

Spring 2014 Conference Update for the March 15th DEC Meeting by Conference Chair Susan McClure

Plans for the conference are progressing nicely. Committee chairs are in place and meals have been chosen. We are doing okay with our room block at the hotel; our commitment is to fill 25 rooms each night, currently 16 of those 25 have been reserved. There are two key people that I need help finding: First we need a sound person. We will take a person that only wants to operate the equipment. We also need a person to arrange the program booklet for us. If you know anyone with either of these talents please let me know. A great way for you to be recognized as a district leader is to volunteer to introduce a speaker or lead an invocation and pledge. Let me know if you interested in either of those, or if you want to help out at the registration desk or, as a Sgt @ arms, or with decorations there are lots of areas that you can volunteer in for minimal time.

Most importantly, our keynote speakers and educational sessions are in place! The keynote speakers are: Jim Key, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking, Karen Blake, International Director for Region 3, and Jana Barnhill, Past International President. There are nine education sessions; 3 are geared towards beginning speakers, 3 are geared towards advanced speaking skills and 3 are geared towards leadership.

We currently have 70 full conference registrations; only two of those registrations are first-timers. This is where I need your help. I need each of you to PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE the conference. Promote at every club meeting that you attend, at every contest and any other events that are held. Always have registration forms with you to pass out making sure they reflect current pricing. The next price increase will be April 19th. The current registration rate of \$149 will be valid at all Division Contests, even the ones after April 18th. We are also offering a discount of \$10 off the \$149 rate at Division Contests only. This discount does not apply to first timer registrations.

Sell the conference to your management team at work. Talk to them about covering registration costs. We have several companies that pay for full registrations for their seven club officers. Companies won't do this if you don't ask. Go armed with the list of educational sessions that is available on the website.

We also have sponsorships available. Your company may choose to cover printing costs, or travel for a keynote speaker. The possibilities are endless and will earn your company recognition at our conference.

Talk to your own club about placing an ad in the conference program. A business card sized ad is only \$25, double the size for another \$25.

Remember to PROMOTE, PROMOTE, and PROMOTE the conference.