

## “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.

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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.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

<p><b>Apr. 19, 2007 – Division B Speech Contests</b> <b>Apr. 21, 2007 – 598 Awards Banquet</b> <b>May 12, 2007– District Spring Conference</b></p>
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### NEW MEMBERS!

Our new members include:

**Jerry Matlin**  
**David Nunley**  
**Anilea Bennett**  
**Jorge Rey-Prada**

Be sure to greet our newest members and make them feel welcome.

### 598 AWARDS BANQUET

Tickets are on sale and seats are filling fast for the First Annual Diablo Toastmasters Awards Banquet. Our banquet will be held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge. The event will feature dinner, a no-host bar, awards presentations, and a roast (and toast) of our Immediate Past President, **Carie Featherstone**. Spouses and guests are invited and tickets are available from **Pat Welsh** for \$30.00 each. Come out for fun at this special event!

### DCP STATUS

Toastmasters International has credited the Diablo Toasters Club with completion of 6 of the 10 goals in the Distinguished Club Program. This means that 598 is a Distinguished Club, but we still need four (4) CC Awards and any combination of two (2) CLs, ALs, or DTMs to maintain our standard of excellence in being recognized as a President’s Distinguished Club for the seventh consecutive year.

Keep working on your CTM/CC manual speeches, help your club mates complete their goals, and keep our club the premier club in District 57!

### DISTRICT 57 CONFERENCE

The membership of District 57 will assemble en masse at Diablo Valley College on Saturday, May 12, 2007 for their annual spring conference.

The conference will feature the District 57 business meeting. Our representatives, **Ron Jue** and **Spencer Hinsdale**, will help elect officers to serve the district during the 2006 – 2007 term.

There will be a keynote address; lectures to benefit toastmasters of all levels; the

District 57 Bookstore will be open; GOOD FOOD; and the big event – the annual Impromptu and International Speech Contests!

Register on–line at the D57 website and come on out for the best educational value in the Bay Area. See ya there!

## **SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS**

**Rhonda Cooper** won the Area 6 International Speech contest with her speech, **WOOSHKA!**

**Rhonda** will represent 598 at the Division B contests on April 19, 2007.

Congratulations **Rhonda** and best of luck at the Division B Contest on April 19<sup>th</sup>!

All members note: **Rhonda** needs your support at the Division Contest. It will take place at the Contra Costa Water District Offices in Concord. Let's all turn out and cheer our winner!

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Unfortunately 12 of us did not pay our dues by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Those individuals are no longer members in good standing and are not eligible to participate in club activities. Our club roster now stands at 27.

Let's get out there and round up some new members!

## **SECRETS OF TOASTMASTER TIMING REVEALED**

Ever wondered about the origins of the timing protocol we use at our meetings? Some of us have. This article will explore the secrets of toastmaster timing.

Very simply, meeting timing protocol is derived from the rules for timing as specified in the official Toastmasters Speech Contest Manual available from the Toastmasters International website.

Using the Table Topics Contest as an example, the contest manual reads as follows concerning timing:

### **“6. TIMING**

A. Speeches shall be two minutes long. Contestants who speak less than one minute or more than two minutes 30 seconds shall be disqualified. Time will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other communication such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.

B. The green signal will be displayed at one minute and remain displayed for 30 seconds. The amber signal will be displayed at one minute 30 seconds and remain displayed for 30 seconds. The red signal will be displayed at two minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded. No audible device, such as a buzzer, shall be used for the overtime period.”

These are typical of the rules for all other contests: Evaluation, Humor, International, and Tall Tales.

Timing protocols vary from club to club, but the Diablo Toastmasters protocol complies with the official rulebook unless times are adjusted to fit our agenda.

At area, division, and district events the preferred method is electronic timing with mechanical backup, i.e., a watch and colored cards. For clubs, no type of timing equipment is specified.

Some clubs have sophisticated electronic timing equipment while others have relied on manual timing for years.

Regardless of the method of timing, any indication of the actual time in minutes and seconds is intended only for use by the timing official. While total speaking time

can be announced in the club, there has never been any intent at club level or at any other level to provide the speaker with time indication other than colored lights or cards.

Perhaps the best source of information about the responsibilities of the **Timer** is Page 64 of the Communication and Leadership Program manual. Parts of the information are as follows:

“...explain your duties and report to the club clearly and precisely. This exercise is an excellent opportunity in (sic) practicing communication instructions ...”

“Write out your explanation in the clearest possible language and rehearse it.”

“Be sure you know how to operate the stopwatch and signal device and make certain the timing equipment works.”

“Sit where the device can be easily seen”

This is the Toastmasters timing philosophy and the degree to which the concepts are successful is directly reflected by the effectiveness of their implementation.

***The keys to effective implementation are preparation and practice.***

Yet even with the best planning, the best practice, and diligent effort, problems will occur. While expectations should be high for experienced members, remember that this is an educational program and newer members become experienced members over time.

Members will forget their lines, members will stumble through their lines, members will forget to time, members will go under or over time, and the timing device will fail.

In helping our fellow toastmasters learn and grow, we must accommodate these situations by moving ahead and resolving to improve for the next time.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Those are the facts -- I can't fake it: If you want the news, ya gotta make it!

Happy Toastmastering! ***Editor***

## HAVE A STORY? HAVE AN IDEA?

The editor invites our members to share their Toastmasters story with their peers. To be considered for publication, articles must be well written, must be related to Toastmasters activities, and submitted in *Word* format. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject all submissions.

“What's Great in 598” is the publication of Diablo Toastmasters Club (598-57), Concord, CA Publisher, Ronald Jue Editor, Louis Stiffer Reporter, Your name here!
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