

Voices!

One Community
Many Voices

District 7 Toastmasters
August 2015

LAS VEGAS



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2015 CONVENTION RECAP

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EDITORIAL

Accidental meeting – or was it?

by Phyllis A. Harmon, DTM

Are chance meetings ever chance meetings? Or are they something more? Could it be that there are no accidents, that what was meant to be was meant to be? Sounds very esoteric, doesn't it?

Yet. . . I was standing in one of 8 hotel registration lines at Caesar's Palace last Tuesday waiting to check into my room. In the line next to me, I noticed a woman, about my age, with two men, inching forward with their luggage. "Isn't she a Toastmaster? Don't I know her from a prior convention? Isn't she a past International Director?" I made eye contact, waved, and waited for that look of recognition to wash across her face. To my chagrin, it didn't happen.

The next morning I was seated in Payard's for breakfast. There she was! The same lady I had seen in the registration line! She too was eating alone. Being a Toastmaster, I called out to her, inquired where her family was, and ended up asking if she would like to share a table. After introductions, I asked if she was attending the Toastmasters Convention. (At that point, I was still sure she was a Toastmaster.) It turned out that Sherry was associated with Wealth Smart, a two-year-old fund management organization in Kentucky. She was attending her first conference as a new agent.

The inevitable happened! She asked "What is Toastmasters?"

"Toastmasters saved my career. . ." I began, sharing my story and lauded the transformations that members experience when they find their voices. The conversation evolved to a sharing of work careers, family, and travel. In the 30 minutes we sat together, eating and sipping our morning beverages, Sherry and I connected. We exchanged contact information, and headed off to our respective meetings.

Later that morning, I received a text from Sherry: Phyllis, this is Sherry from breakfast. I told Greg and Jonathan about meeting you. When I did they were SO excited. Both said we are planning on joining Toastmasters. Wealth Smart encourages all of their people to join it. Isn't that cool? Thank you for telling me about it!

Are chance meetings ever chance meetings? Or are they something more? Could it be that there are no accidents, that what was meant to be was meant to be? I was meant to connect with Sherry. From the moment I spotted her in line, inching towards the registration desk to our connection at Payard's, I believe I was there, at that time and place, to introduce her to Toastmasters. Sherry and her husband and son are looking for a club in Louisville, Kentucky. They will find their voices and use them to help their clients secure their futures.

Your story is powerful. Use it when you talk about Toastmasters. You may just be in the right place at the right time, and your story may fling open the doors of possibility for someone else to find their voice.

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TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL



By Dottie Love—ACB, ALB, Triple Crown Award
and Allison Bennett—CC



Who would have thought going to a Toastmasters Convention would have caused us to laugh ourselves silly? Be awe-inspired by high-caliber speakers all while getting our 10,000 fitness steps-a-day in... by getting lost in Caesars Palace?

The first day started with a run. We entered into this grandiose ballroom just in the nick of time to hurriedly join the band of District-7 members giddily prancing across the stage in front of over 3,000 attendees as our leaders (Immediate Past District Governor Phyllis Harmon, DTM, Michelle Alba-Lim, DTM, Leanna Lindquist, DTM) and a host of District 7 members carried our Distinguished District Banner! District-7, You Rock!

Motivated starts with "E" - Yes, indeed! How could we not be with the extraordinary leadership training? Our presenters included CEOs, a Vice President of fortune-500 company, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, best-selling authors, award-winning speakers and trainers. The most poignant: the words of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Muhammad Yunus, which left us enraptured, excited, and enriched. He transformed financial lending with a concept called 'microcredit' that helps poor people create businesses and helps end poverty around the world. He said, "We are instinctively creative beings with the power to enhance the world. . ." It was a glimpse into the opportunities we all have, especially as Toastmasters, to change impossible to possible.

.....
Too many other memorable quotes, but we had to share a few more. . .

"You are meant for something. . .Find your life's purpose and it will take you through your obstacles." -- Marilyn Tam author of Happiness Choice and presenter of Leadership Excellence, How You Can Achieve It.

"Laughter is a celebration of life. According to new research, writing down your negative thoughts and then throwing them in the trash can help a bad mood. I tried it and although happier, I really miss my iPad." -- Tim Gard presenter of Laughter Becomes You

Give yourself an everlasting gift of the videos: www.toastmastersondemand.com

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Debit or Accredit

We didn't realize the power of Toastmasters until we saw the by-product of Toastmasters at its highest level! Did you know Toastmasters has an Elite Program for paid, professional speakers? Oh, you did. Well. . .we bet you didn't know that our District 7 member was in the Accredited Speakers Competition. We proudly cheered as Cathey Armillas, DTM presented an excerpt from her award-winning book, *The Unbreakable Rules of Marketing*. She promised and proved, "Creativity is the smallest investment with the potential for the biggest return." Check her out at www.CatheyArmillas.com.

Lunch was a Contest Hero Sandwich

A big shout out to our "Superhero", Libra Forde, District 7's semifinalist. She showed up in a big way. . .all 6' 5" of her. Watching the contestants perform, we garnered the ingredients for the sandwich.

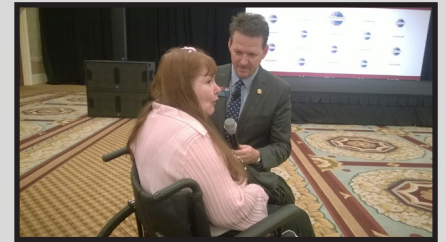
- 2 Slices of whole-hearted laughter
- All meaty prose
- Special sauce of enthusiasm
- With a side of crunchy content

Libra, we will be rooting as you continue your hero's journey. Finalist, Mohammed Qahtani, who didn't speak until the age of 6, and had a terrible stutter, rose to become the 2015 International Champion of Public Speaking!

What we did in Vegas . . .



Won't Stay in Vegas!



And Another thing!

We had expected to be inspired. What we didn't expect was to be blown away! Luckily for us, Allison brought hair spray. Haha. Other Lessons' learned: Enthusiasm wins hearts. Traversing Caesars Palace can replace a Stairmaster. Conventions can also be a verb, adjective or adverb: Tremendous. Transformational. Transcendence. Want growth? Then join us at the 2016 International Convention to be held in Washington, D.C.

Us leaving Las Vegas. Bye for now .



VIEWPOINT



Servant Leadership Personified

By Michelle Alba Lim, DTM – District Director

Nowadays, we often hear of “servant leaders” or “servant leadership.” What is the quintessence of servant leadership? What differentiates servant leaders from other leaders?

In the words of Robert K. Greenleaf (who coined the phrase “servant leadership”) “The servant-leader is servant first...It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead...” <http://www.greenleaf.org/>

Servant leaders make sure that other people’s needs are being served. Unlike traditional leaders who lead with the “my way or the highway” approach, servant leaders share power, put the needs of others first, and truly care for people. They are patient, kind, and humble.

Immediate Past International President Mohammed Murad impresses me as servant leadership personified. Allow me to share three examples. . .

On the last day of the international convention in Vegas, Pat Lynch and I met Mohammed as he hurried towards the ballroom. When he learned that Pat wanted a photo with him, without a moment’s hesitation, he stopped and posed with her. Others crowded around, wanting photos. He graciously obliged. He could have said “I’m busy” or “I’m in a hurry!” Not Mohammed. He probably had to walk really fast to make up for lost time!

Last May, I unexpectedly saw Mohammed at the ATD international conference. We agreed to meet for lunch. Unfortunately, I couldn’t locate him. He walked across the humongous exhibition area to find me. Instead of looking impatient, he greeted me with a radiant smile.

Some years ago, as a member of Mohammed’s campaign team, I was assigned to download district performance stats. When I encountered technical glitches, I emailed his campaign manager to let her know. Imagine my surprise when Mohammed emailed me the stats for my two districts at that time (Founders and D75). He also offered to help me download any other information that I needed. Wow! How many other leaders would respond the way that he did?

In my opinion, Mohammed personifies the essential characteristics of servant leaders. He is truly a leader worth emulating.

“Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It’s about impact, influence and inspiration. Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion you have for your work, and you have to inspire teammates and customers.”

Robin S. Sharma



FROM THE DESK

The Secret

by Leanna Lindquist, DTM Program Quality Director

I learned a big secret at the Toastmasters International convention. It is the secret to attracting more club members, keeping the ones you have, and earning educational awards. The secret is Club Quality. How do you know if your club demonstrates quality? The tried and true method is to conduct a Moments of Truth.

This secret has been staring us in the face all along. The clubs that we hold in high esteem all do the following:

1. Welcome guests with open arms
2. Hold well planned meetings that are lively and professional
3. Support member growth with good evaluations
4. Provide leadership opportunities
5. Earning education awards is a given

When you visit one of these clubs you sense the camaraderie. There is a full agenda and everyone has a copy. At the end of the meeting people stand around to enjoy one another's company. First time guests fill out member applications. Members anticipate the next meeting. Everyone leaves feeling their time was well spent.

If your club isn't quite there and you want a place to start try Moments of Truth. MOT is a club self-assessment done by the members. It will lead to a Club Success Plan, the road map to a Quality Club. Check out the latest issue of Toastmasters Magazine to see how one club turned themselves around.



Corner Club Coach

Wanted: Club coach coordinator

Our District mission says, "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." To help achieve the second part of that mission—support all clubs—we need coaches willing to help a low-membership club reach Distinguished or better status.

District 7 also needs a member to manage the club coach program. This role involves matching a veteran Toastmaster with any club with fewer than 12 members that requests coaching help. Most coordinator duties can be done by e-mail or phone. You can also help the Club Growth Director recruit more coaches.

Even as a Distinguished District, we have more than 50 clubs with 12 members or fewer. Not all ask for coaching help, but those that do deserve our support. To be considered as club coach coordinator, contact cgd@d7toastmasters.org.

Welcome, club coaches!

This month, Peter De Graff stepped up to coach Leader's Edge Club in Vancouver, and Diane Allen will coach Highnooners Club in Bend. We wish these coaches and clubs a year of growth and success!

From the Desk

Awareness, engagement and participation will drive club growth

By Erik Bergman, DTM, Club Growth Director



I'm writing this at my first Toastmasters International director's training, a two-day marathon of presentations, workshops and networking. Three hundred District Directors have gathered in Las Vegas, and I'm in awe of their energy, knowledge and commitment. Looking around the room, I see fellow Directors from Finland, Zimbabwe, France, China, India. . .and our sheer diversity is remarkable.

We're here to train in our particular Director duties. We also want to see the big picture of our global educational organization and to better grasp our role in making Toastmasters the best it can be. Outgoing International President Mohammed Murad told us that Toastmasters International (TI) strategic plan will address three key areas:

1. Club excellence
2. Member achievement
3. Awareness, engagement and participation

It's up to us to make the strategic plan happen locally. Each of these items is something each one of us can and must help advance. Clubs that help members achieve goals are most likely to be excellent. And what we accomplish as members—education awards achieved or officer roles filled—makes for an excellent club. Excellence depends on all members supporting and encouraging each other and making the club a fun, safe place to grow.

Item No. 3 is what I'm personally focused on as Club Growth Director. Let's look at its separate parts. Awareness. Before they can become members, people need to hear about us. They must be aware that we exist. Raising awareness is an ongoing process, a journey not a destination. We'll be actively promoting the Toastmasters program to new communities, new audiences and new venues to spread the word. Outreach projects this month include a parade and a labor union picnic. These are member-driven opportunities at which Toastmasters show up and talk about our program.

Engagement. We're engaging with companies, groups and individuals who express interest in starting a new club. Some requests come through TI, while others come from members like you who alert us to an opportunity for club-building. We're engaging with all the leads you send in, so keep them coming. Our goal is to bring the benefits of our program to as many people as possible.

Participation. Toastmasters works when every member is engaged. That means taking on meeting roles and giving speeches, of course. Some of you want more so you can grow faster. If you want to reach higher, consider helping at the Area, Division and District level. We have marketing and promotion roles for you that can be a High Performance Leadership Project: club coach coordinator, kickoff meeting team member, club coach and club mentor, to name a few.

If you know of a community event where Toastmasters can play a role, or an idea for a new club, please send your suggestion to cgd@d7toastmasters.org.



Journeys...

Spotlight on Success – Rusty Lee

By Alexis Mason, DTM

What do you really know about Rusty Lee? Did you know that he grew up in Commerce City, Colorado? Did you know he received a full academic scholarship to Colorado State University? Did you know he made it through one term before his life was forever changed?

Rusty went to college with the intention of pursuing a degree in physics and/or engineering. It only took one quarter before he suffered the dreaded “sophomore slump”. You probably know the one . . . it’s the, “what’s-the-use-of-this-stuff slump.” During that fateful term, Rusty was introduced to Fortran, an early computer programming language that remains an active part of the engineering and scientific software developmental world today. Rusty fell in love with the technology and resolved to become a certified programmer.



In 1971, he attended one of the few trade schools that taught computer programming. With his certificate in hand, he quickly discovered that jobs were not to be found. At that time, the United States was suffering from a national unemployment rate of 5.9%, with most inner cities hovering around 9.0%. Coupled with a sluggish economy and political unrest, employers slowed or froze all hiring.

Fast forward to 1985. Rusty purchased his first computer for about \$6,000 which was more than the price of a new car. He worked for a company that installed monitoring equipment in trucking fleets. He was their star sales representative, and was rewarded with a transfer to the northwest.

In 1995 Rusty learned that the corporate ladder he had climbed was leaning against the wrong wall, and left the firm. Because of his ongoing interest in computer technology, he launched a computer support and repair business. He had been doing this work for family and friends for some time. It was a good fit. One of his clients was asked how he was able to get his computer fixed so well and so quickly. The client’s response was, “I just call my pc doctor.” That’s how the business that we know as CallMyPcDr.com was born. Rusty now is extremely busy, serving both corporate and private clients.

He also serves District 7 Toastmasters. A few years ago, Rusty was instrumental in setting up the District’s PayPal account for conference registration. He served three times as area governor and twice as division governor. He has also earned two Distinguished Toastmaster awards. He is a long time member of two Vancouver, Washington clubs Evergreen Toastmasters and Leader’s Edge.



When time permits, he is a NASCAR fan and would love to find time to go fishing. When asked about what’s next, he stated, “I’d like to get a life, with time for home improvements and relaxation.”

We thank you for your exemplary service, Rusty.

Journeys is a monthly column focused on members and what they do outside of Toastmasters.





WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

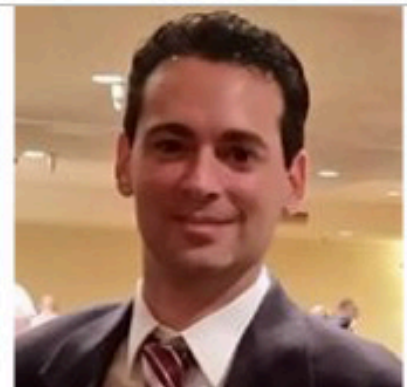
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Constitution Day Open House



Patriot Talkers Toastmasters

2 Guest Speakers



Carla Pletka

Patriot Talkers
Toastmaster member,
Constitutional Advocate,
Founder of
Oregon Patriot Camps
and
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www.oregonpatriotcamps.com

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6:30PM Networking &
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President: Kay Bridges
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KAYLBRIDGES@GMAIL.COM

Patriot Talkers meets every
Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 PM
You're invited!

Scott W. Jorgensen

Scott's new book:
"On the Cusp of Chaos"
His resume includes
Award Winning
Newspaper Reporter,
News Director and
RadioTalk Show Host.
Jorgensen has worked in
the Oregon House of
Representatives and is
currently the Chief of
Staff for an Oregon
Senate office.

Guests Welcome!

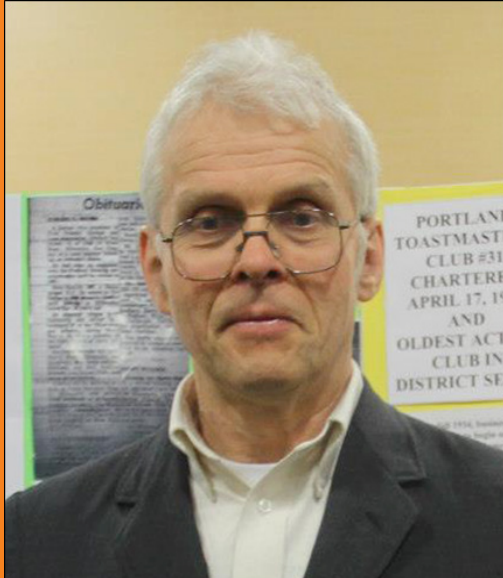


FB: Patriot Talkers

BURIED TREASURE

1940 – District 7 is Born!

By Harvey Schowe, DTM – District 7 Historian



Newspaper headlines screamed Germany invades Denmark and Norway. Bonneville Dam was two years old generating electricity to Portland and surrounding areas, Troutdale boasted a population of 227, and the Shakespearean festival in Ashland suffered a backstage fire that destroyed nearly all of that season's costumes. This was the backdrop to the formation of District 7 Toastmasters in 1940 by Ernest C. Davis and Frederick H. Eley.

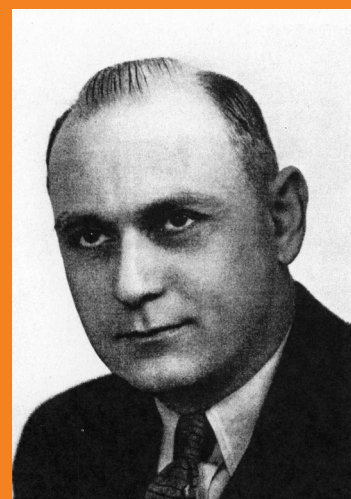
Ernest C. Davis and his family moved to Portland from Texas in 1929. In 1937, he joined Portland Toastmasters after learning about the program from members who were participating in various civic clubs and organizations. He became very active which led to being elected the District 2 governor for 1939-1940.

Frederick H. Eley emigrated from Canada to the United States in 1907 and settled in Santa Ana, California where he established a successful architectural business. He was the first registered architect of Santa Ana, California, and was regarded as the area's most prolific and finest early architect. He designed more than 30 schools and many other buildings. A number of his works are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1922, he received a commission from Ralph Smedley, YMCA Secretary and Construction Superintendent, for designing the YMCA Santa Ana Building. They became friends and Smedley invited Eley to join Smedley Chapter One, the original Toastmasters club he started in 1924 in the basement of the YMCA in Santa Ana. After Toastmasters International incorporated in 1931 he was appointed as director and treasurer from 1932 to 1934.

Eley and his family moved to Salem, Oregon in 1937 where he joined the Forum Club, a Salem YMCA speech club. He persuaded members to organize it into a Toastmasters club and was the club's first secretary. In June 1940, Ernest Davis, 1940-1941 International Director, announced the formation of District 7 and appointment of Frederick Eley as first District 7 Governor.

On the world stage, tensions were building towards conflict and destruction. In Oregon, a bright beginning was launched for people eager to improve their communication and leadership skills. Today, District 7 continues to thrive. It's grown laterally to include clubs from its northern border in Longview, Washington to its southern border in Alturas, California. The district spans westward from the sandy beaches of southern Washington to northern California.



Ernest C. Davis

SUCCESSFUL CLUB



WE Toasted Toastmasters Builds for Success

By Robyn Knox, President, WE Toasted

Every Toastmasters club faces challenges. It's how the members respond that makes the difference. At the start of the 2014-15 year, WE Toasted, a noontime community club in Lake Oswego, was down to 14 members. The reasons were many: job layoffs, members moving out of state, new work schedules and the lack of a consistent meeting room from week to week. Low membership meant that the three remaining officers had to take on multiple officer roles, which put more pressure on them to keep the club running.

The club's turnaround from small and shrinking to President's Distinguished in one year holds lessons for others. Here's what we did and what we learned.

Start with the basics. We set about upgrading all aspects of our club, starting with key details. We reply to visitor email inquiries immediately — within the hour if they arrive by day. We print name cards for all visitors who let us know they will come by, which they say impresses them. We keep refreshing our website, as it shows we're up-to-date and active. Make it fun. No matter how many or how few attend, make your club a fun place to be. Guests and members alike respond best to laughter and friendship. Table Topics can keep people loose and enjoying themselves. We enlivened the schedule with special events such as holiday celebrations, potlucks and guest speakers. Members invited their friends, which further raised the energy level.

Make over the meeting room. Our club was being shuttled from one room to another due to the needs of our host company. This was far from ideal, but in the long run we ended up in a freshly painted and refurnished space of our own, complete with big-screen monitor and space to store all our club supplies. Our venue now matches what we want our club to be: bright, welcoming and inspiring.

Expect more. It might seem illogical, but when things don't meet expectations, expect more. We found that by raising our standards and expectations of club members, we generated more excitement and participation than we imagined. We jump-started speech contests, which the club had not embraced before, in both fall and spring. As a result, more members attended the Area and Division contests.

Recruit new officers. We devised a plan to attract members to club officer roles through prepared speeches, Table Topics and a drumbeat of announcements in the months leading up to club elections. The result: a full slate of seven officers, six of them first-timers. We'll continue to identify and support promising new talent and put them in charge where they can succeed.

Grow beyond the club. Several club leaders took a big step to the next level. We entered the 2015-16 year with members in these leadership roles: Area 64 Director, Willamette Division Director and District 7 Club Growth Director — and a past Area Director as club president. (Expect more, right?) Connections and friendships formed through District duties means these leaders can bring a wealth of new ideas and opportunities back to our club.

None of this happened overnight. First-time guests became regular guests and then members. Diligent pursuit of our Club Success Plan helped us meet 10 of 10 DCP goals. The bottom line: At year's end, membership has risen to 26, with average meeting attendance of 15, and prospects for a strong year ahead.

Photo: Group photo

SUCCESSFUL CLUB PICS



RYAN AVERY

2012 World Champion
Public Speaking



MAKE IT MATTER

November
6 & 7, 2015

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

KEYNOTE

Warner Pacific College
2219 SE 68th Ave, Portland, Oregon

Fri - \$25 Sat - \$40
Both days - \$60

After September 15

Fri - \$25 Sat - \$60
Both days - \$85

REGISTER AT

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE

Friday Evening

RYAN AVERY

Speak Up

Oregon Medical Association
11782 SW 68th, Portland, Oregon

6:30 - Hors d'Oeuvres
7:30 Program

\$25 at the door or online



Leadership

Ryan Avery, DTM



Humor

Tara Rolstad



Evaluations

Eric Winger, ACS, ALB



Stage Presence

James Wantz, DTM



Time Management

Yaswanth Rangineni



Personal Branding

Glen Anderson



Leader Growth

Jason Leon, CC

Saturday Workshops

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE

- 7:00 Hot Breakfast & Networking
- 8:15 Keynote - Ryan Avery
- 9:30 Workshops
- 10:45 Table Topics Contest
- 11:50 DTM Ceremony & Lunch
- 1:00 Business Meeting
- 2:30 Workshops
- 4:00 Humorous Speech Contest
- 6:00 Close

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