



# The Clarion

## Do You Know Where You're Going?



Denise Anne Magyar

Fellow Toastmasters, from the start of our Toastmaster year on July 1 right up to the Fall Conference in Lucerne, there was a flurry of activity. Your district and club officers were attending officer-training sessions, where all officers, from District Governor to Sergeant at Arms were given a blueprint of how we can best serve you, the member.

Now what do I mean by serve? Well, I'll answer that question with another question. Think back; what brought you to Toastmasters? Was it to overcome your fears of public speaking? Was it to fine tune your communication skills through constructive feedback? Was it to learn how to motivate and lead others?

Whatever the reason, it is the mission of every officer to ensure that your club, your area, your division and yes even your district governor provide you with the tools and resources to help you reach your goals. So who's the most important person in this organization? You are! All the

programs available in the Toastmaster program such as the 'Better Speakers Series' focusing on how to create an introduction or how to use body language and the 'Successful Club Series' offering mini educational sessions – not to mention more opportunities to speak – on mentoring or measuring your club's climate were created with your needs in mind. These programs are designed to nudge you out of your comfort zone and help you come that much closer to achieving your goals.

However neither your club, your area, your division nor your district can help you reach your goals if you haven't set any. You need to know where you're going or else, in the illustrious words of the former New York Yankee coach and manager, Yogi Berra, "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there." So set some goals, short term as well as long-term goals. And while

you're at it, reach for a star or two.

But don't keep your dreams a secret. Share them with your club officers and fellow Toastmasters. By sharing your dreams with others you not only give them wings to fly, you motivate others to follow your lead. So go for your Competent Toastmaster award. Give an educational module from the Better Speaker or Successful Club Series to qualify for either an Advanced Toastmaster or a Competent Leader award. Or complete your 6th speech project before March so that you are eligible to compete in the Spring International Speech Contest in May.

You set the goals; we'll help you get there. So assess your reasons for joining Toastmasters; chart your course to where you want to be by June 2004; make a commitment to yourself and cruise *Full Steam Ahead!*

*Your District Governor,  
Denise Anne Magyar, ATMG*

## Congratulations! The Winners of the Fall District Conference

### English Humorous Speech

First: Dan Howden  
Second: Frank Thorogood  
Third: Christer Wilén

### English Table Topics

First: Marilyn Oprisan  
Second: Morag Ottens  
Third: Linda Meagher

### German Humorous Speech

First: Jörg Blömeling  
Second: Beate Bröstl

### German Table Topics

First: Jörg Blömeling  
Second: Udu Zippenfennig  
Third: Nick Studhalter

### French Humorous Speech

First: Bernadette Morineau  
Second: Kris Schoemans

### French Table Topics

First: Joanne Dandres  
Second: Kris Schoemans  
Third: Elena Sollewijn-Gelpke

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## Lieutenant Governor Education and Training Report

With the first half of the year almost gone, the first educational results are now published on the website. We have challenging objectives this year in terms of CTM's (160), ATM's (55) and CL's and AL's (70). I have no doubt we will achieve this. We have now 20 CTM's, 9 ATM's and 15 AL/CL's. We can all measure the gap to close here.

For the Munich spring district conference, the educational theme will be Your Dreams are Your Possibilities. If you know some professional trainers or have yourself proposals to run workshops on that theme, please contact me prior to Jan

15th (peirani@aol.com), with a description of the educational workshop you propose and a short bio.

Finally, as you probably know, this year is the first year where, as a real district, we can participate the international speech contest in spring. So the contests that take place at club, area, division level will have to be run in strict respect of the TM contest rules so that the candidates we present at the district contest are really valid candidates and don't face disqualification. The winner of the speech contest in Munich will represent the district 59 at

the international conference in Reno. We will subsidize the winner's travel to the international conference. They will then have to present another speech at the overseas contest in Reno, and then if he/she wins, he/she will present still another speech in the final contest in front of an audience of around 1500 people. What a challenge, what an experience!

So don't miss your club spring speech contest, you might be the one!

*Thierry Peirani, LGET*

## Division Highlights: This issue we highlight Division A

I would like to introduce Division A. Division A has four different areas; two in Paris and two in Spain, I can say we are a real Latin division. All areas set themselves great goals and I can say I am very happy, perhaps even a little bit proud because we have just chartered for Area A 1 the first new club - a French/German speaking advanced Club.

The first division conference

was hosted by Spain in Mallorca. With great enthusiasm and endeavour, Mallorca Club and Area 3 Governor, Debbie Cameron, hosted this conference. It was a challenge for everyone but I can say we were very lucky to have a host like Debbie.

We have also created a website for the division, [tm.cmiae.com](http://tm.cmiae.com), where all areas are represented. Whenever

you want to know what's going on in the division or whenever you are coming to our countries, just have a look and visit the next Toastmaster's Club meeting in our division. There you can meet your old friends and make new friends. Everybody is cordially welcomed!

*By Anna Eicher  
Division A Governor*



## District 59 Toastmasters Helps Build New Clubs in Russia

Do you have a personal vision, fellow Toastmasters? I have. Since I became a Toastmaster in 1997, I saw a building in the sky, a building with a close structure and wide opened doors. But this building wasn't in the sky really - I saw it in my mind: Toastmasters in Russia. I don't know how your experience with Russia is: The country, the people, the bias. The country is big, the people are nice and bias is wrong. Absolutely!

In March 2003 I organized the first Bavarian-Russian Toastmasters Conference in Moscow to bring districted Toastmasters-Experience to Russia. I gave an Educational Session about the topic 'How to build new clubs' and the result was nearly three weeks ago: The Demonstration meeting for the first German Speaking Toastmasters Club outside Germany and U.S.A. It was a fantastic event with 26 guests. The media interest was

enormous and you can read an article in the next issue of Moskowskaja Nemjezkaja Gazeta (Moskauer Deutsche Zeitung). And in the future? If this club is chartered, we go further on with Russian clubs in Russia (and Munich) and build a Toastmasters-Council in East-Europe! Promised!

*© 2003 by Andreas J. Schmidt, Munich*

*By Andreas J. Schmidt, ATM-S, CL  
President 5095-59*

## The Toastmaster International President is coming to Munich!

The President is coming! Our young European district will enjoy a distinct honor May 7-9, 2004: the president of Toastmasters International will attend our spring conference in Freising near Munich. Each year, only a handful of districts throughout the world receive the honor of a presidential visit.

Why did we choose Freising? By holding the conference there, we are able to offer a superb conference hotel - the Airport Marriott - at the affordable price of 99 euros per night for a double room. At this rate, even Munich Toastmasters are planning to stay in the hotel for the conference weekend. This represents an extraordinary value for a spectacular venue. The Marriott's marble lobby will set the tone for the conference weekend, providing an impressive backdrop for socializing and receptions. Every one of the seminar rooms affords daylight and refreshing views of the surrounding greenery. What's more, the hotel will be virtually ours for the weekend.

And what does Freising have to offer? The answer is: buckets of history and charm. The town predates neighboring Munich by centuries. Even today, the local cardinal bears the official title Archbishop of Freising and Munich. Situated on a citadel above the surrounding plain, the old town features narrow, winding streets, plazas and an array of buildings spanning

architectural styles from Romanesque to Baroque. Visit the cathedral with its museum harboring treasures of sacred art. Freising in May (lilac time!) will be a treat for the senses.

Freising is also home to the world's oldest brewery, Weißenstephan. Take a tour and sample the specialty of the house, Bavarian Weißbier. Despite all this history though, Freising enjoys the distinction of being the youngest town in Germany. Due to its university, Freising has attracted a student population, giving it the lowest medium age in the whole country.

Of course Freising's larger neighbor to the south, Munich, is not devoid of attractions. Hop on the SBahn for a 30-minute ride to the center of one of Germany's most attractive cities. Your hosts for this conference are Division D, Areas 2 and 3 (Munich/Nuremberg). No other city in District 59 boasts more clubs (six as of this writing, with a seventh on the way). The Munich Toastmasters club observed its 30th anniversary this year, the Münchner Brainstormers are Europe's first German-speaking club and there are plans on the board for a French (nearly chartered), an Italian and even a Russian club!

The spring conference will present the opportunity to meet Ted Corcoran, this year's president of Toastmasters International. President Corcoran will arrive several

days in advance of the conference in order to meet the media and visit companies. Ted, the first European to be elected to this office, helped in our push to become a full-fledged district by visiting us twice, in 1997 and again in 2000. Ted Corcoran will deliver the conference's keynote address and will also conduct an educational session. Seize the opportunity to experience this charismatic leader and friend of European Toastmasters.

But there's more. The President's educational session will be flanked by further educational sessions in English, German and French. And then the contests! Springtime in Freising will witness evaluation contests in English, German and French and, The Big One: the International Speech Contest. This year, the excitement level will be higher than ever before because for the first time ever, the district will pay the airfare of the winner to enable our representative to compete at the International Convention in August in Reno, Nevada. If successful in the Tuesday evening overseas districts runoff, one of us may be competing the following Saturday morning for the title of World Champion of Public Speaking. The road to Reno for one of us will begin in May in Freising. Come and be part of the excitement.

*Christopher Magyar  
Governor Area 2, Division D*



We're on the web: [www.district59.org](http://www.district59.org)

District 59  
Executive Committee  
See your 2003/2004  
Executive Committee  
on the web.

[www.district59.org/executive  
board2003.htm](http://www.district59.org/executive_board2003.htm)

## Toastmasters, Live, From Zurich!

It was a clear, crisp Autumn evening. The Toastmasters present were rustling... with excitement. On October 25, 2003, Swiss television, SF1, aired LIVE from the combined German and English Toastmasters of Zürich meeting. You could feel the anticipation in the air, as the Presidents of the German Turicum Toastmasters and English Toastmasters Club of

Zürich, Peter Brechbühler and Thomas Skipwith, and the Toastmaster of the Evening, Lesley Stephenson discuss the last minute arrangements. The evening was by far last minute. In Swiss clockwork precision, Peter Brechbühler, organizer of the event, had everything in control. Only SF1 forgot to look at their watch. They came just in time for our last few Table Topics. After Lesley's

informative introduction about Toastmasters and a provocative as well as entertaining exchange between the SF1 moderator and Lesley, André Pollow showed Switzerland what a great Table Topics speech looks and sounds like. André's topic, given by the SF1 moderator, was to talk about the very musical and verbal (in other words...loud) wedding

celebration occurring parallel to the Toastmasters meeting. This wedding not only made for an interesting table topic, but also encouraged the Toastmasters present to use their keen listening skills and voice projection which we learn and practice in Toastmasters. It was a fun evening and a super membership booster!

*Melissa Selb, President, Toastmasters Club of Basel, Club 5813, Division E3*

## Toastmasters: A Family Affair

In 1997 I was asked to become a Charter Member of Qatar Toastmasters in Doha. At the time I was working for the State radio, television and local press and the ideas behind Toastmasters appealed to me. I thought that joining such an association would improve my public speaking skills.

What I didn't know was how that decision would change my life. Upon moving to Paris in 2001 I joined Toastmasters of Paris. I was warmly welcomed into the club. I met people who spoke the same language: the Toastmaster language. People who knew what "Table Topics, CTM, ATM, and CL" meant, or that Speech two was about speaking with sincerity. People who were outgoing,

optimistic and dynamic. Although I was a stranger in a new place, I felt like I had come home.

In the fall of this year I won our club Table Topics contest and then took second place in the Area contest. Although I have always participated in competitions it was the first time I had won. My club financed my trip to Mallorca, Spain for the Division A Conference (Oct 24-26). I won both English and French Table Topics so I also got the opportunity to compete in Lucerne, Switzerland where I won first place in French Table Topics! What an experience, what an unexpected pleasure, what an adventure!!

Winning is wonderful of course, but I came home with

more than trophies. I have realized how much Toastmasters has helped me to grow and learn. I have improved my speaking skills as I thought I would, but in addition I have gained confidence in myself and, thanks to the encouragement and support of my fellow Toastmasters, I have a new lease on life.

What makes Toastmasters such an exceptional association is the members. Where else can you find people from all over the world who are all striving, together, to improve themselves and encourage others? In both Mallorca and Lucerne I met Toastmasters from all over the world, Toastmasters who share the same goals. Members do want to better

themselves but at the same time there is a real feeling of wanting to reach out and help others. Toastmasters IS about communication and leadership. What a great way to meet people from different countries and cultures but who all speak the same language: The Toastmaster Language.

Toastmasters is more than an association, it's a family, a vibrant, energetic and go-ahead family. I encourage all Toastmasters to take part in competitions, to attend the conferences, to participate as judges or to run workshops. It's a fantastic experience and a family affair.

*Joanne Dandres CL  
Toastmasters of Paris/VPPR  
Division A, Area 2 VPPR*

## How is your Club doing with Public Relations?

Your Toastmasters club won't grow and realize its mission if the club is content with being the "best kept secret in town". Sooner or later, a club with no new members will wither and die. The best - and easiest - way to add new members is through an active public relations and publicity campaign.

However, no amount of publicity can cure poor quality. If your club has boring meetings and uninspired members, the only thing a good promotional campaign will do is let more people

know that Toastmasters is not for them. Fortunately, our organisation is full of grateful members in dynamic clubs who can testify to the life-changing benefits of effective speaking skills. As a club officer, your role is to harness the enthusiasm of these satisfied members and share the good news to potential members.

How can you accomplish this? Word of mouth testimonies are the most important part of public relations, but that limits us to relatively few members of the public. If you have a public relations program, your

message will be spread far and wide, to expose the "best kept secret" of Toastmasters.

In the next issues of the Clarion, I will highlight what clubs in our District have done in their Public Relations campaigns. If you have some success stories, please let me know so we can spread the word to others clubs.

*Elizabeth Nostedt  
District 59 Public Relations Officer  
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