

Fellow Toastmasters,

As the first six months of the 2006-2007 Toastmasters year draws to a close, I want to provide you with a summary of our educational and training achievements, to date, and a status on where we stand, as we head into the second half of the Toastmasters year.

Training

In the first six months, we have accomplished a great deal. During the summer, we ran multiple club officer training sessions in each of the divisions. We started the year with 93 clubs. Of these, 62 of the clubs (67%) had at least four officers trained in the summer training sessions. Five clubs, Syracuse 580, Lyceum 1993, Susquehanna 2644, Postprandial 3259, and Daybreakers 3685, had all seven officers attend training. I want to thank all the clubs that sent officers to training. **Officers who attend training are equipped to meet the needs of their club and its members.**

The winter training has already begun. Training sessions have already been run in both the Eastern and Western Divisions. The initial training sessions in both the Central and Southern Divisions are scheduled for early January. A make-up session in the Eastern Division has also been scheduled. Additional sessions will be announced soon. Check the district web site, www.tmdistrict65.org regularly for updates on upcoming sessions. The District goal is to have 75% of the club officers trained. **This is a high number, but our members deserve officers who are equipped to perform their roles.** I encourage all officers to attend one of the winter training sessions. One of the topics that will be covered will be running a Table Topics contest. Many clubs, and all Areas, Divisions, and the District will all be running the first Table Topic contests in many years. Come out and learn about it at the trainings. We will also be reviewing the new Leadership program, and covering many other topics.

Officer training is a great place to learn what other clubs are doing to be successful, share your experiences, get your questions answered, and help you club be successful. It also provides the opportunity to network with other Toastmasters, plus it helps your club achieve one of the goals in the Distinguished Club Program.

Educational Awards

This year we have new awards in both the communication and the leadership tracks. As most of you know, the awards in the communication track have been renamed, and a new level has been added to the leadership track.

The changes were covered during the summer officer training sessions. There have still been a number of questions about the changes, so we will be reviewing them during the current training period. If you are a club officer, bring your questions to one of the upcoming training sessions. Or, you can send your questions to me, via email, at rlogan1@stny.rr.com.

The combined totals for the district, as of Dec. 26 are below.

Award	Count
Competent Communicator (CC)	49
Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB)	7
Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS)	4
Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG)	2
Competent Leader (old program)	9
Competent Leader Bronze (new program)	1
Advanced Leader Silver (ALS)	2
Leadership Excellence	2
Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)	3

As you can see, our members have already achieved 49 Competent Communicator awards. The goal set by Toastmasters International for our district is 123. To date, we have achieved 39.8% of the goal.

To date, members have achieved a combined total of 13 Advanced Communicator awards. The goal set by TI is 35. We have achieved 37.1% of the goal.

Based on the information submitted by the Area Governors from the club visits they have done, we have 224 members who plan to achieve a Competent Communicator award and 90 members who plan to achieve one of the Advanced Communicator awards.

I want to congratulate every member who has already achieved an educational award since the beginning of the Toastmasters year, on July 1. Special congratulations go to Marlene Markham, Joan Sprague, and Kay Whipple, for achieving the Distinguished Toastmaster award. This is the highest educational award, and takes a great deal of time and commitment to achieve. I also want to encourage each of you to set an educational goal to complete before June 30. Encourage your fellow club members to also set goals of their own. Once you have thought about what goal you will set, make a verbal commitment to your club to achieve the goal. Then work with the club Vice President of Education to be scheduled so you can achieve the goal. This is one example of the District theme, "**Thoughts and Words into Action.**"

Contests, Workshops and the District Conference

Contests – During the fall contest season we held the Evaluation and Humorous Speech contests and the club, area, division and district levels. I want to thank all the Area and Division Governors who worked on organizing and running the contests. Everyone contacted their clubs, encouraged participation and learned a lot. This should make the next round of contests an even bigger success. I want to encourage all clubs to run club level contests for the Table Topic contest. We have not run one of these at District level events in many years. Make sure your club is represented in this contest.

I also want to encourage all clubs to run an International Speech contest. This is the only contest that goes beyond the District level. Next August, at the International Convention, someone will be named the World Champion of Public Speaking (WCPS). The journey starts at the club level. No matter how far a contestant goes, they are sure to grow from the experience.

Workshops – At the District Conference in November, the workshops provided information on a wide variety of topics. Topics ranged from using Microsoft Power Point, to topics on Leadership, to recognizing the value of club members, and much more. The feedback on the presentations indicated that the vast majority of those who filled out the evaluation forms were very satisfied with the quality of the presentations. Again, I want to thank everyone who gave a presentation. I also want to thank those who volunteered to present, but did not get the opportunity. Having so many volunteers makes it possible to offer a wide variety of topics. I also want to thank those who volunteered to introduce the presenters. Special thanks go to Patrick Olson, the facilities chair, all the members of his committee, and Melinda and Andrew Schmidt, for assisting with all the technical and logistical details involved in the presentations.

The Conference – For me, the Conference was definitely an educational experience. I never realized how much the LGET is responsible for. I want to thank everyone who assisted with any phase of the conference.

For those who didn't attend the conference, you missed a special event. The 2004 World Champion of Public Speaking, Dr. Randy Harvey, presented an inspiring keynote speech and a great workshop that concluded with the speech he gave when he won the World Championship. International Director Tammy Miller also attended the conference and gave an informative workshop on problem solving and delegating.

Both the Evaluation and Humorous speech contests had four great contestants. These two events were the highlights of the conference. We had the opportunity to see our fellow Toastmasters giving presentations that had been developed to their absolute best. Again, I want to thank everyone involved in the contests. The contestants, the Contest Masters (Cathy Shannon in the Evaluation Contest, David Pope in the Humorous Contest), the test speaker (Sharon Taylor), the Chief Judges (Gordon Penniston in the Evaluation Contest, Dan Ferens in the Humorous Contest), and all the timers, counters, and judges. Each of you helped make these events successful.

Upcoming Items

As we head into the second half of the Toastmasters year, we have a lot to look forward to, and a lot to accomplish. The Area Governors will soon be visiting your clubs, Winter training is in progress and the contest season will be here before we know it. The District leadership is continuing to evaluate progress and develop action plans to help the clubs succeed. Expect an increase in communication from your Area Governors and District leaders on upcoming plans and events.

The spring District Conference will be in Syracuse, on April 20 and 21. Details will be posted to the District web site as they become available.

On June 1 and 2, District 65 will host the Regional Conference. The District only gets the opportunity to host this event once every eight years. The winner of the International Speech Contest at the District Conference in April will compete against the winners from the seven other districts in our region. I have had the opportunity to see this competition twice, and the quality of the speeches is unbelievable. Our International President, Johnny Uy, along with the 1999 World Champion of Public Speaking, Craig Valentine will be at the conference. The conference will be in Rochester. Again, details will be posted to the web site as they become available. Start saving now and plan to attend.

After the Regional Conference comes the mad dash to the end of the Toastmasters year. Avoid the rush and the possibility of mistakes by completing and submitting your educational awards early. Start 2007 off strong and achieve those club and personal goals early. Taking care of the goals early will set your club and its members up for the conclusion of a successful year.

I hope to see each of you at one of the upcoming events. Plan to attend a training session, a contest, the District Conference, or the Regional Conference. The next six months are going to be a busy time, with lots of exciting events. As we enter the new year, two goals each of us can set is to do everything we can to help make our club distinguished, and to attend one or more of the events outside your club.

Good luck and Happy New Year!

Bob Logan
Lt. Governor of Education and Training

“Thoughts and Words into Action”