



Wry Toastmasters

of Bellevue, WA

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Vol. 6 — 1/2008

March 28, 2008

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SPRING CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS

If it's March, it must be time for TM's annual International Speech Contest and Evaluation Speech Contest. In preparation for competition at the area, district, and division levels, Wry held its own club contests early in the month.

Toastmaster Gregor Kneitz facilitated the International Speech Contest on March 6, with the help of Chief Judge Sandra Jones. Typically, contest topics are inspiring and motivating. Hideo Fujita won 1st Place with his speech entitled *The Good Hands People*. When asked what prompted him to choose that focus, Fujita said he wanted "to share the inspirational message that I received from the good hands people in my life." Second and 3rd place winners were Patricia Klingler and Don Luby.

Not one to shy away from contest participation, Don Luby also entered the Evaluation Speech contest on March 13, and walked away as 1st Place winner. Luby's speech was based on feedback given to guest speaker Ambrish Verma from a Microsoft club. Also participating in that contest were Susanne Baessler, Colleen Keranen, Omar Rivas, and Kathy Woodford. Keranen and Baessler placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively.



By the time the Area Contest rolled around, Luby and Fujita were ready for the next round of competition on March 20 at Bellevue Library.

And ready they were, as they both successfully won First Place in their contests, on their way to representing Area 65 at the Division F contest. Pictured at left are the winners with Philese Selden, Area 65 Governor. Wry members who volunteered at the contest were Susanne Baessler

and Kathy Woodford, Timers, Sandra Jones, Ballot Counter, and Patricia Klingler and Gregor Kneitz, Judges. Sven Freitag and Stephanie Ko helped to fill the audience.

The Division F Contest is scheduled for April 11 at the Unigard campus at 15805 NE 24th St. in Bellevue. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. The contest will run from 6:30—8:30 p.m.

WRY Toastmasters

- Charter Date: Sept. 1981
- District 2 — Division F
- Area 65 — Club 4723

Meetings:

Every Thursday morning

7:00—8:15 a.m.

Skyline Tower - Suite 904

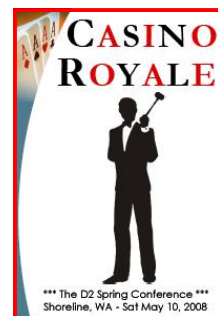
Bellevue, WA 98004

www.wrytoastmasters.org

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SPRING CONFERENCE IN BLOOM

Las Vegas comes to the Shoreline Conference Center on May 10 as District 2 hosts *Casino Royale*, the theme of this year's annual Spring Conference. The registration fee is \$139 (\$149 after May 3) for the all-day event. Featured workshops range from how-to's on Memory Techniques and Using Props to Storytelling and Microphone Skills. You can also learn tips from the experts on judging and evaluating. The Division level Evaluation Speech and International Speech contests will take place after lunch and dinner. The day is packed with more activities than this space can outline. Visit the District 2 website (<http://d2tm.org>) for details.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

MARINA NEPOM



I was born in Russia and lived there for most of my life. I always like to try new things and look for new places. I had held three jobs during my life: pharmacist advisor, accountant and tourist agent. I really like to travel. During the era of the former Soviet Union I visited all but one of the republics.

After the Iron Curtain fell down, I got the chance to travel in Europe. When my husband got a job offer in America, we jumped at the opportunity to explore yet another part of the world. Since we really liked it, we stayed much longer than expected (this is our 7th year), and we plan to continue living here.

"We" is actually my husband, my daughter and I. My daughter Katia (16) is my main English coach. She edits all my speeches, so if the speech is good – she should be given the credit. If my grammar is wrong in my speech, that simply means I've forgotten it all on the way to the meeting.

I love to ski, so when I got the opportunity, I joined the Alpentel Volunteer Ski Patrol. When I complimented Carrie Rulison, a co-patroller, on the ease with which she gave speeches, she recommended Wry Toastmasters. At my first meeting, I was amazed not only with the quality of the speeches, but also with the amazing organization of the club. I'm really glad to be able to participate in it.

JOE PHILLIPS

I've spent my entire life in King County and love living in this area. I graduated from the University of Washington in Business Administration. I was a very active student, leading two student organizations in my senior year. After college I decided I wanted to spend my career as a personal financial planner. I made this decision one day when I was in a retail store and noticed that about half of the employees working there were senior citizens. This affected me emotionally as I was hard-pressed to believe that many of them are working there by choice. I decided I wanted to contribute to ending this trend. I am now a Personal Advisor at Ameriprise Financial and enjoy every day of my career.

I've been married to my wife, Theresa, for nearly a year now and we are enjoying building our lives together. Public speaking has always been one of my strengths and I joined Wry Toastmasters because it gives me a chance to spend time doing what I truly enjoy and also improve my skills. I love the enthusiasm everyone brings to our meetings! It makes me feel invigorated and ready to start the day.

My core values are Spirituality, Integrity, Health, Service, and Personal Development.



EMIKO HORI



Returning from a brief hiatus is former member Emiko Hori. Since her return to Wry earlier this year, Emiko has already given two prepared speeches towards the completion of her CC.

Welcome back, Emiko.

STAN JOHNSON

Greetings! My name is Stan Johnson and I have always wanted to improve my speaking skills and find a place to practice. I have a dream of someday speaking professionally. I've learned that many great orators began their careers at a Toastmaster club, so here is where I hope to begin my journey.

My wife, Elizabeth, and I are the proud parents of three very young girls: Niah is 7, Giselle is 5 and Quincey is 20 months. We moved from San Francisco 5 years ago and now call Mercer Island home. I am a graduate of UC Davis where I studied Managerial Economics.



I am a big fan of whatever our daughters are currently playing or participating in and walking our 100 pound Bernese Mountain Dog - Sadie.

Six months ago I embarked on a new career, a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch. Prior to that, I was a medical sales consultant for 16 years for a large pharmaceutical company throughout the west coast.

Two interesting things I enjoy sharing are: I've traveled to many interesting places around the globe. Also, my father played professional baseball in the late 50's & 60's and I have 4 close relatives who are currently professional athletes.

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Do you secretly envy Hillary Clinton's and Barack Obama's opportunities to run for public office and serve the greater good? Are you looking for a similar stint to demonstrate your leadership skills? If you're gearing up for the day you throw your hat into an election arena, look no further than Wry to get your start.



Elections for Board Officers for 2008-2009 will take place in May, and now is the time to seriously consider running for an office.

Available positions are President, VP of Education, VP of Membership, VP of Public Relations, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Treasurer. Webmaster is not an elected position, but that individual does attend Board meetings.

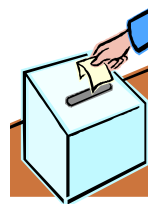
What are some of the new and exciting ideas you have about how Wry can improve upon its high standing in the local Toastmasters community? Is there something you would like to change in how our meetings are run? Are you interested in trying different techniques to attract new members?

Holding an officer position allows you and the other Board members to make decisions that support Wry's mission and commitment to "strengthening the

public speaking and leadership skills of its diverse membership by promoting an exciting, supportive and humorous educational environment."

If you want to see the Board in action, you are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14 at the home of former member Anita Myrfors on Mercer Island.

Discussions center around goals for the Distinguished Club Plan, the status of the club's membership, the educational goals of members, social events, PR efforts, contest scheduling, the club's financial status, approval for purchases, and the like.



Full descriptions of officer responsibilities can be found in the CC and CL manuals, and on the website for World Headquarters. Any of the current officers (see page 4) are available to answer your questions about how they carry out their functions.

Think about how you can make a difference and help Wry maintain its standards of excellence.

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do. - Helen Keller

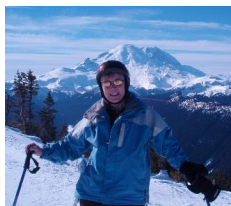
LIFE OUTSIDE OF WRY—WHAT HAPPENS IN BETWEEN THURSDAYS

Ever wonder what your fellow members do once they leave our Thursday morning meetings? Oh sure; they go home, or to their jobs or businesses they own. But what else piques their interest, and maybe even gives them material for their speeches? Let's take a peek into the between-meeting lives of four Wry members.

On a recent trip to Australia, Alice North learned how to dot paint from an Arrernte Aboriginal at Uluru. Even more recently, she taught a friend and her two kids how to dot paint. Soon she'll be teaching a class on dot painting as part of a fund raising auction for a friend whose daughter has autism. The class is for four individuals. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and share this facet of a 40,000 year-old culture with the next generation. Each participant will create up to three pieces of original art work to treasure - all supplies are included! For more information about the Arrernte tribe, visit <http://aboriginalart.com.au/culture/arrernte.html>.



Sandy and Omar Rivas are remodeling their home, which has proven to be quite an undertaking. What started with getting a new TV, then feeling that the TV didn't match the room, turned into knocking down walls, tearing out cabinets, carpets, doors and door frames, installing hardwood floors, creating a new window, replacing interior doors and door frames, painting, and adding new cabinets, a sink, and appliances. They have done all of the work themselves, with a couple of exceptions. You'll find a photo journey at www.rivasstuff.com/remodel/index.htm.



This past winter, Colleen Keranen was all about skiing. She challenged herself to change her turn from an 'up-weighted' lifetime habit to a safer, stronger 'down-weighted' turn. Colleen also spent a weekend at Crystal Mountain as a volunteer for MS Vertical Express races. Most recently, she hit the slopes at Mission Ridge in Wenatchee, and heads to Whistler, BC with her ski group in April. After ski season, Colleen will focus on her new investment near Bend, OR. Check it out at www.BandonGolfVilla.com.

Before Kathy Woodford began homeschooling a year ago, her daughters, Alaina and Claire, went to the Bellevue Spanish Immersion school. When she took them out, Kathy didn't want them to stop moving forward in their Spanish studies. To make sure that doesn't happen, she's put a lot of energy into keeping the language a part of their lives. They went to Cuernavaca, Mexico last spring for a week of Spanish school and tours, staying with a host family so they could hone their conversation skills. They all work on Spanish together at home and with a tutor every week. This year they're planning a trip to Spain. They'll spend a week in London with a host family Kathy stayed with in college, and then two weeks in Mallorca, Spain, where they'll be hanging out with locals they know through their homeschool group. For the last weekend, they'll fly to Barcelona and see the sights there for three days before flying home.

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER BONUSES

Do you subscribe to *Starburst News*, District 2's online newsletter? If you don't, these are some of the featured and regular articles on the website that you have been missing.

- ◆ Spring Conference Details
- ◆ Four Tips to Overcome the Fear of Public Speaking
- ◆ An Interesting Discussion of the Competent Leader Manual
- ◆ Word of the Week
- ◆ Instantly Boost Your Presentation
- ◆ 25 Skills Every Public Speaker Should Have

Subscribe at <http://d2tm.org> to learn more about what's happening throughout the District, and to find valuable ideas on becoming a better speaker.

WRY OFFICERS

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VP Membership	Susanne Baessler
VP Public Relations	Patricia Klingler
Secretary	Sandy Rivas
Treasurer	Tony Llacuna
Sgt.-at-Arms	Vacant
Webmaster	Ravi Sripada
Past President	Philese Selden