



Volume 22, No. 3, March 2003

District Governor Report:



Dear Fellow Toastmasters:

You made the difference! Only two-thirds of the Toastmaster's year has passed and we have managed to charter so many new clubs that we achieved more than 60 clubs in District 59! What an amazing accomplishment! Never before have we been able to charter nine clubs within 8 months. And, the year has not come to an end. Definitely more clubs will charter before 30 June 2003, the end of this Toastmasters Year. My sincerest gratitude is to everybody who has been active in this endeavour. You made the difference!

Not only have we been good in founding new clubs this year, but we've also been doing very well in achieving our goals within the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). Never before have so many clubs received so many points by March. Also, never before have we had so many educational achievements. This is fantastic and we should all be very proud of these achievements. For myself, as District Governor, I am very proud of our District and all its members who helped achieve these wonderful goals which will allow us to soon drop the "P" from District 59P.

However, the news is not all good. Yes, we have had wonderful successes, but we also have to be honest with ourselves. We see membership strength of 17 Clubs below charter strength (20 members). Not only are these clubs not up to par in their meetings,

but also quite often not all officer positions are properly filled. Of particular note, these Clubs could lose their points achieved within the DCP. Losing hard earned points because of low membership is not a good thing. So please Fellow Toastmasters, if you belong to a Club with less than 20 members, there is still time for change. You can make change happen. You can make a difference—one new member at a time.

I wish everyone successful meetings, inspiration for that next speech project you keep deferring, and most importantly, fun in the Club environment. I hope to see all of you at the District 59 Spring Conference in May in Paris. After all, what could be better than being in Paris in the springtime surrounded by friends!

Take care and may your next speech be everything you envision it to be!

Christoph Stoppok

2003 District 59 Spring Conference



Dear Fellow Toastmasters from all over the world and especially Europe,

I am delighted to have this opportunity of inviting you all to the District 59 Spring Conference in the "City of Lights," Paris, France, 23-25 May 2003.

There is hardly any need to sing the praises of Paris, the city that has inspired countless writers, poets, and artists. If you have never been here, this is the perfect time to do so, and if you already have, come again and enjoy Paris in the springtime with its unique luminosity, its blue sky and light air and its

festive mood. Try it! You'll love it! You can easily make your visit a wonderful holiday Toastmasters-style experience by coming a few days in advance or leaving a few days after the Conference. We suggest you visit our Conference web site frequently as there will be regular updates on the exhibits, shows, and guided tours taking place during the Conference period:

<http://tmpparis.free.fr>

The Conference will be held at the Forest Hill Hotel, just outside the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Science and Industry Museum) of la Villette, where you will find several museums along with a 3D movie theater (la Géode), a theatre, a concert hall, etc., all within the park area. The hotel itself is pleasant and well equipped with a series of conference rooms and other areas, which have been reserved for our weekend activities.

The following information is available: registration formalities, accommodation, a preliminary introduction to the various workshops available, (apart from the Speech and Evaluation Contests), and the highlights of the event. We propose two possible registration choices: the first includes all of the activities, from Saturday, 24 May to Sunday, 25 May (end of morning), with of course both contests and the gala dinner. The second includes the International Speech Contest, cocktails, and gala dinner on Saturday, 24 May.

On behalf of Clubs, Agora 75 and the Europeans, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you and will do our very best to make your stay delightful and unforgettable! We are looking forward to seeing you here in Paris this Spring.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. E-Mail address of the Spring Conference tmpparis@free.fr or my home E-Mail address: opetillot@hotmail.com. You may also contact me Snail Mail at:

73 rue de Reuilly
75012 Paris
France

By telephone, you may me at:

Tel: + 33 1 43 41 57 61

Fax: +33 1 43 40 94 82

Odile Petillot, Conference Chairperson

Lieutenant Governor, Educational and Training Report:



San Antonio, Texas
August 2002

At the February 2003 Executive Committee meeting in Brussels, the Board decided to make a contribution of \$250 to the Ralph Smedley Memorial Fund in honor of former Continental Council of European Toastmasters (CCET) Chairman, DTM William (Bill) Hamilton. By contributing to the Ralph C. Smedley Fund, we will be helping Toastmasters International continue to develop new and innovative programs for its members and advance its mission to make communication a worldwide reality. Bill Hamilton, DTM who passed away in September 2002, was a veteran Toastmaster, skilled parliamentarian and Europe's first home-grown DTM (1996). Bill was a passionate, committed European Toastmaster and a dedicated mentor. Wherever there was a gathering of Toastmasters, Bill was sure to be there either as a leader or as a supporter. He shared the vision of turning the then struggling 35-odd clubs, which made up the CCET into what is now District 59. Bill was CCET Chairman for the 1995/1996 Toastmasters Year. One of his first acts was to petition the leadership of Toastmasters International for District status. The answer was no, but did he ever get their attention! Although in our first year as a provisional district, Bill and Ardelle, his wife (and our first elected District Governor), were transferred to Korea, he remained a devoted European Toastmaster. In fact, just four weeks prior to his passing, he pitched in and

helped Rob Cockburn, DTM in his successful campaign for International Director at the 2002 International Convention in San Antonio. The Board felt a donation in Bill's name would be an appropriate 'toast' to a very special fellow Toastmaster.

Should you wish to make a contribution of your own to our initial pledge of \$250, a call for additional donations will be made after the District 59 Council Meeting at the Spring Conference in Paris on Saturday, May 24, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact me at:

magyarandmagyar@compuserve.com

Denise Magyar, LGET

Let's Drop the Other "P"

For the past two years or so, I have been plagued at District speech contests by a sense, not of *déjà vu*, but rather (pardon the pun), of *déjà lu*. That's right, I've *read* the speech somewhere before. Where? The Internet, of course. Lots of people use the World Wide Web to research their speech topics. There's nothing wrong with that. Increasingly though, I am hearing speeches which have been lifted wholly or substantially from sources on the Web. How do I know? Because a well-meaning friend forwarded the same material to me!

The problem of the speech "borrowed" from the Internet occurs mostly in talks of a humorous nature. I say "problem" because of a clause in our speech contest rules which states that contest speeches must be "substantially original". The rules go on to stipulate that any quoted material must be clearly identified as such. While it is virtually impossible to identify the author of humorous material that someone forwards via E-Mail to our Inbox, that doesn't mean that it is therefore fair game. It still is not our original material. We are using some clever journalist's or Hollywood comedy

writer's creation and passing it off as our own.

Are you an author or merely a compiler?

While such compilations can be highly amusing and provide us a vehicle to show off the delivery skills we have honed as Toastmasters, they do not satisfy the requirement of being "substantially original". Just how much of a speech needs to come from borrowed sources before it is adjudged substantially unoriginal may be open to interpretation. However, the speeches I have been hearing clearly have been predicated on non-original material.

Lifting material from the Internet is tantamount to culling witticisms from the collected works of Mark Twain and compiling them into a presentation. Now there's a sure-fire recipe for winning each and every humorous speech contest! Funny? Yes. Clever? Absolutely. Amusing? No doubt. Substantially original? No.

Please note that I am in no way implying willful deception on the part of our speakers. Since many of our contest speakers are relatively new to Toastmasters, I am perfectly willing to believe that they are genuinely ignorant of the "substantially original" requirement and the need to identify all quoted material. Here's where we, especially the Area Governors, can do a better job of educating our membership. Have each participant understand and fill out the "Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality" at each Contest level. This ounce of prevention is much preferable to the pound of cure: a protest lodged by the judges or other contestants with the chief judge at the actual contest prior to the announcement of the winners.

How important is the issue of originality? Ironically, contests are not the heart of the Toastmasters experience. Developing communication and leadership skills is. Speech contests nevertheless are extremely important. Aside from the issue of copyright

violation (a recent cover story in The Toastmaster magazine, May 2002 dealt with that very subject), our speech contests are also highly visible. They are the calling card of our organization and the many non-Toastmasters who attend them are likely to form their opinions of the organization based on what they see and hear at contests. Don't forget: non-Toastmasters have Internet access too. They're also on somebody's forwarding list. They will have read the same compilations and lists of funnies that we have read.

I've refrained from using the "P" word so far but let's face it: even if it occurs out of ignorance of the rules, passing off someone else's material as our own is still plagiarism. We've been hearing a lot about dropping the "P" (for "provisional") from our District number. I'm all for it, but I also urge that we drop the other "P," the one that stands for "plagiarism," from our calling cards too. Otherwise, I am considering boycotting future speech contests. After all, I've heard it all before. Or rather, I've *read* it all before.

Christopher Magyar, ATM-G/CL

Charity Charter Gala--Dinner Dance

Whoever renders service to many puts himself in line for greatness - great wealth, great return, great satisfaction, great reputation and great joy."

--Jim Rohn

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the Charity Charter Gala of The Achievers Toastmasters Club of Marbella and Mijas Costa. In less than 3 months we reached this prestigious status within this renowned non-profit organization, Toastmasters International. So we will celebrate this outstanding achievement on Friday, 28 March 2003 at 1930 at Guadalmina Golf Club (Guadalmina Alta), Entertainment: Rafael plus the famous Ron Terré from the

"Drifters." Full dinner is 45 Euros and the dress is formal.

To thank the community for our phenomenal success we will contribute half of any profit to ASPANDEM - a local Charity that cares for mentally retarded children and is doing wonderful work (see www.aspandem.org). The remaining 50 percent will go to Club Network Programs and TMI's Youth Leadership Program, which helps young people improve their speaking and leadership skills and builds their self-confidence (<http://www.toastmasters.org>).

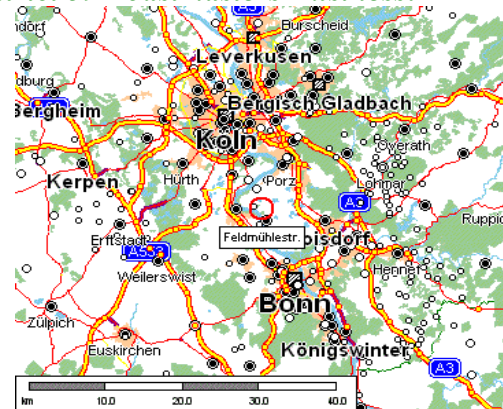
Tickets can be obtained from any of our members or at the Reception of InterVest, Upper Floor, Christamar Centre, Puerto Banus. We recommend you make your reservation soon as seats are limited and taken up fast.

For further details please call 952-813-870 or e-mail: barbarahof@eresmas.com. We want to thank you in advance for your support and are looking forward to seeing you at our Charity Gala on the 28th.

Team - Together Everyone Achieves More!

Barbara U. Hofmeister, Charter President
"The Achievers" Toastmasters Club, 5183

District 59 Toastmasters Business:



1. March is the famous month for collecting Club dues. So please support your club and help your treasurer. Dues must be received at Toastmasters International by 1 April 2003 in

order to receive proper DCP program credit. Don't throw away this low-hanging fruit.

2. For those of you who are interested in Club Performance please have a look to the latest figures from TMI at: <http://www.toastmasters.org/dreports/newd59report.htm>.

3. If you want to which clubs are currently Distinguished (or even better) or some hot candidates, please have a look at: <http://www.district59.org/benchmark/dcp2002-europe.htm>.

4. The Toastmasters International Board of Directors has decided to add Liechtenstein, Andora, Spain, Gibraltar, and Portugal to District 59 effective 1 July 2003. World Headquarters will inform all clubs in these areas of the change. These clubs may not take part in any District Speech Contests until after this date.

5. An agenda item for the District 59 General Council Meeting on 24 May in Paris is the District 59 reorganization. As an attachment to this issue of the Clarion, you will find most recent proposal for the restructure of the District 2003-2004. We need to know your opinion. Nothing has been written in stone, yet we need to at least formalize the Division structure very soon. Division Governors have to be elected at the District Conference so we have to finalize the nomination process well in advance. So if you disagree with the Division structure, please let Christoph Stoppok and the rest of the District Executive Committee know, otherwise we will go for it as it is shown. Please understand that we can only take proposals into account which are a workable alternative for the entire District. Comments are welcome but please insert it directly into the attached excel sheet.

6. Here is a list of Clubs, which will charter by 30 June 2003 or have already chartered (bold face) in this Toastmasters Year.

Area 1: Sembach and **Luxemburg (French)**

Area 2: **Frankfurt (German) and Word Weavers**

Area 3: **Lutece**

Area 4: **Lausanne**

Area 6: **Nuremberg, Munich (German), and Munich (French)**

Area 7: Malmö

Area 8: **Meisterredner and Hamburg**

Area 9: Znojmo and **Budapest**

Area 11: The Wanderers

7. The Nominating Committee for the 2003/2004 District 59 Executive Committee has been established. It consists of:

Ralph Jones, Chairman
Martine Kalmar

Christiane Bischoff

Frank Thorogood

Paul van der Vliet

The election of District Officers will take place at the General Council of the 2003 District 59 Spring Conference, 24 May in Paris. The Committee's mission is to make every effort to find and nominate candidates that are qualified and able. Nominated candidates should be committed to achieving the District Mission and fulfilling the duties and obligations of District office.

Elected Positions:

District Governor

Lt. Governor Education And Training

Lt. Governor Marketing

Division Governor (5 positions expected)

District Public Relations Officer

Appointed Positions

Area Governor (17 positions expected)

District Treasurer

Secretary

If you are interested in fulfilling one of these positions or would like to nominate someone to fulfill one of these positions, please let a member of the Nomination Committee know. We will then forward to you the Nomination Rules. Expect to see more on District Nominations and Elections on the District 59 web site:

<http://www.district59.org> and in next month's Clarion.

Toastmasters Success Stories:

My Toastmasters Success Story

Last fall, Dick Creagh, the Deputy President of Ukraine International Airlines, asked me if I would speak at the 17th Annual Geneva International Aviation Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. I agreed. Then reality set in. I quickly realized, I needed a lot of help. I decided to join Toastmasters. Since I now spend more time in Berlin than in Kiev, I joined the Mercury Toastmasters club in Berlin.

I attended meetings regularly and began giving the speeches in the Toastmasters manual. My breakthrough came in Speech 4 "Show What You Mean." Previously I had spoken in a conservative, businesslike manner. The "action" I built into Speech 4 broke the shell that had been holding in my natural emotions and limiting my vocal variety. My fellow Toastmasters responded enthusiastically to my speech, and that gave me renewed confidence. I thought I was ready for Geneva.

I worked long and hard preparing my Geneva Forum speech, "Ukraine International Airlines - A Model for Investment in the CIS." I knew the topic well. I felt that my speech was nearly perfect. But I soon found out that something was missing.

Before I went to Geneva, Peter Nitsch, our Club President, offered to organize a workshop to critique my speech. I agreed to have my speech evaluated by a small group of other Toastmasters, including Patricia Steinmann, the President of Berliner Meisterredner and Viktor Warden, a member of First Berlin Toastmasters. My audience was lavish in its--CRITICISM. I was devastated. What had gone wrong?

My speech was too conservative. It lacked excitement and suspense. It was dull business talk. Speaking to a non-Toastmasters audience, I had not changed a bit! Outside Toastmasters, I was still clinging to my traditional, subdued, monotonous style.

After the initial reaction of deep frustration faded away, I began to understand Peter's comments about how to tell a good story. A good story doesn't go from good to better to best, which was how my story went, or from bad to worse to worst. A good story needs suspense. The hero must suffer. We are all familiar with the structure boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back. It's familiar because it is a successful story line. With a new feeling of excitement, I started over again. I made sure that what I had learned from the workshop went into my speech.

I went to Geneva. I told the story of Ukraine International Airlines. I began by telling about our promising start. Then I told about the crises we had to face and how they threatened the airline's existence. Finally, I told about our slow recovery and how it led to our being the successful, international Ukrainian airline we are today.

The morning after the Geneva Forum, I boarded a plane in Geneva for a flight to Zurich. A woman who had attended the Geneva Forum got on the plane and sat next to me.

"I recognize you," she said. "You were one of the speakers yesterday."

"Yes," I replied. "Did you hear my speech?"

"Yes," she answered.

"How did you like it?" I asked.

"I liked it," she said. "It was an interesting story."

Thank you Toastmasters.

John Root

Mercury Toastmasters, Berlin

Hanover Speakers – eine Erfolgsstory

Der erste Infoabend fand statt im Januar 2001, gechartert wurden wir im Mai 2001. Wegen unseres schmalen Budgets fand die Charterparty im Haus des damaligen VP Membership statt, ein paar Kisten Getränke wurden gekauft und jedes Mitglied trug etwas zum Buffet bei. Ein sehr schneller Erfolg: vom ersten Treffen zur Charterung nur 4 Monate. Dann begann der Abstieg: Reihenweise mussten uns Mitglieder verlassen, weil es sie beruflich in andere Regionen unseres Landes verschlug, sie anfangen zu bauen oder beruflich mehr eingespannt waren.

U. a. verliess uns auch unser erster Präsident und Initiator Olaf Burchardi. Und so ging es weiter. Im Herbst 2001 sahen die Meetings so aus, dass 2 oder 3 Reden gehalten wurden und jeder Anwesende mindestens 2 Ämter, manchmal auch 4 Ämter ausüben musste. Wir waren verzweifelt, es machte keinen Spass, die gute Stimmung, die wir aus den grossen, gut besuchten Meetings kannten, war dahin. Zwar war die örtliche Zeitung noch im August 2001 mitsamt Fotograf zu uns gekommen und hatte unser bis dahin bestes Meeting erlebt, aber der Artikel erschien und erschien nicht.

Zusammen mit meinem Lebensgefährten Friedhelm (heute unser Treasurer) besuchte ich im Herbst 2001 die District Conference in Wiesbaden. Wir waren beide Mitglieder – ohne Amt, aber sehr aktiv. Und in Wiesbaden war es um uns geschehen! Die Atmosphäre, die wir dort erlebten, die vielen positiven und überaus offenen Menschen aus fast ganz Europa hatten es uns angetan. Jeder, den wir auf unser Problem ansprachen, hatte ein offenes Ohr für uns und gab uns so manchen Tip, was wir tun könnten.

Enthusiastisch kehrten wir nach Hanover zurück mit der festen Gewissheit: wir

machen weiter. Eine Handvoll Unverzagter verlegte so manches Mal das Meeting in die Kneipe zum Brainstorming statt einen Toastmasters-Abend zu veranstalten. Wie sollte das auch mit 4 bis 5 Teilnehmern funktionieren? Wir schrieben viele Ideen auf und verwarfen sie wieder. Und fassten den Entschluss: Keine Meetings mehr im Januar und Februar, am 25.03.2002 ein Demo-Meeting mit der Unterstützung anderer Clubs aus der Area. Gleichzeitig bombardierte Olaf, unser Noch-Präsident, aus der Ferne die örtliche Presse weiter. Einen Interview-Termin nahm ich wahr, da Olaf nicht deswegen 200 km fahren wollte. Und das Wunder geschah: am 19.03.2002 erschien ein halbseitiger (!) Artikel in der „Neuen Presse“ mit Farbfoto von mir samt Angabe der Daten unseres Demomeetings und meiner Telefon-Nr. Ungefähr 10 Anmeldungen bekam ich daraufhin telefonisch. Wir hatten zwar eine leichte Ahnung, dass unser Demomeeting gut besucht sein würde, aber mit **DEM** Ansturm hatten wir nicht gerechnet.

Wir wurden regelrecht überrannt. Ständig mussten wir neue Stühle heranziehen, der Raum platzte aus allen Nähten, die Luft war zum Schneiden, die Teilnehmer sassen dicht gedrängt. Weit über 50 (fünfzig!) Teilnehmer zählten wir. Wir kamen nicht nach mit der Aufnahme der Adressen unserer Interessenten. Patricia aus Berlin, heute Präsidentin der Meisterredner, Martin aus Berlin, Hans aus Buxtehude, Preben aus Hamburg und weitere Freunde aus der Area gestalteten mit uns das Meeting, damit wir einen möglichst professionellen Eindruck machen konnten.

An den nachfolgenden Abenden wiederholte sich der Besucheransturm. Am 27. April erschien dann endlich der lang ersehnte Artikel in der „Hannoverschen Allgemeinen Zeitung“. Der Artikel, für den wir im vorhergehenden Sommer Besuch der Lokalredakteurin samt Fotograf hatten. Könnt Ihr Euch vorstellen, was dann geschah? Der Besucherstrom floss stetig weiter!

9 Mitglieder im April 2002, von denen 3 nur aus Solidarität noch ihren Beitrag gezahlt hatten, damit wir nicht abgemeldet wurden. 5 übriggebliebene Chartermembers, von denen heute 3 im Vorstand sind: President, Treasurer und Webmaster. Ein Toastmaster, der im Herbst davor zu uns gestossen war und weiter machen wollte, heute VP Membership. Heute, im März 2003, haben wir ca. 40 zahlende Mitglieder, von denen wir im neuen Halbjahr einige verlieren werden, weil wieder einmal der Beruf sie weg ruft.

Unsere Meetings haben immer mehr als 25 Teilnehmer. Die Abende haben eine ganz eigene Dynamik, wir lachen viel und sitzen hinterher immer noch an einem grossen Tisch im Bistro zusammen. Die Qualität der Redebeiträge ist ausserordentlich hoch. Mittlerweile haben wir einen CTM (mich selbst), werden aber bis zum 30.06.2003 noch drei weitere CTMs haben. Und wir haben einen CL, wiederum mich – als President muss man schliesslich Vorbild sein. Damit werden wir Selected Distinguished Club Status erreichen.

Wir haben einige Mitglieder, die sich enorm weiterentwickelt haben und dies auch selbst mit Stolz bemerken. Und im Januar 2003 haben wir mit den englischen Meetings begonnen. Hier fangen wir wieder ganz von vorne an, machen viele Fehler und freuen uns, dass wir lernen und immer besser werden. In den Bereichen Membership und PR haben wir mittlerweile zwei recht aktive Komitees.

Viel könnte ich noch erzählen. Ein Vorstand ohne Know How - denn niemand vom alten Vorstand war noch da, selbst der Past President war ab September 2002 nicht mehr Mitglied. Viele neue Interessenten, aber keine erfahrenen Toastmasters. Viele Fragen, deren Antworten wir selbst erst finden mussten. Und auch mancher Rückschlag. Leider musste unsere VP Education ihr Amt zurückgeben, weil ihre

Selbständigkeit ihr nicht mehr genügend Zeit liess. Aber auch das werden wir schaffen.

Und dann stellen wir fest, dass wir der Club mit dem grössten Mitgliederzuwachs im District sind, und zwar nachhaltig! Interessiert, mehr zu erfahren? Wollt Ihr wissen, wie wir das alles geschafft haben? Dann **besucht meinen Workshop auf der District Conference in Paris: „Visionen, Werte, Ziele – die Erfolgsstory der Hanover Speakers“**.

K. Beate Richter, CTM, CL, Präsidentin der Hanover Speakers, Club No. 5571.

George Nigro, DTMI received an assignment from my superior for a task that I could not support, but more importantly one, which I did not think, was correct for the organization. I had just finished giving Speech Number 5 in the old(er) basic manual called "Make It Persuasive" and decided to put my newfound skills to the reality test.



I approached my superior and gave him my best "Make It Persuasive" speech on the subject and he was persuaded to adopt my proposal and not the initial proposal. I was immediately convinced and transformed by the skills I had learned in only 5 speeches! I knew I had locked into a good thing in Toastmasters.

That was well over 20 years ago and Toastmasters is still proving to be a good thing!

George Nigro, DTM

Wedding Rehearsal Dinner

I have only been a Toastmaster about three months. But more so, I just got married. At the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, I had to give the speech of my life. After it was over, everyone complimented me

on the speech. I could not believe it. I could not have done it without Toastmasters.

Michael Hager, TM
Eifel Toastmasters Club

Charter Party Berliner Meisterredner

1633? Does anybody know the historical significance of that year? The members of Berlin's Meisterredner Toastmasters Club don't know for sure, but they do know that club number 1633 is reserved at Toastmasters International for the first German-speaking club in Berlin.

January 25, 2003 represented a milestone in the evolution of the Meisterredner Club, as it celebrated its official club status at Toastmasters International with a "Charter Party". Held at the Vorderhaus 13 Restaurant (<http://vorderhaus13.de/>) in Berlin-Tiergarten, the party was a huge success.

More than 50 people attended the party, including Toastmasters members from all 6 clubs in Area 8 (Northern Germany): the two English-speaking Toastmasters Clubs in Berlin came to share in the celebration, as well as club members from Hamburg, Buxtehude, and Hanover. The club founder Margot Jetter, who has since moved to Munich, also attended the party. She didn't take honors for most distance travelled however, since the gala was also graced by special guests from an existing club in Warsaw, Poland and a fledgling club in Stettin, Poland. The presence of other club members was a testament to the camaraderie, support, and esprit de corps within the area.

Special kudos go to Schifra Wittkopp, chief organizer and hostess of the evening. Schifra's tireless efforts leading up to the event and during the festivities themselves were a great example of professional planning, and a reflection of her dedication

to the club. Segments of the party were designated for guest speakers, a bingo game and tombola, with more time sprinkled intermittently for mingling and sampling delicacies from the Mediterranean buffet dinner.

The scheduled activities ensured that everyone was involved and had ample opportunity to meet members of other clubs. One of the many treasures of Toastmasters is sharing experiences with other members, and this environment was the perfect setting to learn from and share with fellow language lovers from around the area.

Speakers included Patricia Steinmann, President of Meisterredner Club Berlin. Patricia's speech was particularly poignant as it traced various milestones throughout the Club's history, culminating in the formal charter. Another distinguished guest (and member) was Frank Spade, Area 8 Governor, who read a "Grussbotschaft" to the newly chartered club sent by the mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit. Frank Spade, in his speech, entitled "Awakening Heroes," recounted several stories of individual heroism, related how they apply to the efforts of members, and motivated all participants to find the heroic spirit inside them. A special treat was the talk of the guest speaker Holger Münzer, Professor at the University of Arts in Berlin about his vision of a great speaker. The final dignitary of the evening was Christoph Stoppok, District Governor from Wiesbaden, who presented each of the twenty founding members with a certificate of appreciation acknowledging their contribution to the successful launch of Club number 1633.

Since the required twenty members were achieved, ten more members have realized the myriad benefits of membership in this great club. They have accepted the challenges and rewards that club membership offers and strive to improve not only their personal communication skills but the overall synergy of the club. Guest attendance also continues

to be high, and membership will undoubtedly rise concurrently. Congratulations to Meisterredner Toastmasters, Berlin, Club 1633, for all its success and best wishes for a flourishing future.

**Viktor Warden, ATM-S/CL
Berliner Meisterredner, #1633**

Les adultes parlent aux adultes...

Voilà déjà 4 ans que TMI est entré dans ma vie.

Ce n'était ni un choix, ni une décision personnelle, non, j'ai simplement accompagné une amie d'enfance dont la maman venait de créer un club. Le fait d'avoir retrouvé cette amie, dont je m'étais éloignée avec les années, m'a replongé dans le passé. Une petite fille timide qui préférerait les petits comités aux grands groupes ; assez autoritaire à la maison et totalement inhibée en société. Bref, rien ne laissait supposer ce que ma vie devint.

Tout d'abord, je fis des études pour devenir enseignante. Moi... devant toute une classe de jeunes ... JAMAIS!!! Et bien oui! J'ai appris à m'adresser à eux, à leur parler de manière à les intéresser, à ne plus avoir l'estomac noué chaque matin en pensant à la journée qui m'attendait. Mais un beau jour, on me demande de prendre la parole lors d'une réunion pédagogique. HELP ! Je ne pouvais plus utiliser les astuces bien rôdées pour m'adresser aux enfants. Je devais parler à des adultes. Le résultat ne fut pas fameux : voix trop basse, message peu structuré et absence totale de contact visuel. Heureusement, quelques semaines plus tard, je franchis les portes de mon club. La première séance fut vraiment pénible, je réalisais l'ampleur de la tâche qui m'attendait si je devenais membre. Je me disais que jamais je n'atteindrais un tel niveau. Ce jour-là aussi, on m'offrit la parole pour dire ce que j'avais pensé de la

soirée. J'étais tétanisée et excitée à la fois, un véritable fiasco. J'attendis avec impatience la séance suivante et devint membre. Le plus important pour moi était de ne pas me retrouver à l'école après les heures de classe. Et ce ne fut pas le cas, j'ai rencontré des amis qui aidaient des amis à progresser (cf vous savez qui...)

Des gens avec des expériences et des niveaux différents. Evidemment, on ne peut pas avoir des affinités avec tout le monde, mais ça aussi, cela fait la richesse d'un club.

Au mois de février 2002, j'ai obtenu le titre de CTM. Quelle victoire! Mais la plus belle récompense vint au mois de juin quand, lors du départ à la retraite d'une collègue, je prononçai un discours d'au revoir devant une cinquantaine de personnes.

Rien à voir avec la piètre prise de parole deux ans plus tôt, j'ai reçu les félicitations de tous et surtout de moi-même : partie la petite boule dans l'estomac, terminées les sueurs froides en pensant aux regards posés sur moi. Rien, le calme.

Je peux maintenant le crier haut et fort: Les adultes ne me font plus peur!

Véronique Szilit, CTM
Club des Orateurs de Bruxelles - Belgique

VIP Briefing

I had to brief the powers that be in my organization only three months after joining Toastmasters. Friends came up to me afterwards and said I did a great job. I could not believe it. What a difference Toastmasters had made in my life and it's only three months.

**Amy Hogan, TM
Eifel Toastmasters Club**

Operations Research

I have a real life example of how Toastmaster's has helped me. I applied for a

graduate degree scholarship while I was in Kuwait. While in the desert, I received word that I had made it through the paper review and that a board wanted to interview me via video teleconference. I was able to link to the teleconference and my impromptu speaking skills won over the board.

The Bottom Line: I was selected for a Master's Degree program in Operations Research. My class starts August 2003.

Kevin Whaley, TM
Aviano Toastmasters Club

Can't Exactly Pinpoint A Date Or Time...

Toastmasters has definitely made a difference to in life, both professionally and personally. However I would say that it has also pointed out what I yet have to learn and, as I have found to my cost recently, this is still quite a lot!

I am generally happier giving a "prepared speech," but realize that I must improve on impromptu ones, like Table Topics. It's a human failing, but I often seem to say the wrong thing at the wrong time and invariably end up hurting someone, which is painful for both sides.

Maybe this can be attributed to cultural differences and the fact that many people from other countries often don't say what they mean or sometimes even say the opposite in order to "test people." This I find somewhat hard to cope with and I am left wondering whether this form of communication is used to intentionally confuse people (power strategies?) or to make statements so oblique that the other party has to interpret them and hence take the responsibility (evasion tactics?).

So this is one aspect that I have to learn how to deal with. One way of dealing with this and of preventing misunderstandings is to ask immediately, "What did you mean by that statement? or "Did I understand you

correctly when you said ...?" So the keyword here is NOW (more procrastination!) and learning to react at once.

Another "failing," as I have been told, is that I don't listen properly! So this is something else I want to work on and improve.

So, in summing up, I would say that, yes, Toastmasters has made a big difference, also by exposing some of the gaps which need to be filled.

Susan Perkins, ATM-B
Vienna Toastmasters Club

Final Comments:

The 2003 International Convention will be held August 20-23 at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. For those of you who plan to attend I am a native of the ATL. So I look forward to showing you around my hometown as the District 59 Entertainment Coordinator.



If you get to Atlanta early, the Braves (Major League Baseball) are in town from 12-18 August and 26-28 August. In addition, I am planning excursions to Buckhead (entertainment district), CNN, Coca Cola, and a few other surprises. If you have any questions, please let me know.

The next Clarion is set for publication on/about 22 April 2003. Articles not included in this edition as well as more information on the District Reorganization, Elections, and the Spring Conference will be part of the mix.

Yours in Toastmastering...

Ralph T. Jones, Jr., DTM
Editor, The Clarion

AREAS and DIVISIONS in DISTRICT 59

DIVISION A				
A1	(part of area 3)			5 clubs
	6286	F	Paris	Agora 75
	6631	F	Paris	Forum des Rives de Seine
	3510	F	Orleans	Calliope
	7468	F	Orleans	Eloquence 75
	6712	F	Paris	Lutece 75
A2	(area 5 + 3)			4 clubs
	3230	E	Paris	TM of Paris
	1575	E	Paris	Eloquence 75
	8018	E&F	Paris	The Europeans
A3	(Iberia)			3 clubs
	1200	E	Mallorca	Mallorca
	9605	E	Madrid	Madrid
	4525	E	Madrid	Area Iberia Advanced
A4	(Iberia)			3 clubs
	5183	E	Malaga	Achievers
	5471	E	Malaga	Marbella Executive
	1788	E	Rota Naval Base	Al-Andalus
11 Chartered clubs				
0 club(s) on its way towards charter (nc)				

DIVISION B				
B1	(area 10)			5 clubs
	3286	E	Brussels	Brussels TM
	6508	E	Brussels	Capitol
	8953	E	Mons	Shape International
	9210	E	Amsterdam	Amsterdam
	9821	E	Naarden	Verbalzime
B2	(area 1 + 3)			4 clubs
	491	E	Luxembourg	Green Heart
	2175	E	Capellen	Bossuet Gavelliers
	4935	F	Brussels	Les Orateurs
	9999	F	Luxembourg	Les Orateurs du jeudi
	6339	F	Valenciennes	Eloquence Hainaut
B3	(area 1)			4 clubs
	1984	E	Spangdahlem	Eifel TM
	2442	E	Ramstein Air Base	Ramstein TM
	7273	E	Kaiserslautern	Kaiserslautern TM
	nc	E	Kaiserslautern	Sembach AB
B4	(area 2)			4 clubs
	2874	E	Frankfurt	Esprit de Corps
	9999	G	Frankfurt	Frankfurt
	9754	G/E	Cologne	Cologne Toastmasters
	nc	G/E	Cologne	Cologne II Toastmasters
16 Chartered clubs				
2 club(s) on its way towards charter (nc)				

DIVISION C				
C1	(area 7)			6 clubs
	4700	S	Stockholm	Stockholm TM
	5320	E	Stockholm	Park TM
	nc	E	Malmö	Malmö
C2	(part of area 7)			4 clubs
	3871	E	Copenhagen-Frederik	Copenhagen TM
	6073	E	Gothenburg	Speech Masters
	7748	E	Gothenburg	Gothenburg TM
	nc	E	Gothenburg	AstraZeneca
C3	(part of area 8)			3 clubs
	561	E	Hamburg	First Hanseatic TM
	5571	G	Hannover	Hannover Speakers
	6007	E	Buxtehude	Hedgehog
	nc		Hamburg	Hamburg
C4	(part of area 8)			3 clubs
	1063	E	Berlin	Mercury
	1633	G	Berlin	Meisterredner
	5872	E	Berlin	First Berlin
11 Chartered clubs				
3 club(s) on its way towards charter (nc)				

DIVISION D				
D1	(area 9)			6 clubs
	551	E	Vienna	Vienna TM
	4133	E	Budapest	Budapest
	6390	E	Vienna	V.I.C.
	6932	E	Hradec Kralove	Queen's Town
	9854	E	Pardubice	Pardubice Enthusiasts
	nc		Znojmo	Znojmo
D2	area 6			4 clubs
	2041	E	Munich	Munich TM
	9867	E	Munich	Munich Prostmasters
	8040	E	Nürnberg	Nürnberg
	nc	F	Munich	Munich (French)
D3	(part of area 6)			4 clubs
	9725	G	Munich	Munchner Brainstormers
	5176	G	Munich	Rhetorenschmiede
	5993	G	Munich	Speakers' Corner
	5095	G/E	Munich	Ceterum Censeo
12 Chartered clubs				
2 club(s) on its way towards charter (nc)				

DIVISION E				
E1	(area 2)			4 clubs
	4146	E	Wiesbaden	Word Weavers
	9730	E	Wiesbaden	Famous
	7372	E	Giessen	An der Lahn
	nc	E	Kaiserslautern	The Wanderers
E2	area 11			4 clubs
	1632	E	Heidelberg	Heidelberg TM
	3658	E	Stuttgart	Stuttgart Intl
	9172	E	Freiburg	FRITZ
	4766	E	Neu-Ulm	Danube Sparrows
E3	(area 4)			6 clubs
	7332	E	Zug	TM Intl Club Zug
	5813	E	Basel	Basel TM
	3906	E	Zurich	Zurich TM
	3436	E	Bern	Bern TM
	5048	E	Geneva	International
	6634	E	Lausanne	Lausanne International
13 Chartered clubs				
1 club(s) on its way towards charter (nc)				

5	Divisions
18	Areas
71	Clubs (total)
8	not yet chartered clubs

Languages:

E	English
F	French
G	German
S	Swedish

9999	Club chartered in 2002-2003
nc	Club not yet chartered