



# The Clarion

The Official Newsletter of District 59

## District Governor Report



Denise Anne Magyar

**Do you know whose birthday it was on August 20?** No, I don't mean Isaac Hayes. Nor do I mean the author of "Valley of the Dolls", Jacqueline Susann. It was our birthday. For on that day, District 59 was born. On August 20, 2003, the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International granted Europe full district status. The 'P', which officially stood for "provisional" but for the European Toastmaster stood for "potential", was removed. As a full district, we are about to embark on new adventures in communication and leadership. The possibilities are as endless as the universe. I almost feel like Captain James T. Kirk of the U.S.S. Enterprise, boldly going where no European Toastmaster has gone before. Our captain of 2002/2003, Christoph Stoppok, launched us on this exciting voyage, leaving not just a distinguished legacy, rather a President's Distinguished legacy. The Toastmasters International organization comprises 79 districts, 9,600 clubs and 198,000 members worldwide and our District ranked fourth in the world.

What we have achieved in the past three years, no provisional district has ever achieved before. What an honor to serve on the 2003/2004 Board and what a challenge!

### So where do we go from here?

The answer is easy; we continue to explore and challenge the potential that can be found in our District. Since 2002, we have grown from 52 clubs in 12 countries to 71 clubs in 17 countries. Our District borders embrace Andorra, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Gibraltar, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. According to the Toastmasters International annual report, there are clubs in 80 countries. This means that 21% of the 'International' in Toastmasters International is right here in Europe.

### What does this mean for you, the member?

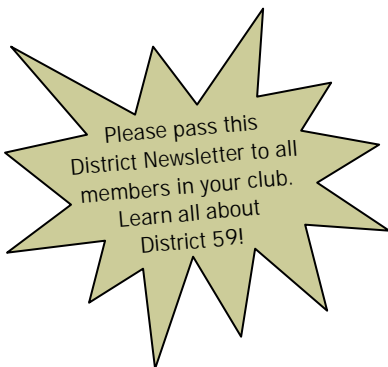
For one, it means that speech competitions no longer end at the spring conference. Now

after the spring contest, our winners can match their skills with other Toastmasters from South Africa, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Canada, Mexico and the United States at the annual International Speech Contest held in North America. For another, it means new leadership opportunities. To ensure that the needs of our ever-increasing membership are met, we have created divisions or 'mini districts' led by division governors. They, along with your area governors and club officers will provide you, the member, with even more opportunities to discover your potential as a communicator or as a leader through better educational offerings and training.

It's a brave new world out there and I am looking forward to not only discovering my own possibilities; I will be looking forward to you discovering yours.

*Full Steam Ahead!*

Your District Governor,  
Denise Anne Magyar, ATMG



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## Let's Fly Together

When a goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the flock increases its flying distance. Should a goose fall out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into the formation to take advantage of

the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. Geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again.





Odile Pétilot, DTM

#### Vice Presidents of Public Relations!!

What ideas have you or your club used to successfully promote your club? Let's gather those ideas together and put them on our District Web-site! Please email your ideas to your District Public Relations Officer, Elizabeth Nostedt at [e\\_nostedt@hotmail.com](mailto:e_nostedt@hotmail.com).

Your ideas can help other clubs! Send your ideas now!

## Lieutenant Governor Marketing Report

Where would you be without the Toastmaster program? Ask yourself this simple question! I am sure your membership with Toastmasters brought a lot of good to your life: you are now a much better communicator, you can present even a tricky issue to your boss, your colleagues, maybe your spouse, being certain he or she will listen to what you have to say. You have gained skills, both in communication and in leadership - especially if you took a position in your club's executive committee - and you probably feel more confident when it comes to speaking with others, taking a decision, leading a team, handling your teenagers, whatever your life is made of!

Don't you think it's about time for you to share those skills with people in your community? Everybody should have the right to receive the same help you got by entering the Toastmasters program. And it's your duty, as a happy and successful member, to spread the word to all those you meet, family members,

friends, colleagues, neighbors, even strangers!

Our District counts now 71 clubs, but in...17 European countries! I guess there is still room for expansion, don't you agree? How can we attract more members, create new clubs? Mostly by speaking with others, showing them enthusiasm, inviting them to our club meeting, welcoming them when they show up, encouraging them to join and mentoring them.

Our District board set goals, pretty ambitious ones, for this year: One new club per area, plus one, which makes a total of 20 new clubs next June 30th, 2004.

Some are ready or almost ready to charter: TM of The Hague, De Sprekers (first Dutch speaking club) in Area B1, a new club in Cologne, another in Dortmund for Area B4, two clubs, Kiel and Stade, in area C4, one in Munich, area D2, and one in Zurich, area E3. Yes! I strongly hope that before the end of 2003, our District will have at least 8

more clubs! Cheers to the dedicated fellow Toastmasters who gave their time and made the necessary effort! Congratulations! Now please, as soon as you have your mandatory twenty registered members, do your paperwork and send that application to charter to TMI! And don't hesitate to ask your area or even division governor for help if you don't know precisely what you have to do. BUT PLEASE, let it happen, get your charter!

And there are many more to come, almost in each area: I'm optimistic, we'll meet and perhaps exceed our objectives! As your current Lieutenant-Governor for Marketing, I'm ready to help you create those clubs Europe needs: be assured, I'll do my very best this year to make our dream come true having a net increase of 20 new clubs!

My motto is and will remain: "Aim high!", for those who have big dreams are the achievers, as you well know! Let's go for it together!

## Fall Conference in Lucerne

Register now for our District Fall Conference in Lucerne, November 7th to 9th, 2003! Help us all to celebrate the first conference as a full District!

[www.toastmastersofbasel.net/lucerne03.html](http://www.toastmastersofbasel.net/lucerne03.html)

Please register early with payments. Make sure you have your place if numbers have to be restricted closer to the event. We are expecting 150 Toastmasters and guests to attend. Ileana Christodorescu is ready to record your registration.

Education sessions by

presenters from within the District guarantee a range of topics within the theme "Communicate your vision in a changing world!"

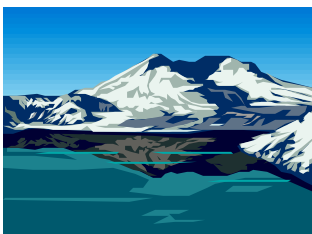
The Conference Organizing Committee has recognized requests for more social time than sometimes has been possible in the past. There will be adequate social time within the program and particularly between the afternoon sessions on Saturday 8 November and the Humorous Speech Contest, cocktails and dinner. Guided city walks are

being programmed for the late afternoon. During dinner there will be some fun as well as the excitement of trophy and award presentations.

We heeded another request. By keeping Conference costs as low as possible, music will also be provided for after-dinner dancing.

You are important. Please come and share a great time together!

Roy Skimer, Conference Chairman



*"Meet you in Switzerland in November!"*

## 72nd Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia



*Hall of Fame  
August 22, 2003*

Yes, we were proud of being recognized representing President Distinguished District 59P, ranked 4th out of 75! International President Gavin Blakey gave District Governor Christoph Stoppok a wonderful plaque which will remind him of fond memories. And LGET Denise Magyar as well as LGM Thierry Peirani received respectively the Excellence in Education and Training Award, and the Excellence in Marketing Award.

We did great in 2002-2003; we intend to do even better in 2003-2004, don't we? It's easy: every member a CTM, all CTMs becoming ATMs, CL, AL, every club at charter strength, every club officer attending training twice a year, and last but not least, one new club per area. Piece of cake!!!

Odile Petillot, DTM

**District 59  
Executive Committee**

See your 2003/2004  
Executive Committee  
on the web.

[www.district59.org/executiveboard2003.htm](http://www.district59.org/executiveboard2003.htm)

## Division Highlights: This issue we highlight Division D

Division D is a very strong part of District 59, based on a tradition of restored Austrian-Hungarian monarchy enriched by Bavaria. It is a successor of two former areas 6 and 9, both of them achieved President's Distinguished status last years. Currently it has 3 areas with 12 clubs.

Area D1 with Vienna TM and V.I.C., Pardubice Enthusiasts and Queen's Town and Budapest KFT has distances from 4 to 6,5 hours by train. Members of Czech and Austrian clubs keep good contacts during their conferences for several years. Unfortunately Budapest club members still prolong their isolation though they belong to the district and are warmly welcome. I personally visited them. Other people were interested in the new club and visited it, too, but we must wait for the results of our effort. I

hope this year's Area Governor Leo Ziegler will be successful in helping to Budapest club members to feel as a part of our TM family.

Area D2 contains Munich TM club, Munich Prostmasters and Nuremberg TMs. Being led by Christopher Magyar they have the big advantage of the dedicated and determined person who is experienced in motivating people by his own example.

Area D3 with Area Governor Luciana Husfeld is mostly focused on German speaking. Speaker's Corner, Brainstormers, Rhetorenschmiede and the advanced club Ceterum Censeo are also promising.

I am sure I can rely on all three areas. I am convinced they will do their best.

The future of our Division is really challenging. Imagine Munich in blossom and Luciana being the Chairman of the District 59 Spring Conference 2004, which will be visited by Ted Corcoran, the International President of TMI. We expect high attendance!

We have a few celebrations as well. Munich TM club has existed for 30 years. Is it young or old? I prefer to call it young with long roots. Vienna TM club has its Silver Anniversary. It is also still young, but its roots slowly prolong.

We are proud to be a part of a successful District and we can promise our contribution. European enthusiasm will help us.

Division D Governor 2003/2004 Zuzana Grofova, ATM-S, CL and her team: Area D1 Governor Leo Ziegler ATM-G, CL; Area D2 Governor Christopher Magyar, ATM-G, CL; Area D3 Governor Luciana Husfeld, ATM-S, CL

## Has Your Club Paid its Semi-Annual Dues?

All clubs are required to pay their semi-annual dues and send the membership list to Toastmasters International by **September 30th**. Have you paid yours?

TMI has indicated to the District Governor that the semi-annual report MAY have been sent to last year's president, due to installation of the new computer system. In case you have not received the actual report, submit your own list of members, and the payment for them (\$18 per member) **NOW**.

You may pay your semi-annual dues by credit card now. Just send a fax (949 - 858 - 1207) with your credit card number, and expiry date. Be sure to say which club and District 59.

**We're on the web:  
[www.district59.org](http://www.district59.org)**

## District 59 offers affordable web hosting and more...

**Business class web hosting at the cost of a signature card account with professional support for district 59 Toastmasters clubs.**

District 59 has a new web server, which allows us to offer high quality, advertisement-free, affordable web hosting. While many clubs might be happy with the server they have, others don't even have a website yet. With the help of the new district webmaster and our own award winning server we can all have a club website

Costs will range from 12€ to 48€ per year depending on what service you choose. Your club will receive up to 5MB of server space, role email addresses for all board members and many other services. The server offers free support, daily backup and an open support forum.

We will provide a website template for new clubs, which they can then maintain themselves, while every club remains free to design the website the way they want to do it.

The district webmaster, Frank Spade, has chosen to make this his High Performance Leadership Project. He is looking for clubs and current or aspiring webmasters to work on their own or under his tutelage to create a website on our district 59 server that will help the club communicate its services to the world. Please contact Frank at [webmaster@toastmasters.de](mailto:webmaster@toastmasters.de) if you are interested in having your club website hosted on the district server. You may also logon to the district forum at <http://forum.toastmasters.de> and post your questions in the webmasters section.

## Enjoy True Southern Fun

Hot, humid, and the feeling I could not breathe properly – these were my first impressions of Atlanta, where I had arrived for my first Toastmasters International convention. I had booked a hotel 500 meters away from the convention hotel. I was expecting a buzzing Downtown Atlanta at any time of the day. When I arrived on August 18th, it was almost 7pm – and nobody was on the streets of downtown, except for me, the lost foreigner and first-timer in the US, looking for my way to the Marriott, where I was hoping to meet some familiar faces. And I did. Upon arriving in the impressive lobby, I met Robert Cockburn – currently Europe's International Director. "There's a wine tasting in room 4205, it's Gavin Blakey's suite, you'll meet all overseas people, go there." On my way to the elevator, I realize that room 4205 means 42nd floor! And the elevator is basically outside, when you're taking it,

well, you're... in the air... I hate elevators... Well, nobody forced me to come to the US. OK, I'll take the elevator. It was only upstairs that I realized that in these cases, you have the privilege of doubling the experience... you do need to get back down as well!

First event of the convention: The Interdistrict Speech Contest. This is where speech contestants from overseas districts must compete to select ONE winner to compete in the International Speech Contest. The contest is followed by a dinner, and show time: every District gets on stage and shows its talents. And it's fun!

The convention started as usual with the Flag parade. This was probably the first time that, as a Romanian, I had the feeling of belonging to Switzerland, where I live. I was carrying the Swiss flag! Times do change.

From key-note speakers to presenters of workshops or to

speakers at luncheons, the experience was extraordinary. I heard Debbi Fields, of Mrs. Fields Cookies, giving her speech as a Golden Gavel recipient. "No is an unacceptable answer" and "good enough never is" – this is what I learned. I heard Naomi Rhode, key-note speaker on "The Privilege of the Platform". There were Past International Presidents Terry Daily and Robert Barnhill teaching us how to make corporate visits, and "sell" them the Toastmasters program and benefits. There was Ty Howard explaining how to take better care of ourselves. There was Anne Barab, accredited speaker, making us laugh on marriage and family issues. And there was the World championship of public speaking. What a row of speakers! It can be very tough to select the best out of the best. If I was happy about something, that was about not being judge at that contest. Although, afterwards, I had the occasion of being

proud of my own judging abilities. I also had chosen the top three winners.

On the business side, we attended the Annual Business meeting, where each club in the world has two votes. The agenda of the meeting: elect the big boss – the International President – and the smaller ones – the Board of Directors for the year to come, until the next convention. All these newly elected officers were officially installed on the occasion of the President's Dinner Dance, the closing event of the convention on Saturday night.

"You are the first timers at this convention, I'm sure you're not last timers", Gavin Blakey told us at the First-Timers welcome party on the first day. After the four fabulous days in Atlanta, I'm sure of that as well.

Ileana Christodorescu, CTM, Club 5813/59,  
Area E3 Governor