



The Official Newsletter of District 59P  
**Volume 22, No. 4, April 2003**  
**District Governor Report:**

Fellow European Toastmasters,



We have now gone through the first nine months of our Toastmasters year. Although, our Toastmasters year has been quite interesting, we still have a few months to go. Let's have a look at our goals from the beginning of the year from the

standpoint of where we are today, what we have accomplished, and what still has to be done?

**Goal 1: At Least 60 Clubs by 30 June 2003.** We have achieved this goal. We can count 63 clubs in our District today. Congratulations to everybody involved. Excellent job! But there is still some more potential Clubs. To get all the pending clubs chartered, some extensive efforts are needed. I am sure we can make this happen. But the crucial part we are also dealing with now is that we have to get all semi-annual reports and dues in to TMI by 30 June 2003 or we will lose clubs again. Your help in getting these reports in would be greatly appreciated. For the record, our new club progress is as follows:

Area 1: Sembach and Luxembourg chartered.

Area 2: Word Weavers and Frankfurt

(German) chartered.

Area 3: Lutece 75 chartered.

Area 4: Lausanne chartered.

Area 6: Nuremberg and Munich chartered.

Area 7: Malmö and Gothenburg are doing well. We expect both to charter.

Area 8: Meisterredner chartered. Hamburg can make it.

Area 9: Budapest chartered.

Area 10: Ghent is coming up.

Area 11: The Wanderers chartered.

**Goal 2: All Clubs at Charter Strength.** We still have some work to do here. Some Clubs are not doing very well in this arena. At the moment, we have 17 clubs below charter strength (20 members), which is roughly 23 percent of our Clubs. We have made some progress, but there are still clubs which need membership growth. If these clubs do not achieve charter strength, they will lose their points in the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). That would be quite disappointing for all concerned.

**Goal 3: 135 Competent Toastmasters (CTMs).** At this writing, we have 67 CTMs achieved. Last year we had at this point, only 57 CTMs, roughly 50 percent of the year-end result. If we perform the same way this year, we can achieve nearly our goal of 135 CTMs. Yes indeed, 135 CTMs is still quite realistic. Please encourage your clubs and members to do manual speeches and let them strive for CTM and beyond.

**Goal 4: 53 Advanced Toastmasters (ATMs).** We are a little bit behind schedule. Last year, we achieved 30 at this point and ended up with 45. This year we are at 19. To achieve our goal of 53, we have to speed up. Let's do it.

**Goal 5: 53 Competent Leaders (CLs).** We achieved 30 CLs already. Wonderful. Last year we had only 19 and we ended up with 38. So 53 is very realistic. Please remind your members to go for these points.

**Goal 6: Every club a Distinguished Club.**

So far 47 clubs received two goals or more in the DCP and nearly every club has received the easy points. There are lots of potential this year (membership, CLs, CTMs). Our target of 40 Distinguished Clubs is realistic. We are on track. The only factor, which worries me, is that there are Clubs below charter strength.

**Goal 7: 11 Distinguished Areas.**

Congratulations Area Governors!!! So far you have all achieved your potential points. So everything is achievable!!! We already have three Distinguished Areas. Nearly every Area has even the chance to become President Distinguished Area.

So that concludes my report. Have I forgotten to mention anything? Please let me know. If you have any comments, please let me know. Have a good time and continue to enjoy Toastmasters!

See you all very soon in Paris

Christoph Stoppok

**Springtime in Paris!**

Hello Fellow Toastmasters and Friends,

It is time once again for our ritual spring gathering, the 2003 District 59 Spring Conference, 23-25 May 2003. The venue is the Forest Hill Hotel just outside the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Science and Industry Museum) of la Villette.

Behind the scenes, a devoted team has been working day and night to make sure YOUR Spring Conference will be an experience you won't forget!

Come and learn how to think laterally, how to become a professional speaker (yes, you!), how to use your body language (for speaking), how to conduct your dream

demonstration meeting, how to design a "wikiweb" (I don't know what it is either, but come and find out)!

You will also discover the five triggers for motivation, the secrets of successfully applying your Toastmasters skills in the workplace, the implications of leadership, and much more.

You will have the privilege of seeing the best speakers from all over Europe; the "crème de la crème" of District 59. And believe me, you will remember them. I can still conjure up vivid memories of many of the speeches I have heard at contests these past few years.

You will share tips, experiences, reminiscences (hopefully lucid), notepads, a beer, with fellow participants, and make (or continue) lasting friendships, which will enrich your life and broaden your horizons.

You will be there in Paris in the Spring! What more can I say?

**The Conference Web site:**

<http://tm-paris.free.fr> is updated regularly. So please spread the news!

Join us here and be part of a unique European event, be part of the action, and help us make this a weekend we'll all remember for a long time to come!

Odile Pétilot

Conference Chairperson and Her Enthusiastic Team?

2003/2004 District 59 Executive Committee Nominations



Fellow Toastmasters,

One of my favorite “Ralphisms” about Toastmasters is, “No Toastmasters Club runs itself.” The same applies to our District.

Nominations are now closed for the elected positions of District Governor, Lieutenant Governor Education and Training, Lieutenant Governor for Marketing, Public Relations Officer, and the 5 Division Governors. I am proud to announce we have nominations for all elected positions. Soon, the Nominating Committee will review and evaluate the candidates.

For the remaining Executive Committee positions (the 18 Area Governors along with Secretary and Treasurer), we wish to thank you for your submissions. We will pass them to the new District Governor since it is this person who appoints these positions.

Don’t forget that elections will take place on Saturday, 24 May at the General Council Meeting of the 2003 District Conference in Paris.

Ralph T. Jones, Jr., DTM  
Chairman, Nominating Committee

District 59 General Council Meeting,

Fellow Toastmasters

The next District General Council Meeting will take place on Saturday, 24 May 2003 at the Spring Conference in Paris, France. The District 59 General Council is the governing body of District 59. It conducts all the business of the District.

Voting members of the District Council are, besides the members of the District Executive Committee, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents for Education of each club in good standing in the District. Each is entitled to one vote. The Club President or Vice-President Education may designate any member of their club to act as proxy. A member may carry both votes of a club. A Toastmaster who is a member of more than one club may still only carry a maximum of two votes. The only exception, which allows a Toastmaster to carry three votes, is when the third vote is because he/she is a member of the District Executive Committee.

Toastmasters attending the District Conference and who are not voting members of the Council or holding proxies may attend but not participate in Council deliberations.

Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education who are unable to attend the District Council Meeting and who want to name a proxy may use a form like the Sample District Proxy Form below:

-----BEGIN HERE-----

Toastmasters International District 59P  
Spring Conference  
24 May 2003, Paris, France

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby appoint

\_\_\_\_\_ to vote as my proxy at the 2003 District 59 Spring Conference as stated above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: President/VP Education (Circle One)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Opinion Forum

I have noticed in twelve years of Toastmastering that very often evaluators have difficulty finding suggestions for improvement, and make a point of remarking that a speaker refers to notes and/or just reads parts of his/her speech.



As Toastmasters, each of us must develop his or her own style with which we feel comfortable.

Many highly effective speeches were, are, and probably always will be made with the use of notes.

Henry Blount, ATM, former Chairman of the CCET (the predecessor of District 59) and an experienced Toastmaster, made a career at IBM, and is now doing so as an independent by writing speeches for top business executives. I once asked him how many of his clients read their speeches.

His answer was quite simple, “All of them.”

I recently read an article in the Professional Speaker, the monthly magazine of the National Speakers Association. The author, Alan Weiss, is the author of 18 books and former president of the New England Speakers Association. The New York Post has cited him as “one of the most highly respected independent consultants of the country.” Some of his remarks are worth pondering.

He writes, “There are few things I detest more than a memorized and choreographed speech. A speaker should hold a conversation with an audience, meaning that occasionally referenced notes are far more “authentic” and engaging than a memorized

talk. Every speaker should have the competency to employ eye contact, hand gestures, movement around the stage, and so on. Platform excellence is about being understood and communicating well. I’ve used notes most of the time, in front of some of the most powerful and toughest audiences around. No one cares. The test, “Did the audience gain one or more of the following; learning, knowledge, enjoyment, changed behavior, new skills, or self-awareness?”

So concentrate on the basics. Don’t forget the eye contact. Use natural gestures. Move around. Hold a conversation with your audience.

**Peter Kenton, DTM**

### Shameless Plug

Have you ever been at a Toastmasters meeting and the Table Topics Master called in stating, “I have to work late, so I can’t attend. Sorry I did not have any time to prepare some questions, I got tied up. Bye now.”

If so, might I recommend a solution to your problem, “The Book of Questions?” The Book of Questions, by Gregory Stock, may be the only publication, which challenges and changes the way readers view the world, without offering a single opinion of its own. Posing 265 questions, “The Book of Questions” is bound to provoke hours and hours of thought. Over 1,855,000 copies are in print. Although some of the questions can be provocative, they are all done in good taste. See your local book dealer for details in obtaining this great resource for Table Topics.



### *The Beginnings of Toastmasters in Europe*

Not surprisingly, Toastmastering began in Europe after World War II primarily by American troops. But that story has been told before and is not the focus of this article. What we will examine more closely here is the metamorphosis of the European Toastmasters structure into the present District 59.

Let us go back a few short years and look at the then Continental Council of European Toastmasters (CCET), which consisted of about 30 clubs, scattered across Western Europe, but mostly in Germany.

The genesis of the majority of clubs could be traced to US military installations. Some of those clubs survive today, especially in the Heidelberg, Ramstein, and Kaiserslautern areas. Also Frankfurt, Bitburg, Giessen, Wuerzburg, Sembach, Wiesbaden, Hahn, Aviano and Naples (to name some but not all) had largely US military membership and even logistical support, in some cases. They were, for the most part, open to host nation citizens and third country nationals, and provided an arena where members could all mix and learn from one another. The local citizenry who had picked up the Toastmasters “experience” elsewhere in the world established other clubs, or English-speaking souls affiliated with international organizations, like those clubs in Paris, Brussels, Stockholm, Salzburg, Vienna, Munich and Luxembourg.

The Brussels, Bossuet Gavaliers (Luxembourg), Paris, and Vienna clubs were unique because of their large international membership contingencies, which made for some wonderful mixing of styles, issues and accents at CCET Conferences. I will never forget the guy from Britain who, in a

Humorous Speech contest, described the bumbling engineers of the Chunnel Project, and showed how the diggings from the French coast went into the English Channel, arced at a 180-degree angle and returned to France! Unless a reader with a better memory than I have can prove otherwise, I ascertain that the Heidelberg International and the Bossuet Gavaliers (Luxembourg) had the largest multi-national memberships. We competed openly for the distinction and both had 10 different countries represented among their membership at any given time! This meant that many members spoke English as a second or third language, which is even more the case in District 59 today

Why a District? As a council, with too few Clubs to form a District, the CCET was ineligible for most of the competitions, i.e., the World Championship of Public Speaking and training benefits afforded Districts. This writer and Rob Cockburn, current International Director for Overseas and of the Bossuet Gavaliers club and Green Heart Club in Luxembourg, began to lobby at the Toastmasters International conferences each year for a waiver of club numbers required for District recognition. We were overly optimistic, expecting a rush among Eastern European countries to establish Toastmasters Clubs. But, on the contrary, we watched our numbers dwindle in direct relation to the drawdown of US forces and the closure of bases. As CCET Chairman in 1991-92, I continued to focus our expansion efforts among the indigenous populations of Eastern Europe. Rob and I continued to lobby TMI for assistance in gaining recognition as a District even while our future as a cohesive body was unsure. Fortunately, we had some sympathetic ears at TMI at the time in the persons of President Ian Edwards, and Terry McCann, the Executive Director. They “grandfathered” the CCET and dangled some goals to be achieved, at which point the CCET would become a temporary District. As I returned to the States in 1995, it fell

completely on the competent shoulders of Rob Cockburn and Bill Hamilton to guide the CCET toward being recognized as a District.

In the next edition of The Clarion, Rob Cockburn will provide details of the intervening years leading to generation of District 59P, and soon District 59 without the “P.”

Pete Renner  
Former CCET Chairman

### *Lieutenant Governor for Marketing Report*

Earlier, Christoph mentioned that overall; we are doing quite well in meeting our targets for this Toastmasters Year. For this Year’s Distinguished District Program (DDP), of the 77 Districts in Toastmasters International, District 59, Continental Europe’s Toastmasters, is ranked #9. Good for us!!! And the Toastmasters year is not yet finished.

Membership is reflected in the DDP via the per capita figure (dues payment). Our current per capita is 3,232 above objectives. Clubs recognized in DCP also gives us points as well as new clubs, CTMs, and ATMs.

District 59 currently has 40 points. If we achieve all our targets, we can reach 75 points easily. The International President recognizes President’s Distinguished Districts (the Top Six Districts) at the International Convention. It’s a reachable target since the #1 District (District 65) in Western and Central New York has 65 points and the District sitting right now at #6, District 49 (Hawaii) has 43 points.

Let’s do it...

Thierry Peirani  
District 59 Lieutenant Governor, Marketing

### *Video Masters*

At the Mercury Toastmasters Club in Berlin, we’re trying something out that might be of interest for the greater European Toastmasters community. Please check out this Web site: <http://www.videomasters.de>, where you can find videos of meetings and speeches via the Internet.

You can access the restricted members section of the homepage with the UserID “mercury” and the Password “videos.” We intend to have more content and more digitally filmed and stored speeches and meetings on the Web site from the three clubs in Berlin and possibly from the other clubs in Area 8 as well. As the technical means used are quite simple and not very expensive, it definitely is possible for other clubs to duplicate past video samples on the Internet.

Best wishes

Peter Nitsch, CTM  
President Mercury

### *Bullets in the Bedroom*

The Toastmasters in Area 10 would like to congratulate Elena Sollewijn Gelpke, ATM-B, Area 10 Governor, member of the Brussels Toastmaster and Capitol Clubs on the publication of her first book, “Bullets in the Bedroom.” The book is based on her personal experiences as a UN secretary on assignment to many of the world’s hottest trouble spots. Elena says recollections in her first 10 speeches as a Toastmaster led her to write her book.

A reader’s review: Having decided to believe in fate rather than chance, Anita Karreveld relinquishes the daunting fear for life, when posted on UN missions to the terror zones. This account has many lessons of how a daring individual overcame danger, managed

risky relationships and continuously stayed dedicated to the “mission.”

This book is crisp in style and cinematographic in imagery. Moving from scene to scene, anchoring each by authentic details and memorable anecdotes, each location and incident momentarily cling to the reader without the usual sentimentality, philosophy or preoccupation. A survival of light-heartedness, shuttling from the uniqueness of Beirut to anonymity of New York, Anita Karreveld's life and reflection are much like those of many souls around the world who have moved between two or more distinctly different places. Anita's only sanctuary is the accepted diversity of the UN organization, where people of every nationality and background are thrown together in the same mission and difficulties that determine its success.

The sketches of life in the Middle East I know--especially Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus and Israel. A dynamite mélange of the familiar and the exotic, personally entertained me. Getting a glimpse of why and how UN personnel work is timely, when the UN's “credibility” is being questioned by some. A unique first person account of 20 years ago shows how little life on the borders of Lebanon, Israel and precarious Palestine seems to have changed. Those who are patient never give up, like Anita, UN still goes back to man the checkpoints of peace!

Against the backdrop of UN missions, Anita describes the rare and tortuous loves, each, which held the impossible promise of happiness.

Shekhar Pula

### *Divisions*

With the growth of clubs and areas, District 59P should become a full District soon, thus losing its provisional status. At the District

59 Spring Conference in Paris, the District General Council will decide on the formation of something new to Continental Europe Toastmasters, divisions. Divisions will place another level of speech contests and leadership opportunities between Areas and the District.

Division Governors are elected. To be nominated, they must have served effectively as members of a District Council (as Area Governor, Club President, Club Vice President Education, District Secretary or District Treasurer). They help the District to accomplish its goals, ensuring that area and clubs within the Division achieve Distinguished Club status. In addition, Division Governors will host two Division contests and two Division Council meetings annually.

The final page of The Clarion provides the latest proposed structure of District 59 beginning 1 July 2003. You are requested to review the structure. Those, who are eligible to vote at the District General Council Meeting in Paris, please do so in person or by proxy.

Roy Skinner, ATM-S/CL

Area 4 Governor

### *Top Ten Rules for Effective Presentations by Chris Widener*

I am of the belief that the majority of people can improve their presentations dramatically by focusing on eliminating bad habits and presentation skills more than seeking to add anything on. How often have you come out of a seminar and overheard someone say, "Wow, she was great! Did you see how effectively she used her hand gestures?" That said, here are some ideas to help you become a better speaker.

1. Keep it simple:
  - Speak naturally
  - Make eye contact
  - Don't do crazy things with your hands
  - Don't do much more than speak, i.e. managing props etc.
2. Be impassioned
3. Balance the format of your information.
4. Build the relationships beforehand if possible.
5. Get the audience to participate at varying levels if effective.
6. Show, don't tell. That is, use stories, not facts and figures.
7. Get rid of distracting idiosyncrasies.
8. Don't misinterpret people's actions and get discouraged.
9. Know your material.
10. Never, ever, go overtime.

Submitted by Oral Staman, CTM  
Eifel Toastmasters Club

### *Final Comments*

I passed the following to our International Director, Robert Cockburn, DTM, after last Fall District Conference in Pardubice. I though you might find it interesting too.

“Rob, the most unique thing about District 59 is that we truly put the International into Toastmasters International. Case in point, when I got back to work on Monday, I was talking to one of our fellow members about the Conference. I was telling her that the winning speaker from the Humorous Speech

Contest was from Sweden, but was raised in Poland. She asked, "Is there anyone in Toastmasters who lives in the same country they were born?" When I thought about it, this may be somewhat true in perhaps in at least half of District 59.”



So we would like to do a survey of District 59 Toastmasters and District 59 Toastmasters Clubs.

Now based on information found at Geography.about.com, there are 193 countries in the world. We would like to know the following, “How many different countries, based on where a member was born, are represented in District 59?”

We would assume that each current club, which comprises District 59, has at least one member who was born in that land. But if that is not the case, we would like to know that too.

We plan to publish the results in the June edition of The Clarion. Please send your E-mail message to me at [ralph.jones@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:ralph.jones@ramstein.af.mil). Should be fun.

In addition, if you have any interesting “takes” on what makes European Toastmastering so mutually exclusive, please pass them along too. Deadline for all inputs is 15 Jun 2003.

Seen you in Paris...

Ralph T. Jones, Jr., DTM  
Clarion Editor

