

Toastmasters Gazette

Volume 4, Issue 33

February 21, 2008

Our mission is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

February 21 Meeting Notes

We had okay attendance; fifteen, including one returning guest (**Karen Finn**).



Tonight was our contest - Tall Tale and International Speech. **Deb Liptak** was the Toastmaster for the meeting. **Toni Hendrick** was the chief judge, and I think **Cindy Breaman** was the Contest Chair (or was a very busy helper).

For the Tall Tale contest, we had one contestant, **Scott Lewis**. His tale was "The Quarterback." It described how college football lost the best darn quarterback.



David Watkins also did a tall tale ("The Camping Trip") but it was just to practice (he had promised not to compete when he agreed to teach Tall Tale courses at the District Officer Training seminars). His tale was about how he used skyhooks to save the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.



Scott Lewis also competed in the International Speech contest. His speech, "Seedling to Tree", described how the type of seeds we plant within our selves will grow to determine who and what we are.



Rick Sharon presented "Wham!". How he was "hit up against the side of the head" by things he learned ("a universe head slap").

Scott Lewis will be representing the Keller Club at the Area 15 contest.

Club/Area/District News



Karen Finn presented an application for membership. The club voted to accept her as a member. Congratulations Karen, and thank you for becoming part of the family.

Chris Nichols sent email notices of dues being due. The dues are \$45 (club and international dues).

The new directory for the Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce was released. The **Keller Communicators** is in there, under "K". Yea Keller Communicators. Thanks to **Amy Morenz** to letting us know.

Motions that were made and seconded:

- **Pay \$35 for a display table at the March 14 Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.** The motion was approved. We will need three volunteers to help man the table. I think we have the three.
- **Club to reimburse the volunteers at the luncheon above for the \$15 cost of the lunch.** It was voted on and approved.
- **Reduce the amount of club dues since we have so much in the treasury.** The motion was tabled to next week's meeting.
- **Approve donation of \$40 to the person/business that created/maintains the Club Scheduler software.** The motion was rejected.

Area 15 Contests are on **March 14th** (Friday evening). The social time begins at 5:30. Contestant briefing is at 6:00. Contest at 7:00. The contest will be held at HEB Central Market Community Room (in Southlake). Volunteers are needed.

The **Division A Contests** are on **April 19th**. They will be held in the BNSF Viewing Gallery (pretty neat

Winners



Tall Tale **Scott Lewis**

International Speech **Scott Lewis**

place if you've never been there). More information will be forthcoming on the contest.

The **District Spring Conference** is also approaching. It will be held **May 2nd and 3rd**. The winners of the International Speech and Tall Tale Contests will eventually compete here. More to follow or head to the District 25 web site to learn more.

Outstanding Officer Nominations for July 1 through December 31 are being accepted. You can go to the District's web site to submit the nominations on-line. Deadline will be soon for Area 15.

To submit a nomination please go to:

<http://www.d25toastmasters.org/awards/index.htm>

and follow the directions.

Need a Volunteer to be the next "club videographer". Need someone else to run the camera for a time. The basic requirements are:

- be able to attend meetings regularly
- be able to arrive at the meeting by 6:10 so you can set up and if necessary format DVD.
- be able to push a button to start recording - before the speaker begins.
- handle the switching out of DVDs between speakers and finalizing the DVDs after the speakers have finished.

You are not required to man the camera during the speech to follow the speaker around nor to worry about close-ups or special effects.

If interested let David Watkins know (instructions will be provided).

New Member Profile

Karen Finn is a Personal and Small Business Coach and Consultant. She is a member of the International Coach Federation (ICF) and has completed training with Coach U



Next Week's Major Players

Toastmaster Sanjay Kumar

Speaker 1 John Cregger

Speaker 2 Steve Liptak

Table Topics Deb Liptak

which is an international leader in personal, business and corporate coach training. She has coached entrepreneurs, executives, managers, engineers, students and individuals who want to enhance or even transform their lives. She conducts both individual and group coaching sessions by telephone and in person.

Karen is enormously committed to the success of her clients. She supports them while they define, explore and create their unique definition of success. She expands her client's vision of what is possible. Then, Karen challenges them to shape their lives around what they value most by unleashing the greatness they have within. Her style is direct, yet compassionate and fun. Her clients really enjoy talking with her.

Prior to starting her coaching practice, Life Tailoring, Karen worked in the high-tech industry where her projects, training and support programs were documented to positively impact the bottom-line of international and Fortune 500 companies by millions of dollars.



She received her doctorate from The University of Texas at Austin and her M.S. from the University of Connecticut.

She lives in Keller with her fiancé (they were engaged about a year ago while she was in Boise, ID, and Jim was working in Fort Worth). She moved to Fort Worth to be with him shortly after we got engaged. They have a dog, Tonic, and two cats, Meow and Jewel. She loves to read and is taking ballroom dance lessons (which are a blast).

Note from the President

If you were in attendance at last night's [2/21/08] meeting you witnessed a bevy of business items that needed discussing. THIS IS A GREAT THING!

The fact that our business meetings have so many items and that so many members have thoughts, feedback and questions means that our club is informed, involved and participative in Dis-

Web Sites of Interest

Keller Communicators web site:

<http://keller.freetoasthost.org/>

District 25 web site:

<http://www.d25toastmasters.org>

Toastmasters International web site:

<http://www.toastmasters.org>

Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce:

<http://www.kellerchamber.com/>

trict/Toastmasters functions as well as local community events and activities.

The growth of our club has also brought about the need for me to remind all members of importance of keeping our business meetings positive. Remember the mission of a club ". . . is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment. . ." and one of the Toastmaster's Promises is "To treat my fellow club members and our guests with respect and courtesy".

Using Roberts Rules of Order is one way to help this occur. We try to use them properly but they do take some time to learn and adhere to in every meeting. We tend to use them loosely but we do still use them. I have attended two classes on this process and have a condensed version of the book but have to admit that sometimes it gets difficult to know what comes next. I will look to members that I know have a great deal of experience with Robert Rules such as David Watkins, Ted Martin and Steve Liptak to help me keep things on track.



Ways that you as a club member can also help keep things on track is by doing the following:

- When you want to speak please raise your hand and wait for the Chair to recognize you. I have the responsibility to call on new speakers first and then go back to people that have already spoken. (The Chair is the person running the business meeting - usually me or another officer if I am not in attendance.)
- Please give your attention to the person that is speaking and do not interrupt them; take notes if necessary and then raise your hand to speak.
- Verbally firing criticism at, or verbally challenging, another members feedback/question/opinion is never appropriate in a Toastmasters environment. Present your side of an issue in a respectful and tactful manner when the chair recognizes you to speak.

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- Please eliminate or avoid sidebar conversations. If you do need to converse with someone sitting next to you please do so in a whisper so that others around you can hear the group discussion.

I appreciate each of you and your participation in our club. Keller Communicators has a very positive reputation within the District; people are talking about us! Let's all work to ensure that it is always positive talk.

Three Points to Keep Your Evaluation on Target

Shelia Spencer, DTM (**The Toastmaster**, Feb 2007)

Analysis

Is it true? Are we accurate and honest in our response to what we heard and saw during the presentation?

It is important to distinguish between objective observation and subjective interpretation of what we see and hear.

Recommendation

Is it necessary? Will our suggestions be of practical help to the speaker and the audience who are hoping to learn from our comments?

Recommendations should focus not on what went wrong but on what might work better.

Encouragement

Is it kind? Do we provide support that allows the speaker to feel good about his or her effort and encouraged to present again?

We need to encourage not only the speaker but those in attendance to continue their road to improvement.

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