

## “WHAT’S GREAT IN 598”

The Diablo Toastmasters Club is a community Toastmasters Club that meets every Thursday at 7 PM in the Sizzler Restaurant, 1353 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA.

Volume 14, Number 7  
July, 2011



The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Publisher: Dilek Alkaya, CC, ALB, President  
Editor: John Peterson, ACS, CL, Vice President of Public Relations

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### DIABLO 598 SUMMER PARTY

The Diablo Toastmasters Club 598 "Summer Festival" is now officially scheduled for Saturday, July 16th, starting at 4:00 P.M. at the home of John and Jo Ellen Peterson, 1001 Millbrook Court, Walnut Creek. The organizing committee headed by Colene Cobb has arranged for the club to co-operate with Inspector Whozitz of the FBI, who has determined that A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB has stolen a variety of high-value items from the rich and famous -- all of whom have one thing in common. They have all been Toastmasters! Colene has promised the Inspector that we'll help identify the culprit through a fiendishly clever process of elimination known only to her!

In addition, of course, there'll be FOOD (the club is providing ribs, chicken and steak; everyone brings a side-dish or dessert). Also DRINKS (everyone brings their favorite liquid refreshment). And finally, SUNSHINE (guaranteed, no rain!) for cavorting in the Petersons' back yard and deck.

Sign up by contacting Colene via e-mail at [colene-cobb@live.com](mailto:colene-cobb@live.com). Please indicate number of guests, your meat preference(s), and what other goodies you'd like to bring. Please RSVP right away, as the Committee needs to finalize their planning and make last-minute assignments. We especially hope some of you "inactive" members that we haven't seen for a while will stop by and re-connect with us for this fun event!

## International Convention Set for Las Vegas, August 17 - 20

This year's Toastmasters International Convention takes place Aug. 17–20 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Bally's Las Vegas hotel. The much-anticipated event features a fun and dynamic program that includes



keynote presentations, skill-building seminars and international speech contests culminating in the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The 80th annual Toastmasters International Convention is brimming with opportunities for self-enrichment. You'll meet Toastmasters and leaders from around the world, and you'll have a choice of attending a variety of education sessions designed to help you become a better speaker and leader. Expert presenters will offer tips and tools to help you boost your job performance and enhance relationships at work, in the community, in Toastmasters and in your family.

This is a "Don't Miss" opportunity for Diablo 598'ers to catch a world-class event and visit Las Vegas too! It may be the last time for quite a while that the event will be held so close to the Bay Area. Sign up on-line now, at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)! Early-bird registration ends July 15th, so act now to save dough!

## WHO'S WHO



**Jeff Clark**

Jeff Clark is one of Diablo 598's newest members, having been inducted just a few weeks before this issue went to press! He also holds the distinction of being the first member of Diablo 598 to have discovered the club through "Meetup.com," thereby offering new hope that Meetup might yet become a useful instrument in helping build and maintain our membership levels.

Jeff is a Bay Area native, born in Burlingame and moving to Pittsburg with his family as a teenager. Jeff and his wife Ana met through the modern miracle of the Internet ten years ago this month. Jeff and Ana now have three children, Malia (4), Tyler (1-1/2), and Melanie (1-1/2). The young family now make their home in Antioch.

Jeff works in the point of sale industry, where he has the opportunity to speak with many different people from all walks of life. In his business he needs self-confidence and a good command of the English language to be successful with whomever he speaks. Although he has always had opportunities to speak in church and other settings, he has struggled a bit when trying to express himself and so he decided that something needed to be done.

The chance to improve came when Jeff was attending a motivational seminar. The speaker mentioned Toastmasters and suggested he

join. Having no real knowledge of what Toastmasters was all about, with the encouragement of Ana he set out to explore and discover. Meetup.com was the medium selected, and Diablo 598 has been the beneficiary of his discovery! Jeff is excited about the club, and looks forward to working and learning with all its members in the months and years to come!

## District Announces Membership Contest for August - September

District 57 has launched a new membership contest for the period August 1 through September 30, which offers big incentives for clubs to add new members during that period. Clubs adding five new, dual, or reinstated members during the period will receive significant recognition.

One of the prizes will be the "Ralph Smedley Award Banner Ribbon," named in honor of the founder of Toastmasters International. This would provide yet another colorful ribbon for Diablo 598 to add to its already ribbon-laden banner!

Possibly of even greater significance, the other incentive is that qualifying clubs will earn a special discount of 10 percent off their next club purchase from Toastmasters International. As we need to re-supply with a number of membership-building items such as brochures, and also add to our stock of manuals and other items, this can be turned into a significant savings to the club. Let's all pitch in and try to bring friends, relatives and significant others to a meeting or two in an effort to get those all-important five new members!

# WELCOME!

**Welcome to our new members:**

**GIL MARTINELLI  
JEFF CLARK**

**Please support Gil and Jeff in every way you can on their Toastmasters journey!**

# Club Launches New "President's Distinguished Club" Campaign

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Did you know that July 1st marks the beginning of a new "Toastmasters Year?" And with that, begins a new campaign to win the coveted "President's Distinguished Club" (PDC) status and the banner ribbon that goes with it. Diablo 598 has won this award every year for as far back as memory serves, so let's all pitch in and keep the tradition alive yet again!

This article will begin a series designed to acquaint all club members, especially new ones, with the details of the PDC program so all will be aware of the challenges to be met. This is the Number 1 Goal of Diablo 598 every year and it's essential that all members be familiar with what it takes to win, so look for more information in future issues.

Briefly, to win the award a club must achieve at least nine of the following ten goals between July 1st and the following June 30th:

1. Complete two CC manuals
2. Complete two more CC manuals
3. Achieve one ACB, ACS or ACG status
4. Achieve one more ACB, ACS or ACG status
5. Achieve one CL, ALB, ALS or DTM status
6. Achieve one more CL, ALB, ALS or DTM status
7. Recruit four new members
8. Recruit four more new members
9. Ensure that a minimum of four club officers are trained during each of the two annual training periods
10. Ensure that one membership dues renewal report and one club officer list are submitted to TMI on time.

In addition, a club must meet a minimum membership requirement by the June 30th year-end. This requirement is that the club have at least 20 members total, or alternatively show a net growth of at least five new members during the year.

As you can see, the objective is to motivate clubs to make progress in all the areas that are essential to the health and growth of an organization that satisfies its members' needs: education in speechcraft, advancement along both the communication and leadership tracks, membership building to maintain the club's vitality, proper training of club officers so they know how to do their job, and reporting to TMI so that proper records are kept and finances maintained.

Rules regarding each of the above ten goals will be presented in future issues, so stay tuned!

## Thought of the Month

Don't "think,"....."BELIEVE!"

When we say "I think such and such," we leave an element of doubt in the listener's mind as to whether the statement is really true. When we say "I believe such and such," on the other hand, we imply we've thought about our statement and reached a positive conclusion regarding it. MUCH more powerful!

After all, if you only "think" a thing is true and don't really "believe" it yourself, why waste peoples' time by telling it?

(From "The Toastmaster" magazine, May 1972)

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The club's annual "Summer Festival" went missing last year, due primarily to the negligence of the then-outgoing-President (now yours truly!). We hope to make up for that gaffe this year, under the capable leadership of event organizer extraordinaire Colene Cobb! She and her committee are putting together a "mystery" event which should add plenty of spice to the proceedings. (See page 1 story for details.)

We encourage everyone to attend if at all possible, and IN PARTICULAR want to invite all you "inactive" members whom we haven't seen in far too long! You know who you are, so please mark your calendars now and plan to come -- we miss you, and this would be a great chance to re-connect without having to re-engage. We guarantee you'll enjoy meeting our new members as well as your old friends!

"What's Great in 598" is the publication of Diablo Toastmasters Club 598, Concord, California.

**Publisher:** Dilek Alkaya, President

**Editor:** John Peterson, VP - Public Relations

**Contact phone:** (925) 946-0517