



DISTRICT 26 DIALOGUE

Region 1 __ Serving Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska

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The District 26 Dialogue is published monthly to keep the members informed about events in the district and to present educational and motivational material to help in the maintenance of clubs and the service to our members. Unsolicited articles are encouraged. Submissions should be newsworthy, informative, thought-provoking and of district-wide appeal. Include web links if available. For more details go to <http://d26Toastmasters.org/WP/news-events/district-26-dialogue/>.

[Find a club](#)

A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF COMPETENT

Gary Eisenbraun, Homesteaders Toastmasters

Eldon Halingstad Completes CC Manual for 19th Time

Eldon Halingstad, ATMG, CL, a charter member of the Homesteaders Toastmasters club, has recently completed the Competent Communicator manual for the nineteenth time. Eldon strongly believes that the Competent Communicator manual is the best overall manual for honing and maintaining general speaking and presentation competencies.

Eldon joined Toastmasters as a charter member of the Homesteaders club in October 1988, and has not slowed down since. Eldon could be given the title of "Mr. Toastmaster," as he is genuinely concerned about the success of Toastmasters and the Homesteaders club and can be counted on to be at every meeting possible. He is a past President and past Vice President of Education of Homesteaders, and regularly attends District events and training.

Eldon grew up on a ranch in northern Montana and is a graduate of Concordia College and of the University of Pittsburgh. He has worked in various capacities and locations within the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and retired about ten years ago from the Denver HUD office.

In his spare time Eldon is a professional storyteller and shares his stories to the enjoyment of the Homesteaders club. His many skills, eagerness to serve as needed,



straightforwardness, and dependability make him an invaluable Toastmasters member.

Eldon's speeches center mostly on his Norwegian heritage and background and include Norse mythology and stories about his ancestry. He often speaks of the benefits of Toastmasters and how one can get the most out of the Toastmaster experience.

He continues to be an inspiration to other club members, as he is always trying to improve his already outstanding, speaking and presentation skills. He is always eager to lend a hand and provides sage advice when needed.

Congratulations, Eldon! Keep up the good work, and keep inspiring the rest of us!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	April 2013						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>APR 4 — Red Cross High tech college</p> <p>APR 10 — April dues renewals due to TI</p> <p>APR 13 — Southern Division Spring Contest</p> <p>APR 20 — Eastern Division Spring Contest</p> <p>APR 20 — Foothills Division Spring Contest</p> <p>APR 27 — Northern Division Spring Contest</p> <p>APR 30 — Area Governor second round visits should be completed (reports due 5/31)</p> <p>See the district calendar for Area Contests and more details</p>		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				

NEWS & NOTES

Words Take Flight with Teambuilding



Words Take Flight (WTF) Toastmasters Club has a unique perspective on learning and engaging their current members. In February 2013, WTF had a teambuilding meeting which was a formal Toastmasters meeting, but everyone had the opportunity to speak and be engaged in various groups. A guest

Celebrating 10 years

or
more in April

- Fort Collins Toastmasters #375-67
- Titan Club #2368-56
- Pioneer Toastmasters #2932-54
- Dawn Yawn #3218-48
- Boulder Early Riser #3022-43
- Thrill Speakers Toastmasters #871-42
- South Suburban Toastmasters #1399-37
- Sunrise Toastmasters #619-34
- FACCMasters Toastmasters #5086-30
- Currently Speaking Toastmasters #5481-29
- Rocky Mountain Eagles Toastmasters #2396-25
- UCCS Toastmasters #4829-25
- HP Rise 'n Shine #8695-21
- Out To Lunch Bunch #8676-21
- Ayres Associates Toastmasters #8533-12

Please see the [D26 website](#) for a complete list.

who attended also got involved in the activities! Everyone played the icebreaker game, "Two Truths and One Lie." Participants were also involved with a storytelling Table Topics activity and the groups played a game of charades with the club.

This club is an environment where individuals can learn, grow, and build confidence in a comfortable manner. Members are always encouraged to get out of their comfort zone and have succeeded in doing so. Words Take Flight Toastmasters Club meets every Friday at 8:30 a.m. If you want to jumpstart your Friday morning – visit WTF Toastmasters Club! You're always welcome here.

Stephanie Boegli, CC
VP Public Relations
Words Take Flight #1827090
sboegli@aafcu.com

TRAVEL BEYOND ... VISIT 3 OTHER CLUBS

Linda Rhea, DTM Lt. Governor Marketing



Do you ever wonder what other clubs do? Are they just like your club? Do they have a brilliant evaluator who makes a new speaker feel successful? Do they have fun changing up the Table Topics question? Do they count ahs or click them? Do they do Round Robin Evaluations? Are there written evaluations from everyone? Do they have a meeting theme? How do they schedule speakers and meeting roles? Are they using Facebook with success to attract members? How do they get new members? What do they do when a speaker has to cancel last minute? What other ideas do they have?

Visiting other clubs is a wonderful way to get

new ideas and add spice to your meeting. You will also earn a gift for yourself. Simply **VISIT 3 CLUBS** and find them doing something you think is a great idea.. Send the 3 ideas you gathered along with the names of the clubs to LGM1213@d26leaders.org. You can visit more than 3 clubs if you love getting new ideas. There will be a grand prize for the person who visits the most clubs. All the ideas will be shared in the District Dialogue in an upcoming issue. Send your report by May 10, 2013. And congratulate Rich Hopkins and Joan Janis. They have already visited 5 and 4 clubs respectively!. Happy visiting.

FACCMASTERS CELEBRATE THIRTIETH

Sharon Butts

In early 1983 you could have been listening to the #1 Grammy song "Always on My Mind", watching Michael Jackson perform the "Moonwalk" for the first time, or preparing to go to the inaugural meeting of Toastmasters Club 5086. Employees from Ford AeroSpace and Communications Corporation chartered FACCMasters in April of 1983. While there have been changes over the years, such as changing what FACC stood for to "Fun Advancing Communications in Colorado", the club has been thriving for 30 years. FACCMasters is open to all individuals and we have prided ourselves on the varied and diverse membership, including some founding members that continue to be a bedrock of the club.

We would like to invite everyone, especially past FACCMasters members, to come celebrate with us in a special meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2013. There will be a



program from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, but come a little early to say hello and stay after to eat cake and socialize with current and past members. We meet at Fire Station 19 which is at 2490 Research Parkway, Colorado

Springs CO 80920. Stay updated on the event at www.faccmasters.toastmastersclubs.org. We hope to see you there!

Sooner or later we all discover that the important moments in life are not the advertised ones, not the birthdays, the graduations, the weddings, not the great goals achieved. The real milestones are less prepossessing. They come to the door of memory.

~ Susan Brownell Anthony

GET WHAT YOU WANT ON THE INTERNET

Maura Thompson, CC, VP Public Relations, Simply Speaking

The Internet, formerly known as the World Wide Web, has over 14 billion pages on it. When preparing for a speech or presentation, how do YOU find WHAT you are looking for?

Trying using a search engine. There are dozens of them around the world. Americans alone conducted a staggering 20.3 billion searches a month, mostly using these five search engines:

Google
Bing
Yahoo
Ask
AOL

There is a big dog in the Search Engine battle – Google. It handles an astonishing 83.29% of US searches. The #2 search engine Bing, has only 8.2% of searches.

Google is such a popular search engine it has even become a proprietary eponym.

A proprietary eponym is a product whose name has become a descriptive word for all same type products. Some examples of proprietary eponyms are Kleenex/Tissue; Jell-o/Gelatin; Band Aid/Bandages.

Google has even surpassed being a proprietary eponym. Because of its worldwide 900 million visits a month, Google is now a verb. Don't believe me? "Google" it.

Some of us use search engines every day but how do they work?

Spiders.

Programs called spiders go out to "read" websites. Not literally, there is no cognitive reasoning. They read the code (language website are built with) and the copy looking for word frequency.

Indexing.

The information about web pages is brought back for later use in queries.

Storing.

All this information is compressed and stored.

How do search engines determine what results to send you?

Best match.

When you enter your query, based on multiple factors, the search engines show you the "best match" for your search. A few of the factors are:

- Relevance — Based on frequency of query words
- Popularity — How many visitors to website
- Currentness - Website should be recent or been updated regularly
- Originality - Search engines look for unique content, not plagiarized material

Here are some simple tips to get the BEST out of your Search engine queries.

Use complete query —The more specific your search words are, the more specific your results will be.

Don't rely only on the map — The map results are not an accurate report of matches to your search. Look through the listings too.

Beware of ads — The "results" on the right column and in the shaded area on top are ads. Companies pay to be there, so even though they are prominent, they may not be the best match.

Look beyond first result — Just because it is the first result does not mean it is the best result. Scan through a few websites to ensure you have the best match to your query.

Next time you are researching anything on the Internet, keep this information in mind while searching so you can get the best results the Internet has to offer.

OPEN HOUSE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SEASON IS HERE.

Linda Rhea, DTM Lt. Governor Marketing

Have you seen all the OPEN HOUSE signs in front yards around your community? This is a good sign that it 'tis the season to invite guests to your club meetings and be prepared to sign them up as members. The more new members you sign up in April and May the more participants you have for the summer months. They also add great new speeches to your agenda.

District 26 will reimburse your club \$15 for any Open House you hold in April. Hold the Open House from May 1 to May 15 and we will reimburse \$10.

To qualify please send the following to LGM1213@D26Toastmasters.org:

1. Date and time of the Open House you **HELD**
2. Copy of any flyer and/or email you prepared & sent for publicity.

3. List of Attendees
4. List of new members generated(Open house qualifies even if the guests choose not to join at this time.)

Use the reimbursement to defray the cost of Visitor packets that can include:

Past issues of Toastmaster magazine
Benefits of belonging to your club
Welcoming letter of explanation of how your club operates
Sample agenda
Brochures from Toastmasters. Beautiful brochures from the Toastmasters are available free or by download. Check out Toastmasters.org/membershipbuilding and [Toastmasters.org Brand Portal](http://Toastmasters.org/BrandPortal) and Online Store.

Bring a sample of your Visitor Packet to the Spring Conference and we will display it on

the membership/marketing table. Be sure the packet is clearly marked so we can give you credit and return it to you at conference end. Happy Open House!



COLUMBINE BUSINESS STUDENTS SPEAK UP AND BLOOM

M. Sharon Frickey



When we walked into the office at Columbine High School at 7:00 on a Monday in late October 2012 to get our photo ID's and directions to Bryan Halsey's business class, we could not have imagined what the next six months would bring. We had responded to a call from Tom Hobbs, Lt. Governor Training and Education, for someone to coordinate a Toastmasters Youth Leadership group for Mr. Halsey's class. After this initial meeting with Tom and Bryan, Norm and I were hooked.

We set up a schedule with two sessions a month. The class met at 7:30-9:00 am. With officers elected and an introduction to the Youth Leadership workbook, the students were on their way to the program goals. Icebreakers were all the things that icebreakers are for anyone. Twenty-two students (the entire class) opened up and spoke about themselves in an authentic, open and sincere manner, sharing stories that their classmates had never heard. We were touched and inspired. At the end of the semester we were asked to return for

the spring semester and continue through the workbook.

On March 14, 2013, we sat in Columbine's auditorium and listened to the students give their final speech using the microphone. They rocked as they shared their authentic stories. They overcame stage fright, and some needed to start over, but they persevered and learned that sometimes just showing up and doing the best that you can is what success is all about.

In the Columbine office on the last day of the program, we noticed a flyer with lanyards beside it on the counter. The lanyards had "Columbine Living United Columbine www.combinecolumbine.org," lettered in white around it. Hanging on a ring was a tag. On one side it said, "Our mission is to prevent suicide by reaching out to people who are feeling isolated," and on the other side it had "Warning signs:-- Problems in school or work performance -- Loss of interest in activities, work, or school, hobbies, or social interactions -- Significant changes in behavior and or personality

1-800-273-TALK."

That seemed a great way to get their message out. This is how Frankie Acosta, a senior at Columbine, described the business class students' mission: "Combine Columbine is a company that fights isolation and prevents suicide. We are trying to market our company by handing out flyers around the school and selling lanyards with resources on the tag. We succeeded on expanding our company by targeting it to other high schools and bringing awareness to the issue. The goal of Combine Columbine is not only to sell our product but also more importantly, it's to get our word and message out."

A note from Bryan Halsey: "I would also add to our company's goals that we are reaching out to schools and organizations to create customized lanyards that will help to get our message out to other communities outside of Columbine High School. Please check out our website at www.combinecolumbine.org for more information."



There is still no cure for the common birthday.

~ John Glenn, announcing his retirement at age 75.

Eighty percent of all surprises are unpleasant. This includes bills, estimates, unkept promises, firings, birthday parties, and pregnancies.

~ William Marsteller

You know it's going to be a bad day when your twin brother forgot your birthday.

~ unknown

FROM TATTERED TO TITAN

John Gies DTM, Titan Toastmasters

In 2002 Titan Toastmasters, a Toastmasters club of 45 years, took a vote on the possibility of merging or disbanding. The president of the club had just been to a Toastmaster Leadership Institute (TLI) and had learned of the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). He argued stridently for the opportunity to work the DCP, and see what happened. He thought it would turn the club around.

The DCP is the scorecard by which all clubs are measured. It examines the clubs efforts in

- Membership growth
- Member Achievement
- Administration
- Leadership

The club did not make the DCP that year but has been Distinguished, either Select or

President, every year since. How did they do it?

Lessons learned:

- Toastmasters International knows what they are doing. They provide a pretty good roadmap in the DCP.
- Every organization needs a sparkplug or cheerleader.
- Management and Structure help guide you towards the goal.
- Rituals matter.

The DCP program addresses the needs of members for challenge, growth and camaraderie. By keeping membership growth and education foremost, clubs meet the needs of members and as long as their needs are met they stay members.

As the presiding officer it is your job to lead the cheer. Keep the club connected to the

goal and to the larger organization. What did you learn at TLI, about Toastmasters or about how to be a better evaluator?

We continue to keep a progress chart on where people are in relation to their goals and we manage the schedule to get them to their goals.

Every time a Toastmaster delivers an Ice Breaker, the Presiding Officer calls them up at the end of the meeting and presents them a Toastmaster Pin. We say something like, "Now you are a real Toastmaster, a Titan."

By following the DCP program and managing your progress, struggling clubs can move from Tattered to Titan.

PS according to the Dictionary, Titans were the giants that ruled the world before the gods of Olympus.

ACCIDENTALLY, ON PURPOSE

Jilly Salva, ATM-B, CL, VP Public Relations, Boulder Early Risers #3022

Some of my most energizing and inspiring Toastmaster meetings have come together spontaneously. It is always important to show up and fulfill your role on the agenda. But, like most things in this world, life happens and schedule adjustments happen.

Several days before a recent meeting, many of our club members had unexpected events arise. The result was a rather anemic looking agenda. After brief discussion about possibly canceling the meeting, our Toastmaster reassured us that the meeting would go on and whoever showed up would fill the various roles.

Ever the flawless professional, on the day of the meeting, she quickly filled each role with those of us who were able to attend. Not only did our Toastmaster kickoff the meeting on time, she also delivered an entertaining impromptu speech about how she became an "accidental vegan".

This set the tone for a robust meeting. We all enjoyed learning from each other about accidental careers, accidental meetings of future spouses, accidental hobbies and more! We even had a club visitor who was so enthused she joined our club.

If we canceled the meeting due to "possible low attendance", learning opportunities would have been lost and our newest club member surely would not have had a positive impression of Toastmasters.

What I learned from this meeting is paramount for all Toastmasters. Showing up is as important as setting goals. We may have had an "accidental meeting" but it went off without a hitch. Purposely holding our intention to grow and improve our communication and leadership skills made things happen, and that's how we had an energizing and inspiring meeting; accidentally on purpose.



Pass it on!

Let the rest of your club know the April Dialogue is available.

MEET YOUR DISTRICT 26 SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Joyce Feustel, DTM Social Media Chair, 2012-2013

The District 26 Social Media Team was created to serve Toastmasters clubs and members in District 26 and to help promote district activities. The team consists of:

- Genisi Pennie, District 26 Toastmasters Facebook Page Coordinator
- Michelle Sikorski, District 26 Toastmasters LinkedIn Group Manager effective May 1.
- Paul Migliorelli, who refers to himself as the District 26 Toastmasters resident "twit," aka the Twitter point person
- Joyce Feustel, District 26 Social Media Chair and LinkedIn Group Manager through April 30.

Reach the entire social media team at socialmediateam@d26leaders.org

Genisi Pennie

A member of Front Range Toastmasters and a Toastmaster since 2004, Genisi has served as the District 26 Public Relations Officer, Denver Division Governor, area governor in



the Denver Division and a club officer. Genisi likes the fact that Facebook has allowed people and organizations to have a

direct connection with each other and share anything and everything they enjoy in their lives. It's an interactive year book for the entire world! Reach her at facebook1213@d26leaders.org or message her via the District 26 Facebook page at www.facebook.com/district26toastmasters/ If you haven't already liked our Facebook



page, please do so.

Michelle Sikorski

Michelle joined Toastmasters in November of 2012 and is a member of Colorado Orators League Toastmasters in Colorado Springs. She is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial.



Michelle loves the fact that LinkedIn allows you to build a network of professionals around yourself. Having a network of professionals opens doors for jobs and business opportunities. You can make friends but more importantly you can learn about companies and read or write articles about your specialties or industry.

Reach her at linkedin1213@d26leaders.org.



Find our District 26 LinkedIn group at

Paul Migliorelli

Paul is a member of See You Speak Toastmasters in Boulder. He originally joined Toastmasters in 2000 and was a member until 2003, then rejoined in 2010. He likes Twitter for its directness and conciseness. Paul works in research and development regarding cochlear implant hearing strategies.

Reach him at [twitter1213@d26leaders.org](https://twitter.com/twitter1213@d26leaders.org)



Follow District 26 on Twitter at

Joyce Feustel



Joyce has been a member of Toastmasters since 1997. She is a member of Timberline, Evening Stars and Excelsior Toastmasters clubs. Recently retired from her position as enrollment advisor at the College for Financial Planning, Joyce is the founder of Boomers' Social Media Tutor.

Through LinkedIn she has been able to share her expertise, learn from others, and develop meaningful connections with people from all over the world. Facebook provides her a great way to stay in touch with folks she already knows, and Twitter is a terrific place to find helpful blogs and websites.

Reach her at socialmediachair1213@d26leaders.org

SEAMASTERS CLUB COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Karen Cade VP Public Relations, Seamasters Club #7818

Seamasters Club 7818 took part in a community outreach event held on February 19th and 20th. Juliette Forbes, an instructor for the Silver Creek Leadership Academy at Silver Creek High School, Longmont, Colorado, invited various community representatives, including several members of Seamasters, to evaluate the students "elevator" speech and to help the students develop their public speaking skills.

The two-day event involved more than 50 students, who were divided into smaller groups of four to six students. The small group of students would team up with one or two community leaders at a table. Each student took turns giving his or her "elevator"

speech. The elevator speech equates to what Toastmasters know as the "Icebreaker" speech. After the student's elevator speeches were complete, Seamasters provided table topic themes for each student to speak on one at a time. This was an opportunity to challenge impromptu speaking skills of each student. The first round was a little nerve-racking for the students. However, once they worked through their first experience, they were very eager to attempt round two. Each student's speaking skills improved with each exercise! One student struggled with his speech during the first round, but when asked to stand up in front of a larger group, he absolutely NAILED his second speech!

Speech evaluations were given to each student using the Toastmasters "sandwich" method of critique, which includes positive feedback, area for improvement, and motivational encouragement. The experience was fun, exciting, and rewarding to both student and evaluator. The students were very appreciative of the time given by each community leader and were very enthusiastic about the event!

It was a pleasure for Seamasters to take part in such an occasion! Silver Creek High School has already expressed a desire to hold this event on a regular basis.

What can you share with the district?

We need articles, preferably ones that are interesting to our readers. For example, clubs in the district are frequently engaged in service to their communities: see Sharon Frickey's article on Columbine business students and Karen Cade's article on community outreach above. Such activities are significant because they have an impact on the community and draw favorable attention to Toastmasters and the clubs involved. Publishing articles about them in the Dialogue can stimulate other clubs to see how they can get involved in their communities.

Other examples are clubs that pull themselves up by their boot straps and clubs that have unique and successful meetings. What they did and what they learned can be interesting and important messages to other clubs. Sometimes individuals accomplish something extraordinary; sometimes an individual has a particular area of expertise they can share. There are members who would like to find out about them.

The articles are out there. Somebody needs to write them and submit them to the Dialogue. What can you share with the district?

Nominate for the Communication and Leadership Award

Do you know someone within the District 26 boundaries who encourages people to find their voice and use it? Each year District 26 presents an award to a non -Toastmaster who is contributing to the community in the areas of Communication and Leadership. Criteria for the award include:

- *be a non-Toastmaster (or former Toastmaster) known for outstanding contributions in the areas of communications and leadership.*
- *be a resident of the geographical area covered by District 26 (i.e. Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska)*
- *have distinguished himself/herself as a leader or spokesperson for a worthy cause or purpose, especially as it exemplifies their communication and leadership skills*
- *have contributed significantly to the communities within the district*
- *support the Toastmasters organization*
- *be a skilled communicator/speaker.*

Think of people in the charities you support. Think of someone in your employer's corporation where your Corporate Club meets.

Send your nominations to Past International Director and Past District 26 governor Beth Boaz at BethBoaz@aol.com by April 30. The award will be presented at the Communication and Leadership Luncheon on May 18 at the Spring Conference.

SPRING CONFERENCE: Providing the KEY to Travel Beyond

Want to know the key to excellence and success? Want to have a great weekend learning how to get even more from your Toastmasters membership? Want to meet the larger Toastmaster family in our District?



When	May 17 & 18, 2013
Where	Ramada Plaza North, 10 E 120th, Northglenn
What	Jim Key, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking International Speech Contest Election of District Officers at Business Meeting Break Out Sessions by your fellow Toastmasters Table Topics Contest Great Meals Great Ideas
Cost	Early Bird for First Timers, Presidents & VPEs \$100
Benefits	Priceless!!!!



The Spring Conference attracts new members, contestants, club officers and seasoned Toastmasters. It is the time to share ideas and get great new ideas for you and your club. Come cheer the contestants. The speeches at District Contests are always an inspiration – for content and the skill of the speakers.

Jim Key has three dynamic presentations that will make it worth your trip. He focuses on excellence and will share his story of how he constructed his winning speech for the World Championship.

Registration is available on D26Toastmasters.org. Click on the conference portion of the scrolling banner at the top of the page.

You can register for the entire conference, which includes 3 meals, or you can register for just a few events separately. There are links on the website to print a mail in registration, a full conference online registration and an online A La Carte Registration. Early bird ends April 30 and is \$100 for First timers, Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education. Early Bird is \$125 for everyone else. Price goes up to \$175 for all on May 1.



See you at the conference!



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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VISIT US at
d26Toastmasters.org/WP/

Linked  

Our Mission

We strive to create a bond among all the clubs of the district by sharing our experiences, resources, and knowledge through an interactive media.

Our goal is to make every Toastmaster feel empowered, appreciated and connected.

Please send your questions, tips, comments, and articles to the editor, gordonsavage@msn.com, by the 15th of each month in order to appear in the next issue. Visit the [web site](#) for submission guidelines. All articles are subject to editing to fit allotted space and submission does not guarantee publication.

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ABOUT TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 26, REGION 1



District 26 includes Colorado, the Eastern Slope of Wyoming, and the Nebraska panhandle. It was formed in 1948, with Gordon Merrick serving as its first district governor.

Four past District 26 governors have risen to the international level:

Don Paape was international director, 1966 - 68 and international president 1972 -73. It was during his term that women were first admitted to Toastmasters International. Watt Pye was district governor from 1969-70 and international director from 1970 -72; Dorothy Chapman served as district governor, 1989-90 and international director from 1990-92; and Beth Boaz was D26 governor from 1995-96 and international director, 1997-99. Marilyn Boland served as the first female District 26 governor in 1975 -76.

In 2000, [Ed Tate](#), a member of Cherry Creek Toastmasters, won the World Championship of Public Speaking. Ed is now the principal of a professional development firm that provides keynote and endnote presentations, workshops, and other training.

In 2007, [Rory Vaden](#), also a member of Cherry Creek Toastmasters, was the first runner-up in the World Championship of Public Speaking. He has since co-founded a multi-million dollar public training company and been featured on Oprah Radio with Dr. Oz and in SUCCESS™ Magazine.

[Byron Embry](#) of Pikes Peak Toastmasters was a major league baseball pitcher before he became a finalist in the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2009. He later founded Closing Remarks and has become a keynote speaker and author. [Ian J. Humphrey](#) of Simply Speaking was in Toastmasters little more than a year when he progressed to the final round of the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2010. Ian is now an inspirational speaker who reaches out to youth at risk. ▪

MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Gordon S. Savage, DTM

A really competent communicator

Our lead story in this issue recognizes an accomplishment by a really competent communicator that some Toastmasters don't seem to even be aware can happen, completing an award again. Eldon Halingstad has given ten speeches from the basic manual nineteen times. It's also possible to repeat the advanced manuals to earn the different levels of the Advanced Communicator — or just to improve your skill level in the various areas.

Toastmasters is a learning opportunity. If we work our way through a given manual and say, "Good! I'm through with that one," we're turning our back on that opportunity. It's possible to complete each manual more than once and

learn something new each time. Since the *Competent Communication* manual covers the basics, it merits repeating. We're never too good to learn more, nor do we ever reach the point that we can't polish our skills: talk to Ed Tate, Darren LaCroix, or Jim Key. Even when you reach that loft pinnacle of World Champion, you can still improve, and you have to keep practicing just to maintain your edge.

That's where repeating manuals, *Competent Communication* or *Advanced*, comes in. You learn from them and you sharpen your skills by repetition.

Past District Governor Bob Baxter used "Friends don't let friends give non-manual speeches" as his mantra. Toastmasters contends that every speech we give should be a manual speech. I'll go a



little further and say that every speech *is* a manual speech. It's just a matter of finding the appropriate project and notifying the Toastmaster and the timer. If nothing else every speech should qualify as a CC#3, "Get to the Point."

By going back through the manuals you continue to learn, you continue to improve, and you become a really competent communicator.