



The Founder

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE

September 2012

**Will You Wear
A Ribbon?**

Day Dreamin'

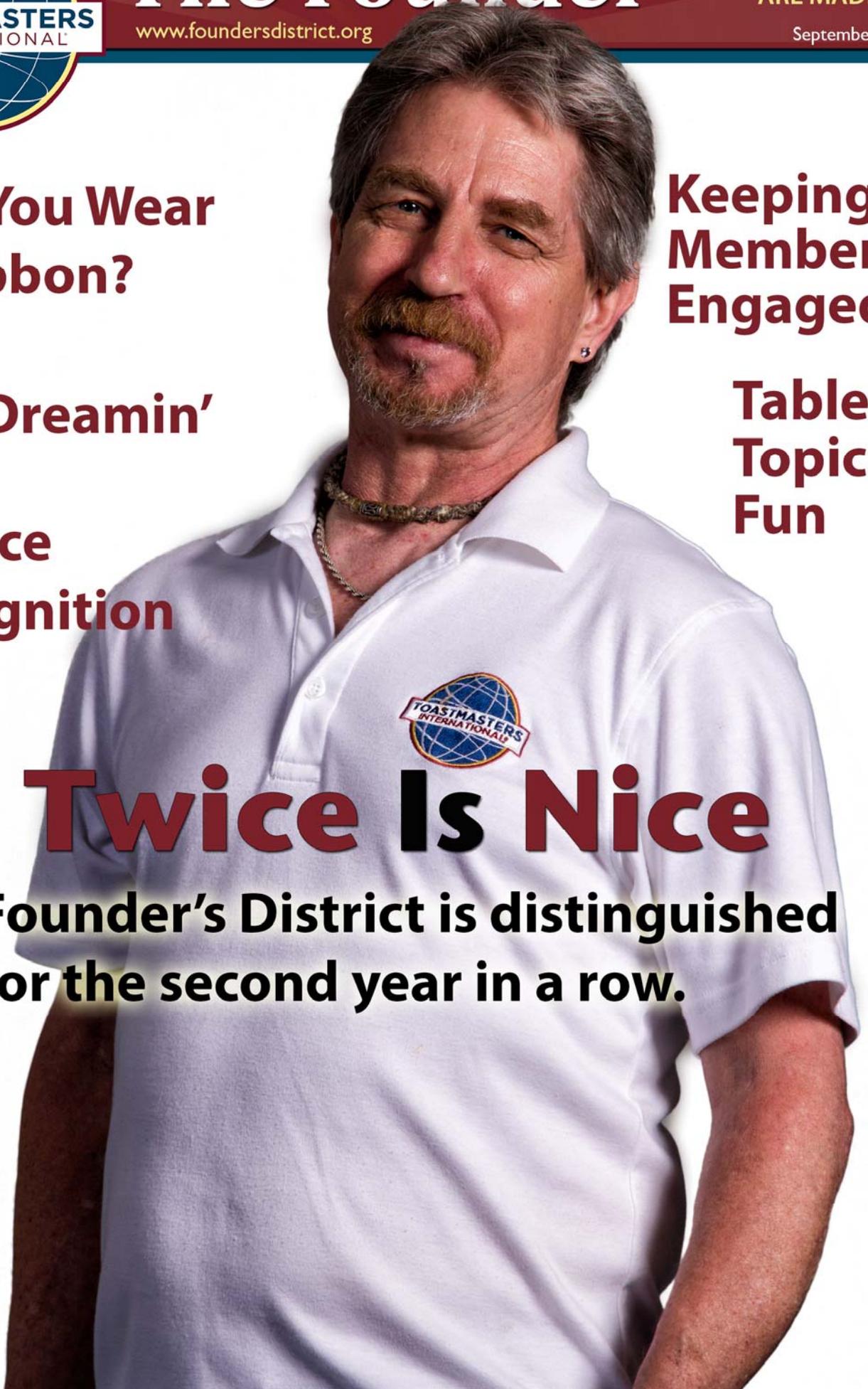
**Service
Recognition**

**Keeping
Members
Engaged**

**Table
Topics
Fun**

Twice Is Nice

**Founder's District is distinguished
for the second year in a row.**



Marketing Workshop

(Rescheduled from August)

Saturday, September 8

**8:30 A.M.— 2 P.M.
BIOLA UNIVERSITY
13800 BIOLA AVENUE
LA MIRADA**

- FREE -

INCLUDES MATERIALS & LIGHT LUNCH

SEATING IS LIMITED—TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

CONTACT:

DIANE BEALL

B22EAR@SOCAL.RR.COM

Scheduled Presenters:

LGM Chairs

- **Diane Beall**
- **Ben Bolisay**
- **Sylvia Blackstone**
- **Windy Fetterly**
- **Pam Koa**
- **Linda Ulrich**

Scheduled Topics:

- **Building New Clubs**
- **Understanding TI Reports**
- **Membership**
- **Club Coaching**
- **Club Mentoring**
- **Club Sponsoring**

Speakers and presenters subject to change

Twice Is Nice Twice Is Nice

by Dan Cossack, DTM

WES HOOVER STARTED THE YEAR with a simple edict to the members of Founder's District: Just do your best. His goal to achieve distinguished status for Founder's District for the second year in a row was daunting. With many companies in Southern California in financial turmoil, and members struggling to make ends meet, growing the Toastmasters membership by 3 percent did not seem like an easy thing to do.

It did not help that this year Toastmasters International decided to increase member dues. Wes was hoping to capitalize on the momentum that Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo had set in motion in establishing Founder's District as a distinguished district the year prior, but the odds were against him. Founder's District had enjoyed distinguished status at least 13 times during the 1970's and 1980's, but only four times this century. The last time Founder's District was distinguished two years in a row was 2000 to 2002 under the leadership of Linda Northrop, DTM and Wilma Springer, DTM, respectively. With the Toastmasters International ranking system, it was becoming increasingly more challenging to reach distinguished status in a globally expanding organization.

Despite these challenges, Wes Hoover seemed very optimistic. Wes has always been a "glass half full" kind of person. He considers himself a jack of all trades, having worked at a wide variety of jobs while growing up, including pet stores, drive-in theaters, and even a carnival. For two years, he hitch-hiked around the country visiting every state except Maine and Alaska. He's now been at the same Internet marketing company for the last 18

years. Forever optimistic about our youth, Wes also donates his time at the Casa Youth Shelter teaching life and computer skills to kids. Confronting challenges and getting results is nothing new to Wes.

In 2000, Wes made the foray into leadership by participating in a management training program offered by his employer. Part of this program included the Toastmasters *Speechcraft* program. Wes enjoyed the experience so much that he joined the sponsoring club. It wasn't long before he joined several other clubs, but he considers Historically Speaking (#8860) his home club.

Wes also had several mentors along the way, including Barbara Barrientos, who encouraged Wes to volunteer as the Chief Judge for the district.

When she was starting out as the District Governor, Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo approached Wes about serving as Lieutenant Governor. This was an eye-opening experience for him. That's when he decided run for District Governor.

Wes had some big shoes to fill. Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo had an incredible year reaching distinguished status for the first time since 2007 and placing Founder's District in the top 13th in the world. Fortunately for Wes, he had several very strong leaders on his team:

- Victoria Dotson, with her "take no prisoners" leadership style, returned from a year off after getting married to serve as the Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training.
- Harry Yan was elected as the Lieutenant Governor of Marketing after a stellar year as the Division A Governor.

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Day Dreamin'

by Douglas A. Bowers CPA

As we go through our busy day, every so often a dream pops in. Sometimes they are just small, random thoughts, little wishes if you will, that require small efforts or time to realize. Often these dreams drive us: getting home on time, seeing someone special, doing a commendable job. They can be nothing more than the routine of our days. We accomplish and experience these dreams and then move on, thinking none the less for having done them.

But at other times, if we listen in the quiet of our soul and look closely at the pictures in our mind, a big dream emerges. A dream that can be so big, so important, that it drives our focus for years to come. It consumes us and changes our lives. The key is to listen closely, look closely, feel even closer, as our chance for individual greatness speaks to us.

Sometimes that voice is hard to hear, and the picture is not easy to visualize, making it difficult to understand what is possible for us. We look at all the obstacles that allow our todays to encumber our tomorrows. We let what could be get overruled by the tyranny of the now. We default to the moment, passing possibilities of the future.

But if we are careful, if we are intent upon finding our special greatness, if we are willing to listen with all our potential, the dream can emerge. With a little luck, that dream, that vision, can emerge in whole cloth as if that reality was already here, being a part of you, living and breathing in your life.

One thing about that vision, that dream of yours, is that it's our dream, too. When you soar, we at Toastmasters soar with you. We benefit along with you. When you achieve, we rejoice. Your victorious dream takes us down life's road as we ride with you. We become better for having known you, for living life with you.



As speakers, we have the opportunity to make dreams come alive, to make them real. By sharing our dreams, they become more important. We become vested in making them happen in the here and now, right here where we live. Once the world knows, it is much harder to back down, to not go full out. Well known dreams are hard to ignore, hard to put in the closet. Those dreams are hard to

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forget because they have a way of not letting you forget, not allowing you to put them away and ignore them. We can't let you ignore them either; the risks are too high, for you and for us.

As speakers, we **get** to give voice to the dreams of others, helping them to put form to their vision, sharpen their focus, put energy into their drive. We give those visions the gift of voice. From that voice, those visions can be shared with everyone. Others can enroll in the future, a future that can happen.

This vision thing, this thing we so often choose to hide, to ignore, is critical to our future. It points the way forward. It gives us those critical things to work on which create success for us. It tells us what we must ignore as not important, not critical to our future. When we see things differently, we see what changes could be made to our equation. We grow, we achieve, as we point in a new direction, away from the past, toward a better future, a more important future.

The collective vision is frequently more important than the individual vision. As we work with and through other people as a team, we multiply what we can accomplish. We accomplish more than just a collection of individual visions. We can add velocity to our forward progress. We can be robust. We can capitalize on our collective knowledge – knowledge we just don't know all on our own, but we do know as a group.

This is where your ability as a speaker becomes truly important. Your ability to give voice to the collective wisdom of the group, to coordinate ideas, to draw the vision out of others, changes the future for everyone. You can be the driving force of change. You can be **the voice**.

Like most things in life, performance takes effort, practice and attention to detail. Such is the life of a Toastmaster. We are the ones who are willing and able to step forward, to give vision the voice it needs and desires. We are the ones who can make it possible by lighting a spark in others, changing their vision to change their dreams, and in turn, change our collective Toastmasters future.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Douglas A. Bowers CPA is an active speaker, presenter and author. He is currently serving his second term as Founder's District Treasurer and is the current recipient of the Homer Award for Extraordinary Service Leadership. He is also a member of **Strategic Speakers Connection – Experienced Voices with Real World Solutions**. Doug can be reached at isthatso@pacbell.net.



FOUNDER'S DISTRICT NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Editor in Chief**
Robin M. Itzler, ACB, CL

Assistant Editor in Chief
Rachel McCallum

Photography Chairs:
Richard Daugherty, DTM &
Linda Daugherty
*Special thanks to Richard
for the cover photo.*

Working Together to Succeed Logo
Created by Colette Gardner, DTM

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Mission of the District

The mission of the district is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.
Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.

Our mailing address is:
1000 South Coast Dr., #H-103
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
USA

Visit us at:
FoundersDistrict.org

Service Recognition

by Avis French

I have been saying for years that I would soon retire from community service. Most people never believed I would really retire. Recently, I actually did retire from some community service.

On July 10, I officially retired from the Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation (SVEF). I was presented with a wonderful plaque from the Foundation and from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) recognizing my 27 years of service to both organiza-

tions. In presenting the award, Ginny Fay Aitkins, SVUSD President, said, "It was an honor to have you at our meetings! We truly appreciate all you've done and hope the plaque causes you to think about us every now and then and to remember that you have been an important part of SVUSD's history."



tion. If it were not for the training in communications and leadership skills that I learned from such organizations as Toastmasters and the National Management Association (NMA), I would not have had a successful community services career with organizations such as SVEF and SVUSD.

From the training provided by these professional associations, I learned how to communicate with:

- Various strata of people requiring or providing community services
- Students and educators requiring and providing speaking skills
- Donors to and volunteer coordinators of blood drives
- Students and sponsors of Junior Achievement programs
- Members and mentors at all levels of Toastmasters
- Students receiving scholarships and organizations sponsoring scholarships

As Chair of Toastmasters Founder's District Judges Bureau, I was fortunate to work with a wide variety of service organizations and educational institutions to assist with speech contests and academic competitions throughout Orange County. I helped make people aware of the interchange of expertise and contributions going on between community organizations. In addition, there were many opportunities to serve the community as an interlocutor; finding the needs of a community organization and serving as

a link to solutions and resources available in complementary community organizations.

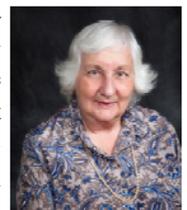
It is with the help and support from all the professional associations and service organizations that I worked with over the years that enabled me to grin like a Cheshire Cat when accepting this award.

Thank you all with special thanks to the Ed Foundation and the Saddleback school district. Thank you for helping me to enjoy the reciprocity of expertise that goes on behind the scenes. Serving as a community service interlink provides intangible rewards that come from being a beneficial contributor. I cannot tell you the joy and satisfaction that accompanies living a life of giving.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Avis French worked as a technical editor from 1968-2002 and is now retired. She is a National Management Association (NMA) Associate Director and National Member of the Year 1995. She was awarded the Dr. Peter Harman Community Service Award presented by the Management Team Association of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District in 2004. She is also the Toastmasters Founder's District Gene Beckwith Memorial Award recipient for Fall 2009.





From Our District Governor **VICTORIA DOTSON, DTM**

One of the aspects that I love best about Toastmasters is the feeling that we are one big family. We sometimes argue and disagree, but in the end we make up, work together to succeed and in the end, celebrate our successes together. I have discovered what I'm capable of with the help of my Toastmasters family – and it amazes me!

My vision for Founder's District this year is not just to continue to support you in your journeys and help the district to be Distinguished or better, but to also continue the journey that we started several years ago towards being on the cutting edge of technology; without leaving our traditions behind. We are Founder's District – where it all began and I'm proud of being a member of this district.

I am very excited to be your District Governor this year. When I first joined Toastmasters many years ago, I didn't think I could be a district governor; that I would be among the ranks of so many great leaders. As I continued my own journey to reach my goals, the poking and prodding of some of Toastmasters family made me realize that not only could I be a district governor, but that I wanted to be one.

We are a family in Founder's District and as we embark on this new Toastmasters year, I wish you the best of luck in reaching your own goals. The leaders of the district are here to help and guide you, so don't be afraid to reach out to us; just like you would reach out to your own family members.

By working together we WILL Succeed.

2012-13

Founder's District Officers

District Governor

Victoria Dotson, DTM

Lt. Governor Ed. & Training

Harry Yan, DTM

Lt. Governor Marketing

Linda Ulrich, DTM

Division A Governor

Jason Brady, CC, ALB

Division B Governor

Lorrie Briscoe, ACS, ALB

Division C Governor

Jack Schmidt, DTM

Division D Governor

Michael Morales, ACS, ALS

Division E Governor

Jennifer Elam, ACB, CL

Division F Governor

Robert Acosta, ACG, ALB

Division G Governor

Kevin Graham, ACG, ALB

Division H Governor

Chandrasekhar Molleti, ACS, ALB

Where Leaders Are Made

by Chris Gregory, DTM

When I first heard of the new branding for Toastmasters International I was a bit perplexed. To make matters worse, my skepticism became more like sabotage. One of my initial comments was, "Being an ah counter is going to make me a leader? Yeah right!"

I regret that statement, but now realize it was a necessary part of my learning experience in understanding what Toastmasters was trying to teach me. After nine years in Toastmasters, it wasn't

could come together to discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Members would also discuss their understanding of the Toastmasters program and what they desire from the program.

LACE IS OUTSTANDING

I humbly recognize that the Founder's District has one of the greatest Toastmasters' training techniques: "LACE." LACE stands for **L**eadership **A**nd **C**ommunication **E**ducation.

However, LACE is only held twice annually and is primarily attended by members to comply with the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). Although LACE provides outstanding learning opportunities, there aren't any supporting programs during the remainder of the year. Sporadic workshops from time to time are not on the same level as the exceptional LACE program.

This led to questions:

- ☞ What about the needs of the ongoing issues that happen when least expected?
 - ☞ Why are some clubs successful and some not?
 - ☞ What is the new DCP (Distinguished Club Program)?
 - ☞ What do I do to get a website completed?
 - ☞ What is the new branding?
- And so on.... (that's not three



filler words ah counter!)

WHAT IF?

That's when it hit me like a ton of bricks! WHAT IF?

All of a sudden, I had even more questions, but now I was committed to finding the answers!

☞ What if we had a specialty club whose focus is strictly on the betterment of all the clubs?

☞ What if we could have that club support the incoming area governors, the division governors and be a spokes place where the district leaders could extend the delivery of new programs?

☞ What if we had a club that new club officers could attend to discuss their needs and wants, leaving the meeting with newfound leadership qualities?

It's one thing to be the back

"...not a traditional Toastmasters club, but rather a "Think Tank" where Toastmasters members could come together to discuss their strengths and weaknesses."

until I was working on a project this year that all my leadership skills came into play. Without hesitation, and with a true understanding of teamwork and project management, my team and I were able to make a groundbreaking accomplishment that has global potential.

In addition to the project, I spent a lot of time reevaluating my Toastmasters beliefs. I considered creating a special club – not a traditional Toastmasters club, but rather a "Think Tank" where Toastmasters members

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bencher, but totally different to take a proactive approach to face those challenges and make a difference. That's how I came up with creating an **Officers' Club**. Oh, there are other Officers' clubs in other districts, but this one would be more ... it would be a THINK TANK club.

Fortunately, my Division Governor, Wendy Lam-Tran, was very open to hearing my thoughts. She asked if Ken Maxfield might be able to assist me and use this project for his High Performance Leadership Project. What a team! Ken and I obtained the essentials. Working together, we found a great meeting venue, created an outstanding vision and formed a dedicated team.

We invited many people to attend the demo meeting, with plans to determine how fast we could be chartered. Ken and I shared that the new club expected to be President's Distinguished in its first year, which would be an example to other members about the Toastmasters Program.

While meeting speeches and evaluations are from manuals they are not traditional speeches or evaluations. Speech subjects are focused on clubs:

- ⇒ Toastmasters programs
- ⇒ Social media tools
- ⇒ Best used practices
- ⇒ Strengths and weaknesses

Moreover, there are three to five minute round robin discussions following each speech.

There is also a TIP of the Month, which is similar to best used practice. The TIP presentation is one to two minutes followed by a one to two minute round robin discussion about the TIP.

Finally, the table topics segment offers members the opportunity to give a statement about a Toastmaster's perspective or issue. The room is divided into groups of two with discussion about the statement lasting one to two minutes. Each group has a spokesperson so members hear varied views.

The entire purpose of the meeting is for participants to leave with increased knowledge and/or a newfound skill or solution that can benefit their club.

The demo meeting was held on May 2 and we

“ I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg and that the program will eventually go global. ”

were chartered with 23 members within 24 hours of the meeting. The first meeting with elections was held on June 6. Officer installation was conducted by the wonderful Kelly Teenor, DTM, PDG. The meeting featured three great speeches:

- 1) Kelly Teenor — Leadership is like a PEARL: Positive, Enthusiasm, Active, Results and Learning
 - 2) George Day — Social Media: How to utilize Google tools and apps
 - 3) Laura LeDoux — Connection: Had great passion and commitment to help us focus
- TIP of the Month — Wendy Lam-Tran. It was a personalized card describing what we should give guests at our meetings.
 - Table Topics — Chris Gregory. What did we learn and what do we need.

Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo, DTM, IPDG invited the club to present at the Past District Officers Club to discuss the options of aligning on distributing or addressing Toastmasters goals and objectives.

In addition, we had several guests ask for applications. I expect this club will grow to at least 40 members.

LEADERSHIP WAS INSTRUMENTAL

This club started with a vision, which then became a mission statement to create a team, followed by encouraging, educating and empowering the team on what the original idea was. The team took it from there.

I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg and that this program will eventually go global!

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WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Continued from previous page

We welcome you to attend and consider joining our quest for excellence. The Officers' Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Carrow's Restaurant, 16931 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. The only restriction is that this is a dual membership scenario where members are expected to leave the meeting with great ideas and newfound solutions that they take back to their other club.

Spread the word!

And yes, Toastmasters International is "Where Leaders Are Made!" I'm not smarter than a fifth

grader, but I know how to learn a little and lead you.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Chris Gregory DTM joined Toastmasters in April 2003 and achieved his DTM in December 2005. Since joining the Helmsmen club 770 in 2006, he has been club or Area officer 15 times. He has held many roles at the District level including as a Chief Judge and Educational Chair for the Region. His special claim to fame is his formula for life which he created when he was the District One Area Governor for E-3. His motto was E-3 - Encourage, Educate, and Empower.

TWICE IS NICE

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Wes had no doubt that this team was capable of leading the district to reach its membership and educational goals for the year. But he also understood that the most important factor was making sure that the needs of the members were being met. Throughout the year, Wes continued to remind members to "just do your best, nothing less." He believes it's the least anyone should do, and if everyone did their best, we would not fail.

During the same year, Toastmasters International unveiled their new branding. Wes and his team used it to their advantage by creating incentive programs for the clubs to reach their goals. He believed that clubs are more successful when the members take pride in their accomplishments. It worked. In 2011-2012

more than half of all the clubs in the district were distinguished or better, the highest number in recorded history. The membership payments goal was still lagging toward the end of his term. This is when Wes made a final "just do your best" push. In the remaining few days of the term, email reports were trickling in; a new member here, a new member there. The final count was difficult to track, but everyone knew it would be close.

Two weeks after the term ended, the official count had not been calculated. The suspense was unnerving. Finally, on July 18, Wes received a phone call from International President Michael Notaro. It was official — Founder's District had achieved distinguished status for the second year in a row. The first thing Wes did was compose a letter to Founder's District members informing them about what they as a team had accom-

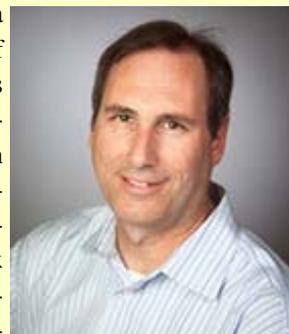
plished. A lot of people worked together as a team to make this happen. When asked how we did it, Wes replied, "The members just did their very best." Next, Wes commissioned a banner that would be brought onto the stage at the International Convention in Orlando Florida. The banner read, "Twice is Nice."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Daniel Cossack, DTM Daniel is a software engineer and semi-professional photographer in Irvine, CA. He joined Toastmasters in 2005 and is currently serving as the Founder's District Public Relations Officer.

He is also a big fan of TED Talks and is involved with the independently organized TEDx Youth organization in Irvine for the last two years to promote the youth conference in Orange County.



Contests



**Visit the Founder's website
for the latest contest information**

15 Sep 2012	10:30am	Area B1/B5/B6 Speech Contest	TBD
21 Sep 2012	06:00pm	Area A1 Speech Contest	TBD
22 Sep 2012	08:00am	Area A2/A3 Speech Contest	1701 Baker St., Costa Mesa
22 Sep 2012	08:00am	Area B2/B3/B4 Speech Contest	TBD
28 Sep 2012	06:00pm	Area A4/A5 Speech Contest	TBD
29 Sep 2012	08:30am	Division E Speech Contest	TBD
29 Sep 2012	11:00am	Area D1-5 Speech Contests	5312 Richfield Road, Yorba Linda
06 Oct 2012	10:00am	Area G1-5 Speech Contests	TBD
06 Oct 2012	10:30am	Division B Speech Contest	TBD
12 Oct 2012	06:30pm	Division D Speech Contest	1350 E. Taft, Orange
13 Oct 2012	08:30am	Division A Speech Contest	TBD
13 Oct 2012	01:30pm	Division C Speech Contest	TBD
19 Oct 2012	06:00pm	Division H Speech Contest	TBD
20 Oct 2012	08:30am	Division G Speech Contest	TBD
20 Oct 2012	01:00pm	Division F Speech Contest	TBD

KEEPING MEMBERS ENGAGED

Meeting Fun

Have a poster of a scene that coincides with the time of the year. For instance, at a recent Something Gained* meeting, there was a scene of a beach. Each time a member or guest spoke — and it could have been just to introduce themselves — they went to the poster to add an image.

Everyone enjoyed watching the person ponder which image to select, often making a comment about why they picked that particular piece. For instance, “The little boy looks lonely, let’s give him a beach ball to play with.”

The activity involved the entire audience. By the end of the meeting, members and guests had created a beach scene.

—Robin Itzler, ACB, CL



*The club is not yet chartered.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A place for Founder’s District members to share information and ideas that can advance the goals of the entire district.

Table Topics Fun

Many times the table topics master will ask a series of questions that focuses on one particular theme. A recent table topics at Something Gained had absolutely no theme and involved more than the speaker.

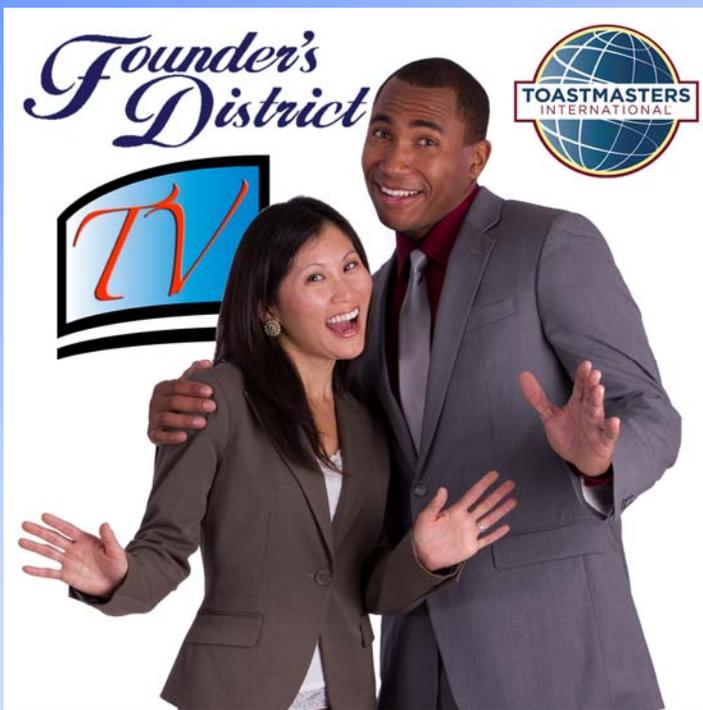
A variety of magazines were scattered on a table. The person called to speak selected a magazine. The table topics master called on another member or guest to pick a number between one and the number of pages in the periodical. The magazine was opened to that page and the person had to speak about whatever appeared on the page. From car racing to cruises to the Kardashians to Italian cheese, the segment had everyone anticipating what the next topic would be.



Speaking of Italian cheese, the member with that topic did a fantastic job. English is her second language and she beamed with confidence knowing she could speak about such an unusual topic.

—Robin Itzler, ACB, CL

Send your ideas for
Keeping Members Engaged to:
Robin@MotivateYourSomething.com



Don't miss the next exciting
episode of
Founder's District TV
at
www.foundersdistrict.tv
for the latest district news,
information and entertainment!



2011-2012 Area Governor of the Year
Windy Fetterly

2011-2012 Division Governor of the Year
Ligia Molina

2011-2012 Founder's District Toastmaster of the Year
Chris Gregory



Immediate Past District Governor Wes Hoover congratulates:

Ligia Molina

Chris Gregory

Fellow Toastmasters, Will You Wear a Ribbon?

by Robin M. Itzler, ACB, CL

Name a medical ailment or cause and there's a ribbon for it. It started years ago with yellow ribbons that were worn to remember loved ones who we wanted to safely return home. Then pink ribbons were introduced to represent the fight against breast cancer. Now almost every color is designated for some ailment or cause.

I would like a ribbon for a disease that afflicts many people throughout the world. Everyone reacts differently when diagnosed with the affliction. Some people will sweat profusely. Others can have stomach issues. Many become dizzy and nauseous. Almost all of the afflicted people suffer from increased blood pressure, dilated pupils, increased perspiration and dry mouth.

The disease is glossophobia!

My Toastmasters friends in the Founder's District, we need to help people who are suffering from glossophobia. Also known as speech anxiety, glossophobia comes from the Greek and means fear or dread.

First, we need a motto. How about: "We want to wipe out glossophobia in your lifetime." (Yes, I know that was first used for cancer, but since cancer is still here, maybe we can borrow the phrase.) Or we can go with: "When you care enough to speak the very best."

Next, we should hold a telethon on an obscure cable station no one has ever heard of so Americans can donate money to stop the spread of glossophobia. Since the Founder's District is in Hollywood's backyard, we're sure to find many celebrities who would want to attach their name to our good cause. (Let's start with those who were voted off "Celebrity Apprentice.")

Then, we must personalize the organization so people can identify with the cause. We can hold a contest to find the best person to represent the fight

against glossophobia. Although politicians are a rich resource for people who often say the wrong thing when speaking in public, let's stay away from politics.

Last, we will have to hold a 5K run. I have no idea why, but it seems every cause holds a run.

Glossophobia is important because we've all met accomplished people who surprise us with their lack of public speaking skills. Their walls are covered with certificates and degrees and their biography is several pages long. Yet when it comes to giving a presentation, some of these highly acclaimed individuals wither like the Occupy movement. From long pauses to repeating words to a chorus of "ums," it's nearly impossible to follow along, much less care about what is being said.

Orange will be our ribbon's primary color since that's the shade of confidence and opportunity – what Toastmasters is all about. I'll get back to you about the slogan and 5K run, but in the meantime, join me in my quest to cure the world of glossophobia, one speaker at a time.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robin Itzler, ACB, CL is a member of the *Bre'ahs* club, where her newsletter was recognized as the best in the Founder's District. Robin is also forming a new club, *Something Gained*. In addition to speaking on a variety of topics, she is a columnist

for several publications and author of "Life is an Open Seating." Robin is the founder of *Motivate Your Something*. Contact her at Robin@MotivateYourSomething.com.

