



# Wry Toastmasters

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Volume 2 Issue 2 2004

June, 3rd, 2004

Club Officers: President - Tim O'Brien, VP Education-Heidi Gregory, VP Membership-Bert Huelmann, VP Public Relations-Susanne Baessler, Secretary-Greta Gillette, Treasurer-Colleen Keranen, Sgt.-at-Arms-Stuart Iritz

## Distinguished Club Plan

### Are we a healthy club?

Toastmasters International thinks so. In order to achieve the highest level award, President's Distinguished Club, we needed to achieve any nine of 10 goals.

But we did it all and achieved all 10 points on our Distinguished Club Plan("DCP"): four CTMs, two ATMs, two CLs, eight new members, four officers trained twice during the year, the member list and dues were submitted on-time twice during the year, and our officer list was submitted on time. This was accomplished by a dedicated board and a dedicated club. We all deserve a "pat on the back" for the hard work.

Was it worth it?

I think so.

We work the program and it shows. There are always new members who come in to add vitality to the club. We have a culture of positive feedback and constructive criticism which allows each of us to grow and improve. From week-to-week I see improvement in every member of the club.

It is exciting to watch our members grow. And even more exciting to be a part of it. Are we meeting the objectives of our members? Absolutely.

Visitors are welcomed and often join our club. Attendance at club meetings is consistently good. Fellow club members frequently volunteer for additional duties. Speakers are anxious to speak and almost always do a man-

ual speech. We have a positive energy in the club and it is infectious.

We are never short of good humor and laughter. Let's face it. Our club is fun.

Wry Toastmasters had a great year!

Let's repeat it.

Tim O'Brien, ATM-B President, Wry Toastmasters

### Inside this issue:

Distinguished Club Plan	1
New members	2
Take your speaking...	3
New officers	3
Good-bye to an Australian	4

### Special points of interest:

- \* Take your speaking to the next level
- \* Summer picnic

### Outlook for the next issue

- \* Welcome from the new president
- \* The new, upcoming year with Wry
- \* ..... And so much more!



## Kathy— when less is more

Kathy is a real Seattlite—a rare species these days. When she met her husband Chris at the UW while studying music a symphony started for them. Kathy was lucky that he would accompany her.... And even more.

After they got married and had their first child they went out into the world. Starting and spending a lot of time in Germany in a pup-tent, they also adventured to Paris, Kiev, Romania, Turkey, Israel and the Slavic states. Wow, that was fun with two adults and a toddler in a pup tent.

Back home the adventures continued: Chris became the princi-

pal in a Christian school and Kathy the Children's Ministry Coordinator at church. They founded a non-profit called 'Worldview Matters' and oh, yes there were more children.

Kathy's youngest son has a seizure disorder and developed an anxiety disorder. While helping him overcome his anxiety disorder, Kathy learned valuable lessons about herself. These helped her overcome her over-eating problems and led to the light version of the Kathy we know. Laughter was the key to success! And yes, lots of common sense. Both made Kathy successful in overcoming her eating disorder. It worked so

well, that Kathy wrote a book "Laugh it off! Weight loss for the fun of it" with which she wants to help others to regain their health and find a new perspective on life—a fun one!

Welcome Kathy!



## Sven - up, up in the air!!!



Sven .....well, if you want to catch him, you better go up, up in the air!

Sven's biggest hobby is flying small aircrafts and exploring Washington from above. If he cannot get into the air, he is getting rid of his energy in sports like running, biking and soccer.

Or talking fast! No surprise here, how is he supposed to know what he thinks before he hears what he says!

Sven came here from Germany—

after a few stops in between like Dublin and Munich. He left behind his mom (working for Konica Minolta), his step dad who runs the small business copy shop, his sister who works in a museum and his grandfather who grows tulips.

He works at Microsoft as a software localization engineer and makes sure that mobile devices talk different languages.

Sven joined Wry after being twisted by Gregor and to improve his self-expression skills and build up self confidence. It gives him opportunities to ex-

pand his comfort zone and maybe even help him build shorter sentences.



## Take your speaking to the next level!

There are many ways that you can improve your speaking skills. One way is to enter one of our club contests. In fact, we have two such contests approaching in the coming months.

The first will be sometime in August and is the annual Humorous Speaking Contest. This gives you the opportunity to show your fellow Wry Toastmaster's how funny and witty you can be. Giving a humorous speech can sometimes be intimidating because we never know if someone is going to laugh. But, what better place to test your skills than in our warm and friendly environment at Wry. Test us; we all love to laugh.

If you win first place in the humorous contest you will go on to the area contest and perhaps even the district or even further yet the international level. Speaking in front of a different crowd will challenge you and help to make you more comfortable outside your normal speaking environment.

The next event to challenge you is the Wry annual Tall Tales contest, held each October around Halloween. This is the time for you to tell a scary story, an unbelievable story, or perhaps a tale that could or could not be true. Ideally, the goal is to encourage you to participate in a contest speech in a familiar environment.

This contest does not move to the area or district level. It does however; take your speaking to a contest level which in turn increases your skills as a good speaker.

Take your speaking to the next level. Try a contest event. They are fun, scary, nerve racking, exciting, and take you out of your comfort zone. To be a better speaker we must all get out of the zone and expand our horizons! I hope to see some of you enter one of the next contests. I am sure you will be happy you participated!

Heidi Gregory  
VP of Education

## New Officers

My last newsletter article. Phew!

This year has gone by quickly. I will freely admit that I enjoyed my role as club president. At first, I was not comfortable in opening and closing the meetings but, I knew it would be good for me. Eventually, with a lot of coaching from Hideo, I got to the point of being relaxed about it and now I even enjoy it. Really.

As much as the weekly speaking opportunity was good for me, the best part about being president was getting to work with a fabulous Board to achieve our goals.

Colleen, Greta, Heidi, Hideo, Susanne, Bert and Stuart were motivated, dedicated and terrific to work with.

And now, we get to pass the baton to the next board. In July, our new officers take over 2004-2005.

Congratulations to Bert Huelmann, the new president. Congratulations to our new board members Steve Merwick, Treasurer; Sandra Jones, Secretary; Charles Moore, VP Membership and Pierce Keating, Sergeant-at-arms. And congratulations to the se-

cond round folks Heidi Gregory, VP Education and Susanne Baessler, VP Public Relations.

A big round of applause for the folks who will continue the Wry legacy.

And more importantly, let's do everything we can to help them do a great job and ensure that Wry continues to be an extremely successful club.

Good luck!

Tim O'Brien, ATM-B  
President, Wry Toastmasters

## WRY Toastmaster

Charter Date: September, 1981

District 2; Division: F

Area: 62, Club 4723

Thursday morning meetings  
@ 7am

Skyline Tower Building  
10900 NE 4th (Floor 9, Conference  
Room)

**Learn More About Us!**  
Visit  
[www.wrytoastmasters.org](http://www.wrytoastmasters.org)  
Or email  
[info@WryToastmasters.org](mailto:info@WryToastmasters.org)

Got something to tell? Want to contribute an article for the next newsletter?

Just contact Susanne Baessler at  
[susanbaessler@msn.com](mailto:susanbaessler@msn.com)

**EXTRA**

Summer picnic

Sunday

July, 25th @ 2pm

**Where: Heidi's place**

**What do you mean you don't remember how to get there? We will have driving directions available the last two Thursdays before the picnic.**

From the South

405 N take I-90 East, Exit at Preston Fall City, Left over freeway at end yield to the right (**25 miles per hour**)

Follow and road ends (you are in Fall City) , Right at stop sign over bridge

Left immediately after bridge (SR203), Continue to follow go through Carnation (**30 miles per hour**)

Turn right at Stillwater Hill Rd (there is a Chevron on your left), Stillwater road turns into Kelley Rd. , Turn right on Stossel Creek Way go to the end of the paved road, Left on 348<sup>th</sup> , Follow and go past the mailboxes (there are about 50 of them in a row) onto the dirt road, Take your next left (there are no street signs after you pass the mailboxes). Go all the way to the end we are the last driveway on the left (if you pass our driveway you will come to a "T" in the road, just backup).

**34225 (no street # it will just confuse you)**

**425-869-5244**

.... And good-bye



Australians  
are sooooo  
special!

This is a fact. There is something so adorable about them.

Is it their accent? Their sense of humor? Or their 'no worries' way of looking at life? Or, maybe all of it?

Jim Trenerry, our own Australian, is leaving us to go back home. He and his wife, Cathy, want their children, Camilla and

Lewis, to have a chance to see what Australia is all about before they make up their mind where to live. Maybe they will come back one day. We hope so!

Jim has been a member of Wry for ....oh many years. He is a founding father of the 'Bastards', an excellent speaker, a good friend and an all around nice person, all of which I am sure he will agree with.

We will miss him dreadfully!  
The good thing is, now we all have somebody to visit



in Adelaide. And yes, we will all take advantage of that.  
Put a shrimp on the barbecue and chill the beer! We are coming.

By special foreign correspondent  
Anita

