



Family Talk

*Fall
2005
Edition*

Meetings every 1st and 3rd Wednesday (12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m) at Fairfax County Govt. Center

Mission

"The mission of All in the Family Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth."

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Achievements:



JEFF GORDON NAMED OUTSTANDING TOASTMASTER IN DISTRICT 27

Our congratulations go to Jeff Gordon-DTM for being named one of District 27's Outstanding Toastmasters for 2005. Jeff, who has attained the level of Distinguished Toastmaster, the highest level possible in Toastmasters, received the Outstanding Toastmasters award for a number of reasons (our club's other DTM, Russell Sandige, was also named a District 27 Outstanding Toastmaster this year.)

For the last five years, Jeff has given tremendous support to District 27. For four of those years, he provided the district with a professional-quality website. He had strict standards for the site including making sure that no outdated information remained on the site and ensuring that the site is easily navigated for all those who seek information.

In addition to this, he was District 27's Bookstore Coordinator for two years. Jeff was often seen managing an extensive array of books and Toastmaster items at the district conferences and TLI (Toastmasters Learning Institute) events.

Jeff was also Division F's Contest Coordinator from 2001-2002 and a Select Distinguished Area 61 Governor in 2002-2003. He later served as TLI Dean in 2003-2004. The 2004-2005 Toastmasters year has proved a busy one for Jeff as well, supporting his wife in her Toastmasters leadership role, winning district contests and being a very involved member of two Toastmaster clubs.

As District 27's 2004-2005 District Governor, Jeff's wife, Donna Gordon, held the highest leadership role in the district. Since our district contains approximately 180 clubs, this is no small task. Throughout this year, Jeff was very supportive of Donna's role. During this busy time, he managed to enter club contests and ended up going all the way to the top at the district's spring evaluation contest.

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Events:

The club Tall Tales Contest winners were:

1st place: Rick Eshbach

2nd place: Teri Harbour-vito



Table Topic winners were:

1st place: Rick Eshbach

2nd place: Jeff Gordon

3rd place Sabrina Yarie



New Member:



Christina Sadar, our newest Toastmaster member gave her Ice Breaker speech. Christina loves tranquil walks in the woods, Japanese Gardens and spending time with family and friends.

The Family Talks:

Why I joined Toastmasters:

I decided to join Toastmaster rather late in my career. I've been with Fairfax County government for 25 years. But this fear of public speaking has always been with me. I was very competitive in school, and I remember a particularly difficult time I had in 8th grade when I had to recite a Robert Frost poem. With the eyes of everyone in the class upon me, I froze and stumbled. Even my prompter could not offer much help. I had a lovely hand drawn illustration to enrich the poem, but I held it up and it shivered and shook along with me. It was devastating to me to receive a low grade for that experience.

Along the way I've been thrust into leadership roles both professionally and in my community, and I've tried to mask my fear of public speaking by being prepared or delegating to others. Having to speak extemporaneously is still a big challenge in most settings, and those table topics at our meetings

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**JEFF GORDON NAMED
OUTSTANDING TOASTMASTER IN
DISTRICT 27**

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The first-place trophy he received at this contest was a testament to Jeff's towering and shining ability for public speaking. Jeff also deserves this Outstanding Toastmasters award for being an inspiration to the members of All in the Family and for the wealth of Toastmasters experience he brings to our club.

Teri Harbour-vito

**RICK ESHBACH NAMED DISTRICT 27'S
CLUB PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR**

With an ever present smile, a can-do spirit and an infectious optimism, former president Rick plays an active role in the club. Not only did he win the contest at the club level, he went on to win 2nd and 3rd place for area 61 Tall Tale and Table Topic Contests. He is always there to mentor new club members, offer constructive suggestions and help out whenever needed. Rick's talent at mimicry and playing the clown has uplifted many a club meeting. He is the true embodiment of the toastmaster spirit.

Reeta Kumar

Congratulations to Linda Wozniak for completing her CTM

Quotes:

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it."

Thomas Jefferson

"The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention."

Barbara Walters

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle



Club Business
Much Ado About Dues

A majority of our members are Fairfax County employees who enjoy the fact that the County pays the Toastmaster International dues. However, a number of members are confused about what we refer to as "club dues." When the TI payments are due by October and April, club dues are also due. Fairfax County does not pay the club dues; individual members must pay this minimal amount, just \$2 per six-month period. Our club does not have a checking account so these dues must be paid in cash. We use these funds for such things as special awards, contributions to District-wide speech contest expenses, occasional refreshments, and related expenses. If you have a question about whether you have paid your club dues, please contact Treasurer Nancy Vehrs at nancy.vehrs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THE FAMILY TALKS

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continue to strike fear in my heart after a full year It all comes down to priorities. If I want to improve and minimize my fear, then I just have to continue to work at it, and Toastmasters gives me that chance.

Nancy Vehrs

Watching fellow members grow in the family:

It is interesting and enjoyable to listen to others speak in Toastmasters. I have noticed some remarkable improvements in the public speaking abilities of my fellow All in the Family Toastmasters. Often, the new Toastmaster seems nervous or unsure at there first speaking opportunity. It is amazing to watch the progression in speaking ability over a period of weeks, months or years. The speaker progresses from nervous and unsure to accomplished and at ease.

Bruce McKenzie

Club Executives
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Vice President of Membership: Sabrina Yarie
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Secretary: Mindy Applegate
Treasurer: Nancy Vehrs
Sergeant-at-Arms Collette Diggs:

News Letter Contributions:

Publisher: Charles Hodge

Editor-in-Chief: Reeta Kumar

Editor: Teri Harbour-vito

Contributors: Teri Harbour-vito

Nancy Vehrs

Bruce McKenzie

Reeta Kumar