tracy whistled. The men along the work line smiled and started humming. And all the guards, who had been watching Tracy, suddenly felt the call of nature.

Some of the guards looked into the dry brush wistfully, while others excused themselves to find trees. They couldn't very well take a break all at once, so they stood in shifts listening to the stream of water, and one by one the guards shifted uncomfortably, crossing

their legs and looking out at the prairie, cursing the coffee they'd drunk that morning. Tracy, who had mastered the art of people-watching over the course of his grifting career, knew exactly when each of them would turn to stare at the dry land on the horizon yet to be watered. It was this same ability that let Tracy know when a good con was about to succeed, and his sense of the situation that told him when he could make his break. *(continued on page 20)*



The very same guard who had released Tracy from his fetters was returning from the brush when he looked to the back of the truck to find a bucket sitting on the ground under the spout, slowly filling, with Tracy Ray nowhere in sight.

The search for Tracy Ray spanned counties. Dogs were called in. Roads were closed. Checkpoints were established. Barns were searched. Nobody saw hair nor hide of Tracy. It was as if he had evaporated, dried to dust under the punishing sun. The guards never could have guessed that Tracy had memorized the train schedules, and the local rail line that hardly saw an engine was suddenly burdened with hundreds of cars, each bearing the name Mad McClellan's Traveling Circus.

Now, Tracy was a serious man. He was born with a frown etched under his nose, and the only thing that made him smile was the prospect of a profitable con. When Tracy Ray snuck into those circus cars and conned a pair of clowns into letting him share a swig of hooch and a barrel to sit on, he felt an alien sensation—the upturning of his lips into a child-like grin, as he stared into the bright clown faces painted on the sides of the carnival crates. As he picked through the train car he saw swaths of colorful canvas, pictures of exotic beasts, gaily painted signs promising bearded women and trick ponies and flying acrobats, and he watch a demonstration of dexterity as his new friends displayed their juggling skills to Tracy. By the time the train stopped Tracy had re-tied his striped pants and fashioned himself a new vest out of sack cloth. He was ready to begin his new life in the Circus.

For three beautiful weeks Tracy Ray shoveled muck from the horse stalls, sold cotton candy to kids with smudged faces, guessed people's weight at the entrance booth, took oil to the strong-man and sharpened scissors for the bearded lady. He was having the time of his life, and made friends of every person he shared a bag of peanuts with.

It was not to last, however.

By the time Tracy was ready to be promoted to driving the tiny clown car under the big top, the sheriff had tracked him to Mad McClellan's Traveling Circus. Tracy Ray was cleaning the mirror maze with a squeegee and soap when he caught the glint of blued steel in the reflection, and the sheriff gave him the monosyllabic command Tracy had learned to hate over a lifetime of petty crime.

"Freeze." The sheriff grunted.

"Nope." Tracy said, and dashed off in a hundred directions at once. The sheriff's bullet destroyed the mirror he'd leveled his gun at, thinking it was Tracy Ray in his iron sights.

Tracy ran, using the hustle and bustle of the circus to his advantage. He stood behind the cowboy cutouts with his face in the oval, while a carnie snapped his picture and demanded a dollar. The sheriff looked at him, turned away, looked again, and just as his head was confirming what his



eyes saw, Tracy was gone again.

Tracy rode the roller coaster and dashed through the stalls. He hid in the hay bales and leapt into the petting zoo, crouched behind the sheep. Finally, the mistake that would see him behind bars again, was when Tracy Ray hid in the dunk tank, sitting on the trick stool over the cool water. The sheriff, Tracy learned, was a deadeye and had a pinpoint fastball. One stitched baseball later and Tracy was sputtering and spitting, soaked to the bone, and cuffs were slapped on his wrists. Back at the prison the warden was eager to make an example out of Tracy Ray. He wanted a signed confession of all past crimes, a public apology, and Tracy's word that he'd never turn rabbit again. Tracy spat on the warden's shoe, and for that he earned an indeterminate stay in solitary.

Every day the guards would ask for Tracy's confession. Every day Tracy would reject them. Ten years passed with Tracy stubbornly denying the warden's wishes, until pity saw him freed from solitary, and the assumption by the warden that Tracy had surely gone mad. When they released him back into the general prison population the con who replaced Tracy in that lonely, dark cell let out a whoop of delight. When the guards peered into the cell they learned how Tracy had kept his sanity all those years. He'd cleverly turned the bare metal box-springs into a twisted hoop-toss game.

For years to come Tracy would be a distraction to his fellow prisoners and a thorn in the warden's side. He used old rubber gloves, copper tubes, and ceramic to turn the urinal stalls into a game of accuracy. The first time a prisoner was caught popping a rubber glove by relieving himself at a stall, the warden cursed. After he caught his guards participating, he had the stalls ripped from the walls and replaced with troughs. These, Tracy Ray turned into swirling pools full of tiny rubber ducks.

Tracy used raw materials in the shop to make an air rifle, and rewarded prisoners and guards who could shoot the miniature metal ponies he set on moving tracks. He learned how to make cotton candy in the cafeteria, and encourage prisoners to trade in peanuts instead of cigarettes. A basketball hoop in the yard was converted into a High Striker, where cons would use a barrel-and-stick mallet to drive the ringer up the pole where a bell had been hooked to the backboard. The warden had the yard leveled after that, with all exercise equipment sold to the public.

In response, Tracy Ray snuck milk jugs and softballs into the yard, and prisoners would try to knock down pyramids of weighted bottles.

The prison band was taught to play The Circus Bee, Under The Big Top, and Rolling Thunder. The warden grew to hate the sound of men laughing, and imposed a month of silent reflection. For that month the men wore mime paint, and reenacted comical versions of their arrests.

Finally, with no recourse left to him, the warden hatched a plan to rid himself of Tracy Ray and his insolence. Unable to free him legally, the warden contacted Mad McClellan's Traveling Circus and arranged to have the nearby fairground be made available. On that fateful day when the circus came back to town the warden had Tracy Ray sweeping the walk near the front gate, which was conspicuously left ajar. No one knows for sure what Tracy noticed first, the open gate or the lack of guards on the wall. But in the end it didn't matter, for the whole prison could hear snatches of carnival music floating from the fairgrounds nearby, and none had a keener ear for it than the grifter-turned-carnie Tracy Ray.

OPEN LETTER



An Open Letter to the Members
by Ray Fox, ACS, ALB

I would like to give a huge thank you to the Toastmasters organization and District 7 leadership team for giving me the opportunity to be Area Governor last year and continuing this year. I am truly grateful for the assistance of Mr. Jason Kent. Without his help as our coach and acting as my second in the community this would not have been possible. The opportunity to facilitate the Area 53 speech contest last March helped me understand the importance and dedication it takes to be a better speaker, a better leader, and ultimately a better role model. I always looked at how the speech was supposed to be and just did it. I always thought I was better at speaking off the cuff, now I see the error of my ways.

What I learned from the contest was that if I started practicing, and looked at speeches in a different way, I could become a better speaker. By allowing us to have the speech contest at Columbia River Correctional Institution, it confirmed for me that Toastmasters was supportive of second chances, of improvement, and of growth. I appreciate the opportunities I've had to improve myself in Toastmasters and in other areas of my life.

As we start this new year with new titles, the challenges remain the same. Each club is striving to be the best in Area 53! Please let me know how I can help you become successful this year. On October 23rd I will be released. I plan to meet personally with all 6 clubs from last year and each of the 4 clubs this year. This is something I have wanted to do for some time now. I have gained so much in Toastmasters that I live each day trying to help others get the most from their Toastmasters experiences.

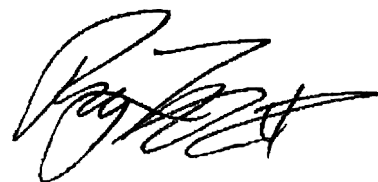
With that being said I invite all who would like to join me for breakfast on October 23rd at about 7:00 AM at the IHOP on 9840 N.E. Cascade Parkway for a lite breakfast and some get-to-know-you time. Please let Jason Kent or myself know if you plan to be there. I need to turn in the reservation around October 3rd.



.....

All Toastmasters are welcome!!

The opportunities to share what Toastmasters has done for me, and encourage others to do all that they can in Toastmasters to have a better all-around chance in life, is immeasurable. The people who are incarcerated, who become involved in Toastmasters and stay involved after their release, are less likely to return to prison. Please welcome these people into your club and give them a chance to prove themselves as Toastmasters and people. They may have done some wrong things in their lives prior to Toastmasters, but that doesn't mean that they are bad people. The vast majority are just looking for a second chance on life.



Why I Decided to Join Toastmasters

Think back to
that deciding moment.
Why did you join Toastmasters?

By Liliana Bastres

I joined Toastmasters because I wanted to communicate my ideas effectively in meetings, during presentations and with my supervisors. I believed my voice needed to be heard since I had a different cultural perspective. I also wanted to make meaningful contributions in my position while serving Clackamas County residents.

It has been a challenge for me to find the right words at the right time and speak assertively since English is my second language. I could hear my heart racing, my mouth becoming dry, and my frustration increasing when I couldn't express my thoughts completely. It was stressful giving presentations. I knew that if I could find a place where I could practice my communication skills in a safe and supportive environment, I would overcome anxiety and express my ideas well.

One year ago, I received an email invitation to attend a Toastmaster meeting sponsored by the County. After attending the first meeting, I knew I had found an opportunity to practice my communication skills and be encouraged by my peers.

At my first speech, I provided information about my background, interests and goals. I was extremely nervous and read from my notes. Afterwards, I was told that they liked my story and received a couple of suggestions for improvements. I was relieved and motivated to continue this journey. I found my training wheels to become a confident speaker.

During my last meeting, a Toastmasters member congratulated me on how well I was doing since I started. Her encouragement meant a lot to me. My peers at Toastmasters are native speakers, and like me are being challenged to improve their communication skills. It's the best decision I have made recently.

If you think you could benefit from joining Toastmasters, you are invited to come and visit us.

The County has two Toastmasters clubs for employees:

1) The Clack-Orators meet every Tuesday from 12:05-1pm in Development Services Building, Room #209.

Do you have a 5-7 minute presentation coming up? The Clack-Orators will offer you suggestions to improve your speech. You can drop in and practice in front of a small, fun, and friendly group of County employees.

2) The Clackamas County Toastmasters meet every Wednesday from 12:05-1pm in Development Services Building, Room #209.



From Table Topics to Trophy

by Peggy Poulos, ACB, CL

What does a prize fighter, an opera singer and an Olympic speed skater have in common? Before they perform they always do warm up exercises specifically created to exact their best performance.

At one time I was that lady you would always see singing in her car waiting for the light to change. But that changed when I became a Toastmaster. Soon I found myself doing warm up speaking exercises in the form of Table Topics instead of singing a song. To me, Table Topics is the entry point for every speaker. You can't do enough of them and you can do them literally anytime, anywhere. They keep your speaking "muscles" well-toned, trained and ready to execute at a moment's notice.

One evening I was headed to my Possibilities Unlimited Toastmaster's Meeting, in Mission Viejo, California. I was excited as it was our Club's Contest that night. I was going to participate in the Table Topics portion of the Contest. On my way I was practicing Table Topics by looking at signs, seeing a word or a phrase, and making them into Table Topics questions for me to answer.



During that drive I came up with the Table Topic "Why everyone should love ice cream". I really got into it! So much so I made myself laugh. When I arrived at the club they only had one Humorous Speech contestant, so I offered to do my freshly created "Ice Cream" speech as a "Hot Seat" contestant. I didn't expect to win, but we were just that kind of club. You know, "Take one for the Gipper". .what? You don't know what that means? It means I didn't expect to win but I did it to make our contest. .well. .a contest.

I won! Practicing Table Topics taught me how simple it is to come up with a speech. Now I have extra confidence after I've "warmed up" to speak. So can you! Whether you are traveling in your car, waiting for someone, or can't sleep at night, there is always time to do a Table Topic or two, and ALWAYS do them on the way to any speaking required event so you too will be ready to step up and be a winner.

WELCOME NEW

Division	Area	Club Name	Last Name	First Name
B	31	Yaquina Toastmasters	Abare	Bart
C	43	Keizer Communicators	Aubanova	Aigul
F	74	Portlandia Club	Beauvais	Elaine
E	61	Jantzen Club	Bowers	Dee
F	73	Essayons Club	Boyce	Richmond
A	21	Feather Tongues Toastmasters	Causey	Don
D	52	Columbia Communicators	Chandrasekar	Saranya
H	94	New Horizons Toastmasters Club	Cox	Gloria
I	11	La Pine Chamber Toastmasters	Cuevas	Renita
C	44	Sherwood Town Criers Club	Diamond	Bert
H	92	WRIP City Club	Diamond	Bert
C	44	A-Dec Toastmasters	Diamond	Jesse
H	91	Sporty Speakers	Donahue	Anthony
D	54	Portland Club	Downing	Ty
A	21	Grants Pass Toastmasters #852	Dumas	Brittni
G	81	Clark County Toastmasters Club	Frueh	Larry
E	62	MultCo Toasties	Garcia	Daniel
F	72	Motormouths Club	Gay	Heather
F	73	Essayons Club	Giamello	Noel
D	52	Columbia Center Club	Goga	Daniela
G	82	Vancouver Toastmasters Club	Goodwin	Jacob
F	74	Electric Toasters Club	Hall	Sandra
H	92	Cedar Hills Club	Hamilton	Jenny
F	73	Essayons Club	Hanna	Rachel
D	54	Swan Island Toastmasters	Harper	Toni-Marie
H	96	Clean Water Toastmasters	Harris	Emily
D	51	Hood River Club	Hass	Jenny
F	75	Speakers By Design Club	Holcombe	Diana
D	52	Gresham Toastmasters Club	Kahl	Mary
E	65	Noon Talkers	Klinger	Holly
G	82	Totem Pole Club	Lee	Shannon
D	51	Hood River Club	Lishan	Lori
G	84	Testmasters	Lowe	Matthew
B	32	Toast of Corvallis Toastmasters	Mackey	Megan
B	35	Yawn Patrol Club	Magee	Aoife
F	75	Toastmasters of the Universe	Marson	Nic
B	31	Gateway Toastmasters	Mayer	Janet
E	63	Marylhurst Toastmasters	Mayer	Shannon

NEW MEMBERS

Division	Area	Club Name	Last Name	First Name
B	32	Toast of Corvallis Toastmasters	McCuistion	Ovid
E	65	Milwaukie Talkies	McDonald	Brian
H	94	Wallmasters International Club	McMinn	Gavin
E	61	Civil Tongues Club	Merriam	Bridget
E	63	WE Toasted Toastmasters	Moran	Melissa
B	35	Downtown Public Speakers Club	Morrison	Kim
H	96	Downtown Lunchbunch	Motsiff	Svetlana
H	96	Clean Water Toastmasters	Myers	Shanna
E	62	MultCo Toasties	Nichols	Cristabel
C	43	Keizer Communicators	O'Bryant	Roxann
E	63	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club	Pandya	Suketu
D	52	Columbia Center Club	Pflaum	Michael
I	10	Spirit Trackers	Phelps	Trask
F	71	The Standard Speakeasy	RAMOS	RITA
G	84	Testmasters	Rezk	Mark
H	92	WRIP City Club	Rosenthal	Julie
H	91	Sporty Speakers	Sahadevan	Samson
H	95	Storymasters Toastmasters	Sandoval	Suzie
F	74	Electric Toasters Club	Schlaadt	Suzy
B	35	Lunch Bunch Toastmasters Club	Simon	Carie
G	84	Speakers With Spirit Club	Soriano	Rey
B	31	Symantec Toastmasters	Stafford	Lindsey
F	71	NoonTime Club	Strong	Kourtney
F	73	Essayons Club	Suppan	Larry
B	35	Downtown Public Speakers Club	Symond	Pam
F	73	Professionals of Portland	Tallmadge	Margaret
D	51	The Dalles Toastmasters Club	Theodorakis	Janice
B	31	Yaquina Toastmasters	Tommila	Sheryl
H	95	Storymasters Toastmasters	Treygar	Sophia
H	91	Sporty Speakers	Vera	Heladio
G	83	Encouraging Words Club	Walter	Steven
G	84	Speakers With Spirit Club	Ward	Jadia
D	53	Fortunate 500 Club	Wazlaw	Mary Ellen
D	54	Portland Club	West	Sarah
D	52	Banfield Barkers	Witten	Becca
E	65	Noon Talkers	Yamauchi	Noriko
C	42	Flying Toasters Club	Zinn	Amanda

HONORING EDUCATION

CL	7/2/2015	Achor, Robert Tom	Tabor Toastmasters Club
CC	7/15/2015	Anderson, Glen L.	Downtown Lunchbunch
CC	7/6/2015	Arp, Tammy R	Walker Talkers Toastmasters Club
CC	7/10/2015	Bennett, Allison	Sporty Speakers
ALS	7/31/2015	Bergman, Erik	WE Toasted
ACB	7/25/2015	Bowen, Katherin	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
CL	7/21/2015	Bridges, Kay Louise	Patriot Talkers
CC	7/30/2015	Bryan, Brenda Rebecca	American Red Cross Club
ACS	7/7/2015	Class, Darrin	Professionally Speaking
CC	7/15/2015	Copeland, Mira L.	The Standard Speakeasy Toastmasters
CC	7/5/2015	Cresci, Salvatore Anthony	Jefferson State Toastmasters
CC	7/29/2015	Davis, John S.	Sherwood Town Criers Club
CC	7/18/2015	Day, Brent M.	Wallmasters International Club
CC	7/13/2015	Derosia, Harumi	Flying Toasters Club
CL	7/22/2015	Duby, Kendra Morgan	Clackamas County Toastmasters
CL	7/23/2015	Eklof, Karlyn	Audacious Orators
CC	7/8/2015	Ereline, Ann	Eco Voices Toastmasters
ALB	7/11/2015	Exum, Carolyn	Audacious Orators
ACB	7/11/2015	Exum, Carolyn	Audacious Orators
CC	7/3/2015	Fairbairn-Stammer, Erin Joanna	Toast to US
CL	7/5/2015	Fanning, Paul C.	Downtown Lunchbunch
ALB	7/15/2015	Fanning, Paul C.	Downtown Lunchbunch
ALB	7/10/2015	Farley-Campbell, Gwendolyn D.	Siuslaw Tale Spinners Club
ACB	7/1/2015	Foster, Lynne R.	Downtown Lunchbunch
ALB	7/6/2015	Foster, Lynne R.	Downtown Lunchbunch
CC	7/7/2015	Galvez, Cristhian	NuScale Toasters
ALS	7/19/2015	Geislinger, Ruth	Columbia Center Club
DTM	7/19/2015	Geislinger, Ruth	Columbia Center Club
CL	7/27/2015	Gilliam, Julie M.	Milwaukie Talkies
CC	7/1/2015	Gillis, Edith	Portland Progressives
CC	7/29/2015	Gonzales, Lorraine Ann	Clack-Orators Toastmasters
CL	7/1/2015	Grosso, Christine Marcella	Downtown Lunchbunch
CC	7/27/2015	Haggerty, Brian E.	Spirit Trackers
ACB	7/10/2015	Hale, Dawnette S	Swan Island Toastmasters
ALB	7/10/2015	Hale, Dawnette S	Swan Island Toastmasters
CL	7/24/2015	Hamblin, Lailah L.	MultCo Toasties
ACB	7/20/2015	Heitz, Nena	Grants Pass Toastmasters Club 852
PCL	7/30/2015	Henderson, Carrie	Civil Tongues Club
CC	7/3/2015	Jensen Cramer, Diana K.	Yawn Patrol Club
CL	7/24/2015	Jensen Cramer, Diana K.	Yawn Patrol Club
CL	7/28/2015	Joiner, Steven M.	MultCo Toasties
ACS	7/28/2015	Joiner, Steven M.	MultCo Toasties
ACS	7/23/2015	Kelley, Patricia A.	PMI Portland Toastmasters

ATIONAL AWARDS

CL	7/1/2015	Kinney, Ray C.	Flying Toasters Club
CC	7/17/2015	Klever, Jerry D.	Keizer Communicators
ALS	7/7/2015	Knapp, Thomas K.	Feedbackers Toastmasters Club
DTM	7/8/2015	Knapp, Thomas K.	Liberty Talkers
CL	7/7/2015	Konen, Nick	The Standard Speakeasy Toastmasters
ALS	7/9/2015	Lawless, John R.	Ilwaco Toastmasters
DTM	7/9/2015	Lawless, John R.	Ilwaco Toastmasters
CC	7/3/2015	Leach, Julianna	Yawn Patrol Club
CC	7/1/2015	Locke, Julius Patrick	Early Words Club
ALS	7/8/2015	Locke, Julius Patrick	Early Words Club
DTM	7/8/2015	Locke, Julius Patrick	Early Words Club
ALS	7/17/2015	Lynch, Patricia M.	Redmond Area Toastmasters Club
CC	7/10/2015	Lyon, Brett M.	Eco Voices Toastmasters
CC	7/4/2015	Machalek, Anne M.	Siuslaw Tale Spinners Club
CL	7/6/2015	Martinez, Karen R.	Downtown Lunchbunch
CL	7/25/2015	Mason, Alexis R.	Clark County Toastmasters Club
CC	7/27/2015	Moreland, Wallace	Spirit Trackers
CC	7/17/2015	Nema, Sushil	PMI Portland Toastmasters
CC	7/28/2015	Nichols, Keith J.	Tower Toastmasters
CC	7/1/2015	Olson, Fred J.	Flying Toasters Club
ACB	7/6/2015	Patterson, Jeanne Frances	Sporty Speakers
ACS	7/24/2015	Patton, Wendy A.	Gresham Toastmasters Club
CC	7/24/2015	Perino, Michelle A.	Yawn Patrol Club
ACB	7/8/2015	Putnam, Duane	The Standard Speakeasy Toastmasters
CC	7/6/2015	Rao, Deepthi	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
ALB	7/24/2015	Schupp, Lisa S.	Toast of Corvallis Toastmasters Club
CC	7/23/2015	Sele, Trenton Keith	AAA Towsters
CC	7/10/2015	Silliman, Peter Michael	Professionally Speaking
ACS	7/30/2015	Singleton, Michael	Spirit Trackers
CC	7/6/2015	Spiegel, Nick	Mentors Of Focus Club
CC	7/13/2015	Stefan, Joshua	Oregon City Toastmasters
CL	7/29/2015	Thomas, Flynn M.	Professionals of Portland Toastmasters
ALB	7/23/2015	Tyson, Amy	Audacious Orators
CC	7/6/2015	WALMER, HAD C	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
CC	7/17/2015	Ward, James E.	Southern Oregon Speechmasters
CC	7/22/2015	Wiley, Nick	Lunch Bunch Toastmasters Club
CC	7/30/2015	Williams, Bonnie Leigh	Tower Toastmasters
CL	7/27/2015	Wilson, Robert C	Babble-On Toastmasters Club
ACB	7/27/2015	Wilson, Robert C	Babble-On Toastmasters Club
CC	7/23/2015	Yellott, Sonny	Patriot Talkers
CL	7/2/2015	Yoshida, Raynette K.	Marylhurst Toastmasters
CC	7/2/2015	Yun, Suzy	West Beaverton Club

Celebrating Success!

September 26th, 2015



Awards & Tall Tales Exhibition

11 am - 3:00 pm

Tektronix Auditorium
14200 SW Karl Braun Drive
Beaverton, OR

Register for This Free Event