

Toastmasters Education Sessions

District 55 2010 Spring Conference

May 1, 2010 – Kerrville, Texas

May 1 – 8:20 AM Keynote Address

“Create your Greatest Life” – TJ Manson, DTM



Where are you now? Where do you want to be? Are you living up to your fullest potential? In this presentation, Tim Manson will give you several strategies to, “Create Your Greatest Life”!

Tim Manson, President and founder of Innovative Horizons, is a corporate trainer as well as an avid horseman, with over twenty-four years of experience in the field of adult training and over 30 years of experience working with horses. With this background, Tim naturally evolved from the classroom environment to the experiential environment, partnering with horses in his Equine Assisted Professional Development programs. In these programs, Tim partners with horses to assist organizations in bringing about their desired changes in leadership, communication and team building. Tim is a Certified Training and Development Specialist and an Equine Assisted Training Specialist. Tim works with organizations dedicated to maximizing their organizational effectiveness by enhancing the efficiency of their employees. Tim teams up with his clients to create a culture of Performance, Accountability and Service in today's competitive marketplace. He is an experienced leader, educator and consultant in the corporate world, as well as the Department of Defense. Tim holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia and is a member of the Lone Star Toastmaster club in Killeen, District 25.

May 1 – 9:10 AM Sessions

“Why Do We Write?” – A panel discussion with authors Diane Fanning, Joan Upton Hall and Ben Rehder

These three authors offer a broad range of books, from satirical Hill Country mysteries to the Return of King Arthur...from fact to fiction...and they will discuss the motivations and inspirations that drive them to work at their craft, as well as the fulfillment they each get from writing. They will answer any questions you may have concerning being an author and about what it takes to be one.



Diane Fanning is the Edgar-nominated author of ten true crime books and four mystery novels. She has been featured on *48 Hours*, *20/20*, *Forensic Files*, and radio stations from coast to coast. Ms. Fanning is currently under contract for two true crime books and one crime novels, and she lives in New Braunfels, Texas.

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Joan Upton Hall, who taught English in the past millennium, is now a freelance author, editor, and speaker. Her manual, “Rx for Your Writing Ills” and column “Demystifying Writers’ Demons,” is carried by various writer newsletters. She has published columns, short stories, and articles in anthologies and periodicals as diverse as *Texas Highways* and *American Jails*. Think that’s a split personality? Ms. Hall’s books run from historical nonfiction to urban fantasy and futuristic mystery.



Ben Rehder is a freelance writer and novelist who lives with his wife near Austin, where he was born and raised. His Blanco County mysteries revolving around a Texas Game Warden have made best-of-the-year lists in *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Field & Stream*. “Buck Fever,” the first in the series, was nominated for the Edgar Award. Mr. Rehder’s nonfiction articles and essays have appeared in *Newsweek*, *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine, *Texas Co-op Power*, and the *San Antonio Express-News*.

“Painting with a Twist: Creativity & Communication” – Melissa Smiley



Sometimes an effective way to communicate with others is simply to be creative. Art (especially painting) can be a wonderful tool in many situations. Just one simple painting class can foster communication traits such as participation, paying attention, responding, expression, interpretation, encouragement, and more. Join us as we journey through a mock painting class to see the right brain in action!

Melissa, who is currently a member of the Boerne Toastmasters, was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she realized early on that she inherited her artistic abilities from several talented family relatives, mostly her Great Aunts who were also nuns! She and her husband Tom have three children and two cats. Melissa’s life-long dream of having her own art studio became a reality when she recently opened *Painting With A Twist* in San Antonio. She is here to share her views on Creativity and Communication as she sees it demonstrated in the many classes offered in her art and social studio.

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May 1 – 10:10 AM Sessions

“The Magic of Mentoring” – Karan J Sikes, ACS, ALB



One of the challenges our Toastmaster clubs experience today is assuring prospective new members that their speaking and leadership goals are a priority to the club. Does THIS club have a program to support each new member as he/she strives for excellence? (*Consider the question as if you are a new member*). “The Magic of Mentoring” is the perfect tool for meeting both member goals and the club goals as part of the Distinguished Club Program. Both mentors and mentees become more competent speakers and leaders. The mentored then become mentors to the new club members and the growth process continues.

Karan is currently serving District 55 as the Area Governor for L40 and has been a Toastmaster for six years. In that time she has progressed to Advanced Communicator Silver and Competent Leader Bronze. Karan manages an on-line business and has a passion for competitive dancing and mentoring new Toastmaster clubs and new club members.

“Handling Controversial Speeches” - Patrick Reznik, DTM



While some clubs deal with controversial issues because of their club charters, less specialized clubs may not deal with these issues on a regular basis. Rather than avoiding "controversial" topics, this session will help you develop and improve communication tools, in anticipating and working in a healthy and productive way, with speakers and potentially controversial subject matters at regular club meetings. Included in the presentation will be group discussions handling hypothetical topics from fictitious members who wish to present a speech with controversial subject matter.

Patrick has, in his 12 years as a Toastmaster, earned his DTM, and along the way he has dealt with controversial issues as an officer, governor, and member. Professionally, Patrick has extensive jury trial experience in both civil and criminal law. He has an educational background in engineering and agriculture and is an active lecturer and writer. Patrick has handled civil (and at times, uncivil) disputes involving land use, leases, contracts, estates, shareholder rights, developers, homeowners, and builders. Patrick's years of dealing with people in difficult and often emotional circumstances have equipped him to handle complex legal problems.

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May 1 – 1:45 PM Sessions

“Three Keys to Successful Leadership” - Stanley See, DTM



The world needs strong, competent leaders now more than ever before. These effective leaders are needed not only in government and industry, but in our communities and civic organizations as well. Even in Toastmasters, the difference between a successful club and an unsuccessful club is the quality of leadership within the club. Leadership abilities are not inherited, but like communication skills, leadership skills are learned and honed through experience, facing challenges and learning from failures and successes. This session will address three important keys to successful leadership: setting goals, planning and delegating.

Stanley has earned President’s Distinguished Area, President’s Distinguished Division Governor, Division Governor of the Year, Excellence in Marketing as Lt. Governor Marketing, Excellence in Education/Training as Lt. Governor Education and Training, and Excellence in Leadership and Select Distinguished status as District Governor in 2008-2009. Stanley is the surveillance security officer for the Texas Department of State Health Services TB/HIV/STD epidemiology and surveillance branch. Stanley also serves as a member of the city of Kyle Board of Appeals and chairs the city of Kyle Sign Board Compliance committee.

“How to Dance with Your Audience” – Janice Dean



Have you ever felt out of step with your audience? Lost their attention? When you speak, do you have a monologue or a dialogue with your audience? Do you feel you need a little pizzazz to liven up your message? Would you like more participation and fun with your audience? If so, Janice has the perfect solution for you. Come enjoy yourself, laugh out loud and learn stunning new techniques that will give you the skills you need to be unforgettable to your audience. You will take away the following new techniques:

- Create an energy that empowers you and your audience;
- Magnetize your audience and maximize your effectiveness; and
- Enjoy the freedom of being YOURSELF with your audience.

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Janice Dean is a multi-faceted theatrical talent who transforms ordinary communicators from every walk of life into electrifying presenters. Janice has worked as a director and actor in theatre, films, television, and voice-over commercials around the country.

As a former member of “SpeakEasy” Toastmasters and the National Speakers Association, Janice has created and presented programs and workshops for fellow toastmasters, conferences, associations and private organizations. Her life-changing programs have empowered speakers and salespeople, executives and entrepreneurs, supervisors and superstars . . . in short everyone who wants to be a persuasive communicator. With a high-energy style and audience-centered approach, she gives every participant the crucial skills they need to take charge of their careers, leadership positions, entrepreneurial goals, and life aspirations.

May 1 – 2:45 PM International Director Presentation

“Changing your Sails” – Tim Swearingen, DTM



Let’s face it...our world is a different place. Since the economic collapse of 2008, many of us have had our reality reshaped for us. While Tim can’t tell you how to get the value of your 401k back; he can share how Toastmasters helped him reshape the reality that he faced when his world imploded. Tim hopes that you will discover what he did; that the Toastmasters experience that we provide to ourselves and others is an investment that will never fail and will help you change your sails during life’s stormy chapters.

Tim Swearingen, DTM, is a Training Specialist for Direct Alliance Corporation, a global business process outsourcing provider for several Fortune 500 companies.

Swearingen is a member of three Toastmasters clubs, all in Arizona: Leaders Plus, Epicurean and Pure Talk. He says he joined Toastmasters 13 years ago to learn to better communicate technical information to people with various backgrounds in technology-related topics. “Applying the skills I’ve learned in Toastmasters, I’ve been able to advance my career and take part in numerous professional experiences that I might not have otherwise enjoyed,” Swearingen says. “Each step in Toastmasters has been a new challenge to learn from, and each person I’ve worked with along the way has become a friend for life.”