



<http://www.tmd55.org/flash.htm>

Comments ideas to flash@tmd55.org

July-August 2005

Inside This Issue...

Happy New (Toastmasters) Year!	2
Area Council Meetings	2
Web Site Updates.....	2
Officer Training	2
Your Toastmasters Neighbors.....	2
Planning for Success...and Contest Season.....	2
Rocking (and Voting) at the Conference	3
Let's Hear From You	3
Resource Spotlight	3
Let the Contest Begin!	4
TOP 10 Tips For Quality Speech Contests	4
Members, Members Everywhere and What's in It for Me!	5
The EX Factor	8
TM Trivia	8
No 'shrooms!.....	9
Club Success Planning	9
Submit Your Plan...Become Eligible for Pizza!	9
Distinguished Club Plan Goals	10
District Achievements: Building on YOUR Successes!	12
Calendar.....	13
District 55 Fall 2005 Conference	14
TM Trivia—Answers.....	15
From the Editor.....	15

Happy New (Toastmasters) Year!

Welcome to the new Toastmasters year! Your leadership teams have been busy preparing a year focusing on you, the member, in helping you reach your goals and meet your dreams!

Area Council Meetings

Has your club heard from your Area Governor yet? Your club's Area Governor will be hosting Area Council Meetings for each club's President and Vice President Education to talk about upcoming activities in the District, and to find out how the leaders of the District can serve you. If your club's Area Council members haven't been invited to your Area Council Meeting, ask your Area Governor when they plan to hold one. In addition, your Area Governor will be visiting your club in the next few months to introduce themselves to your club members and to keep you up to date on District business.

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

—Jane Howard, "Families"

Web Site Updates

Check out the updated District 55 web site at www.tmd55.org! Our Webmaster, Bob Dashman (TG Toasters), has been busy enhancing the information on the web page for you to use as a communications tool. You will find the most recent District calendar updates, training dates, contest information, and club news.

Officer Training

There are lots of opportunities for your club officers to receive Officer Training with the new year! Each club is encouraged to have all of its officers

attend training, and to earn points in the Distinguished Club Program at least four of the officers must be trained in the Fall and in the Spring. Clubs have through August 31 to finish their training, so check out the District calendar and web site for the latest on training dates and locations.

Your Toastmasters Neighbors

District Public Relations Officer Tonia Ramirez (TxDoT Toastmasters) has chosen "Getting to Know Your Toastmasters Neighbors" as the theme for the month of August. You'll learn more about Toastmasters International and how each of us fit into the Toastmasters neighborhood, as well as

be encouraged to venture out of your club and meet your neighbors in your area.

Planning for Success...and Contest Season

Has your club completed its Club Success Plan for the year yet? Make sure you read the article "No 'shrooms!" to learn the details of a contest for submitting your Club Success Plan to win a Pizza Party for your club members.

Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest season is upon us. Judges' Training sessions are planned throughout the District in the upcoming weeks. If you've always wanted to judge a contest, but weren't sure how, attend one of the trainings and get the ins and outs of contest judging from the experts! Do you need information about the club-

level contests, which should take place in August or early September? Contact your Area Governor for any questions about holding your contests!

Your leadership team has several contests on the way to help you build membership and achieve your educational goals. Read the entire newsletter and check out the web site for more details on the contests.

Rocking (and Voting) at the Conference

We're all going to Party Like Rock Stars at the District 55 Fall Conference in Round Rock, Texas, on October 28-29, 2005. Listen for details soon on how to register for the conference and make sure you check out the Buddy Rate the conference chairs are offering in the next few weeks. The theme of the conference is "District 55: We Rock!" Come ready to party like a rock star as we conduct the business of the District.

Each club's President and Vice President Education should plan to attend the

Business Meeting on Saturday, October 29, to have their club's voice heard! If neither officer can attend, a delegate may attend and vote on behalf of the club using a Club Proxy. The proxies will be available on line and in the next issue of the District 55 *Flash* in September.

Let's Hear From You

Your leadership team is here to make sure the needs of our members are being met. Is there something you want us to know? Is there a service we could offer that would assist you in becoming a Distinguished Club or better? We want to hear from you. In this newsletter you will see a directory to contact us. We can't help you if we don't hear from you!

Building on Our Successes, Focusing on Our Dreams!

—Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM, District 55 Governor

Resource Spotlight

Contest season is fast approaching! Do you know the District web site has materials, guides, and more to help plan your club, area, or division contest!

[Click here for your contest resources
\(http://tmd55.org/contests.htm\)](http://tmd55.org/contests.htm)

Let the Contest Begin!

Between now and the end of October, over 100 Humorous and Table Topic contests—where our members will showcase their speaking skills—will be held throughout District 55. Beginning in August, clubs will hold their club contests with the winners advancing to Area contests in September, followed by Division contests in October and culminating with the District 55 contests on October 28-29.

Usually, I hear two questions about contests: “Why should we hold contests?” and “How do we plan for contests?” The answers are simple and short.

The advantages of conducting contests are to provide: an opportunity for proficient speakers to gain contest experience; and an interesting

educational program for your club members, for all Toastmasters, and for the general public. A contest can spotlight the opportunities offered by the Toastmasters program.

Now, as for planning your contest, Toastmasters International has contest kits for the upcoming Humorous Speech and Table Topic contests. The details and ALL forms are included.

What an opportunity to expand your leadership skills. If you need additional help, after reading your contest information, contact your Area and Division Governors. Their contact information is on the website

www.tmd55.org. **Happy Toastmastering!**

—Atheria Scott, DTM, Lt. Governor-Education & Training

TOP 10 Tips For Quality Speech Contests

- 10 Call 949-858-8255 to order **your** *Humorous Speech Contest Kit* (#1169H, \$8.00) and *Table Topics Speech Contest Kit* (#1169TBL, \$8.00)
- 9 Select a date, location, **and** time; **then** spread the word to your members and guests via phone calls, emails, etc. Also, send public service announcements (PSAs) to local community newspapers.
- 8 Read ALL the contest materials.
- 7 Select a Contest Chair (sometimes Club VP-Education serves in this position).
- 6 Select a Chief Judge (watch www.tmd55.org) for upcoming Judges' Training sessions.
- 5 Select a Toastmaster.
- 4 Select a Hospitality Chair to handle refreshments, decorations (optional).
- 3 Purchase awards and/or certificates for contestants.
- 2 KNOW the rules!
- 1 Smile! Smile! Smile! Getting others involved with make you to SMILE!

Members, Members Everywhere and What's in It for Me!

Have you every asked yourself, "How have I benefited from Toastmasters?" and "Do I have friends who could use the same benefits?"

Of course you have! We've all asked ourselves these questions, but how many times have we extended the benefits of Toastmasters to our friends?

This year, take the time to invite your friends to join Toastmasters. Not only will you have the satisfaction of knowing that they're benefiting from the Toastmasters program, you'll also receive the following recognition for yourself and your club:

Individual Recognition (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

Successfully invite three of your friends to join Toastmasters during the program year and you'll be recognized by District Governor Elizabeth Sprecher. Make it five friends to add a strikingly designed "FIND YOUR VOICE/SERVE YOUR WORLD" pin to wear at Toastmasters functions. Encourage 10 friends to join and receive a Gold Star pin. If 15 of your friends join Toastmasters, you'll receive a Toastmasters scarf or necktie.

Just make sure that your friends list you as their sponsor on their membership applications.

Seeing Red Membership Contest (August 1, 2005 to August 31, 2005)

This contest is only for members of District 55. The two people who recruit the most members (minimum 7) during August 2005 will receive gasoline gift cards. There's a \$100 card for the person who recruits the most members and a \$50 card for the runner-up. Let's start the Toastmasters program year off with a membership explosion in District 55!

Smedley Award (August 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005)

This award goes to every club that recruits five or more members during the two-month period immediately before the fall renewal due date. Your club receives a Smedley Award ribbon for your club's banner, and a choice of one module from The Better Speaker Series, The Successful Club Series, or The Leadership Excellence Series.

Talk up Toastmasters! Award (February 1, 2006 to March 30, 2006)

Similar to the Smedley Award, this one goes to every club that recruits five or more members during the two-month period immediately before the spring renewal due date. Your club receives a Talk up Toastmasters! Award ribbon, for your club's banner, and a choice of one module from The Better Speaker Series, The Successful Club Series, or The Leadership Excellence Series.

Beat the Clock Award (May 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006)

Also similar to the Smedley Award, this award goes to every club that recruits five or more members during the two-month period immediately before the end of the program year. Your club receives a Beat the Clock Award ribbon for your club's banner, and a choice of one module from The Better Speaker Series, The Successful Club Series, or The Leadership Excellence Series.

For more information about any of the preceding awards, download this information sheet: <https://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/1620-0506.pdf>.

Be sure to check tmd55.org for other exciting District 55 membership programs throughout the year! And remember, your friends can't benefit from Toastmasters until you extend them an invitation to join.

—Jeff Stoddard, DTM, Lt. Governor-Marketing

Help Wanted

- **Conference Helpers** needed for registration, promotion, contests, signs, donations, and other tasks; contact Jennifer Grube (512-340-9960) or Dee Mickelson (512-491-9799) or send e-mail to fallconf@tmd55.org.
- **Contest Helpers** for your area and division contests (check with your area and division governors), as well as for the District contests held during the October conference (see above).
- **Web Page Suggestions** for content, links, or anything you may want to see on the site; contact Bob Dashman (webmaster@tmd55.org).

Congratulations to clubs that...

BEAT THE CLOCK!

The Beat the Clock Award (Toastmasters International's membership building contest) goes to clubs that recruited at least five new, dual, or reinstated members **from May 1 to June 30, 2005**. Clubs who successfully Beat the Clock get a ribbon for their club banner and a choice of one module from the Better Speaker Series, Successful Club Series, or Leadership Excellence Series!

9 NEW MEMBERS

Col Jack D Wallace

8 NEW MEMBERS

H-E-B

Toast Of Dell

7 NEW MEMBERS

Dell

Grande Evening

6 NEW MEMBERS

Business-Professional

Dell Master Speakers

Lake Austin Metropolitan

Tejas

5 NEW MEMBERS

Barton Springs

NI Speechmeisters

San Marcos

Saws Fluid Communicators

Toastmasters of The Universe

TxDOT

Wavemakers

Where's Your Club's Name? Read more about the **Seeing-Red** Membership Contest (August 1-31, 2005), the **Smedley** Award (August-September 2005), and other **District 55** and Toastmasters International membership-building **contests and recognition** in the article *Members, Members Everywhere and What's in It for Me!*

The EX Factor

You joined Toastmasters to get rid of the butterflies that swarmed in your stomach every time you spoke in front of a group. Now, you've got your swarm under control!

Have you reached your goal? Hardly.

It's time to get out and test your mettle. It's time to get in front of an unfamiliar audience. If you haven't take the opportunity to get outside your club since you joined Toastmasters, now's the time. You've conquered your initial fear, but you might be surprised how quickly the queasiness returns in a new situation.

Another District in Region III recommends using what we'll call the Toastmasters **EX Factor**. The District in question encourages its clubs to EXchange speakers and evaluators...try it! Everyone who has is raving about the way it improves your speaking skills.

Here's how it works. You and one other member of your club arrange to attend a meeting of another club. One of you gives a prepared, manual speech and the other evaluates a prepared, manual speech given by a member of your host club. In return, the club you visit sends a speaker and evaluator to your club. Nothing to it! And an even EXchange

doesn't take away a speaking opportunity from either club.

So, how do you go about contacting another club? You can choose one at random, or, better yet, you can work with your Area Governor to choose a club in your Area that could most benefit from such an **EX**change.

Now, you may be asking, "Are there other benefits of the Toastmasters **EX** Factor?" Aside from the challenge of speaking in front of an unfamiliar group, two members of both clubs get the benefit of an evaluation from someone who doesn't already know their speaking style. We've all had a tired evaluation from someone who's heard us one too many times. The members of the club you visit have never heard you speak nor has your evaluator heard them speak. Just be careful! It's addictive.

Are you ready to **EX**perience the Toastmasters EX Factor? Contact your Area Governor today to set up a speaker/evaluator **EX**change.

Don't know who your Area Governor is? Find out by visiting the District web site at <http://www.tmd55.org/divisions.htm>.

—Jeff Stoddard, DTM, Lt. Governor-Marketing

TM Trivia

1. What's the name of the incoming District 55 Governor?
2. How many contests were held this past year (July 2004 to June 2005)?
3. Who was the special guest at the District 55 spring conference?
4. Who is your Area Governor (outgoing or incoming)?
5. Who is the new Lt. Governor of Marketing?

[Answers are on the last page.](#)

No 'shrooms!

Mushrooms grow wild in Ireland...Irishman Past International President Ted Corcoran told me that he can stand in his field one night in Ireland, and nothing! However, the next morning he can stand in that same spot and be surrounded by mushrooms! No action required, just bam! A field of mushrooms!

Aren't club successes like that sometime? I remember when I was President of Highroller Toastmasters I received a Distinguished Club Plan report saying that our club had reached Distinguished Status the year before. I remember thinking it meant "what a great club we are," having no idea what this report really was. When I called our past President with this great news, she had no idea what the Distinguished Club Plan was either. You see, by not even trying that year Highroller managed to earn Distinguished status. We had educational and new member mushrooms all around us with no effort. Imagine what successes we could have had with a little planning and education to our members!

Club Success Planning

Our team that next year set out to earn President's Distinguished status by completing our Club Success Plan and following through with the plan. In fact, our club completed 10 of the 10 Distinguished Club Plan goals. When we PLANNED for success we were much more successful than when the mushrooms just grew up around us.

Has your club PLANNED for success this year, or are you waiting for the field of mushrooms to appear? Have you completed your Club Success Plan that

spells out how your club will meet the needs of its members through educational and membership goals?

If you haven't, it isn't too late! Each club President received a Distinguished Club Plan guide in the mail at the end of the term last year. Review the guide and set forth a plan for Distinguished or better in the upcoming year. If you can't find your club's copy, you can download the guide and worksheets at www.toastmasters.org under the member forms and documents section.

Submit Your Plan...Become Eligible for Pizza!

If you've already set your club goals using the Club Success Plan, don't forget to submit a copy of the Plan to the District by August 31. Not only will your club receive a wall copy of the Distinguished Club Plan for display at club meetings—making it easy for you to track progress—one club will also receive a pizza party in a random drawing. The question is: Will you order mushrooms on that pizza?

Good luck in the year ahead with setting forth your goals for Distinguished Club or better. Area and Division Governors are available to assist you with setting realistic club goals for the year. Utilize them!

To be eligible for the random drawing for a pizza party at your regular club meeting, submit a copy of your Club Success Plan as part of the Distinguished Club Plan:

Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM
1713 Azores Dr
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Distinguished Club Plan Goals

Clubs must have at least 20 members or a net growth of five on June 30 to be eligible.

1. One CTM
2. One more CTM
3. One ATM
4. One more ATM
5. One CL, AL, or DTM
6. One more CL, AL, or DTM
7. Four new members
 - Four more new members
8. Four club officers trained both in Fall and Spring
9. Two reports submitted on time to Toastmasters International

Distinguished Club 5 Goals

Select Distinguished Club 7 Goals

President's Distinguished Club 9 Goals

Remember: All clubs submitting a Club Success Plan to the District will also **receive a wall chart** of the Distinguished Club Plan for display at club meetings.

No ‘shrooms!

*Submit your club’s Club Success Plan to the District Governor by August 31, and your club is automatically entered into a random **drawing for a club pizza party** in September!*

Mushrooms often grow wild, and sometimes appear without us doing anything! Our goal this year is to ensure no clubs have “mushrooms” for educational achievements and new members.

By preparing your Club Success Plan, you ensure there are no mushrooms in District 55 by mapping out your plan to be a

Distinguished Club (or better!)

Find a copy of a Club Success Plan at www.toastmasters.org and look under Documents and Forms. Send your Plans to:

Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM

1713 Azores Dr

Pflugerville, TX 78660

*Need some help completing your Club Success Plan?
Talk to your Area or Division Governor today!*

Good Luck!

District Achievements: Building on YOUR Successes!

YOU made District 55 a Distinguished District! For the year ending June 2005, YOU achieved these honors:

Summary

Distinguished Areas ...4	Distinguished Division.....1
Select Distinguished Areas5	Select Distinguished Division.....1
President's Distinguished Areas7	President's Distinguished Division....2

By Division

Division G – Distinguished

Area 91 – President's Distinguished
Area 92 – Distinguished

Division H

Area 80 – President's Distinguished

Division I

Area 71 – Distinguished

Division J – President's Distinguished

Area 60 – Distinguished
Area 61 – President's Distinguished
Area 62 – President's Distinguished
Area 63 – Select Distinguished Area
Area 64 – President's Distinguished

Division K – President's Distinguished

Area 50 – Select Distinguished
Area 51 – President's Distinguished
Area 52 – Select Distinguished
Area 53 – President's Distinguished

Division L – Select Distinguished

Area 40 – Select Distinguished
Area 42 – Distinguished
Area 43 – Select Distinguished

Distinguished District

Total Clubs.....4 above goal
Membership Payments.....330 above goal
CTMs69 above goal
ATMs43 above goal

Calendar

Also view and search for events on the District 55 Calendar.

August 2005

- 11 Club Officer Training, sponsored by Division J
Waller Creek Center, Austin
625 E 10th Street
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- 20 Club Officer Training, sponsored by Division M
First American Flood Data Services, Austin
11902 Burnet Road
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 20 Contest Judges Training, sponsored by Division M
First American Flood Data Services, Austin
11902 Burnet Road
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
- 24-28 International Convention, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 27 Contest Judges Training, sponsored by Division H
Resurrection Baptist Church, Schertz (near San Antonio)
1002 Live Oak Rd.
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- 31 Club Success Plans due to District Governor for Contest Drawing
- 31 District Summer Membership Building Contest Ends
- 31 Club Officer Training Deadline
Humorous and Table Topics
Speech Contests – Club
Area Council Meetings

September 2005

- Humorous and Table Topics
Speech Contests - Area
- Division Council Meetings

October 2005

- 1 Club Dues Renewals due to Toastmasters International
- 1 Division H Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests
Resurrection Baptist Church, Schertz (near San Antonio)
1002 Live Oak Rd.
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- 15 Division K and L Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests
Elks Lodge, Austin
700 Dawson Road
Division L at 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM; Division K at 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- 28-30 District Conference and Semi-Annual Business Meeting
(Austin Marriott North, Round Rock), includes District Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests
- 30 Area Governors' Club Visit
Reports Due to District Governor

November 2005

- Club Officer Elections



District 55 Fall 2005 Conference
October 28-30, 2005
Austin Marriott North, Round Rock, Texas

There's no doubt about it...District 55: We Rock! Toastmasters from all over central and south Texas will convene on the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock, Texas Friday, October 28 through Sunday morning October 30, 2005 for a ROCKIN' GOOD TIME-TOASTMASTERS STYLE. Don't miss the fellowship, fun, competition and educational opportunities offered by District 55.

- ? Friday Night – Release Your Inner Rock Star Costume Contest and Table Topics Contest
- ? Saturday Night – Humorous Speech Contest and Post Contest Entertainment.
- ? Interesting educational sessions sure to enhance your communication & leadership skills
 - ? Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon
 - ? Events for “First-Timers”
- ? Sunday Send-Off Breakfast for Traveling Toastmasters ? And much more!

District 55 Fall 2005 Conference Registration
 October 28-30, 2005
 Round Rock Marriott, Round Rock, Texas

___ **Full Registration** (all activities, educational sessions, meals) - \$99 (through 8/31/2005) \$114 (9/1/2005 through 10/28/2005)

___ **Full Registration with the “Roadie Rate”** – attend with a buddy and you each pay only \$69 each (through 9/30/2005) Both conference attendees registration forms must be sent in together)

A la Carte Registration

___ \$25 Educational Sessions only ___ \$30 Table Topics Contest AND Friday Night Fun
 ___ \$35 Saturday Awards Luncheon ___ \$40 Saturday Dinner AND Humorous Speech Contest

Contest Only (no meal) ___ \$15 for one contest or ___ \$25 for both contests

\$ _____ Total (Please enclose your check for this amount, payable to District 55 Toastmasters)

_____ Buddy Name (if using the “Roadie Rate”)

Complete one registration form for each person registering:

Name: _____ Toastmasters Designation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Club Name: _____ Club Office: _____

This is my first District 55 Conference! ___ Yes ___ No

Yes, I will help! ___ Promotion ___ Contests ___ Signs
 ___ Registration ___ Donations ___ Wherever you need!

Mail to: Jennifer Grube, c/o District 55 Toastmasters, 5217 Old Spicewood Springs Rd., #2305, Austin, TX 78731

Hotel accommodations at Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock 512-733-6767, *Limited rooms available at \$99 per night!*

Questions: Contact Jennifer Grube 512-340-9960 or Dee Mickelson 512-491-9799 or email fallconf@tmd55.org

District Officers

District Governor

Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM

Lt.-Governor Education & Training

Atheria Scott, DTM

Lt.-Governor Marketing

Jeff Stoddard, DTM

Past District Governor

Harry Truman, DTM

District Secretary

Irma Blancas, CTM, CL

District Treasurer

Bill Watson, CTM, CL

District Public Relations Officer

Tonia Ramirez, DTM

Publishing Staff

Webmaster

Bob Dashman, ATM-S, AL

Flash Editor

Diana Barkley, CTM, CL

District 55 serves about 5,000 members in more than 120 clubs in South-Central Texas.

*Building on Our Successes,
Focusing on Our Dreams!*

TM Trivia—Answers

1. What’s the name of the incoming District 55 Governor?
Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM...meet and congratulate her!

2. How many contests were held this past year (July 2004 to June 2005)?

Dozens and dozens! How many did you attend?

3. Who was the special guest at the District 55 spring conference?

Toastmasters International President Jon Griener...did you get to meet him?

4. Who is your Area Governor (outgoing or incoming)?

I know mine...who is yours?

5. Who is the new Lt. Governor of Marketing?

Jeff Stoddard, DTM...meet and congratulate him!

From the Editor

Your ideas and contributions make the *Flash* a valuable tool for your club, area, division, and district. As the new editor, I hope to continue the standards set by my predecessor by making it applicable and useful to your club, area, and division.

But just like being an active, participating Toastmaster, YOUR input is crucial to the success of the *Flash*.

Ideas, suggestions, contributions, etc. from YOU give this newsletter value. Please send contributions or tell us what you want to see with these pages.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that together we can ramp up the NEWS in your NEWSletter.

—Diana Barkley
Flash Newsletter Editor
flash@tmd55.org
512-239-6642