



Michael J. Slyck, ATM-B, CL
Toastmasters International, District 65
720 Bennington Dr.
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Lieutenant Governor Education and Training

District 65 Toastmasters:

Wasn't the District 65 Spring Conference in Cortland a fantastic event? If you were there April 11th and 12th you know it was. If you weren't able to make it, well maybe next time.

A total of 9 Educational Presentations were offered by some of the best presenters in the District. Topics ranged from Preparing for Table Topics, to a Quick Course in Parliamentary Procedure, to a course on Etiquette. We even had one of the International Director Candidates from our Region join us and present an educational session to us. All in all the Educational Presentations were some of the best we've ever offered. Eight of our local Toastmasters were given the opportunity to present in this setting, and rose to the challenge in a stellar fashion. I congratulate all of you for your exemplary efforts. It seems that each year we outdo ourselves in our ability to put together outstanding presentations.

We also were entertained by the competitors from across the district that vied for the championship in the International Speech Contest and the Tall Tales Contest. First up was the Tall Tales Contest. After the elimination rounds that started in the Clubs in January/February; progressed upward through the Areas and the Divisions; one representative from each Division met in Cortland for the District Tall Tales Contest. The contestants were, Matt Banazek from the Eastern Division; Deborah Dickinson representing the Western Division; Tavis King out of the South and Mark Emblidge from the Central Division. After a hard fought contest with great offerings from each of the contestants – Mark Emblidge took the first place trophy and Tavis King took second.

The International Speech Contest was similarly hard fought event. I was extremely glad not to have been a judge for this one as the best speech makers in the district came together with the goal of representing District 65 at the regional level contest, as well as going all the way to the International Contest in Atlanta this summer. Western Division's Deborah Dickinson did double duty as she competed with Paul Tranchell from the Eastern Division, Barry Klipsch from the South and Al Turof from the Central Division. It was another case of the best of the best squaring off. First place honors went to Al Turof, while Deb Dickinson took second.

Both contests were amazing events. I'm always happy to see Toastmasters come together to showcase what it is we do at these events. What better way of testing our progress in improving our communication skills than to participate in a contest. And, if we remember to arrange for an evaluator for our contest speeches, we can credit them against whatever goal we're working on. Just another added benefit of stepping outside our comfort zones.



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And, speaking of our educational goals and completions there are lots of folk who need to be congratulated so far this year, and there are a couple of months left yet. So if you see any of the following, or know them, make sure you congratulate them on their achievements:

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Club	Name	CTM Date	Cert. Number
1247	ANDREW J. CLARK	04/18/2003	366336
1491	MARGARET M. ECKLUND	04/09/2003	365858
1491	BARB J. MAXWELL	04/09/2003	365859
1993	CATHERINE ANNE SHANNON	04/18/2003	366337
2325	ZANNA VAIDA	04/14/2003	366108
2365	DEBORAH RINEHART FOWLER	04/23/2003	366598
3685	BETSY L. COLON	04/23/2003	366599
4323	MARY J. BELL	04/23/2003	366600
5659	PEGGY ANN CASELLE	04/14/2003	366109
8265	MARY M. KOSZELAK	04/04/2003	365649
Excellence in Leadership			
4799	MARLENE MARKHAM	04/23/2003	2478
4799	JOAQUIM MIRANDA FLORES	04/23/2003	2479
CL			
1271	ROBERT HARDING	04/14/2003	24912L
1491	KEITH R. JOHNSON	04/09/2003	24820L
2365	PATRICIA A. JANECEK	04/23/2003	25101L
3685	DAVID FISCHER	04/23/2003	25102L
4054	JULIA LAMM	04/04/2003	24717L
4054	BARBARA WALLACE	04/23/2003	25103L
6721	DONALD A. DINERO	04/18/2003	25001L
6740	DARCY M. DEMMIN	04/18/2003	25002L
ATM Bronze (new)			
1044	JERRY BOONE	04/14/2003	23905A
ATM Silver (new)			
4167	SUSAN M. ORZELL	04/09/2003	9034A
5473	ALAN J. HERRNECKAR	04/04/2003	9004A
ATM Gold			
2875	DEWITT J. HENRICKS	04/09/2003	4116A

These people will have their names added to the overall list we keep, and will have their names posted on the District Wall of Honor at the next conference.

As mentioned earlier, there are a couple of months left for this Toastmaster year. It officially ends on the 30th of June. You still have time to complete the objectives you set for yourself when the year began. All you need to do is take a look at the plan you devised; figure out where you are, and what will it take to complete it. If you're in doubt, feel free to talk with your mentor, your club vice president of education, or, give me a call. We'll talk through what you need to do, and how best to accomplish your goal. There are over a thousand Toastmasters out here in the District – ready and waiting to offer you support and assistance to accomplish your goals.



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And, of course, if you completed your goal for this year – take a breather and plan out what you want to do next. Set your plan, and then work your plan. The surest way I know to success.

Congratulations to all of you who have accomplished so much this year. And best of luck to those of us who are still working on our plans. We will make it if we persevere.

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