



# Wry Toastmasters

*of Bellevue, WA*

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Vol. 4 — II/2006

August 3, 2006

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News	1
New members	2-3
Club picnic	3
DCP, Miscellaneous	4

## SAY HELLO...



**Philese Selden**

**H**i, I'm Philese Selden and I am Wry Toastmaster's new President. I am so excited to hold this position and to serve my club! Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement to pursue this role. This year I am super thrilled because we have an awesome Board with a mix of brand new people and some seasoned veterans. So get ready for some fresh ideas and terrific energy.

My hope is to make Wry really fun, and continue to build Wry's passion for excellence. As a team, we plan to focus on members and supporting their goals. We will be using last year's survey as our guide for how to improve. I want us to continue to build on the good fellowship and personal support of each other. And we will be focusing on the Distinguished Club Plan, as this helps our club keep a strong foundation.

Please feel free to contact me any time with questions or if you have ideas for our club. I am here to serve you and the club! Thank you for your support.

[Philese.Selden@dmxmusic.com](mailto:Philese.Selden@dmxmusic.com) or 425-747-6429.

## ...WAVE GOODBYE

**O**ver the past year, I have had the honor of being your president. I think it's been a good year for our club, having achieved the President's Distinguished Club Award which definitely reflects the quality of our work and our members. The Board did a great job keeping the club running smoothly.

We won the Smedley Award for membership. We also created business cards, thanks to Kathy Woodford, who designed them, and Fern Lam and Countryside, who printed them. Kathy and Gregor Kneitz created a welcome letter for new members. Sven Freitag continued to publish an outstanding newsletter. Sven and Philese Selden introduced the new leadership track. Travis Dutchover set the stage for every meeting by his dedication as Sergeant-at-Arms. We conducted the Moments of Truth survey to hear from you about our club. We supported Walter Carlisle in holding joint meetings with a nearby club. Karen Bratten kept our bank accounts in the black. Jim Dickeson managed the website and presented some innovative ideas for its use. And Bert Huelmann kept all of us from getting too far off track!

Thank you to all of my board members for their efforts and good work. Thanks to all of you, Wry toastmasters, for your support during the past year. I look forward to continued involvement as your current Past President and enthusiastic Wry member.



**Gayle Erickson**

## WRY Toastmasters

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

### Meetings:

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

[www.wrytoastmasters.org](http://www.wrytoastmasters.org)

✉ [info@wrytoastmasters.org](mailto:info@wrytoastmasters.org)

## NEW MEMBER — WELCOME TONY LLACUNA!

**M**y first 30 plus years were spent on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. My first experience with snow was in 1996 while visiting my brother in Seattle. “Is that it”? I told my brother. “I have that in the freezer at home.” My brother later showed me how to snowboard, and I have been snowboarding since. In 1999 I had rock fever (living on an island in Hawaii), so I decided to join my brother in Seattle.

The only thing I miss about Hawaii besides friends and family is the year-round golf.



In Hawaii, I had a handicap of 12. Since Seattle is seasonal, my handicap has dropped to 22.

All my life I worked as an accountant; Controller for five years in a retail bookstore in Hawaii, Staff Accountant for a wireless phone company and now the Finance Director for a not-for-profit. The reason I joined Wry Toastmasters is that all the members have positive energy and make you feel comfortable.

## NEW MEMBER — WELCOME KAY UNKROTH!

**M**y friends Bert, Gregor, and Sven convinced me to join Toastmasters. They kept talking about it for years; how much fun it is, how much they enjoy the people in the club, and that I should come to one of the meetings to see for myself.

It sounded interesting—

but fun at seven o'clock in the morning? It was not easy to jump out of bed at six in order to join people practicing public speaking at seven, but I am glad that I eventually managed to do it. Right after the first meeting, I signed up as a new member and I have not been missing many meetings since.



Public speaking is not an everyday part of my job. I am a geek, working as a computer consultant, developer, troubleshooter, project manager, translator, and technical author. I communicate mainly through

e-mail. E-mail is such a convenient media. You can think twice about what you are going to say and you don't have to get nervous in front of an audience no matter how many recipients you have on the To line. Yet, when I saw these speakers during that first meeting, I wanted to

be able to speak as they did; I wanted to learn how to master what they have mastered. It is very inspiring and exciting to be a member of WRY.

Good communication, leadership skills, and self-confidence are certainly useful in any type of situation. Public speaking helps

develop all these skills for my personal and professional life. I am looking forward to exploring new fields, grow personally, and be an active member of WRY. Perhaps one fine day in the future I can inspire and help others to learn and grow, too.

## THE NEW D2 LOGO

**M**oving Forward Together—this is the new District 2 Toastmasters inspirational motto—let's do just that!



## SHARED MEETINGS

**T**hanks to Walter Carlisle, who arranged two shared meetings with another Bellevue Toastmasters club, Golden Bell. It was great fun to see how another successful club is run, and to hear their talented speakers. It would be fun to share meetings again sometime!

## NEW MEMBER — WELCOME GARY SCHWARTZ!

**H**ello fellow toastmasters. I joined Wry after meeting Frank Selden. I live in North Bend and the closest clubs I'm eligible for are in Bellevue. I checked out Eastgate Expounders and was very impressed by Hideo's speech there. He is mentoring that club. He and Frank spoke about Wry and former Wry member Tim Dawes who used to be in my improv troupe briefly.

Now I'm not an early riser by nature, but I thought I'd give it a chance and I'm glad I did. It's a very energetic and positive, goal-oriented club. So I'm on the fast track being in two clubs. My goal is to become a paid public speaker, on the subject of Improv and Play in business settings as training and for cultural change.

I am an actor and still ply that trade as well here in Seattle. I perform in two Improv troupes. One called the Edge (Every first Saturday of the Month) at the Bainbridge Island performing arts center. I founded the Unity Theater in North Bend 3 years ago and have produced over thirty shows there. I have another business

called Intuitive Learning Systems, offering Improv work-shops for professionals in all fields as well as conducting special workshops for business, to enhance communication and creativity in the workplace.



The highlight of my acting career was my performance in the award-winning film, QUEST FOR FIRE. On television in the 80's, I had

co-starring role to Ben Varen on Hallmark Properties' Emmy winning Zoobilee Zoo as the comical Bravo Fox, an Actor/Impresario extraordinaire. I also contributed to the show as a writer as well with many storylines and an episode or two. I've been a guest in two editions of Faerie Tale Theatre; and a writer and series regular on The Disney Channel's You and Me, Kid.

My other 'bread and butter' show biz activities include looping for film and TV. (providing various background voices for the extras who are told not to talk while the stars do their dialogue - if you want to know more about looping I have a website [www.wallawashington.com](http://www.wallawashington.com) ) It was anonymous work, but the most fun of all my acting jobs. I worked on hundreds of TV shows and movies including Star Trek the Next Generation, Deep Space Nine and Voyager.

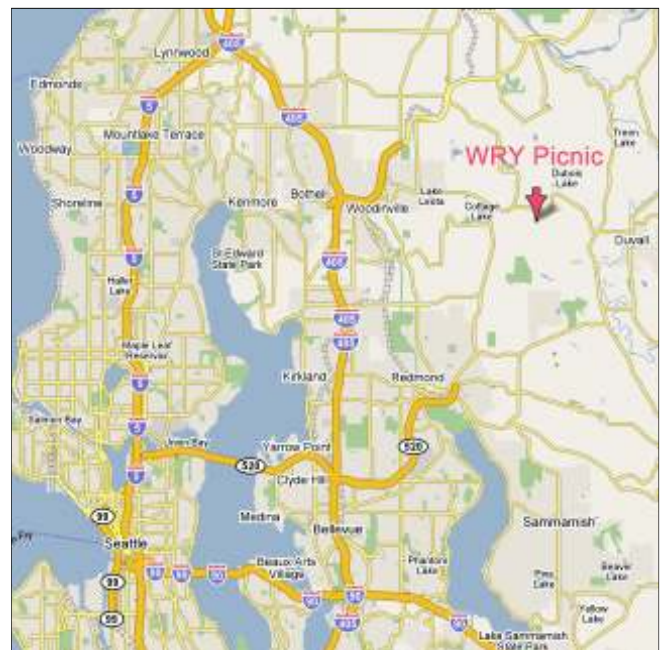
I am very glad to be a member at Wry and be to able to practice my speaking skills in such a dynamic and friendly club.

## SUMMER PICNIC

**P**lease join us at Omar's on Saturday, August 19th at 4 p.m. for a great time at our annual Wry picnic!

**16532 213th Pl. NE  
Woodinville**

Omar's phone: (425) 788-8839



## OOPS, WE DID IT AGAIN...

Just how do we do that? WRY has once again earned the status of **President's Distinguished Club**. This proof of excellence is the result of both your participation, and the leadership activities of our officers. **Congratulations!**

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
(1) CTMs	2	2	*
(2) Additional CTMs	2	2	*
(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	14	*
(9) Officers Trained (both required)			
June-August	4	4	
and December-February	4	6	*
(10) Submitted on time (both required)			
October or April Renewal	1	2	
and Officer List	1	1	*
<b>Total Goals Achieved:</b>			<b>9</b>

## LET THE CONTESTS BEGIN!

The humorous speech should be the first Thursday in Sept, followed by table topics contest the second Thursday. Time to sign up—we need contestants, judges, Sgt.-At-Arms, Timer, etc. etc.—there are many opportunities to participate!

## OUR MEETING LOCATION

We meet every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. on the 9th floor of Skyline Tower (10900 NE 4th Street) in Bellevue.

**Be our Guest!**



## 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.

## OFFICERS

- President.....Philese C. Selden
- VP Education .....Gregor M. Kneitz
- VP Membership ..... Patricia Klingler
- VP Public Relations .....Kathryn Woodford
- Secretary ..... Carrie Rulison
- Treasurer ..... Tony Llacuna
- Sgt.-at-Arms ..... Omar Rivas
- Webmaster ..... Sven Freitag
- Former President ..... Gayle Erickson

*It's always helpful to learn from your mistakes because then your mistakes seem worthwhile. — Garry Marshall*