

The Clarion

The Official District 59 Newsletter



***Get to know
the District Executive Committee 2007-2008***

Inauguration Speech of District 59 Governor 2007-2008 Zuzana Grofova

Dear Fellow Toastmasters!

"We all live in the District 59, District 59, District 59" we sang together at the end of District Spring Conference in Gothenburg. It was a special moment -- so many people joined singing. Your voice sounded very strong, tuned nicely in harmony.

Yes, we can be really proud, we live in the strong District 59.

There are members who remember both the beginning and the development of Toastmastering in Europe. How we have grown there are, also newcomers who do not know about it. A little bit of history can help to realize our potential and learn more from our past.

Here you are:

Spring 2000 - last conference of CCET (Continental Council of European Toastmasters) in Luxembourg, CCET Chairman Robert Cockburn.

Provisional District 59P was lead by District Governor Dirk Husfeld to achieve **Select Distinguished District 2000-2001**.

We were allowed to use provisional status for 3 years. We were supposed to build up to sixty clubs within that time. It was our way to full fledged district.

2001-2002 District Governor Alain Pétilot and his theme "Together We Achieve" finished the year as **Distinguished District**.

2002-2003 District Governor Christoph Stoppok used the same theme and the district was lead to **Presidents' Distinguished** status. The "P" was dropped and we became the full District 59. Next year the winner of the International Speech Contest (ISC) could represent Europe at the International Convention (IC) in USA. The growth was so great that 11 Areas were realigned into 5 Divisions.

2003-2004 District Governor Denise Anne Magyar wanted to go with "Full Steam Ahead." District 59 was again **President's Distinguished**. (The winner of ISC was Ivan Moss, Switzerland.)

2004-2005 District Governor Odile Pétilot had the theme "Aim High" and finished as **President's Distinguished**. (The winner of ISC was Bill Monsour, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. IC was in Toronto, Canada.)

2005-2006 District Governor Elizabeth Nostedt used "Growth Through Leadership" and finished as **President's Distinguished**. (The winner of ISC was Lesley Stephenson, Zurich, Switzerland. IC was in Washington, D.C..)

And how was our last year?

2006-2007 District Governor Christopher Magyar and his "Toastmasters - It's About You" helped us to achieve **Select Distinguished** status. WE ARE the No.8 ranked district in the world!

(The winner of ISC is Martin Brown, Munich, Germany. IC is in Phoenix, AZ.)

From the list above you can see that since the first year of the existence of our Provisional District, we were never less than Distinguished!

We can all be proud of these results. The District Governors didn't achieve them just by themselves. They didn't build all the clubs personally and didn't work on all the manuals earning all the educational awards. No, the members did the job under the leadership of elected officers and with their motivation. All the smaller goals or successful achievements fulfilled contributed to the big one.

I hope that this spirit, enthusiasm, motivation level and good work will stay with us during the next year as well! *Toastmasters - it is a good educational organization that will help you to achieve your goals. Achieving your goals, you will help the organization to become better because of better service to its members. **This "circulus vitiosus" must not be interrupted.***

I am looking forward to another great year with you.

Zuzana Grofova, DTM
District 59 Governor 2007/2008

Toastmasters – Your Vehicle To Success

DISTRICT OFFICER

DISTRICT GOVERNOR, Zuzana Grofova, grofova@@nem.pce.cz



As a Charter member of Pardubice Enthusiasts (9854-59), she has been a Toastmaster for 9 years. Working formerly in all VP's and a President's positions, she agreed to gain more experience as the Area Governor 2002/2003. Under her governorship, the Area achieved President's Distinguished status. In Fall 2002, she was a Chairman of the District conference. She was awarded District Toastmaster of the Year 2001/2002. She has won the Evaluation Contest and represented her Area in Hamburg. As a Charter member of Queen's Town club, she achieved her second CTM when helping as the club Mentor. She continues

her way to second DTM being AC-B, CL.

President's Distinguished Division D was lead by her as Division Governor 2003/2004.

She sponsored two clubs in Nowy Sacz in Poland (2004) and one club in Prague (2005).

In 2005/06, she worked as LGM - Lieutenant Governor Marketing of District 59. In 2006/07 she proceeded to a new position – LGET of D59, focused on education. For the period 2007/2008, she was elected District Governor.

Zuzana lives and works in Pardubice, Czech Republic. As a medical doctor, she works as a physician-consultant for clinical nutrition in hospitals. She is also a university lecturer, consultant for laboratories and insurance companies, frequent radio speaker and more attributes could be found. She also runs her private small out-patient-department for obese people.

Her partner Toastmaster, Ivan, provides all kinds of support. Her daughter Pavlina (age 20) studies Faculty of Used Arts and Design.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, Lee Tapia, lee.tapia@@t-online.de



Lee Tapia joined Toastmasters International in January of 2001. She was appointed as District Treasurer in July of 2002 and held the position for two years (2002-2004). Lee was the Division Governor of Division F in Germany from 2004-2005 and the Lieutenant Governor of Marketing from 2006-2007.

Lee has held many club officer positions and has helped charter quite a few new clubs in District 59.

Lee was the 2002-2003 District 59 Toastmaster of the Year and the District 59 2004 Division Governor of the Year.

Lee credits her success in Toastmasters to the mentors that she has been lucky enough to have during the last 6 years, including Christoph Stoppok, Past District Governor, Ralph Jones, DTM, Roy Skinner, DTM and many other wonderful toastmasters who have shared their knowledge and passion for toastmastering with Lee. Lee believes that all toastmasters should have mentors. Having someone experienced guide you and share their knowledge with you is truly an amazing adventure and, one that should be experienced by all District 59 toastmasters.

Lee is currently the Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MARKETING, Greg Palmer, greg.palmer@@eur.army.mil



Greg Palmer is a native of Santa Monica, California. He graduated with an Engineering degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and later earned his Masters Degree in International Relations from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He has lived and worked in Europe for over 25 years in 10 different cities in Germany and France, and has travelled very extensively through Europe and the Southwest Pacific. He ventured to his first Toastmasters Meeting in Stuttgart in 1997, when we had just over 30 clubs in Continental Europe. After attending several meetings, his passion for, and recognition of the unlimited value and potential of Toastmasters in Europe quickly grew. He has subsequently served with enthusiasm in Club, Area, and most recently Division leadership positions within the Continental Council of European Toastmasters and in District 59. He is currently a member of the Heidelberg and Mannheim English speaking clubs and the German language Bergstrasse Club. He enjoys seeking tough, realistic challenges that promote optimal self growth, individually, and organizationally. Besides Toastmastering, his passions include traveling, meeting and learning from people from diverse cultures, sharing the amazing beauty of the undersea world through underwater photography, cooking international gourmet foods and sipping fine wines.

Serving this term as District 59 Lieutenant Governor for Marketing, Greg's primary responsibility is to help extend the benefits of being a Toastmaster to as many people as possible in Continental Europe. He plans to do this with two main areas of effort. First, assist Division, Area, and Club Officers to continuously increase the total number of CLUB MEMBERS we have that can enjoy the benefits of Toastmasters. We will accomplish this with BOTH greater member retention AND attracting NEW CLUB MEMBERS. We retain more existing Toastmasters members by ensuring Club Officers conduct consistently well-organized, high quality, fast paced, varied meetings with well-prepared and mentored manual speech projects with friendly, constructive evaluations and excellent, welcome treatment of our guests. Second, EXTEND OUR NETWORK of clubs by helping Division, Area and Club leaders and other interested individuals and companies create and sponsor new Toastmaster Clubs within Continental Europe. We show them how easy it is to help others learn, grow and enrich their lives through better communication while having fun and meeting new friends.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, Ellen Hermens, e.hermens@@a-mazing.de

TREASURER, Jitka Rubesova, jitka.rubesova@cuzk.cz

SECRETARY, Barbara Jo (BJ) Kevan, jitka.rubesova@cuzk.cz

IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR,



Christopher Magyar, magyarandmagyar@@compuserve.com

DIVISION A

(French-speaking Toastmaster clubs in France, Belgium, Luxemburg)

DIVISION A GOVERNOR, Françoise LeReste, francoise.lereste@@club-internet.fr

AREA A1 GOVERNOR, Fabienne Pujolle, f.pujolle@@wanadoo.fr

AREA A2 GOVERNOR, Jean Knibbe, jean.knibbe@@laposte.net



AREA A3 GOVERNOR, Stéphanie Schmitt, contact@@partenaire-de-reussite.com

DIVISION B

(English- and Dutch-speaking clubs in The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France)

DIVISION B GOVERNOR, Jaap Russchenberg, jaap.russchenberg@@xs4all.nl



Jaap Russchenberg is a Charter Member of Toastmasters of The Hague. He has been involved in "The Toastmasters Experience" since 2003. In the season 2005-2006, he was TMOTH President and in 2006-2007, he was Area Governor for Area B2 for the English-speaking clubs in The Netherlands. He is 54 years old and has one slogan in life: "I'm never too old to learn". He sees his year as Division Governor as a challenging year with a lot of learning opportunities. His goal is to help establish at least one new club per Area and to support the Area Governors of Division B to make their clubs as strong as possible.

AREA B2 GOVERNOR, Eunice Anita-Offerman, e.anita@@casema.nl



Born on Curacao, an island in the Caribbean Sea, I do love cooking, dancing and traveling. I've worked for almost 7 years at a Big Four-company (audit firm). I started with Toastmasters back in 1995 at the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA). This club will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2010. I was an active member for 7 years at UNA. In those 7 years I served on the executive committee as Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, VP Membership, VP PR and President. I have to say that I learned a lot at UNA Toastmasters. I completed my CTM but, was too busy with the leadership track, studying and working. So, I did not go for the ATM-B.

I moved to The Netherlands in 2004 and re-joined Toastmasters in 2006 when I spotted the first club within 40 kilometers of my village.

In the coming year, I want to help the clubs in my Area to uplift their meetings c.q. other activities to a higher level by exchanging with them some of my previous experiences in Toastmasters. The clubs in The Netherlands are very young so, there is a lot we can achieve.

AREA B3 GOVERNOR, Morag Ottens, moraq.ottens@@ec.europa.eu

I joined Toastmasters through a Speech Craft course run by a two or three year-old Club in Luxembourg called Green Heart Toastmasters. The Club recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and has gone from strength to strength, producing its own "baby" in 2006 - the Casemate Communicators and hosting the 2007 Spring Division contest. Of course our Area has also the oldest European Club - the Bossuet Gaveliers which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary.

I've lived happily in Luxembourg for many years, working at Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities and am now in the area of international statistical cooperation. My work gives me a chance to work daily with people of many different nationalities and backgrounds - an enriching, exciting experience.

As the three English-speaking Luxembourg clubs are vibrant, friendly places with enthusiastic members, I hope I'm going to be one of the lucky Area Governors who can concentrate on coordination and cooperation rather than getting the whip out!

AREA B5 GOVERNOR, Gijs Hillmann, gillmann@ottoworkforce.eu



- **What is your home club and how long have you been a member?**
I have two home clubs, one is Eindhoven TM (Dutch), and the other is Utrecht TM (Club 849157). (English). Furthermore I am a member of two other clubs: Epe (Dutch) and Almere (Dutch). I am currently the mentor for the Epe club and am also involved in the National Public Relations Team. I was initially a member of District 74 in South Africa from 1999 to 2002 rejoining toastmasters in 2006 in the Netherlands.

- **What is your nationality?**

I hold dual nationality, Dutch (after my parents) and South African (naturalization).

- **What advice would you give someone who wants to lose their fear of public speaking?**
Aside from joining Toastmasters, which is the obvious place to start, there are a few things which you can do to ease the initial steps. Start small – Speak up and express yourself in the inevitable meetings at work and in your social group. Find something you are passionate about and share that passion with a close group of friends. Build up at your own pace. Be realistic and relish the learning curve.
 - **What do you feel has been your greatest achievement so far (in any field of your choice)?**
Becoming a father is the first thing that comes to mind. Marrying my best friend, another. Somehow having been able to gain the attention of and benefiting from the advice of world class mentors in various aspects of my life has enabled me to rise above the limitations I imposed on myself.
 - **Why did you first join Toastmasters?**
A very respected businessman in Johannesburg, South Africa ascribed a large portion of his success and business achievements to being a member of Toastmasters. He suggested I attend a meeting. I agreed after seeing him speak at a luncheon.
 - **How has your Toastmasters training helped you in your communication?**
Um, uh, I think that, uh, well, uh..... Just kidding. The opportunity to practice the speeches welling within and the positive response from so many Toastmasters in and from different countries has enabled me to seek out new modes of expressing myself and new forms of speechmaking.
 - **Would you recommend your fellow TM members to participate in speech contests? Why or why not?**
Absolutely, particularly for those who feel comfortable with the notion of placing themselves in circumstances in which they could feel uncomfortable. Participating in Speech contests is akin to test-driving a new, high-powered car or pushing the edge of the envelope as the test pilots would say. It is only by experiencing a challenge and persevering that you will know where your boundaries lie.
For those who find a speech contest itself too much, volunteer to be the target speaker at an evaluation contest. If there is anyone in the audience who learns a lot at a contest, it's the target speaker.
 - **Would you recommend your colleagues to join Toastmasters? Why or why not?**
Without a doubt. The personal growth you experience at Toastmasters and the way this transmutes to other aspects of your life and social relationships is unparalleled.
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DIVISION C (the northern part of Germany)

DIVISION C GOVERNOR, Ingo Cremer, ingo@@biographieberatung.info



Currently I am working in adult education and as systemic counsellor in Hanover. There I joined my home club "Hannover Speakers" (Hannover is written with two n's originally and we are a German-English speaking club) in 2004 and served on the board as VP Education and President.

For the upcoming year as Division Governor, I want to strengthen the communication between the areas, encourage the exchange of competencies and to support sustainable growth.

AREA C1 GOVERNOR, Karsten Hinzmann, k.u.k.hinzmann@t-online.de



My name is Karsten-D. Hinzmann, I am 40 years old, married and father of a son. Me and my family live in Hamburg. I am a journalist by profession and have recently founded my own advertising-agency.

I have been a First Hanseatic Toastmaster for four years and have reached ATMB and CL. For three terms I was VP Public Relations since this is the topic I feel familiar with. Unfortunately, doing the press for such an organisation like Toastmasters is a tough job. Although the benefits from Toastmasters to us seem fairly obvious, it is sometimes hard to explain it to even experienced journalists. And, it is even more complicated to promote it to people who we would want to have as members or guests.

Our board and I are trying to increase our club's popularity by several means. I have designed some promotion material, I have re-launched our website in order to make it more user-friendly, and I am trying to win our local journalists' interests whenever possible.

Although this is generally a challenging task, there are some strategies to gain access to such multipliers. In my term as Area Governor, I would like to show as many fellow Toastmasters as possible some ways to familiarise more non-members with Toastmasters and its goals.

AREA C2 GOVERNOR, Benjamin Brühl, benjamin.bruehl@gmx.de



Proudly wearing the German flag at the Parade of Flags during the Toastmasters International Convention 2006 in Washington, DC, I realized that I am a part of a community that's much larger than a single Toastmasters club: A tingling atmosphere of friendliness, joy and never ending learning experience is what makes Toastmasters special and unique!

As an electrical engineer and doctoral candidate working for the Berlin University in the area of 'Microsystem Technology Research and Teaching' the Toastmasters' benefits reveal themselves daily.

Being a practitioner of Tendoryu Aikido, as well as coaching young people twice a week in this wonderful martial art, helps me to see Toastmasters from another perspective. Being focused in what I do and rehearsing again and again while enjoying the process of teaching and learning, I experience who I really am and how I can tell it aloud to others.

I aim to keep my area strong and healthy while helping at least two prospective clubs on their way to becoming chartered in this Toastmasters year. Keeping the momentum going, I will support any club's goals in order to repeat my area's success by again becoming a President's Distinguished Area!

AREA C3 GOVERNOR, Manfred Schröder, manfred.schroeder@@online.de



Member of the Hanseredner, the German speaking Club in Hamburg, since September 2005
Vice President Education in 2006/07, CC (soon CL-new and AL-B)
PhD in Chemistry, MBA, working as a management consultant, NLP Practitioner (soon NLP Master)

Plans: Act as a coach for clubs in my area; encourage, challenge and support; use officer trainings to stir up ideas on increasing membership and on organizing conferences

DIVISION D

(Northern Bavaria, Austria, Hungary & Czech Republic)

DIVISION D GOVERNOR, Tara Majumdar, tara_toastmaster@yahoo.com



Hi, I am Tara Majumdar Am really honoured to be the Division D Governor and am looking forward to a superb year of toastmastering with my three area governors. My theme is "Growth , Consolidation and Active Involvement."

In my opinion, Toastmasters presents an endless gamut of possibilities, be it in public speaking, leadership or networking.

I would like to concentrate on consolidating and strengthening existing clubs and also expanding the network of clubs in the division. I would like to see more toastmasters getting actively involved in their clubs.

Besides toastmastering (currently a member of four toastmasters clubs!), books, music, cooking with friends and my two year old son are close to my heart. If need be, gladly offer my services as your friendly "Curry Doubt Buster"!

AREA D1 GOVERNOR, Guenther Aschenbrenner, guenther.aschenbrenner@alconlabs.com



Günther joined the Vienna Toastmasters Club 551 in February 1982 because he saw an excellent opportunity to improve his communication skills in an English speaking environment. Very soon he became a very active member of the club, visited other clubs in Europe, as well as in New York City and even Honolulu, and engaged himself in club management activities.

In 1986 he became the first President of the Vienna Toastmasters Club. At the end of the same year, he moved to Paris and continued his active membership in Toastmasters in the Paris club (President 1988) where he also engaged himself in bilingual meetings of the Paris Toastmasters Club (English) and the Orleans

Toastmasters Club (French). In 1989 Günther returned again to Vienna and became again President of the Vienna Club (1990). Meanwhile, he also completed the necessary projects to become ATM.

After 1994, Günther's job did not allow him to attend all meetings for some years. But, recently, he is again a very active member of our club and was again elected President for the period of 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. Since July 1st, 2007 he is Area Governor D1 and, also Conference Chairman of the District 59 Fall Conference in Vienna. His special goal, besides a successful organisation of the district 59 conference, will be guidance of the Toastmaster Club Vienna and Budapest for more international participation as well as more involvement and cooperation with the enthusiastic members of the Toastmasters Club in Zagreb, Croatia. They are not yet a member of our area but, are looking for a closer cooperation with our area.

Günther is General Manager of Alcon Laboratories in Austria since January 1994. Before, he worked for over 10 years with Eli Lilly & Company in Vienna and Paris in various positions. He is a born Viennese and holds a masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Economics and World Trade in Vienna. Günther loves classical music, particularly operas, and is interested in history, politics and international communication.

AREA D2 GOVERNOR, Monika Jerabkova, jerabkovam@yahoo.com



Monika Jerabkova is a Czech American, living in Prague for the last 7.5 years, and a member of Toastmasters for 2.5 years. She is the president of Prague's newest club, Bohemian Toastmasters. In her professional life, she runs her own business, Monigraf, s.r.o, specializing in professional graphic design and marketing communications. For 2007-2008 in Area D2, Monika will focus on building up clubs – increasing membership in the area's clubs and building new clubs – and getting more people involved in Toastmasters. The big event in Area D2's year will certainly be the District 59 Spring Conference in Prague in May 2008. Area D2 Toastmasters will be working all year to organize a conference that will inspire you to “spring into action” – the motto for Area

D2 this year.

AREA D3 GOVERNOR, Anirban Majumdar, anirban_toastmaster@yahoo.com



Hello Everybody,

I firmly believe Toastmasters is a network of motivated people. My objective is to promote and facilitate sharing between the clubs in my area and my theme for the area is Learn, Share, Grow. I am an engineer by profession and my MBA thesis was on business strategies based on shared open innovation. I have lived in different parts of the world and love traveling and food.

I look forward to working together with you - learning, sharing and growing.

**DIVISION E
(Switzerland)**

DIVISION E GOVERNOR, Thomas Skipwith, t.skipwith@descubris.ch



My Toastmasters' career started in 1997. I first joined the Stuttgart, then the Berne, Zurich, Mosquito Hill Toastmasters clubs and now the Rhetorik Club Zürich. I have been a president of three clubs (Zurich, Mosquito Hill and Rhetorik Club Zürich) and founder of two (Mosquito Hill and Rhetorik Club Zurich). In 2004/2005 I was the area governor for Zurich, Zug and Mosquito Hill. I have met many role models, such that I have stayed on to learn more, become a better speaker and a better leader. Recently I have realized one of my goals: First place in the prepared speech contest as well as evaluation contest in German (Gothenburg, 2007). I am working on my DTM, which I plan to achieve by September 2007.

I have established my own business called DESCUBRIS. I help my clients become better public speakers both with individual coaching and group trainings. Therefore Toastmasters is a perfect fit for what I do professionally.

I love to go ski hiking, hiking and climbing, sailing, travelling and languages.

AREA E1 GOVERNOR, Katherine Pirkle, katherine.pirkle@@ch.transport.bombardier.com



The coming Toastmasters year promises to be a great one for Area E1!

During the last half of the past club year, the Zurich Club launched another club into Area E2, the Zuriberg Toastmasters. Thus, our Area E1 challenge this year will be to stabilize and increase the existing membership for Zurich, Zug and Mosquito Hill. We have a strong membership base in all three clubs and look forward to building on this within the Area. Another area of activity will be increasing contact and interaction between local clubs and with adjacent Areas, particularly the geographically close Area E2 and the German language Area E4.

As for myself, I am a strong believer in the power of Toastmasters to go beyond leadership and communication. Toastmasters offers us a platform for self-expression and self-development in a wider sense, but also for building strong relationships based on trust and cooperation. Let me tell you all about it! Hope to see you all at the District 59 Conference in Vienna this year!

AREA E2 GOVERNOR, Jack Vincent, jack.vincent@@focus360.ch



For this TM year, I am the Area Governor for Area E2 in Switzerland. My home club is Toastmasters Zug (7332 E 59). My TM status is CC, CL.

I am also the 2006 Humorous Speech Champion for District 59. I will be giving an Educational in Vienna on creating great speech ideas and content, entitled "Content is King."

AREA E3 GOVERNOR, Philip Selby, pselby@@econophone.ch



Philip Selby, ATMG, CL, is a medical doctor and a graduate of Cambridge University in England. He has lived in Geneva since 1970.

He is a founding member of the Geneva Toastmasters club (started in 1997), serving as VP Membership, VP Education (twice), and President in 1999-2000, when the club achieved Select Distinguished Club status.

As Area Governor he plans to encourage club members to fulfil their communication and leadership potential, to help all clubs in the Area achieve Select Distinguished Club status, and to help set up at least two new clubs.

Philip has worked for the World Health Organization, a multinational pharmaceutical company, and as Executive Director of the International Union Against Cancer. For the past ten years he has taught public speaking at a number of universities, international organizations, and private companies. He speaks four languages and enjoys running in half marathons.

AREA E4 GOVERNOR, Chris Solberger, chris.sollberger@@h-s-x.net



Chris joined Toastmasters at the beginning of 1999.

He is a member of Mosquito Hill TM Club (and its President for 2007/2008), Rethorik Klub Zuerich, Turicum Toasstmasters Klub and "Les Francparleurs", the latter club is not chartered yet. He has been President of Turicum Toastmasters and Area Governor E1 for 2006/2007. He achieved ACG in June this year and plans to make the next step to DTM in the 2007/2008 Toastmasters year.

DIVISION F (the middle and south of Germany)

DIVISION F GOVERNOR, Lesley Nardini, lesley.nardini@@t-online.de



Lesley Nardini comes from Portland, Oregon in the US. She has been living in Germany since December 2005 with her daughter Cara and her husband Carlo, who works for an international corporation. They are enjoying their "European Adventure" and the opportunity to see different parts of the world. Lesley also has a son Lorenzo who is attending university in Los Angeles.

She has been involved with Toastmasters for more than 10 years and worked as a seminar leader for the Fred Pryor/Career Track company—traveling around the US conducting business seminars. One of the first things she did after moving to Germany was to find a Toastmasters group in the area and it has given her the wonderful opportunity to meet people from all over Europe. Lesley has served in many leadership roles with Toastmasters and looks forward to her first time as Division Governor. On the 20th & 21st of July she represented Europe in the Mrs. International pageant in Chicago, Illinois. Her platform as Mrs. Europe is "Communicate to Greatness" and she used this title to promote the benefits of Toastmasters. Her motto is that Toastmasters is changing the world one speech at a time.

AREA F1 GOVERNOR, Gisela Plieseis, plieseis@@t-online.de



I was born into a middle-class family in Passau in March 1936. My father was a lawyer who worked for the then German government as a civil servant. He had to coordinate projects in the field of economy. With the end of the war, the situation of my family changed drastically. We lost everything we had and had to start from scratch. I was lucky to be able to finish grammar school. After leaving grammar school, I went to London as an au pair girl to learn English. I got married in Paddington in 1956. The marriage was a failure and I got divorced in 1959 with two small children and without a profession.

After finishing my studies of English and Geography at the university of Bonn in 1965, I became a civil servant. As a single parent, a safe job was of the greatest importance to me. I taught at various grammar schools for 35 years and was in charge of the language department. I started an exchange programme with Barrington High and accompanied German pupils to the USA for three weeks, because I believe this is the best way of promoting mutual understanding among peoples.

In the year 2000 I was sent into retirement and began to teach privately. I love the company of young people and enjoy helping them. In a way they become like my own children. I try to motivate them and, above all, want to restore their self-confidence. Doing this gives me the feeling of still being useful.

When I stopped working, I looked for an opportunity to speak English and to mix with interesting people. Since then I have had time to attend Toastmaster meetings regularly and to serve as an officer. I was VP Education for several years and President twice. Every year in August I invite our club members to my house. I love gardening and planting flowers - so it is nice to sit on the terrace and talk.

In my holidays I have travelled a lot and seen quite a bit of the world. On my last trip I was in Vietnam and Cambodia. Whenever possible I talk to people and try to learn more about their culture and way of life. As area governor I intend to support the clubs in area F1 and help them become distinguished clubs. I want to do my best and hope that this year will be a successful year for all of us.

AREA F2 GOVERNOR, Ivan Aksenov, ivan@@ivanke.de

AREA F3 GOVERNOR, Achim Mizera, AMizera@@t-online.de



Toastmaster since 2003
President of Frankfurt Rhetorik-Club # 6904 (German) 2004-2005
CC, CL,
Chartering Bensheim Club June 2007, TM # 962433.
President 2007-08

First German Language club between Stuttgart and Frankfurt
Bensheim is a small town between Frankfurt an Heidelberg;
now double membership Frankfurt and Bensheim

My goal for the 2007-08 period is to run my home Club in Bensheim to Distinguished Club and support Area F 3 Clubs to succeed the goals they have targeted.

Support all Clubs in District 59 as best as possible and to encourage the founding and chartering of German-speaking Clubs so that more Germans can benefit from Toastmasters, and give people from foreign Countries living in Germany the possibility to improve their German knowledge.

AREA F4 GOVERNOR, Hadrian Lutogniewski, HadrianL@@mail.com



Hadrian has worked for international consulting companies since 2000, helping clients to identify ways to grow their revenue through the use of Business Intelligence solutions. Prior to that, he worked as a Project Managers' Trainer for a number of Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g. United Nations).

Apart from his job, he is involved in the following activities:
- Toastmasters International (currently District 59 Area F4 Governor and setting up the first Polish speaking club outside of Poland) - AIESEC (e.g. giving trainings on project management; helping Board of Advisors of AIESEC in Poland)

- Pomeranian-Kashubian Association (helping to organize events promoting Kashubian region, language, traditions)
- He organizes 5-10 events annually for Polish expats in Düsseldorf

Hadrian has a master degree in Business Management from Nicholas Copernicus University of Torun (Poland). During those studies he was elected Senator to the University Board representing students of Economics and Management Faculty.

His previous leadership experience includes founding the Youth Parliament of Bydgoszcz. This body initiated numerous activities aimed at the development of young people and advised on legal regulations affecting young people in Poland.

Hadrian was born in 1974 in Kartuzy (capital of Kashubia region), Poland.

Plans

Hadrian's plans for this year:

- * Help to start two Polish speaking clubs (one in Düsseldorf and one in London)
 - * Run the marathon with the time below (hmm... nice dreams)
 - * Organize his first photo exhibition
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DIVISION G (Scandinavia)

DIVISION G GOVERNOR, Alexandra Olson, aolsson@yahoo.com



I'm a native Austrian, but my family emigrated to Pittsburgh, Pa., USA when I was two years old. Lived there until I was almost 20 years old. At that point, my parents and I moved back to Austria. After that, I lived in Munich for almost seven years before moving to Göteborg, Sweden in 1983. I'm married to a Swede and have a 24 year-old daughter. I'm working at Volvo Powertrain in Göteborg. I speak 3 languages fluently: English, German and Swedish and know a little French and a little more Russian.

I've been a member of the Speech Masters club in Göteborg for almost 4 years now and I am also a member of the Saturday Breakfast Speaker's club. The whole TM idea gives me a big kick and I really enjoy being a part of it. For a long time it was almost my only chance to speak English. At Speech Masters I've been the Sgt at Arms, VP education, club President and then Sgt at Arms again. I was Area Governor for G3 during the 2006/2007 season and am now (*from July 1st*) the Division G Governor. Being the Division G Governor will be a challenging job! I'll be having good help of an assistant DG who will be mostly concentrating on building new clubs, and of course "my" three AGs.

I'm hoping to get lots of feedback and ideas from all the club members in Division G on how I, over the year, could do a better job.

AREA G1 GOVERNOR, Nic Cottrell, nic.cottrell@transmachina.com



Nic has been a Toastmaster for almost 3 years with the Stockholm International club. He comes originally from Australia, but has studied and worked in Canada, France, England and Iceland before settling in Sweden. He is an entrepreneur and works mostly with non-government and inter-governmental organisations.

AREA G2 GOVERNOR, Susan Cornell, susan.cornell@comhem.se



I was born and grew up in England, lived in South Africa for 20 years. I am now happily settled in Gothenburg, Sweden, where I discovered Toastmasters and currently belong to three clubs. A full-time administrative job and my own translating company keep me busy when I'm not out hiking or picking mushrooms or berries in our wonderful forests. If that's not enough to keep me occupied, I will become a grandmother October this year - a new experience for me!

I see the coming year as Area Governor as a challenge to get to know my clubs better, and give them new ideas and inspiration. I hope to take the opportunity to prepare speeches from advanced manuals and educational series to give at the clubs in G2, thereby setting the example of "every speech is a manual speech". Having attained my ACS and ALS, I will be working on my ACG this year. That elusive DTM is actually in sight at last...

AREA G3 GOVERNOR, Jeanette Aronsson, president.gtm@toastmasters.se

DIVISION H (Spain and Portugal)

DIVISION H GOVERNOR, Jim Dodson, jimdodson@@telefonica.net



Jim ,a native of NYC, came to Spain in 1980 for the International Harvester Company out of Chicago. He stayed when IH wanted to send him back in '84, and has had a series of entrepreneurial ventures (one of which stuck) that of a janitorial cleaning operation. They clean embassies, offices, schools, and factories in the Madrid area. Jim is also a professor of marketing, part time, at Schiller International University

Jim was a founding member of Toastmasters in Madrid in 97. The club was started by an Englishman (name forgotten) who got us going and then left for the UK. Three years later, we chartered as a non-districted club. We met at lunchtimes, helped lots of members, and generally enjoyed ourselves. As others have mentioned over and over, we now have 13 clubs in our own division of district 59, including two in Portugal.

The potential for more clubs in our division is large, and he sees two or three or more new clubs this coming year. One potential area is the Universities with MBA programs. The MBA students need presentation skills and we are going to look into that area.

Current clubs, old and new, need support to keep them active, alive, and well. And Jim's intention and first priority is on current clubs; his second priority is on new clubs. We have a great team of area governors; club health and club growth will keep us all busy.

AREA H1 GOVERNOR, Markus Kuenkel, contact@@kuenkel-dr.com

AREA H2 GOVERNOR, Sania Jelic, sania_jelic@@yahoo.es

AREA H3 GOVERNOR, Marie Pierre Coutart, mcoutart@@hotmail.com



Bio: French - Working at HP Invent in Barcelona - Spain.

Starting in Oct 07, a Master in Marketing International.

Hobbies: Backpacking - Mountaineering

TM since 2004 - Barcelona Toastmaster: Role assumed Secretary, VP Education, President, Area Governor.

Motto: All becomes possible at TM.

Club web address: <http://www.bcn-toastmasters.com/home2>

TM status: CL.

AREA H4 GOVERNOR, Barbara Hofmeister, barbara@@trainingvisions.com



Since 1978 and after some severe setbacks in her personal life, Barbara became very involved in her own **personal development** and until today has not stopped in her striving for a purposeful life. She has studied with Jim Rohn, Tony Robbins, Bob Proctor, Dr. Wayne Dyer, Joel Bauer, Kurt Mortensen, Mark Victor Hanson, Dr. Topher Morrison, Robert G. Allen, T. Harv Eker. John Childers, Chris Howard, Dr. John P deMann and many others and has worked in 18 countries.

Barbara is a powerful leader and passionate Toastmaster. She is admired for her never-ending enthusiasm, passion, high work ethics and self-motivation. She is the founder of

the Achievers TMC in Marbella and one of the engines behind the growth of Division Iberia. Barbara reached her DTM in 2004, the same year she was elected **Toastmaster of the Year for District 59**.

Since many years an entrepreneur Barbara is also a certified Peak Performance Coach, the founder of www.trainingvisions.com and runs Confidence building and Goal achieving workshops for corporations, adults, and teenagers.

Quote: "You will only go as far as your confidence let's you."

Barbara is now Area Governor of the new Area H4 which is spread over nearly 1000 kms. Her goal is to strengthen the Clubs in Andalucia, and Portugal and to build a new Club in Malaga and Lisbon.

DIVISION I (Munich and Ulm)

DIVISION I GOVERNOR, Bert Olesch, olesch2001@yahoo.com



My first exposure to Toastmasters was when I was with the US Air Force stationed in Japan in the years 1964-1967. But, it was not until I came to Munich in late 1972 that I started to search for a Toastmasters club. At that time Toastmaster clubs were often associated with US military personnel, as was the case here in Munich. I joined the Munich Toastmasters club in 1976 and I have been a member ever since. During the many years as a member I held many different positions, from newsletter editor, VPE, President (more than once), followed by Area Governor. Activities with the Continental Council of European Toastmasters (CCET) included VPE and Chairman in 1995. When I retired from my active employment, I recognized my chance to finally spend some time with continuing my education by studying at university level. The first study was at the LMU where I studied Bioinformatics, followed by Geodesy at the TUM until the beginning of this year. The lifelong learning experience with a never-ending curiosity is part of me and at this point in my life I reactivate my activities with Toastmasters again.

AREA I1 GOVERNOR, Eva Beldiman, eva@@beldiman.net

AREA I2 GOVERNOR, Domenico Antico, domenico.antico@gmx.it



Domenico is a native Italian who was born in 1974. He studied Biomedical Electronics Engineering and works as a System engineer in Munich, Germany. He likes swimming, soccer and tennis. He became a member of Toastmasters in 2006 in the only Italian-speaking club in District 59, "Lasciatemi Parlare".

AREA I3 GOVERNOR, Guenther Schmalzl, guenther.schmalzl@@t-online.de



Bio: German national, born 1945, TM-Membership since June 2005 (Speaker's Corner Munich), Lawyer, likes all kinds of mountaineering, especially mountain-biking,

My approach to my office as governor of area I 3 may sound different, but I found out that, not only my club, many other clubs, even abroad, suffer with the same problem: losing too many "old", experienced members. In the past, this fluctuation was tolerable. But now, it really moves fast. We live in a changing world. These days offer, by far, more entertainment to us than ever before. So, in my opinion, the clubs have not only to compete harder, they have to compete differently.

People have less time than ever before and hardening life conditions force them to be more egoistic than ever. Many try leaving the club, which they believe is useful to them, as fast as possible. And, not just a few leave the club if just a little inconvenience shows up. This leads to a great shortage of experienced members. In some clubs, this is so bad, that members with just two speeches become VP education. Of course, they cannot be as professional as more experienced members and this leads to further fluctuation.

All these problems are compounded by the fact that there is no shortage of new members showing up, helping to keep the number of members at a high level.

The VP Membership mainly looks after the new members and so does the VP Public Relations. Therefore, I believe, one special appointed woman/man in the club should take care of this. Let's call her/him "VP Old-Membership." This should be my first priority! Of course, even the VP Old-Membership cannot and should not "nail" members to the club. But, why not go after people who did not show up for some time? It's easier than starting out with new members at zero.

I will also try to get the mentoring program, which is already introduced quite well in my area, even running better. This may help, too, stabilizing "old membership".

In addition, I asked Denise and Christopher Magyar (the outgoing district governor) to hold an educational in each of our area-clubs, how can one more effectively speak on Table Topics, because this seems still to be a subject of fear. Fortunately, these two extremely helpful and competent people agreed.

I found that speaking without notes is not an easy subject for everybody. At least, some members must invest a lot of time to "speak by heart." For that reason, we founded a "Mindmaster-Club" (aside from TM), where we train memorization techniques with the help of "mental mail-boxes." Since then, we have become a lot better in learning keywords of a speech. I will be speaking on this subject in the clubs of my area, and maybe some clubs will follow this example. Further projects will be the introduction of a voice training and the improvement of the social network of the clubs. This will also help in keeping our "old" members.

Since there is so much fluctuation, every three to six months a very experienced member (from inside or outside the club) should become general evaluator and be given more time than normal to evaluate the club, thus giving the members an idea about the basic necessities of the club meetings. The same goal could, of course, be reached by having an educational with the same content every three to six months. All of this, of course, needs the approval and assistance of the presidents of the clubs and the majority of the members. But, at least, I can try!

One additional thought: If I find other members in our area who like this idea, too, we could copy what TMI in USA already have been doing since a long time ago: going into prisons and trying to encourage especially young inmates to form a club. This may have a lot of bureaucratic hurdles, consume a lot of time in the beginning and really may not be easy. But, I cannot think about a cheaper and more valuable reintegration program into society than this. People, who never learned to express themselves, learn to defend themselves with words. Let's dream a little: maybe this idea will then grow from inside the prisons without help from outside anymore.

Lastly, I will try to convince TM International that it should change its evaluation system. The clubs should also be given credit for the simple fact that they are able to retain "old" members, even if they did not earn a new title or whatever -- members who stay for the simple fact that they are happy with their club. New members are important, "old" members, too. Therefore, points should be given to the clubs, too, that organize excursions, social meetings and so on. Since the "Distinguished Club Program" is not just an award system, but primarily a diagnostic tool to show if a club is healthy, it should evaluate these efforts, too.

In this way, I am really convinced, TMI will grow even more and this great, fantastic idea will live on. Of course, there is just very little I can do, but I will try!

AT A GLANCE ...

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