

Wry Toastmasters!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Club Officers: el presidenté—Hideo Fujita, VP Education—Judy Johnston, VP Membership—Tim O'Brien, VP Public Relations—Kristine Nelson, Secretary—Greta Gillette, Treasurer—Colleen Keranen, Sgt. -at-Arms—Gerald Fey

Special points of interest:

- *Wry TM Commentary*
- *New Members*
- *Mentoring*
- *Life Outside of WRY...*
- *Opportunities*
- *Upcoming Events*



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President's Corner

Fellow Wry Toastmasters:

Congratulations to the Wry Toastmasters who have completed their educational and leadership goals this past year. Your efforts and dedication to your work and support of the philosophy of "learning to think on your feet" is evident by the strides in your growth and development as public speakers.

Thank you to all our club officers who have stepped up to take on the responsibility to serve as guides in facilitating Wry's club process to create an enjoyable, creative, and supportive environment for all of our club members. This opportunity for service work and letting our actions bear witness to our fellow toast-

masters is one of my basic tenets. A healthy, vigorous, and energized Wry Toastmasters is tantamount for the Wry Board of Directors to accomplish our chief goal this year.

The board of directors is charged with the duty of action and follow-through in serving Wry this year. Our mission is to till the fields of the mentoring program, newsletter, acknowledgement program, officer transition process, education/leadership tracking and personal development plans. We will cultivate these crops with your participation and support and all reap the rewards of a bountiful harvest marked by our individual and collective accomplishments as public

speakers. We will also continue to enhance Wry's web page (WryToastmasters.org), meeting scheduling process, new member tracking, and the Distinguished Club Program.

Serving as Wry's President is an honor and comes as a stimulating opportunity for me. I will strive to add another creative chapter in our long, rich history and reputation as a professional, high-energy, wry-sense of humor club.

Hideo Fujita, el presidenté



Wry's Newest Members

We are delighted to announce our newest Wry Toastmaster Members: Andrew Gail, Bert Huelmann, Greg Osterloh, Heidi Gregory, Miyako Kamata, Gregor Kneitz, Rex Snyder, Sandra Jones and Susanne Baessler.

Turn to page 3 to learn more about Andrew, Bert, and Greg.

Our next issue will include narratives on Heidi, Miyako, Gregor, Rex, Sandra and Susanne.

"Newcomers are the infusion of enthusiasm that provides sustainable club energy. I hope your Wry Toastmaster experience over the course of this year presents you with

challenges, excitement, and support to help you become accomplished public speakers and that you choose to remain a member of Wry for many years. (Hideo Fujita)"



Life Outside the Walls

By Walter Carlisle

In spite of rumors to the contrary, there is intelligent Toastmasters life outside the Skyline Tower walls. I will be writing articles for the WRY newsletter describing that life and, occasionally, what I am doing “out there”.

First, the big picture. There are about 9,200 Toastmasters clubs, worldwide. They are all granted the right to be a club by Toastmasters International, a small, 40 employees, headquarters located in southern California. Formed after the first club started in 1924, TI (as it is often termed) works to create and support all those clubs around the world. They do a lot with that small staff. They hold the rights to be a club, create and produce all the educational and leadership programs and manuals, promote new clubs and club membership, maintain all the rules and structure necessary to run a club, and hold an annual convention.

An elected, unpaid Board of Directors manages TI. Each Director must be an active Toastmaster. There are 18 directors, 2 each from 9 different regions around the world. There are also 5 Board officers. The Board oversees policies, major

expenditures, approves all Educational, Leadership and structural changes and hires and manages the TI Executive Director.

The glue that is the hands-on connection between TI and each club is the District. An entirely volunteer organization that is administered by TI, the District has the same goals as TI – and increasing number of healthy clubs that use the TI educational and leadership programs to help people become better communicators and leaders. There are 77 Districts around the world.

The Districts are broken down into Divisions and each Division into Areas. Clubs are grouped into those areas with between 4 and 7 clubs per area. The Districts, Divisions, and Areas are lead by a Governor. The District and Division Governors are elected by the clubs. The District Governor appoints the Area Governors.

WRY is in Area 64 of Division F of District 2 in Region 1. Whew! But it is phenomenal that all of that is done on only \$3 per month per member. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it work.

Mentoring—What is expected of a TM Mentor?

By Judy Johnston:

What is expected of a Toastmaster Mentor?

- Sit with your mentee. Explain what is going on during the meeting (timing lights, evaluations, PIQEX.)
- Ask what goals your mentee wants to attain through Toastmasters. (Share your own goals.)
- Don't wait for your mentee to call you. Set up a meeting time and place. Plan on meeting at least before the first 3 speeches or meeting role.
- Work with the mentee on his/her Icebreaker. Share your own process for writing a speech.
- Brainstorm on topic selection. Help with the organization and timing of presentation.
- Provide positive, supportive feedback.
- Publicly acknowledge achievements (half way to CTM goal, etc.)
- Be flexible and respect differences.
- Be patient—People learn at different rates.

“WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A TOASTMASTER MENTOR? WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A MENTOR? ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT MENTORING IS ALL ABOUT?”

Mentoring—Why be a Mentor?

By Judy Johnston:

Why be a Mentor?

- We learn more about speechmaking by teaching it.
- It feels good to contribute to another member's progress.
- Coaching is a skill much in demand in the workplace.
- You may make a friend.
- Serve the club. Mentoring results in developing and retaining members.

Interested in mentoring or to be mentored? Then contact Judy Johnston (VP Ed.) johnstonj2000@attbi.com / 425-204-1484.

Andrew Gail

A graduate of the University of Washington, Andrew Gail is a technical sales representative for Johnson Controls with a focus on building control systems integration solutions and service. Andy (as his friends call him) was encouraged to join Toastmasters an enhancement to his professional development. Andy joined Wry because of the

supportive people and sense of camaraderie where members can build skills and improve self-esteem. Andy told us that he and his beautiful wife, Erin Elaine, have two children, eight-year old Brendan and two and a half year old Sarah. While work and family keep him busy, Andy also enjoys fly-

fishing, skiing, scuba diving, and sea kayaking expeditions. Andy has set a goal of attaining his CTM by September 2003 by giving a minimum of one speech a month.



Bert Huelmann

Bert was born and raised in Germany where he attended the University of Muenster, graduating with an MBA in marketing and corporate finance.

He went to work for Microsoft while still in Germany, and eight months later was transferred to Microsoft World Headquarters in Redmond.

After working for Microsoft for eight years, Bert co-founded a technology company, Corporate Onsite International, specializing in strategic, tactical, and operational IT consulting focusing on the human side of the IT environment.

When asked what all this means, Bert stated that "as an entrepreneur, his busi-



**BERT CO-FOUNDED A
TECHNOLOGY COMPANY,
CORPORATE ONSITE
INTERNATIONAL**

ness works with the IT administrator to deliver benefits to the organization by building knowledge, saving money, and increasing return on investment."

Bert enjoys running, golfing, skiing, and computers. Bert joined Toastmasters because he wants to improve his speaking and presentation skills.

Bert also wants to focus on enhancing his listening skills and considers preparing to give an evaluation an excellent avenue to practice active listening.

He chose Wry for its friendly and supportive members and the opportunity to switch the brain on at 7 a.m.

Greg Osterloh

Greg is the proud papa of a six-month-old baby girl named Gracie Raye Osterloh.

He and his wife, Nova, consider Gracie an important milestone in their lives and are enjoying the joys and challenges of parenthood.

A graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, Greg works at Johnson Controls in the Health Care Financial Group as an account executive.

He joined Toastmasters to improve his presentation skills and become an

excellent speaker. "I was looking for a club that met early in the morning and was close to my work," stated Greg when asked why he joined our club.

Wry met his requirements and after a few visits, he signed up. Outside of work, Greg enjoys skiing, diving, golfing, and hiking.

Greg has set a goal to gain proficiency at public speaking by practicing and taking advantage of member feedback to shed ineffective habits and build effective new ones.



WRY Toastmasters

Charter Date: September, 1981
District 2; Division F; Area 64; Club # 4723
Meeting Time: Thursday, 07:00 AM
SKYLINE TOWER 9th Floor
10900 NE 4th - 9th Floor Conf. Room
Bellevue, WA 98004



"Adversity is the springboard to great achievement."

Anonymous

Check us Out!
www.wrytoastmasters.org
eMail: info@WryToastmasters.org

Upcoming Events:

- **09 December 2002**, Monday, 6:00 PM, WRY BOD Meeting
- **14 December 2002**, Saturday, 6:30 PM, WRY Club Holiday Party! Heavy hors d'oeuvres pot luck and the ever popular White Elephant gift exchange. For details, see party chairperson, Hudson Lyman.
- **19 December 2002**, Thursday, 7:00 AM, WRY Club Holiday Tales Speech Contest. Time to put the finishing touches on your special holiday story! Contact meeting toastmaster, Hideo Fujita, for details.
- **Reminders:**
 - > No WRY meeting on 28 Nov. & 26 Dec. 2002

Opportunities Unlimited

By Kristine Nelson:

Opportunities are unlimited when you join a Toastmasters Club!

Toastmasters is a communications club. For a nominal fee of \$60 per year, you are given numerous opportunities to grow not only your communication skills but your leadership skills as well.

It's by far the best club I've joined. In the spring of 1997, I walked into my first meeting nervous and a bit scared. From that day, my life changed. Every week, I came, listened, learned, spoke on occasion, and grew my communication and leadership skills.

As a member of Toastmasters, you receive a magazine each month chock full of communication tidbits.

Through Toastmasters, I learned and continue to learn a little about a lot, as I sit in the audience and hear members give speeches about things that are important to them. Recently, I've learned about WASL testing, how to diffuse an angry audience, how to buy a car, and how to prioritize.

You learn to give evaluations, you learn to be humble, you learn to speak on your feet, and you learn to give prepared presentations.

When you join Wry Toastmasters, you are assigned a mentor. You're given a handbook that walks you through your first 10 speeches.

If you speak with a lot of space connectors (um, so, ah) or slang (yup, yeahs), have no fear, we will get these words out of your system. We do this by ringing a little bell whenever you use these words. You will improve this way!

Our Wry club meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. in the Skyline Tower in Bellevue (10900 NE 4th Street). We meet in the 9th Floor Conference Room. We hope you will visit us!