



Thoughts and Words into Action

August 2006

Greetings to all!

I want to share with you the progress made during the first two months of our new district year as well as bring you up-to-date on several items of importance.

All (100%) of the Area and Division Governors have received their district officers training, during the months of June and July. Over 300 club officers have been trained, which translates into little over 50% of all club officers. About 2/3 of the clubs in the district trained 4 or more club officers. I want to thank all the division governors for conducting the club officers training sessions, including several make-up sessions. Many of the area governors also assisted in the training of the club officers, and some took a lead role in doing so. Their participation is also appreciated. Based on the actual officers attendance and clubs participation in the training sessions, we will be evaluating the club officers training program, for the mid-winter training.

The Focal Point newsletter has been published and is available on district web site. (http://www.tmdistrict65.org/Button6_Publications/bulletins/FP-2006-08.pdf). I want to thank **Kay Whipple** for doing a tremendous job in the publication of the newsletter as well as the mailing, both requiring a great deal of coordination and perseverance.

The district directory is ready for electronic distribution (e-mail attachment) to district officers and club presidents and VP Education. **Bob Logan** has taken a lead role in putting this information together and I thank him for all his efforts.

Fourteen of the nineteen areas have confirmed their fall contest dates and all the four divisions have also confirmed their contest dates. **Bob Logan** will be updating the list with dates, times, and locations for all to review.

The spring 2007 conference co-chairs will be the immediate past Area 7 governor **Amy Burnell** and immediate past eastern division governor, **Bruce Gilbert**. The fall 2006 conference co-chairs, **Mike Slyck** and **Mary Bell**, along with the conference committee members are meeting regularly to plan & execute the fall conference events, to be held in Rochester, NY on November 17 and 18. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

The International Conference in Washington, DC was held during the week of August 23. About 1,800 to 2,000 Toastmasters attended the five -day event. This year, 28 districts, or 37% became distinguished districts. 45% of all clubs were distinguished. The total membership grew to 215,000, an increase of 1% over last year. 836 new clubs were created. The new International President is Johnny Uy, DTM. Area 17 Governor and district 65 team member, **Vicky Wienke** received special award of Presidential Citation. Congratulations Vicky. (See http://www.tmdistrict65.org/Button5_District%20Events/VW2006PC.htm for further details.)

Forty new members have joined 29 of our existing clubs during July/August period. Twenty six Toastmasters have already completed their education awards. Special recognitions to **Marlene Markham** of Impressionist club #4799 and **Joan Sprague** of Endicott club #2584 for completed their **DTM**. Congratulations to all Toastmasters for completion of their education awards.

We have received several leads from TI as well as interest from other sources in forming new clubs in the central and eastern divisions. Three demo/kick-off meetings have already taken place and several others are planned. One of them has already sent in their ATO to TI.

The club membership dues are to be sent to TI by October 1, latest. Please remind the club officers (especially the club treasurer) to send-in the dues anytime after September 15. Every year, we have few clubs that do not pay on-time and therefore miss out of their easily achievable DCP goal. Please emphasize to the clubs the importance of paying dues on-time.

The Leadership Breakfast and the executive committee meeting will be held on September 23, at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo, NY. Notices to all club presidents and VP Education (along with the district officers) were sent during the first week of August. (http://www.tmdistrict65.org/Button1_Home%20Page/Invitation.htm). The response so far have been poor (33 to-date) and slow! Other than the district conferences, this is the only time the club leadership have an opportunity to meet with the entire district officers team. The breakfast starts at 8:30 AM and the program begins at 9:00 AM to 12 noon. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. The last day for registration is Friday, September 15. Last minute walk-ins are discouraged.

As district officers, we remind ourselves of our mission - (a) **enhancing the performance of the clubs** - in any way we can, by assisting, guiding, supporting, coaching, communicating, helping, and making each club strive to become distinguished; (b) **extending the network of clubs**, by working together as a team in promoting and strengthening the program of toastmasters in existing as well as in new clubs in our neighborhoods and places of work.

The four critical success factors of the district are -
(1) Achievements in Competent Communicator [CC] awards;
(2) Achievements in Advance Communicator [AC] awards;
(3) Building of new Clubs
(4) Membership growth

While the first two factors have been traditionally achievable, since the awards pertain to individual members goals, the third factor of building new clubs requires a lot of initiative, hard work, and perseverance. This too is achievable with creative ideas (**thoughts**) and team efforts (**action**), combined with the help and support of our dedicated club extension specialists located in each of the four divisions. The fourth critical success factor of "membership" is most important and comparatively speaking more challenging to achieve. It will therefore require effort (**action**) from every member within each club, every club officer, and every district officer, to ensure that we continue to retain club membership in each of our respective clubs and also make an ongoing effort to attract new members into our clubs. Membership retention and membership growth are key **actions** that are required by all of us in order to ensure our combined successes.

With our proactive **thoughts**, poignant **words**, and persistent **actions**, we are determined to succeed.

I look forward to seeing ALL of you at the September 23 meeting in Waterloo.

Best regards,

Sam Mehta
District 65 Governor