



Wry Toastmasters

of Bellevue, WA

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Vol. 6 — II/2007

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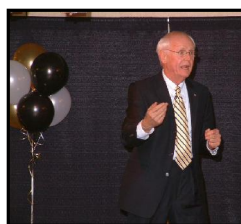
FALL CONFERENCE DRAWS A CROWD

The District 2 Fall Conference was held October 25-26, 2007 at the Coast Hotel Bellevue. With the theme, *Stars on Broadway*, the talents of many Toastmasters were showcased in contest speeches, award presentations, and entertainment highlights. Our own Wryster, Don Luby, represented our club in the Table Topics contest. He didn't walk away with the trophy, but his presence once again put Wry in the spotlight. Other attendees in the spotlight are shown in the photos below.

If you've never been to a conference, make 2008 the year you get more value from your Toastmaster membership. The Spring conference is already scheduled for May 10 at the Shoreline Conference Center. The theme is *Casino Royale*, which is sure to attract a host of participants. Register now to receive the Early Bird discount. For more information, visit the D2 website at this [link](#).



Sherry Tuckett, District 2 Governor, shares an eloquent message.



Bob Oppe of Golden Bell Toastmasters gives the evening's keynote address.



All dressed up with somewhere to go—Wry members Frank Selden and Gregor Kneitz.

WRY Toastmasters

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

Meetings:

Every Thursday morning
7:00—8:15 a.m.

Skyline Tower - 9th Floor
Bellevue, WA 98004

www.wrytoastmasters.org

✉ info@wrytoastmasters.org

WRY MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Every speech spoken, every evaluation given and received, and every role fulfilled adds to Wry's strengths as a prominent club in Division 2. That would not be possible without the individual achievements of each member. These members are acknowledged for their notable accomplishments in the past six months.

Sandra Jones earned the AC Bronze award.

Mike Schwagler, Ravi Sripada completed their Icebreaker speeches.

Hideo Fujita earned the Triple Crown Award for achieving three educational awards in one year, which he accomplished with dual club membership. Hideo earned the CL (Wry) and CC and AC Silver awards (Sammamish Star Performers).

Congratulations to each of you for your outstanding performance.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

TERENCE TAYLOR

I have been in the banking industry for 20 years, with over 15 of those years in mortgage banking. I grew up in the greater Seattle area and graduated from Garfield high school. My college studies were at the University of Washington. I have three sons Ace, Chris, and Ki-von, my youngest. My favorite activities are traveling, working-out, and playing racquet-ball.



I have been a member of Wry since February 2007. I am pleased that I made the decision to join. My initial meeting at Wry was at the invitation of friends, Fern Lam and Khue

Dang. Table Topics came up, and they coaxed me into going up front to participate in what I thought was a humiliating experience. My attempt at doing an impromptu speech was littered with Ums and Ahs and dings from the Ah counter. I thought, "I'm not going to do this again."

About nine months later, I was at a crossroads in my career life. I made a list of unaccomplished goals, one of which was to be more comfortable speaking to large audiences. If that was a goal, then I figured I had better get good at it. I returned to Wry with an intention of becoming a great speaker.

At my membership induction, Philese Selden (then-President) asked what my goals were as a member. I responded, "To make myself vulnerable." I knew the success of speaking had something to do with the willingness to make mistakes and then be critiqued rather than judged. Of course, initially, I saw it as being judged.

My time came to speak and I found myself intimidated and looking for ways to avoid making that first speech. Work was really busy. Great. I had several trips planned, until finally I realized, "The only way to do this is to deal with it." I gave my Ice Breaker speech. "Wow, not as painful as I thought."

After watching Hideo's (Fujita) poise in front of the audience I spoke with him about being my mentor and he agreed. I feel that his involvement has motivated me in becoming a more active participant focused on my goals of completing the *Competent Communicator* manual. I am well on my way, ready to tackle my 10th speech, and more inspired than ever. My Toastmaster's experience has been great and I look more and more forward to my chances to give a speech. I truly appreciate the audience of members at Wry.

PS: It's a really fun 7:00 AM engagement.

ROBIN RITTER

My name is Robin Ritter. I just turned 50 in August, and am proud of it!

I married my soul mate and love of my life, Darwin Ritter. We have been married 3 years now, together 7.

I have 2 grown children, Jessica, 28 and Michelle, 25. Jessica is married and has a little boy, Gavin, age 7. We absolutely adore this little guy!! As often as possible, he spends every other weekend entertaining Granny and Poppy. Michelle is married and just had her first baby, a little boy, Elias, in November. She is very overwhelmed and sleep deprived, and I have been trying to be as helpful as possible during this stressful transition to motherhood.

I am the sole-proprietor of my housecleaning business named "Maid For You". I have been cleaning clients' homes for the last 12 years. This last year I have become intrigued with the world of Metaphysics. I have taken quite a few classes and am exploring my spiritual path and intuition.

I have joined Toastmasters to face my debilitating fear of public speaking.



MIKE SCHWAGLER

Mike and his family moved to the Northwest 22 years ago from Buffalo, NY, where snowfall averages eight feet per year. What started out as an adventure to the exotic and snow-free Emerald City quickly became an addiction to year-round green. It was more than the physical surroundings, though. The Schwagler family found the openness and the forward-thinking culture to be refreshing. It would become the perfect place to pursue their dreams.



Back in Buffalo, Mike would stay up past midnight on Saturdays listening to a national radio show called Jazz After Hours. It was just about the only place he could hear this sort of music and it came from what seemed to be the most unlikely city possible, Seattle. As it turns out, Seattle

has one of the most vibrant jazz communities on the planet. Mike's love of jazz – another addiction - would make it difficult to live anywhere else.

Mike will tell you he works in the contribution game, being of service to people in his many years of selling residential real estate, most recently as an agent for John L. Scott. He is also the founder of Write for Sales Copywriting, a brand new company that is primarily focused on helping entrepreneurs and successful small business owners propel their businesses to the next level.

Mike and his wife, Diane, have been married 33 years and have two grown sons. Michael J. (not a junior), has recently married and works as a golf professional in Scottsdale, AZ. Matthew is a budding film-maker and producer, specializing in ski-industry movies. He lives in Redmond. Both sons have followed their dreams.

Toastmasters has become Mike's most recent challenge and delight. The welcoming atmosphere and wonderful support of every member of Wry has made this an amazing experience thus far.

LESSONS IN A MAGAZINE

All qualified members of Toastmasters International receive the monthly *Toastmaster* magazine, filled with valuable tips and educational. The December 2007 issue reached our mailboxes within the past two weeks. Here is a sample of lessons to be learned from past issues.

Impress Them from the Start (July 2007) – First impressions do matter. Conveying a confident attitude with a warm smile is an ideal way to immediately present yourself to an audience. Then, with a powerful voice, state your first sentence with words that stir the audience's interest, inspiring them to hear the rest of your message.

Body Language Myths (September 2007) – There are several myths about body language that could lead an audience to misinterpret a speaker's intent. Rather than worry about and focus on the appropriateness of your gestures and eye contact, just be yourself. Gwenn Marie, an executive presentations skills coach suggests that, "It's far more important to align the

message and the body language with the natural and authentic being of the presenter."

Secrets from the Pros (October 2007) offers 10 tips for a terrific talk. Two of the tips are 1) Never apologize to an audience—it changes their perception of you, and 2). Believe it or don't say it—an audience can tell if you are not telling the truth.



What do you do with your issue of *Toastmaster* magazine when it arrives at your home? If you're not reading it cover to cover, you're missing out on a wealth of valuable public speaking strategies and advice. Even the Letters to the Editor have sound pieces of information that can help improve your skill level.

Do you have duplicate copies or issues you no longer want? Bring them to a meeting, and they will be displayed for new and prospective members to review. Any Board officer will gladly accept them on your behalf.

BRING OUT YOUR INNER LEADER

Whenever you have an assigned role at a club meeting, bring your Competent Leader (CL) manual and receive credit towards a project that will get you closer to earning your CL award. While there are a total of 44 possible project activities, you only need to complete 22 activities within the 10 projects. Almost any role you have (exceptions are Greeter, PIQEX and Written Evaluator) will enable you to receive CL credit.

What's the benefit of completing the CL manual?

Our weekly meetings are a collaborative responsibility, with the Toastmaster at the lead. All support roles are vital to an effectively-facilitated meeting. When you fill a role, you are demonstrating your willingness to help lead the meeting. As you work through the CL manual, you will become more aware of the skills required of each role, and will contribute to the growth of your fellow members. Plus, Wry earns credit towards the Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) for each CL earned.

How do I earn project credits?

When you arrive at the weekly meetings, find a fellow member who is available to give you feedback as they observe you filling your role. Hand them your manual and let them know which project you are working on. Suggest that they read the feedback questions in advance in case they have any questions for you. Then return the favor when they ask you to do the same. Leadership is a shared effort.

Is that all?

You also receive credit for other activities, like helping to organize a club contest, mentoring a member, and helping to produce our newsletter. The CL manual gives you lots of opportunities to develop and practice your leadership capabilities.

Where do I get a manual?

You can easily order one from Toastmasters International. Click on this [link](#) and order online. Cost is \$6.00.



TIME TO PARTY!

It's that time of year when Wry members come together in the spirit of holiday fun for our annual winter party. Here are the details.

Date: Saturday, January 12, 2008

Where: Home of Patricia & Jon Klingler; Bellevue (directions to come)

Time: 4:30 p.m.

What to Bring: BYOB and potluck accompaniments. A honey-baked ham and nonalcoholic beverages will be provided. An RSVP/signup list will be circulated in early January.

For Fun: Also bring a wrapped gift for the White Elephant exchange. Feel free to bring that special gift you received that just doesn't quite fit it with your home's décor or your wardrobe of choice. You're sure to find someone willing (or forced) to take it home.



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