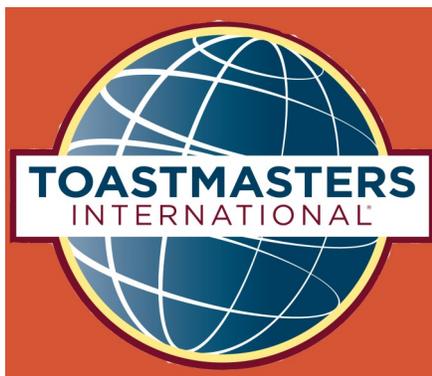


The Diablo Toastmasters Club is a community Toastmasters Club that meets every Thursday at 7 PM at Denny's Restaurant, 1313 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, CA.

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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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### FALL SPEECH CONTEST

Next up on the Fall 2016 speech contest list of events is the Area B-6 Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contest! This event will be held from 6:30 to 9 P.M. on Tuesday, September 6th at the Lamorinda Toastmasters Club, 945 Risa Rd., Lafayette (Temple Isaiah). So come on out and root for our entrants, Cindy Johnson and Dennis Florendo!! (Note: as of press time, the Division B contest had not been scheduled.)

### YO-PRO'S MEET ON SEPTEMBER 27TH

The Concord Chamber of Commerce's Yo-Pro's will hold their next meeting, an informal mixer, from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. on September 27th at Tart Outlet, 2304 Willow Pass Rd. See article on page 2 for details.

**Don't Forget -- Dues Are Due!!**

Semi-annual club dues of \$60 are due now! Toastmasters International has discontinued their "grace period" practice, **so if they don't receive your payment by September 30th you will no longer be a "member in good standing!"** Our Treasurer, Ross Carter, says he needs to receive all payments no later than September 22nd, so if you haven't already done so please send your check right away, payable to "Diablo Toastmasters," to him at 603 Hidden Lakes Drive, Martinez, CA 94553. (Or, bring it to a meeting.) Thanks!!

## Cindy Johnson, Dennis Florendo Win Speech Contests

Once again, Diablo 598 will enter two strong competitors in the District 57 Fall speech contest. Cindy Johnson will be our representative in the Humorous Speech event, while Dennis Florendo will carry the flag in the Evaluation contest.

Cindy's speech, "Finding My 'Why'," gave us plenty of chuckles as she enthusiastically related her transition from a "cube troll," hiding shyly behind an office partition, into her current role as President of a leading Toastmasters club — with a badly broken wrist along the way (not fun)!

Dennis gave an excellent evaluation of Target Speaker Dilek Alkaya's presentation relating her



experience as a delegate from District 57 to this year's International Convention in Washington, D.C., at the same time urging us all to

broaden our horizons by attending next year's event which will be held in Vancouver, B.C. — a great destination for both scenery and fun! The photo above shows our contest team, left to right: Contest Chair Destinee Cooper, President Cindy Johnson, Dennis Florendo, and Target Speaker Dilek Alkaya. Many thanks, all!!!

## What's *Your* Toastmasters Story? — by Martha Patt

We might remember what prompted us to go to our first Toastmasters meeting. Maybe it was a way to network, a suggestion from an organization or employer, or just curiosity about public speaking. Regardless, any Toastmaster would agree that we have both witnessed and experienced personal growth through regular attendance and dedication.

I joined San Francisco's *Sierra Speakers* in September 1997, following my graduation from the University of San Francisco (USF). A professor at USF encouraged his students to join Toastmasters, and to seek out an activity other than just our gainful employment. After attending just a few Toastmasters meetings I remember beginning to evaluate public speakers, watching for the 'um's', assessing the opening, the closing, and the message. Eventually I began to believe that maybe I could give that speech and share a message while supporting a community that was dear to my heart!

After nearly five years of volunteer activities with the *National Multiple Sclerosis Society* (NMSS), I was awarded three grants to continue my volunteer activities. The NMSS is a non-profit health service organization that supports people living with multiple sclerosis. My passion and dedication to this community opened the door and forced me to speak. From 2000 to 2004 I had various public speaking engagements, a radio interview, a web cast, and the production and distribution of an instructional DVD. It was all very exciting, and I thank my Toastmaster experience for offering me guidelines for developing better speaking and presentation skills.

So — what brought *you* to your first Toastmasters meeting? Did you have a clear vision as to where this adventure would lead? Did you get the raise you asked for? Give a speech after receiving an award? Speak at your best friend's wedding? Organize a departmental gathering? Present the latest version of a company product? Make a You-Tube video? Unexpectedly be asked to direct people for an event?

At any gathering we always look for that one person who can give us direction or answer questions. This is what can make for the best experience. It is the confidence and support we experience at every Toastmasters meeting that gives us the courage and drive to say "I can do that" to any challenge!

***Editor's Note: Many thanks to Martha for sharing her personal story about the benefits Toastmasters has brought her! We hope this will be the first of a series of such stories, and will encourage other club members to share their story with us also! Then we can all gain a better sense of the benefits Toastmasters can bring to both our personal and our professional lives.***

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## Ross Carter to Lead Club's Involvement in Yo-Pro's

As we've said in these columns before, the Concord Chamber of Commerce's "Young Professionals" group, more commonly known as the "Yo-Pro's," presents a tremendous opportunity for our younger members to benefit, and our club to gain, from our membership in the Chamber. This is a group of Chamber members between the ages of 21 and 40, who are actively involved in the Chamber's activities and Concord community affairs. Because the club is a member of the Chamber, our members are entitled to attend all Yo-Pro events at no charge.

The benefit to our members is a terrific opportunity to network among other Chamber members who have knowledge of what's going on in the Concord business arena, including such information as great job openings — often before they're ever advertised publicly. In turn, Toastmasters offers communications training that can greatly benefit Yo-Pro members' career advancement, so our active involvement with them should lead to growth in our club's membership.

Ross Carter has recently volunteered to lead our involvement with the Yo-Pro's. Why not do yourself a favor and join Ross in attending their upcoming event on September 27th?? (See page 1 for details of time and place.) It will definitely be fun, and could be very rewarding!

# “President’s Distinguished Club” Rules Explained

Last month, we summarized the ten requirements for a Toastmasters club to win the coveted "President's Distinguished Club" (DCP) award. This month, we'll cover the rules pertaining to the first four of them, having to do with the educational program. Those rules are:

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

Clubs achieve Goal 1 when two members receive CC awards during the 12-month period from July 1st through June 30th of the following calendar year, and achieve Goal 2 when two or more members receive CCs. They achieve Goal 3 when one member receives an AC award during the period year, and achieve Goal 4 when an additional one or more members receive AC awards.

Clubs receive credit for only one type of educational award per member per period-year. For example, Bill Smith receives a CC award in July and an ACB award in November. His club receives credit for both of those awards. But if later he earns an ACS award, no credit is given to the club. The reason for this is to encourage all members of the club to progress in their educational program, not just a few. Also, credit for an award may be given to only one club. In the event the member belongs to more than one club, he must choose which club will receive the credit.

We have a number of new members who are working diligently on their CC manuals, so hopefully we'll be able to achieve our educational program goals this year. Our Vice President of Education, Ashley Harkness, is keeping track of our progress on these goals, so be sure to let him know when you earn an award!

(More rules will be explained next month!)



## CINDY'S COLUMN

By Cindy Johnson

Toastmaster speech contests are held twice a year, in the Fall and again in Spring. In the Fall event we have the Humorous Speech and Evaluation contests, and in the Spring we have the International Speech and Table Topics. This year, I chose to be a contestant in the Fall Humorous Speech contest, and it's been such a rewarding experience that I want to use my space here this month to encourage all members of Diablo 598 to stretch themselves and consider participating in our Spring contest next February.

Being a participant in the contest has led me to sharpen my speaking skills in a number of important ways. First, I learned to refine the content of the speech by taking into consideration the evaluations and comments of other Toastmasters on a "practice run" the week before the actual contest. Second, I had to expand upon my speaking skills by incorporating all of the lessons in the Competent Communicator manual into a single speech. And third, I learned to appreciate the value of practicing my speech.

My confidence in public speaking has grown enormously by going through the process of preparing for this contest, and I know yours will too! I'll be participating in the Area B-6 contest on Tuesday, and Dennis Florendo will also be participating as the club's entrant in the Evaluation contest. Both Dennis and I would greatly appreciate your presence at the contest, giving us friendly faces to encourage and support us!

**“What’s Great in 598”** is the publication of Diablo Toastmasters Club 598, Concord, CA.

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