



Wry Toastmasters

of Bellevue, WA

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Vol. 4 — 1/2006

March 23, 2006

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WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Welcome to the 2006 spring edition of your WRY newsletter — learn about the latest contest events, the newest members, and much more!

IT'S CONTEST SEASON!



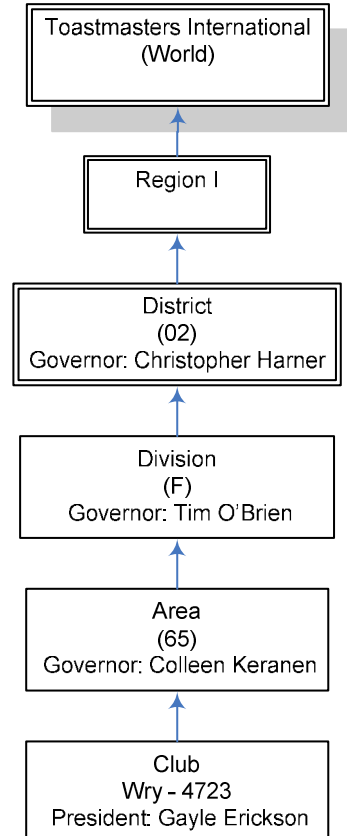
Don Luby
Best Speaker and Evaluator

He came, he spoke, he conquered!
Don Luby won both the best Speaker as well as the best Evaluator award at the WRY International Speech and Evaluation Contest—**congratulations Don!**

Let's all support Don when he competes at the Area 65 International Speech and Evaluation Contest!

Saturday, April 1
starting at **3:30 p.m.**

Farmers
New World Life Building
3003 77th Avenue S
Mercer Island, WA 98040



THE BIG PICTURE

A picture says more than a thousand words—the graph to the right not only illustrates the context of the Toastmasters International structure around us, you will also find very familiar Governor names, namely those of WRY members **Tim** and **Colleen**—talking about leadership!

Of course it also shows the stages Don will pass on his way to the 2006 World Championship of Public Speaking—

GO DON!

WRY Toastmasters

- Charter Date: Sep. 1981
- District 2 — Division F
- Area 65 — Club 4723

Meetings:

Every Thu morning @ 7am
Skyline Tower - 9th Floor
Bellevue, WA 98004

www.wrytoastmasters.org

✉ info@wrytoastmasters.org

NEW MEMBER — WELCOME JON ELLIOTT!

I first heard about Toastmasters in the 1980's when I was beginning my career in real estate sales. However, I never took the opportunity to look into the benefits Toastmasters had to offer. Since my wife and I recently moved to the Seattle area from Arizona to start a new life, it made perfect sense to get involved in something I've been intrigued by for more than two decades.

Between work and school, I've had many opportunities to make presentations, but only on a very small scale; anywhere from one person to about a dozen at the most. I have never had the chance to make a presentation to a larger group.

I recognize that public speaking is a powerful skill to have in one's tool box.



And, like many skills, if you don't stay in practice, you tend to get rusty. So, I thought Toastmasters would be a great way to re-energize my creative batteries while

sharpening my skills. Heck, I might even get the chance to speak to a large group of people someday.

On a personal note, following my recovery from a back-breaking motorcycle accident in 1999 (it was the other guy's fault) my wife Kimberly and I decided fate had given us a second chance at life with each other. So, we pledged we would live whatever time we had left to the fullest. We love to travel, play golf, and are certified "expert" scuba divers.

We were blessed with the birth of our beautiful baby boy this past October and now we spend many weekends introducing Jack to the great outdoors.

NEW MEMBER — WELCOME ERICH PLENY!

Hi, my name is Erich Pleny – It is a pleasure to meet you. I have really enjoyed my time as part of this vibrant, early-riser group and seeing the enthusiasm and passion that everyone has so early in the morning.

Personally, I have many interests and passions. I play the Viola in the Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra with quarterly concerts (come listen to us sometime: www.pssso.org).

I love to read about business, history, sciences, psychology, and anything else I can get my hands on. I love exercise, in particular rowing on Lake Sammamish – an obsession acquired while being a coxswain during my college years at Gonzaga University. I also am learning Polish so that I can one day talk about history and politics with my mother-in-law.

Professionally, I have been fortunate enough to be able to follow my interests in technology and video games.

I first came to Microsoft as a software developer six years ago, then transitioned a year and a half ago to Program Management on the Xbox 360 team.



Working in such a fast-paced environment has given me many opportunities to grow and develop my interpersonal and leadership skills, but I come to Wry with the hope of quieting (or at least getting along better with) those butterflies that never seem to enjoy the stares of a room full of people.

I have actually been a member of Wry Toastmasters for over six months now. Joining last summer, I was overwhelmed with a terribly-busy Xbox360 launch schedule followed by several months of working on business school applications – both of which caused me to drop all of my recreational activities.

With 2006, however, I am glad to be able to return to my hobbies and further pursue my interest in public speaking. Thanks for making Toastmasters a great place to come to each week – I look forward to sharing more about myself and learning about each of you.

Check out the **WryStuff Gift Shop** on our website—available thanks to Jim!



NEW MEMBER — WELCOME ALEX JOHNSON!

After growing up in Hawaii where I learned to surf, I attended Colorado College and then received an MBA from Harvard. After learning to fly, I earned my commercial pilot's license. As an entrepreneur, I've volunteered to help nonprofit organizations who need business expertise and guidance with fundraising. In my church I also volunteer, helping those who are going through hard times or experiencing financial difficulties. My children are healthy and happy. My daughter, Heather, is an ER doctor. My son, Andrew, is a pilot for Delta Airlines and a CPA.

While I've had twenty surgeries in my life, I'm thankful to be healthy

now. Through the ups and downs I've experienced, I maintain an upbeat outlook.



The experiences I've had help me empathize with others. I'm currently developing a networking marketing organization and am enjoying

helping others improve the quality of their lives, including financial freedom, time to do the things that are most important, good health, and removing toxins from their home environment.

I see life as a great adventure. My objective in joining Toastmasters is to develop and give professional speeches to philanthropic organizations to help members understand the business problems of nonprofit organizations and show how they can effectively help nonprofits. I've spent time in Australia and in Canada. Outdoor activities are my favorite way to relax, including fishing, hunting, camping, and rafting.

THE DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM (DCP)

How we are performing as a club can be well measured using the DCP metrics which can be looked up on the Toastmasters International website. The program restarts every year on July 1st. The below chart reflects the standings as of the end of February. We're well on our way to become a President's Distinguished Club yet again!!

- Achieve any **five** of ten goals → Distinguished Club
- Achieve any **seven** of ten goals → Select Distinguished Club
- Achieve any **nine** of ten goals → President's Distinguished Club

		GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
(1)	CTMs	2	2	*
(2)	Additional CTMs	2	1	
(3)	ATMs	1	1	*
(4)	Additional ATMs	1	2	*
(5)	CL, AL, or DTM	1	1	*
(6)	Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	0	
(7)	New Members	4	4	*
(8)	Additional New Members	4	6	*
(9)	Officers Trained (both required)			
	June-August	4	4	
	and December-February	4	0	
(10)	Submitted on time (both required)			
	October or April Renewal	1	1	
	and Officer List	1	1	*
Total Goals Achieved To-Date:				7

THE NEW CL AWARD!

Toastmasters International has developed a new manual and made some exciting new changes to the educational award system. Now there is a greater distinction between the speech component and the leadership component of the Toastmaster program. Previously, the Competent Toastmasters Manual (CTM) was the first step in the Toastmaster program. Now the first step has been clarified by dividing the two areas of the Toastmaster program into two clearly defined tracks—one for leadership and one for communication. To this end, the CTM has been “split” into the Competent Communicator (CC) and the Competent Leader (CL) awards.

The split allows people to immediately develop and strengthen their leadership skills.

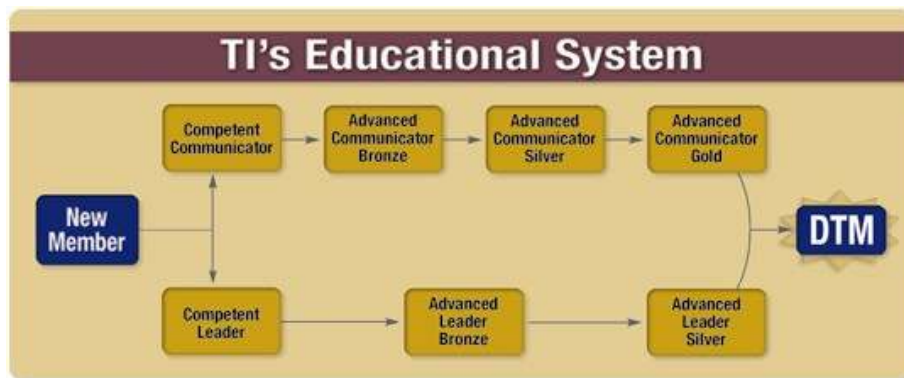
The big change occurs in the development of the CL manual. The CC manual mirrors the CTM manual, its just a name change. However, the new CL manual is where all the majority of the change takes place. The new CL manual is comprised of 10 projects aimed at

developing leadership skills through performing different roles and duties both within and outside of the club and having written evaluations done.

WRY’S approach to the new manual

The Board is very excited that TM has introduced this new manual. While changes can produce anxiety and people can be resistant,

At the end of every project is a section for an evaluation with guided points and questions completed by the evaluator. In the literature and on the website TM also mentions the possibility of a spoken evaluator. The Board has studied the new manual and its requirements, decided that it will be too cumbersome to attempt to schedule for people completing the manual, and determined that it should be up to the individual to secure their own evaluators. We want to encourage people to discuss their evolutions outside of the club between the participant and their evaluator.



the Board shares TM’s enthusiasm and views the new educational system as a welcome change and challenge for us to build our skills. While we are excited and fully support the new manual, the implementation will largely be up to the individual to be proactive about completing the new award.

The new manual requires as a minimum a written evaluation.

Nevertheless, it is not feasible at this point to do spoken evolutions within the club. Leadership requires being proactive and taking the lead!

Please feel free to contact me with additional questions regarding the new award or how its implementation. You can reach me any of the following ways by email- Philese.Selden@dmxmusic.com or by phone 425.747.6429.

OUR MISSION

WRY is committed to strengthening public speaking and leadership skills of its diverse membership by providing an exciting, supportive and ‘wry’ (humorous) educational environment.

Editors of this newsletter:

Sven Freitag

Philese Seldon

Kathy Woodford

EIGHT REASONS...

WRY officer Kathy Woodward sent out an e-mail to all club members with eight compelling reasons to join the WRY Board—it’s a great opportunity to practice your leadership skills in a very useful way!

For details please contact Bert at one of the next WRY meetings or at bert.huelmann@zebranetworks.net.

OFFICERS

- President**..... Gayle Erickson
- VP Education** Philese C. Selden
- VP Membership** Gregor M. Kneitz, CTM
- VP Public Relations** Sven Freitag
- Secretary** Kathryn Woodford
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- Past President** Bert Hülmann

*) not an official TM Officer role

What you are will show in what you do. — Thomas A. Edison