

# Toasts from District 63

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Inside this issue:

Conventions and Conferences	2
Vegas, baby!	3
Pay your dues	4
Communicating	5
Meeting visits	6
General Announcements	7-9

2011-2012

### District 63 Staff:

Newsletter Editor  
**Cameron Dean**  
Webmaster  
**Kristi Coleman**

## Toastmasters International: Letter to Members

Dear Members,

This is an exciting time for all as Toastmasters International launches a newly refreshed brand. From our website to our educational materials, pins and awards, everything you see reflects our new look and feel.

Rather than changing fundamentally who we are or the nature of what we do, the new look and feel seeks to maintain brand consistency and fortify our identity; it reaffirms and re-energizes our commitment to the development of communication and leadership skills worldwide while showcasing what makes us unique in the market. The integrity and structure of our clubs, programs and policies are our greatest strength and they remain intact and inviolable. Our core values and culture continue unabated even as we look forward to address the needs of a new generation.

With 86 years of proud tradition behind us and the bright future before us, Toastmasters International thanks all of our members for the essential parts they play in the success of the organization. You carry and sustain the Toastmasters message, helping people gain the competence they need to become confident, bold communicators and successful leaders. It is you who truly makes Toastmasters International a place where leaders are made.

Sincerely,

Pat Johnson, Immediate Past International President  
Daniel Rex, Executive Director



**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

**MEMBERS**

WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE

# Convention, Conferences, and Awards...Oh My!

The fall is an incredibly busy time of the year in Toastmasters with the International Convention, the District 63 Fall Conference, and all the club, area, and division speech contests going on. Several of us have just returned from the International Convention with our heads full of information. I know that Don will be giving a recap of that adventure. We, as a District, have many opportunities to be together, and I am hoping that you take full advantage of them. In the past I have been slightly perplexed that more individuals do not take time to attend the speech contests at the area and division levels. I know your candidate might not have made it to this level, I know the contests typically are held in the evenings after a long day at work or on a weekend day that you would prefer to spend in other venues, and I know that you don't have any real "investment" in this. I also know that the Area and Division Governors do a great deal of planning to put on these contests (just for us), and I know that they are usually short staffed in having the necessary officials in the audience (and have to serve double time being an official as well as the host). I also absolutely know how much it means to those competing to have a good audience to compete in front of (in terms of energy and feedback). Please take time to attend your Area and Division Contests...you will be richer for the experience.

When I joined Toastmasters about 11 years ago, I decided to attend the Spring Conference, and it was probably the best decision I ever made. I had been a Toastmaster for slightly under six months and had little to no knowledge of what to expect, but I was not disappointed. I don't believe you will be either if you decide to attend the 2011 Fall Conference in Gatlinburg. With revamped education sessions, the Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests, and the networking with members throughout the District, the Fall Conference will allow you time to learn, network, and enjoy one of the most beautiful spots in our state during the fall of the year. There are other benefits, such as prize drawings and awards presentations, to consider as well. Come and be a part of the excitement!



*2011-2012 District Governor  
Andrea Burnette*

Speaking of awards, I would be negligent if I did not congratulate you all on your outstanding performance to this point in our year. At the end of eight weeks, we already have a total of 48 educational and leadership awards on the books – that equates to a lot of hard work on the part of everyone in the District. I am proud of each of you. I am also pretty sure there are others out there that have completed the requirements for an award but have not stopped long enough to turn that information into Toastmasters International. Please accept my encouragement to go on and get those turned in – they are your awards and you worked hard for them; now is the time to get your recognition.

Finally, I am anxious to meet all of you that I can. Please feel free to come up to me at any time during the Fall Conference and introduce yourself. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Have a great September!



*Lt. Governor Education  
and Training  
Don Bittick, DTM*

## What Happens in Vegas, Doesn't Stay in Vegas

Some people may refer to attending the International Conference as a “boondoggle.” And for some, it is nothing but fun and games. However, for the district officers who attend, I can assure you that it is not all fun and games. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize our recent trip to Las Vegas and explain why these trips are necessary and how they benefit our district.

The first three days were spent in training (compared to the 6-8-hour trainings that we had for our TLI and club officers). The first three nights were spent interviewing International candidates so we could make an educated decision on how to cast the proxy votes that our clubs assigned to us (which is why it is important to send in your proxies).

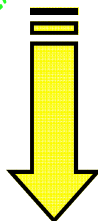
The next three days were spent attending educational sessions (to bring back ideas for our conferences), attending the speech contests and supporting Stephen Cornwell (our district's representative), interviewing

international candidates, and attending the five-hour Toastmasters International business meeting (compared to the 1-2-hour business meeting that we usually have at our district conferences).

We also used our time at the convention to network with district officers from around the world and to network with past World Champions of Public Speaking. Four of them expressed a lot of interest in coming to our district to speak at our next four conferences. In my humble opinion, we are blessed to have secured Byron Embry to be our keynote speaker at this year's fall conference. We had the pleasure of hearing him speak at the International Conference, and he was very impressive. See you at the fall conference!

Don Bittick, DTM  
D63, Lt. Governor Education and  
Training

*Don't miss out!  
Don't miss out!*



### Mark your calendars now for the Fall Conference in Gatlinburg October 14-15, 2011

#### Glenstone Lodge

504 Historic Nature Trail

(Airport Road-turn up hill at traffic light # 8), Gatlinburg, TN 37738

1-800-362-9522 or 865-436-9361

[www.glenstonelodge.com](http://www.glenstonelodge.com).

Until 9/23/11, ask for “Toastmasters Conference” rate of \$ 89 + tax.

**NOTE:** remember that one night's deposit is charged to your credit card at the time hotel reservations are made

#### D63 Fall Conference-Mini Vacation or Extra Vacation

**BONUS:** Glenstone Lodge will offer Toastmasters a lower rate of \$ 79 + tax per night for the three days before and the three days following fall conference for any Toastmaster attending the conference

## It's Dues Time

Yes, it's time for dues to be collected in clubs around the world. Your District leadership understands there may be concerns surrounding the recent announcement about the dues increase which is effective this dues cycle, so let's put it into perspective. The dues portion payable to Toastmasters International is still quite a bargain at \$6 per month which breaks down to approximately 20 cents per day. What other organization can you be a part of that offers such a well-rounded slate of programming to help its members develop their communication skills on all levels along with their leadership skills? These skills help us in every aspect of our lives – both professional and personal – whether it be preparing for our next big presentation, a job interview, delivering a speech, communicating with our loved ones, or organizing a fundraiser for our favorite cause, to name a few. Every member of our organization joins for a reason. Is it one of the reasons I mentioned above or something else that brought you to Toastmasters? No matter the reason, Toastmasters International is ever evolving to better meet the

needs of our current members and expand our services to meet the needs of future members as well. What better way to spend less than the cost of a postage stamp per day than to be part of such a phenomenal organization?

Go ahead and get your dues collected early, pay them online via the Toastmasters International website and don't forget the October 1 deadline. It's okay to pay them in batches; it doesn't have to be done all at one time. Remember, this is half a point on your club's Distinguished Club Plan. Not only that, did you know your club can earn a ribbon for your club banner? Yes, there is an award for clubs that renew the same number or more members than they started the year with by the October 1 deadline. If you reach this goal, your club will automatically be awarded the "Harvest Your Members" District 63 award and be recognized at the Fall Conference.



*Lt. Governor of Marketing  
Kristi Coleman*

**REMINDER:  
Toastmasters'  
annual membership  
dues will increase  
from \$54 to \$72,  
payable in  
increments  
of \$36 every six  
months. Please be  
sure all club  
members are aware  
of this, as dues are  
due to TI *no later  
than Oct. 1.***

## Toastmasters now has a brand new brand

The new Toastmasters rebranding is now in effect! For more information on logos, marketing materials, club website design guidelines, and more, go to <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/VirtualBrandPortal.aspx>.

The District and Club Leader Brand Manual, which you can download, is an excellent resource! Remember, all clubs are encouraged to purchase a new banner. A 20% discount will be given on banners that are purchased by Oct. 31. Our district received our new banner at the convention earlier this month; come check it out at the District Conference in Oct.!

For more information on the rebranding efforts, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

## Anjie Crow, District 63 Public Relations Officer 2011-12, at [yozic@yahoo.com](mailto:yozic@yahoo.com) wants to hear from you:



- ***Why did YOU join Toastmasters? Tell us your story and you could be featured in our next newsletter!***
- ***Does your club have something newsworthy? Please share with the district by contacting Anjie.***

## Communicating within the District

In years past we have relied on various methods of communication within the District. These have included posting information to the District website and/or emailing it out in a chain fashion where one level is to send it on down the line to another, etc. The leadership of the District knows this type of communicating can potentially lend itself to breakdowns along the way. Since we recognize this, we're using a new method this year and emailing every member we need to reach directly using Constant Contact. This allows us to ensure the greatest percentage of success reaching the intended audience. Our promise to you is that we will do our best not to overload you with emails, and we will use our best judgment as to what is important enough to send out.

There has been some confusion this year as we have been sending out information about Toastmaster Leadership Institute's (TLI's) across the District. If the District has all of the information with adequate time, we are sending out this information to everyone. The reason for this is that even though the training may be taking place in Nashville, for example, which means geographically it's located in Division E, it is not a Division E exclusive event. Division E (and likely D and F) is hosting the event but everyone in the District is invited. Training is important for everyone, so if someone in another Division needs or wants training and is available to come, then you are certainly welcome.

We are requesting a new member list from Toastmasters headquarters every two months to keep the list updated. The list was last updated mid July so the next one will be mid September. The only time clubs need to forward communications is to any new members that join during the gap between updates unless specified in the email. The other important part of this is for you to keep your information updated with Toastmasters International so that when we send information to you, it reaches you. Our hope is that this tool is one way we can better serve you.



**Check out our District 63 facebook page and  
"Like" us at [www.facebook.com/d63toastmasters](http://www.facebook.com/d63toastmasters)**

## Speak Up NASBA and HCA Creative Articulators Join Forces for Outstanding Meeting

NASHVILLE – A normal District 63 Toastmasters meeting is always fun, but when two clubs from Division E get together, you get a meeting that is nothing less than extraordinary.

On August 4, Nashville-based club Speak Up NASBA played host to members of the fantastic HCA Creative Articulators club, and what resulted was a Pool Party-themed meeting complete with prizes, outlandish decor, great speeches, laughter, food, and two men donning their swim trunks indoors.

Invited guests from the Creative Articulators included Don Bittick, District 63's Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, as well as Craig Stevens, Brandy Reeves and Claire Karas. All four members played pivotal roles in the meeting, especially Don, who served as a speech evaluator while vying for a Fashion award with his pool-party shirt and trunks.

Don said he believes every club has its own personality, and that it's nice to bring the different personalities together at a joint meeting.

"In my humble opinion, the members of Speak Up NASBA are committed to the Toastmasters program, committed to helping each other, and committed to having fun," said Don. "I believe the same can be said for the HCA Creative Articulators. Even though we are alike in many ways and have fun together, I believe it is our differences that allow us to learn from each other and grow as Toastmasters and as individuals."

Not to be outdone in the fashion department, Speak Up NASBA member and Area 50 Governor Allan Hicks took the meeting's theme to heart with some swim trunks of his own. As Toastmaster of the meeting, Allan did a great job introducing each meeting participant, calling upon the funny stories of participants involving beaches and swimming pools.

As Area Governor, Allan said he enjoys visiting other clubs because no two clubs are alike. "Visiting other clubs...has allowed me to see a new perspective on a process," said Allan. "I like to discover different ways to do something."

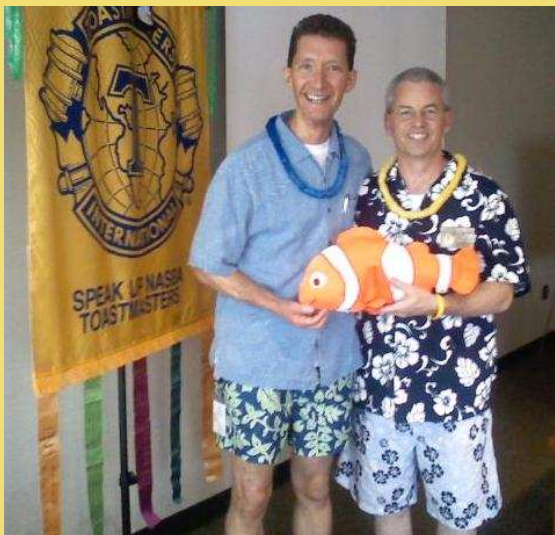
Adding to the fun, the meeting featured two great speeches. Andy Goldstein, Speak Up NASBA's Vice President Public Relations, delivered an informative speech on the importance of vocal variety, complete with impressions of actor Ben Stein and former Vice President Al Gore.

Creative Articulators member Craig Stevens delivered the second speech, a very informative speech titled, "Ripples in the Organizational Pool: Organizational Structures for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Craig said he has given this speech to other companies, and it was easy to see why. Through excellent visual aids and precise elocution, Craig kept the audience captivated with his take on how the organizational structure of a company should work.

The Table Topics portion of the meeting showed off the quick-thinking skills of both clubs' members. Speak Up NASBA members James Suh and Tom Kenny waxed poetic over a stuffed fish, and Creative Articulators members Brandy Reeves and Claire Karas demonstrated how quickly they could think on their feet with tales involving magic Boogie Boards, killer dance moves and the Little Mermaid. All four speakers were hilarious and kept the audience engaged.

Serving as General Evaluator, Speak Up NASBA's Sergeant at Arms Michael Plante introduced the two very accomplished speech evaluators for the day, Don Bittick and Leona Johnson, last year's Speak Up NASBA club President. Both evaluators offered more proof as to why speech evaluations may be the most important part of a Toastmasters meeting. They were both very thorough and gave positive feedback, words of encouragement and constructive notes of improvement for both speakers.

Overall, the meeting was a rousing success and a perfect example of two clubs working together to strengthen ties within their district and to advance the mission of Toastmasters International. Both clubs look forward to continued collaborative efforts in the future.



*Allan Hicks and Don Bittick*

# Awards Information and General Announcements for District 63

## Award Submissions

When you submit awards for members in your club, it's always a good idea to check the "Education Achievements (Current Year)" report a few days later to ensure it has been processed. If there is a "P" in front of it, that means it's pending and there's a problem that needs follow up.

## Smedley Award

**Program Dates: August 1 – September 30**

It all began in 1924. Ralph Smedley invited a few men to meet in the Santa Ana, California, YMCA where he conducted the first meeting of what would eventually evolve into Toastmasters International. One person initiated a program that would go on to affect millions of people. In his honor, can your club add five new, dual, or reinstated members between August 1 and September 30? By doing so you'll qualify to receive a "Smedley Award" ribbon to display on your club's banner. In addition to the ribbon, qualifying clubs will also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order!

## Meeting Announcement

**The next District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting is Sept 17, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN**



## Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests

At the time of publication, the following info had been received:

**Division C**-Thurs., Sept 29, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cameron Hill, Chattanooga, 6-9 p.m.

**Divion D** – Sat., Oct. 1

**Division E** – Thurs., Sept. 22, @ Caterpillar Financial, 2120 West End Ave., Nashville. Meet & greet @ 5:30 p.m.; contest begins at 6 p.m.

**Division F** – Sat., Sept. 24

## WELCOME!

*We have three new clubs in our district. A warm Toastmasters welcome goes out to Affinion, Whirlpool Elite, and Rutherford County Government.*

Club Base	87	Membership Base	3748	CCs to date	19	ACs to date	7	Leadership Awards to date	27
Active Clubs	94	Paid Memberships	210	Goal for June 30	131	Goal for June 30	37	Goal for June 30	82
Paid Clubs	0	Goal for June 30	3822	Still need	112	Still need	30	Still need	55
Goal for June 30	89	Still Need	3612						
Still need	89								

***So what do all these numbers mean anyhow?***

***The calendar year for Toastmasters begins July 1, so we’ve just started a new year and a new set of goals. Toastmasters doesn’t start showing any clubs in the “clubs” area until clubs pay. Since we just started the calendar year, no clubs have paid yet. The same is true when it comes to membership. The biggest boost we will get comes at dues time, which is this month! As far as the CCs, ACs, and leadership goals are concerned, remember: everything you do that impacts your club also impacts the District. Every time an individual reaches a goal, it helps the District meet its goals!***

**Setting high goals**

***Will YOUR name be announced at the Spring Conference in 2012?***

***Is one of your goals to complete your***

***High Performance Leadership project this year?***

***Are you struggling for ideas?***

***If so, contact LGET Don Bittick at 615-300-7635***

***or dbittick@msn.com. He has plenty of opportunities for you!***

**Meeting location changes!**

The **Lebanon Toastmasters club (#7009)** has changed its location to Lebanon Wilson Chamber of Commerce, 149 Public Square, Lebanon, TN. Meeting times and days remain unchanged.

The **Harpeth View Toastmasters Club (#3376)** is permanently moving their meeting location to Hope Park Church (portal #4), 8001 Hwy 70S, Nashville, TN.

## **Congratulations are in order!**

*The following people obtained educational achievements during the months of July and August:*

*Competent Communicators:* Timothy Salyers, Michael Williams, Christa May, James Brunson, Jaclyn Dees, Srimanth Brindavanam, Tracy Curtis, Jessica Mullen, Carol Putnam, Andrew Burroughs, Evelyn Winther, Stacey Walker, James Suh, Sheila Hayes, Jack Malone, Maggie Morse, and Roland Edwards

*Advanced Communicator Bronze:* Greg Glandon, Samuel Pavlis, Sunny Baht, Rachel Zellner, and Debra Gignilliat

*Advanced Communicator Silver:* Grant Fetters and Bhushan Karle

*Competent Leaders:* Daniel Maddux, Donald Priddy, Charles Albright, Dasie Shulz, James Perdue, Jane Marshall, Maureen Proctor, Don Bittick, Michael Jordan, Diane Kuipers, Jessica Moellendorf, Allan Hicks, Cynthia Carter, John Fields, Angela Davis, Jesus Rijos, and Jemina Boyd

*Advanced Leader Bronze:* Joe Rookard, Donald Fischer, Steve Crummitt, Maureen Proctor, Betty Jackson, Mark Brown, and Charles Crider

*Advanced Leader Silver:* David Pearce and Steve Willis

*High Performance Leadership:* Effie Boothe

*Distinguished Toastmaster:* David Pearce and Steve Willis

**Congratulations to all!**

*Just another reminder*

**ONE WAY TO REGISTER FOR  
FALL CONFERENCE**

**You will find the registration form by going to  
[www.d63toastmasters.com](http://www.d63toastmasters.com) and clicking on  
“conferences.”**

# 2011 - 2012 District 63 Officers

**Andrea Burnette**

District 63 Governor

**Don Bittick**

Lt. Governor of Education &  
Training

**Kristi Coleman**

Lt. Governor of Marketing

**Anjie Crow**

Public Relations Officer

**Eric Stephens**

Treasurer

**Yvonda Ridley**

Secretary

**Charlie Rosenquist**

Immediate Past District Governor

**Kathy Padgett**

Division A Governor

**Joe Rookard**

Division B Governor

**Carol Putnam**

Division C Governor

**David Pearce**

Division D Governor

**Effie Boothe**

Division E Governor

**Roxanne Martindale**

Division F Governor

## District Mission

*The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of Clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:*

- *Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District educational and membership goals.*
- *Insuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.*
- *Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for Club and District officers.*



[www.d63toastmasters.com](http://www.d63toastmasters.com)