



Wry Toastmasters

of Bellevue, WA

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Vol. 6 — II/2008

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ALL ABOARD!

A slate of officers, pictured at right, was recently elected as Wry's Board for 2008-2009. New officers are: Patricia Klingler, President, Kathy Woodford, VP, Education (not pictured), Deborah Wakefield, VP, Membership, Terence Taylor, VP, Public Relations, Tony Llacuna, Treasurer, and Robin Ritter, Sergeant-at-Arms. Remaining on the Board as Past President is Omar Rivas. While not a Board position, Colleen Keranen accepted the duties of Webmaster.

Congratulations to everyone.



Back: S. Rivas, Llacuna, Klingler, Ritter, O. Rivas. Front: Wakefield, Taylor

WRY SHINES AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Almost as if an echo was resounding in the room, the name of Wry was repeatedly heard at the District 2 Conference on May 10. From the Parade of Banners on through to the award ceremonies, Wry was a word of the day.

Members who attended included Susanne Baessler, Sven Freitag, Hideo Fujita, Jeff Highley, Patricia Klingler, Gregor Kneitz, Omar Rivas, Deborah Wakefield, and Kathy Woodford. Former members Stephanie Ko and Travis Dutchover rounded out the glow of familiar faces.

Morning workshops taught attentive audiences how to properly speak into a microphone, deliver an evaluation with substance, use props without overwhelming a speech, and effectively memorize a speech. Audiences also learned how to take care of their voices with breathing techniques and resonance, discovered their personal strengths and how best to use them, and practiced writing a poem and competing in a poetry slam.

An awards ceremony was held during lunch, and Wry took to the stage for its fair share. Susanne Baessler, VP of Membership, accepted the 10 for 10 award for Wry being one of several clubs to enroll ten new members in ten months.

Hideo Fujita and Patricia Klingler were each awarded a Competent Leadership pin for completing either the old or new requirements, and a Triple Crown Award pin for achieving three levels of education or leadership in one year.



Gregor Kneitz was acknowledged for the outstanding work he has accomplished with his clubs as Area 66 Governor. See the full story about this honorable achievement on page 4.

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 - Suite 904
Bellevue, WA 98004

www.wrytoastmasters.org

✉ info@wrytoastmasters.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

ANGELLA JOHNSON

My name is Angella Johnson. I was born in Reno, NV and raised in the Seattle Area. I graduated from Nathan Hale high school. I have one daughter Lynniah 15, and one son Keenan 13. I have been married to my husband Jeff for four years, together for 12 years.

I love to cook and entertain family and friends. Most of all I like to create and experiment with new recipes. Two years ago we built my dream house, which includes two living rooms and a huge kitchen, just for me. The main living room is for our adult guests. The other one is for the kids to play games and watch television.

I have been in the insurance industry for almost 20 years, with 14 years experience on the wholesale side. In insurance, you are constantly learning new things and you can never know it all. I guess that's what I like most about the insurance industry.

The reason I joined Toastmasters is to become more comfortable with speaking to large groups while practicing my negotiation and sales skills.

I was introduced to Toastmaster by a prior supervisor. However, I did not seek a membership at that time. Then one day, I saw an Open House flyer for Wry Toastmasters in the office building where I work. I took this as a sign and immediately attended the Open House. Everyone was so polite and encouraging. My first experience was great, so I decided to place my membership. I look forward to my personal growth as well as being a part of the growth of other members at Wry.



DEBORAH WAKEFIELD



I was 4th generation in my family to be born and raised in San Francisco. I moved to Seattle 10 years ago. The Seattle area called to me and I love it here. I was single at the time and didn't know anyone and knew this is where I wanted to be; I have never looked back. I met my husband Reid here and we just celebrated our 6th wedding anniversary. We live in Kirkland with our great dog Dexter, a golden retriever that we named after Dexter Gordon because of our love for jazz. I love to listen to jazz, to dance, and enjoy good food and wine, reading, and hiking.

I was a technical recruiter for most of my business career. I changed careers about six years ago. I am a business owner and financial services professional. The focus of my practice is on protecting my clients' financial foundations with Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Disability Insurance and Health Insurance. I also work with people in building for retirement and retirement distribution.

JEFF HIGHLEY

I originally joined Wry back in 2001. I heard of the club from Hideo Fujita, who was a fellow member of the club, HDR Toastmasters (now Heart of Bellevue). Like Hideo, I was looking for a club that would be a challenge, and I was not disappointed. The "ah" bell can be intimidating at first, but I find it very useful in controlling my use of filler language. Wry is the home club of champions and I learn something new at every meeting I attend.

I am a Professional Civil Engineer and had an opportunity to work on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend TM meetings, as I was on-site in Gig Harbor. Then, I left for the other Washington (District of Columbia), where I served as a Congressional Fellow in the Office of Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas working on Homeland Security issues.

Now that I'm back in Seattle, I am happy to be back with Wry.



DCP SUCCESS FOR 2007-2008

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
[1] CCs	2	2	**
[2] Additional CCs	2	2	**
[3] ACs	1	1	*
[4] Additional ACs	1	1	*
[5] CL, AL, or DTM	1	1	*
[6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	2	*
[7] New Members	4	4	*
[8] Additional New Members	4	7	*
[9] Officers Trained (both required)			
June-August	4	4	
and December-February	4	1	
[10] Submitted on time (both required)			
October or April Renewal	1	2	
and Officer List	1	1	*
			9

Pending submission of all records, Wry will earn President's Distinguished Club status for 2007-2008.

** - pending submission

MORE THAN A SHOW OF RIBBONS

One of the proudest moments you'll experience as a member of Wry at a District 2 Conference is during the Parade of Banners. A member from every club in the District carries their club's banner in a procession, culminating in a vast wall display. Wry consistently has a banner that streams with an abundance of award ribbons, evidence of all the effort that has gone into making our club among the best in the District. From our beginning back in 1981, to as recently as this month, the members of our club have reached educational and leadership achievements deserving of recognition. Listed below are the 53 ribbons currently on the Wry banner, representing collaboration, dedication, friendship, and loyalty.

Ribbon Name	Year Earned
8 for 80 – Speak from the Heart	2004-2005
20 th Anniversary	2001
Anniversary Month Award	1981, 1983, 1986, 1988
Anniversary Month - Top Club	1983
Distinguished Club – 40 or More Members	1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998
Founders Award	Unknown
Get Into Action	1983 (2x), 1985, 1987, 1988
Get Into Action – Top Club	1983
Governor's 30 Club – 6x	Unknown
Governor's 40 Club – 5x	Unknown
Home Club of the District Governor – 2x	Unknown
President's 40 Club	1982, 1983 (2x), 1984, 1985
President's Distinguished Club	1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007
Select Distinguished Club– 40 or More Members	1991-1992, 1992-1993, 2001-2002
Smedley Award – 5 New Members	Sept–Oct 1993, Aug–Sept 2003, Aug-Sept 2005
World Headquarters Visitor	Unknown

A PERSONAL OBSERVATION—BY GAYLE ERICKSON, ACS

Every three months, a petite young woman named Maria messes with my hair. She looks about 22 years old, but it is hard for me to tell since every passing year takes me further away from that fresh generation. As a hair stylist, Maria makes me look and feel better about my own natural aging process, *i.e.* graying hair!

Several months ago I told Maria about the speech I had given at Wry about my gray hair and my desire to age naturally. She told me in return that she had given hundreds of speeches. *Hundreds* of speeches? My mind went to the place where it keeps stereotypes and I thought, "She's too young to have given hundreds of speeches." And, "She cuts hair—she's not a public speaker."

Maria went on to tell me she had been dancing since she was a little girl and was currently a member of a Mexican dance troupe. She further explained that before every performance while growing up, she stood before the audience and introduced the dances. I can picture her as a sweet and sassy five-year-old commanding the crowd's attention and applause.

I left the salon looking and feeling renewed and thinking about Maria's "speeches." Maria might not have been standing behind a lectern, she might not have spoken with an introduction, body, and conclusion, but she took the floor and all eyes were on her. She spoke and people listened.

Why do I continue to get up at 5:30 every Thursday morning to attend our Toastmaster meetings? My initial goal of becoming a professional speaker remains distant. Finding a relevant manual to complete is challenging. When I think about Maria, however, I realize that public speaking is not just about being behind a lectern.

Being a member of Wry has changed me. I no longer blush when I speak at a staff meeting. I no longer keep quiet when someone has a louder voice and opinions different than mine. I no longer am afraid to advocate for myself in demanding situations.

As members of Toastmasters, we have an opportunity to become better public speakers—however we define it.

KUDOS FOR KNEITZ

Amidst thunderous applause, Gregor Kneitz was graciously honored with Toastmaster's Outstanding Member award, bestowed upon him by District 2 Leadership at the Spring Conference on May 10.



Gregor received the award for his work as Area 66 Governor, especially for chartering a new club and working with the Employee Development Group (EDG) at Microsoft to establish a relationship between MS and TMI. This led to the EDG team sponsoring the upcoming June 28 TLI at Microsoft and covering the costs from their budget. In addition, they now sponsor the chartering of new clubs and Area / Division events in Microsoft venues. Gregor also helped organize a meeting with Tevis Thompson, the International Director of Toastmasters Region 1, and Microsoft Human Resources during Thompson's recent visit to Seattle.



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.

Our work is based primarily on the principles of learning by doing and improving through practice and criticism—principles in which I strongly believe...Added to these basic concepts is my conviction that the power to communicate is one of man's greatest endowments."

- Ralph Smedley, Founder, Toastmasters International

WRY OFFICERS

- President**..... Omar Rivas
- VP Education** Philese Selden
- VP Membership** Susanne Baessler
- VP Public Relations** Patricia Klingler
- Secretary** Sandy Rivas
- Treasurer** Tony Llacuna
- Sgt.-at-Arms** Vacant
- Webmaster** Ravi Sripada
- Past President** Philese Selden