



## DISTRICT 24 DOUBLE DOZEN

# NEWSLETTER

## District News and Events

### District 24

December 2019

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## Toastmasters Changes Lives for Inmates

“Toastmasters has given me some sense of purpose out of two terms in prison and over six years behind bars. I finally feel like I am welcomed and like I belong.”

“Toastmasters has opened my eyes to a lot of different things I never would have looked at before ... Toastmasters has given me a sense of worth.”

These are the testimonies of two ExcelOrators Toastmasters in District 24.

Nebraska has three Toastmasters clubs inside the prisons: two clubs in Tecumseh and one club in Lincoln. These clubs are filled with men wanting to change their lives – whether they return to their communities outside or work to better things inside. Both Tecumseh and Lincoln clubs allow inmates to attend and participate by paying \$1.00 per month paid a month in advance. Inmates who want to be full-fledged members of the club must pay dues (\$45 semi-annually) while earning at most \$1.00-\$2.50 per day. Training materials are available only to those who are members of Toastmasters International. The other inmates come to observe and learn, but without their personal materials it is hard to learn communication and leadership skills and build confidence and self-esteem.

The three Nebraska inmate clubs are active. **Volunteers are what will keep these clubs strong and active in District 24.** By contacting the club coordinator, or one of the volunteers, a person may visit a club once before they must go through a short training course, which can be either in Omaha, Tecumseh, or Lincoln. Forms are available at the General Information tab of [public downloads](#) on our district website.

*Continues on page 2*

### District Highlights

#### Club Opportunities

Every Toastmasters club is unique, and some clubs are focusing in on specific skills. Learn about the leadership-focused **Strictly Speaking** club on **page 8**. Learn about the special themed meetings **Greater Communicators** is offering on topics such as “handling hecklers” on **page 9**.

#### Learning Opportunity

“Toastmasters Leadership Institute” continues in **December**. Come learn more about club and district leadership, club sponsors and mentors, speech contests, and what makes a club successful. Links to sign up on **page 10**.

#### Leadership Opportunity

Could you be a District leader next year? Learn about District leadership opportunities on **pages 6-7**.

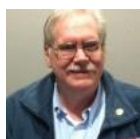
For all the latest news and events, visit [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/D24TM/>.  
Comments, questions, suggestions or corrections? Email [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com)

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of inmate Toastmasters Clubs, plan to attend the spaghetti dinner December 13, at Scottish Rite, 202 S 20th St, Omaha, NE. Eagle Feather will share his personal story of how Toastmasters changed his life. This event is hosted by Inmate Success, a distinct entity **not** associated with District 24, dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the inmate clubs. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/InmateSuccess/>.

Susan Tordella-Williams, a writer, speaker, Jails to Jobs supporter and activist in Massachusetts says of Toastmasters, ***“On the surface we teach people how to speak, but what we teach is much more than that. We teach them how to think critically, organize their thoughts, tap into their passions, and develop teamwork and leadership... Toastmasters offers regular practice to develop new ways of thinking, speaking and working together.”***

The program works! The guys can't do it alone. Be a volunteer!!

For information: George Volz 402-306-4595; George Hast 402-686-6623; or Floy Westermeier 712-326-9332



## To Everything There is a Season

Submitted by Mark Fegan, DTM, 2019-2020 Program Quality Director

Back in 1965, the Byrds released a single entitled *Turn! Turn! Turn!* The song, which starts “To everything there is a season,” is based on the first few verses of the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. The lyrics of that song came to mind as I looked back at the past half year of Toastmasters; they also reminded me that we are in the Season of Thanksgiving.

In that spirit, I want to express my thanks to several people as we near the middle of the 2019– 2020 Toastmasters year.

1. First and foremost, a big thank you to all Toastmasters in District 24; without you there would be no Toastmasters organization.
2. Thank you to the Area Directors who took the time to contact and visit with their assigned clubs; the Area Directors are truly the backbone of the Toastmasters club support system.
3. Thank you as well to our Division Directors; your support and encouragement of the Area Directors have helped make the clubs in District 24 stronger.
4. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to prepare and present District Officer training; the training you provide has helped the District 24 leadership team better support our clubs and members.
5. Finally, thank you to all who have helped plan and prepare the Toastmasters Leadership Institute sessions this year; that effort has once again helped make our club officers into better leaders.



Finally, as many of you know, November was a rough month for me personally. My older brother lost his battle with cancer November 7. Words cannot even begin to express my thanks for the kind words and support I received as I struggled to cope with this loss.

Thanks for all you have done so far this year; let's make the rest of the year one to celebrate!



## My District 24 Christmas List

Submitted by Linda M. Wilson, DTM  
2019-2020 District 24 Director



Dear Santa,

It has been awhile since I've written. I hope you and Mrs. Claus are well. Since I wrote my last letter I've grown up and joined Toastmasters! No, it is not a toaster oven, although I am sure you have loaded a few of those onto your sleigh over the years. Toastmasters is an organization that has helped me become a better communicator and leader, resulting in greater self-confidence... I am pretty sure that Rudolph can relate!

There are a few things on my Christmas list for District 24 this year:

- The gift of COURAGE to members of clubs in our district so they may continue to grow, thrive and spread the word about what Toastmasters has done for them. Our members have accomplished amazing things and we have only just begun!
- A new Pathways path. I've been working on the Dynamic Leadership path and like what Pathways has to offer. I appreciate that Pathways integrates speaking and evaluation assignments, and the resource videos are a nice touch. The mentoring opportunities are outstanding! Please feel free to share with all my Toastmaster friends.
- Two new clubs in each of our four divisions to give more people the opportunity to experience what Toastmasters can do for them! It truly changes lives!
- I found some cool gift items on the Toastmasters International website. Gift certificates are always welcome! ;-)
- The gift of goodwill to each and every one of our members located across most of Nebraska and part of western Iowa. May everyone have a joyous holiday season with the opportunity to see their wishes and dreams come true now and throughout the coming year!

Just a suggestion: You might want to consider Toastmasters, too. I realize you're known for your Ho Ho Ho, but there may be times you're using it as a crutch or filler word. Toastmasters can help with that! If there isn't a club that's convenient for the North Pole, we can help you start a new club for you and the elves. Toastmasters is the gift that keeps on giving. Consider this my gift to you.

I hope you agree that I've been very good this year. I know I used to leave you milk and cookies. Let's be honest... neither one of us needs cookies anymore. Safe travels, and please say hello to the reindeer.

With warm regards,  
Linda

P.S. I still like to find an orange in the toe of my stocking!

### Go Team COURAGE...

#### Creating Opportunities, United in Retention, Appreciation, Growth and Education!

Each month, I will spotlight a member or club for exemplary efforts in one of these aspects of **C.O.U.R.A.G.E.** - **C**reating **O**pportunities, **U**nited in **R**etention, **A**ppreciation, **G**rowth and **E**ducation! If you know someone deserving of this recognition, send a brief description of their contribution to [LindaWilson.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:LindaWilson.d24tm@gmail.com). Turn to **page 5** for this month's feature. Stay tuned, and **you** might be featured next month!



## Is It Time for a Change?

Submitted by Cindy Jenkins, DTM, 2019-2020 Club Growth Director

Have your club meetings grown stale? Are you doing the same things meeting after meeting? Here are some ideas to liven up your meetings to keep members interested.

Are you using themes for your meetings? Themes are a great way to liven up meetings. One popular theme meeting is the **backward meeting** where you start at the end of the agenda and work to the beginning of the agenda. Imagine giving an evaluation on a speech before it is given or answering a Table Topics question without knowing the question. These meetings are fun and really show how versatile and creative Toastmasters can be.

Another type of theme meeting is **Bosses' Appreciation Day and Lunch**. The **Blue Ah Busters** hold this meeting in the fall every year and invite their bosses to attend. This meeting is an opportunity for club members to show off their leadership and speaking skills as well as thank their bosses for allowing them to attend the meetings. Here are several other meeting theme ideas:

- **White Elephant Gift Exchange** where members have two minutes to explain why their chosen gift is the best gift they have ever received.
- **Murder Mystery** theme where one club member dies under mysterious circumstances and the club has to solve the mystery.
- **Fairy Tale Character Trial** – Put Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, or other fairy tale character on trial for their crimes and determine their guilt or innocence.



Varying the way Table Topics is approached is another way of adding life to your meeting. Instead of letting the club members know what the question is before they are selected, select someone to answer a question without knowing the question. One way to do this is to have the questions numbered and have the member select a number and then read the question. Another way is to have all the questions on slips of paper and have them select one of the papers and read the question. Here are several other Table Topics ideas:

- **Never Ending Story** where one person starts a story and several people continue to tell it. Set a time limit for each person so they know how long they will be speaking and identify the last speaker.
- Put several objects in a bag and have the speakers **pick one out at random**. They must speak about the object for up to 2 minutes.
- Bring an **unusual object** to the meeting and have members speak for 1 – 2 minutes on what it is. Prepare a special certificate to give to the club member who gives the best guess of what the object is.



If your club uses any of these ideas or does something out of the ordinary to make your meetings more fun, please let me know. I would love to hear about it and use it in a future Double Dozen article. You can email me at [cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com).





## District 24 Spotlight on Team C.O.U.R.A.G.E.



George Volz and Melinda Haag (pictured at left) share several things. They both joined Toastmasters in 1998, have had membership in Kearney Toastmasters Club # 1799 and have a passion for Toastmasters. They have also both served as District 24 Directors, Melinda from 2004 to 2005 and George from 2010 to 2011 and from 2017 to 2018.

Currently they are serving as the Club Retention Co-Chairpersons and head up the Club Coach Committee which assists with the club coach program. The committee helps club coaches develop action plans to aid their assigned clubs. In addition to providing coaches for qualifying clubs, the Club Coach Committee arranges club coach credit opportunities for members who seek it.

George and Melinda have provided training at district events and continue to offer club coaching calls that are open to anyone interested in improving the engagement and excitement. The calls are open to all with an individual invitation to all Area Directors and club coaches.

All participants are invited to share ideas and strategies to empower and engage members. Calls are typically the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 8:30 PM. Check the [District 24 calendar](#) for exact times and details on how you can ZOOM into this learning event. Melinda and George as members of Team COURAGE invite you to join them!

## Member Educational Awards (11/1-11/30)

Marites Manalang Aulner **IP1** 11/14

Andrea Blanchard **PI1** 11/7

Justin Lee Brown **IP1** 11/12

Mollie L Coil **EC2** 11/13

Ginger Colton **MS1, MS2** 11/11

Thomas J. Forland **TC1** 11/20

Norma P Gonzalez **PM1** 11/21

Leslie R. Hawley **TC2** 11/12

Joyce Keel **PM1** 11/23

Pallabi Kundu **CC** 11/27

Preethi Malle **IP3** 11/14

Renae Oestmann **PM3** 11/5

James Michael Roquemore **PI1** 11/1

Doni Stoner **LD3** 11/14, **MS4** 11/21

Jon E. Tucker **CC** 11/14

Frank Joseph Wilson **CC** 11/4

Lianlin Zhao **IP1** 11/5

### *Partial Awards Key:*

**CC:** Competent Communicator (legacy award) **EC:** Effective Coaching **IP:** Innovative Planning  
**LD:** Leadership Development **MS:** Motivational Strategies **PI:** Persuasive Influence  
**PM:** Presentation Mastery **TC:** Team Collaboration

Full Awards key at [reports.toastmasters.org/reports/850-EducationAwardsKey.pdf](https://reports.toastmasters.org/reports/850-EducationAwardsKey.pdf)



## Calling You to Leadership!

*District leadership provides new perspectives and completes your educational goals.*

Submitted by Glenn Williams, DTM, 2019-2020 Immediate Past District 24 Director

District leadership is calling! Please answer the call.

Similar to a ringing telephone, an internal feeling, or an internal voice – the call to service can be a powerful draw or cause a powerful hesitation if well outside of your comfort zone. Hesitation is often due to the unknown rather than a logical reason. Empower yourself to empower others.



I urge you to listen to that call and make note of those who you want considered to be a district leader as well. If you have specific people in mind for district leadership, be sure to tell them! It may surprise and inspire them that you think so highly of them. If you have never been in district leadership, why not?

We are in the prime time of seeking new district leaders for the 2020-2021 Toastmasters year. I am the appointed chair of the District 24 Leadership Committee this year. We have one representative from each division and one person from our Region 4 on this committee. Our committee will work to establish a full slate of nominated candidates for every elected role. For the first time ever, we are required by Toastmasters International to have two or more candidates for the role of Club Growth Director. Meanwhile, we will encourage multiple candidates for the other elected offices where possible.

The elected offices we seek candidates for are four Division Directors and the Trio (Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, and District Director). The remainder of the district offices are not elected in our district, although some such as Area Director could have been made elected offices if the district had set it up that way.

We will hold on to the applications of people interested in next year's district appointed offices until the next District Director is elected. We will then give the District Director-elect all of those forms for those interested in serving the appointed offices of Area Director, Finance Manager, Administrative Manager, and Public Relations Manager. Please give the District Director-elect an easier task with a full roster.



The benefits for you of being a district leader include new experiences, personal growth, greater connections with new people, new perspectives, new ideas, new challenges, some travel, and going beyond your comfort zone. It is an expansion of the scale of what brought you into Toastmasters to begin with. Your communication skills can be expanded or build any number of other skills if you apply them to this new role. Your job resume for jobs outside of Toastmasters can also be built. It satisfies a leadership requirement in your education if working towards Distinguished Toastmaster.

You can say "Yes!" to the next level of your future by contacting Glenn Williams, District Leadership Committee Chair at [glennlw@gmail.com](mailto:glennlw@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 21986; Lincoln, NE; 68542-1986 with the nomination form on the next page or [from the public downloads on d24tm.org](http://fromthepublicdownloads.on.d24tm.org) by Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

*NOTE: Although the form says you can send to either the District Director or District Leadership Chair (DLC), please only send to District Leadership Chair (DLC) Glenn Williams.*

# DISTRICT LEADER NOMINATING FORM



*These materials are confidential. District Leadership Committee (DLC), upon completion of voting, submit all forms to the committee chair to destroy after the final report has been distributed to the District Director.*

Are you interested in nominating yourself or someone else for a District leader position? If so, please complete the form below and submit it to your District director or to the DLC. If you are nominating someone besides yourself, you may submit more than one person's name for each position.

To be nominated or elected and to hold office, a member must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ **Be a member in good standing of a Toastmasters club in good standing.**
- ▶ Meet the **qualifications** of the position.
- ▶ Consent to being nominated and sign the **District Leader Agreement and Release Statement.**

I wish to have the Director or DLC consider the following member for the office of:

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- Division Director (please specify Division \_\_\_\_\_)

**If applicable:**

- Area Director (please specify area \_\_\_\_\_/Division \_\_\_\_\_)
- Administration Manager
- Finance Manager
- Public Relations Manager

Name of nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Are you nominating yourself?  Yes  No

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Member number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home club name \_\_\_\_\_ Club number \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Awards  CC  ACB  ACS  ACG  CL  ALB  ALS  DTM  
 L1  L2  L3  L4  L5

Other \_\_\_\_\_

To assist the District Leadership Committee member in their deliberations, please attach:

- ▶ Additional information you would like to include about this candidate.
- ▶ A description of any club and District offices held by the nominee (include dates of service if possible).
- ▶ Why you believe the nominee should be considered for the specified position.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail, fax or email to your District director or DLC.

Forms are submitted directly to District Director/DLC. Please see your District website for specifics.

<https://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/District-Websites>

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Rev. 10/2019 Item 450C





## Strictly Speaking Advanced Toastmasters: A Unique Leadership Focused Advanced Club in Lincoln, NE

Submitted by S. Tania Biswas, ACS, ALB and Indrajit Basu, ACS, ALB, Strictly Speaking



Strictly Speaking Club having fun at the District 24 year-end celebration 2019, in Gretna, NE

Strictly Speaking Toastmasters is a leadership incubator with members who have over 40 combined years of International, District, Division, Area and Club Leadership. Membership in our advanced club is open to all Toastmasters who have completed the Competent Communication manual (under the legacy program) or Level 2 of any Path (under the Pathways Program). Members are not required to hold dual memberships with their primary clubs as long as their educational requirements are fulfilled. (Exceptions may be made in special cases).

Our club is a great fit for Toastmasters who want to strengthen their communication and leadership skills. Our experienced members and frequently invited

distinguished guests provide great networking opportunities and insights into the district and international leadership roles. According to our recent member satisfaction survey, what our members like most about this club is the high-quality evaluations. We offer an in-depth round robin style of speech evaluations, where speakers receive both verbal and written forms of evaluation from every attending member. Additionally, our club provides extensive support towards navigating through the newly launched Pathways program. Our members include Pathways Guides who have conducted numerous Pathways training sessions throughout our District. Many have successfully completed one or more paths. They are great mentors and valuable resources to newer Toastmasters for receiving guidance in completing the advanced projects and fulfilling requirements for achieving the coveted Distinguished Toastmaster.



A recent Strictly Speaking Club meeting

**Want to know more?** Come, visit our club as a guest! We meet once a month, every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in Nov and Dec), from 9 am – 11am, at the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Flanagan Room, 52<sup>nd</sup> & South St. Lincoln, Nebraska. This month, we are meeting on December 21 and will have a one-hour social following the club meeting. You can contact us by email: [contact-6449@toastmastersclubs.org](mailto:contact-6449@toastmastersclubs.org), or call: Club Secretary, Claire Titus, DTM, at (402)-416-4638. We look forward to meeting you and offering our help in your Toastmasters journey. See you soon.



## Themed Meetings

Submitted by George Volz, DTM

As Toastmasters, we always are striving to make our meetings more inviting, more interesting and fun. Many clubs promote a theme for the meeting, encourage participants to use the theme in preparation. Greater Communicators Club #2114 is experimenting with taking this a step further. We are hosting meetings that are focused on a communication theme. It started on November 20<sup>th</sup> with a focus on listening. Prior to the prepared speeches we have a "Tip" presented which outlines the learning objectives of the meeting. The prepared speeches are a chance to showcase the theme. Table Topics follow the theme, allowing the audience to participate. We promote the meetings on Facebook, MeetUp, local websites, other media and by walking the neighborhood. Our focus is to attract new persons to Toastmasters. The first meeting brought in two new members and gave us direction to improve our campaign. The next three meetings are outlined below. We are excited by the new energy this is bringing to our club. We invite you to bring club members and friends to our themed meetings and participate. Consider hosting a themed meeting in your club, too!

### ***Handling Hecklers (working with difficult audiences)***

**December 11, 2019**

Signup via Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/District-24-Toastmasters-Meetup/events/266634930/>

Signup via Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3062190810474728/>

### ***Preparing Presentations (where to start, organization, end)***

**January 8, 2020**

Signup via Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/District-24-Toastmasters-Meetup/events/266637764/>

Signup via Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/342975656548285/>

### ***Words that Win (gaining consensus & agreement)***

**February 12, 2020**

Signup via Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/District-24-Toastmasters-Meetup/events/266637884/>

Signup Via Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/815231725559937/>



Greater Communicators Club, host of above events

# December Events

## TLI Leadership Training Sessions Continue in December!

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is a twice-a-year training program offered by Toastmasters to help officers succeed in their role and provide all members with new ideas and information about Toastmasters. If you missed the November sessions, it is not too late to join the learning this month!

Training will cover:

- Officer brainstorming – a chance to problem-solve together
- Club Mentoring & Coaching
- District Officers – Could you be a District leader next year?
- Speech Contests
- Key Characteristics of Successful Clubs



Save your seat at the training today by registering for the session of your choice on Eventbrite (see below). All sessions cover the same content but may feature different presenters.

- Sat, Dec 7, 10:00am – 2:30pm at [Vine Congregational United Church of Christ](https://vinecongregationalunitedchurchofchrist.com), 1800 Twin Ridge Rd, Lincoln, - sign up at <https://lincolntldec7.eventbrite.com>
- Tues, Dec 10, 5:00 – 9:30pm at [Blue Cross Blue Shield](https://bluecrossblueshield.com), 1919 AkSarBen Dr, Omaha – sign up at <https://omahatldec10.eventbrite.com>

## Handling Hecklers, hosted by Greater Communicators

**December 11, 6-7pm**, 3405 S 11th St, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501. No matter how small the crowd, there will always be those who are distracting and distracted. Spend a short fun hour learning and practicing how to hold the attention of others. Find the full listing of upcoming Greater Communicators themed meetings on **page 9**.

## District Executive Council and District Officer Training (DEC/DOT)

**December 14, 8:30am-12:30pm**, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, 1919 Ak-Sar-Ben Dr, Omaha, NE  
This monthly training session for District leaders is a great opportunity for you to get a taste of what District leadership is all about as you consider whether it is time to answer the call for District leadership yourself (as mentioned on **page 7**).

## Strictly Speaking Meeting & Social Gathering

Learn more about the Strictly Speaking advanced club discussed on **page 8** as you join them for their final meeting of 2019 – **December 21, 9am-11am meeting, 11am-noon social**, Madonna Rehab Hospital, Flanagan Room, 52nd & South Street, Lincoln

Find District 24's Full Event Calendar at [https://d24tm.org/D24\\_Calendar.html](https://d24tm.org/D24_Calendar.html)

Have an event you want to share, either upcoming or past? Sent information and photos to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com).



## **“Dear Parliamentarian, we often get confused . . . voting . . . ”**

### **(Voting Without Confusion)**

By Karen Watson, DTM

“Dear Parliamentarian, we often get confused in meetings about which question we are voting on after motions and amendments to motions. How do we sort this out in a way that is clear not only to those presiding in meetings but clear to those who are voting members?”

A member may propose (when in order) an idea for an organization to consider by making a motion - which then becomes a question on which the assembly will decide (i.e. vote). (An amendment is simply a motion to a ‘main’ motion.) In order to eliminate confusion in meetings during voting, the presider has a specific duty and members have a distinct responsibility.

Debate is not visual; debate takes place in conditions of simultaneous aural communication among all participants. The presider has the duty to conduct meetings using correct, clear procedure. The presider must orally guide the assembly and keep members informed of the EXACT question (to be voted on). Repetition may be used as necessary. “The presiding officer of an assembly . . . should be chosen principally for the ability to preside.” (Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, page 449) The ability to preside can be gained through the experience of chairing committees.

Clear procedure to preside might sounds as follows:

- “The question is now on the motion ‘to spend \$400 in the month of April for a billboard at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge to advertise TM District 24’. Is there any debate?” *[The Maker of the motion is allowed to speak first ‘in favor’; after which debate alternates.]*
- “Is there any debate ‘opposed’?” *[Debate continues alternating between ‘in favor’ and ‘opposed’ until there is no further debate for either.]*
- “Are you ready for the question?” *[If any member is not ready to vote on the question, he/she will rise to seek recognition to continue to debate.]*
- “The question is on the motion ‘to spend \$400 in the month of April for a billboard at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge to advertise TM District 24’. All in favor say (i.e. vote) ‘aye’.” *[pause]* “All opposed say (i.e. vote) ‘no’.” *[After the members vote, the presider declares the results.]*

Members have a different, but equally important, responsibility. “During debate, during remarks by the presiding officer to the assembly, and during voting, no member should be permitted to disturb the assembly by whispering, walking across the floor, or in any other way.”

(RONR, page 394) The ability of a member to remain quiet and attentive is an act of respect to all other members in the meeting, especially the presider; and, can be learning by utilizing the TM ‘leadership skill of listening’.

The combined effort of both the presider (using clear procedure) and the members (listening unless speaking in debate) results in *Voting without Confusion*.

Submit parliamentary questions to D24 Parliamentarian: [KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com](mailto:KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com)



# In Loving Memory of Amy Schapp

by Bob Schapp, DTM

Thank you, dear Toastmasters friends, for the many ways you have supported me after the sudden and unexpected death of my Beloved Amy on November 1. Seeing so many of you at her memorial, along with your many cards and notes, gave me strength. Your contributions to flowers, plants, Tangier Shriners and Pug Partners of Nebraska warm my heart and will strengthen her legacy of love and caring. Thank you, Jessica Codr and Double Dozen, for inviting me to share a few words at this time.

Amy loved Table Topics more than just about anything else in Toastmasters. My Table Topic today is “Amy Schapp and a couple reasons why we love her.”



Toastmasters was a shared joy in our marriage, and we made some great memories with RailTalkers, Why Not Speak, and numerous D24 activities. One of my favorites also gives a beautiful glimpse of Amy as a caring person of action. When a somewhat desperate district-wide appeal for contest judges in Grand Island went out a few years ago, Amy had a simple solution. She decided we would rent a van, fill it with a group of district leaders, and make a day trip of it. Amy turned a friend’s problem into a fun day of service with good friends. To paraphrase the old Greyhound slogan, “Leave the judging to us!”

I am still hearing new (to me) stories about Amy and her gift for making people feel included and welcome. She had a way of giving people strength and encouragement when they needed it, even if she didn’t know them particularly well. Two wonderful friends and RailTalkers shared from the heart at Amy’s Omaha services. Ash Banaszek spoke of a day in a “cold, sanitized corporate meeting room,” and how Amy and Ann Gentle swept her into their fold, forming the ‘A-Team.’ She spoke of how they stuck together through speech competitions and major life challenges, and how Amy locked eyes during one especially tough time to assure Ash that she was going to be ok. Ash also read a letter from Ann, who was in New York receiving medical treatment. Ann said there was a time she was very close to quitting Toastmasters entirely and that it was Amy who convinced her to stay by reminding her why she joined in the first place: the community. She also wrote of how Amy rallied a “girl gang” with special t-shirts before Ann’s cancer surgery. Beyond kindness, though, Ann recalled that Amy was also “beautiful, fierce and wise.” Her dry and clever wit more than once deflated the pompous or highlighted the stupidity of a situation. Amy could definitely sling a verbal arrow or two, but she never resorted to poison darts.

The “yellow light” is on and before it turns red, let me once more thank all of you for your kindnesses and remind you of what a beautiful organization we share in Toastmasters.