



In this issue:

- Area 55 Contest Results (p1)
- Area 55 Contest Info (p1)
- New Member Spotlight (p2,3)
- Upcoming TM Events (p2,4)
- Member Contributions (p3)
- Board Member Contacts (p4)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Paul Freeman**, who qualified for the Area 55 Table Topics contest and who went on to win 2nd place at the event.

Paul's question the night of the event revolved around the recent Enron scandal and President Bush's recent meetings with Enron advisors. Check out **the next column** for the Area 55 Contest results.

Congratulations also go out to Barb Ranck, who will be serving as next year's Area 55 Governor. We hope she will make us proud.

As Talk of Des Moines members, consider competing in a future contest, as once you've been in the uncomfortable spot of competition, it isn't so uncomfortable anymore. Also consider serving as a Board member (see page 3 for more details.) Do your part to lead this club forward into the new year!

AREA CONTEST RECAP/DIVISION CONTEST INFO



The night was Tuesday, March 26th, a breezy warm evening in downtown Des Moines. The location was the Des Moines Public Library, third floor meeting room. The room was full of electricity, anticipation, and plenty of FOOD! The time for competition had arrived.

Table Topics competitors were as follows:

- Kim Robinson, Ruan Toastmasters
- Paul Freeman, Talk of Des Moines Toastmasters
- David Lively, Principal Toastmasters
- Glenna Trosper, Principal Multicultural Toastmasters

Table Topics contestants were asked about the recent meetings between President Bush and the blemished heads of Enron. The question was, "Do you think the President should reveal what was discussed in those meetings?"

Paul Freeman, our club's contestant, comments on his presentation:

*"When I first heard the TT question at the area contest, my first thought was, **that is a loaded question**. Also, to adequately answer the question, one needs more than 2.5 minutes maximum allotted time. I was glad for that the timer doesn't start until I start talking; it was okay to take a little time to compose my answer."*



The overall Table Topics winner was Kim Robinson, who will go on to compete at the Division C contest. Paul placed second. As an interesting side note, Glenna Trosper, one of the other competitors, had only been in Toastmasters for 3 months! She is a prime example that "just doing it" is what makes us all good Toastmasters.

The International Speech competitors were Ann McClish from Ruan and Al Andrade from Principal Multicultural. Ann spoke on getting a "new life perspective," and Al spoke about the "Carnival," a celebration in his native homeland. Ann took first place. Both Ann and Kim, the Table Topics winner, spoke as visitors at our club last week.

On a sad note, the coveted Corn Cob Trophy, given to the club at the area contest with the most members present, was transferred from our club to the Ruan club, where it will spend the next six months.

The DIVISION C contest, the next level of competition, will take place on April 20th, 9am - 12 pm, at the Farm Bureau Building (University Avenue) in West Des Moines. For more information, contact Barb.



New Member Spotlight



Mark Buzzard

Welcome to our most recent new member: **Mark Buzzard** (aka "Buzz")!

Mark works for the Computer Information Systems area at American Republic Insurance. He joined our club on January 9, 2002. He says he joined Toastmasters because he wanted to become comfortable speaking in public.

When asked the question, "What has Toastmasters done for you so far?" Mark replied:

"TM has definitely added to my presentation ability. Conveying an idea is difficult enough without being distracted by housekeeping activities. Simple things, like introducing the speaker, were things I had lost over time.

Organizing the presentation to flow was there, but I again overlooked having a clear opening and ending statement to the presentation. Again, these little items add to the overall big effect of conveying the idea in an acceptable manner. Since I have only given two speeches (working on my third,) I would assume that there are several other tuning tips to be learned from TM that will aid me in the future."

Welcome to the club, Mark, and we pledge to help you reach your speaking goal!

CHECK IT OUT!

The following is available for you (or any potential members) to view at the central Talk of Des Moines web site location.

- [Current list of club members](#)
- [Current/past newsletters](#)
- [Current club announcements](#)
- [Club meeting times/locations](#)
- [Current list of Board Members](#)
- [Explanation of Board Member Duties](#)

If you have access to the web, you can click the links above and be taken directly to the site page.

You can also go to: <http://www.talkofdesmoines.com>, or just type: [talkofdesmoines.com](http://www.talkofdesmoines.com) in the address area of your internet window and be taken to the site.

Help spread the word about Talk of Des Moines!

"Don't Take Things For Granted"

Don't take things for granted, for when you do they leave you, then you're blue and don't know what to do.

**God is always there – are you?
 Life is here today, gone tomorrow, too.
 Love is one thing that should stay strong,
 Children. Before you know it, they grow up & then they're gone.
 Job is one item that should be high on your list,
 Friends will encourage you and cause you, plainly, to exist.
 Home is where your heart is (you know!)
 Utilities make things easy (especially when it snows!)
 Animals we have as pets, to be close,
 Food is what we really need the most.
 Health. Do exercise and eat the right things
 (if you don't, you'll surely gain...)
 Clock is time that we set our lives by – it's a shame
 (I almost cry and wonder why...)**

Don't take anything for granted – It's all up to YOU!

Life is what we make it, it's all about our choices. Make the right ones, and you'll be rejoicing!

**Together – Everyone – Achieves – More (T.E.A.M.)
"Talk of Des Moines Toastmasters"**

*An original poem by:
--Bessie Parker*



New Member Spotlight



Elaina Jones

Welcome to our most recent member: **Elaina Jones!**

Elaina works for the Customer Service Center at American Republic Insurance. She joined our club last fall. Elaina says she joined Toastmasters because she wanted to learn to control the "total panic when I stand up," and to "try not to cry!"

Elaina considers herself a good writer (possibly the next VP of Publicity?) but admits to not having the same confidence in terms of her verbal communication skills. According to Elaina:

"I'm a very passionate and caring person and I live with my emotions on the outside. I want to learn to keep the emotions in check, and be able to talk to anyone.

*I want to be able to speak the words I write... words flow from my pen... but I cannot speak them with the **conviction** and **eloquence** they deserve."*

As a club, we are **convinced** that Elaina will be able to overcome her emotions while speaking. She may even be willing to put her writing skills to use and be our next newsletter writer – what do you say, Elaina? ****Smile****

Divisions C & D International Speech/TT Contest

Come see the winners of the Area 55 Contest compete at the Division level on April 20th! Directions and contest information appear below.

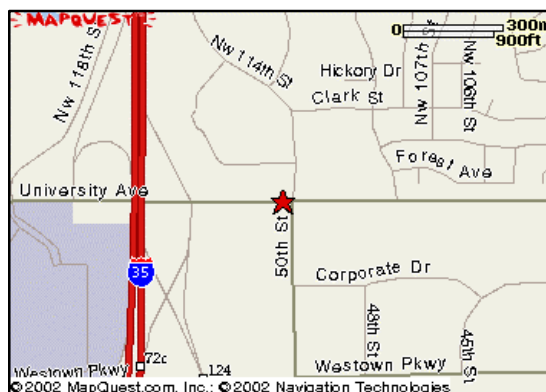
JUDGES ARE STILL NEEDED. PLEASE CONTACT BARB.

Date: April 20, 2002

Location: Farm Bureau Insurance Building
5400 University Ave, West Des Moines

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Directions to Farm Bureau: From downtown, go west on I-235 to the I-35N turnoff (just past the 50th Street Exit.) Stay in the right lane, as you will be taking the very next exit (University Ave.) At the stoplights, take a left (going east) and go to the second set of stoplights (just past the Kum-n-Go to the left.) Turn left into Farm Bureau. Follow the signs.



District 19 International Speech/TT Contest

Continue to visit the winners at the next level! District Contest information is also available on the TalkofDesMoines website.

Date: May 17 - 18, 2002

Location: West Des Moines Marriott
1250 74th Street, West Des Moines

Time: Friday evening: 7 pm – 9 pm
Saturday : 8 am – 6 pm



Talk of Des Moines Toastmasters



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2001-2002 Talk of Des Moines Board Officers

President
BARB RANCK CTM/CL
248-5447
barb_ranck@aric.com

Vice-President Education
MIRIAM SAYRE CTM
seanmiriam@aol.com

VP Membership
BETH WAHLSTROM
245-2206
beth_wahlstrom@aric.com

VP Public Relations
BESSIE PARKER
CTM/ATM-B
471-3316

Secretary
LINDA ROSS
557-2763
Linda.ross@amerus.com

Treasurer
ANITA ELLIOTT CTM
245-2043;
anita_elliott@aric.com

Sergeant At Arms
PAUL FREEMAN
CTM, ATM-B
245-2007
paul_freeman@aric.com

Interested in a Board Position?
Talk to any Board Member
using the contact information
provided. Elections for new
positions will be held in June!

2002 UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Club Events</u>
<i>January</i>	01/04 Ernie Moore 01/12 Linda Ross 01/16 Miriam Sayre 01/17 John Marshall January 5th – Grandview College	Review Distinguished Club Status Toastmaster Leadership Institute
<i>February</i>	02/26 Sue Gay Wed, Feb 13, Park Place 03/04 Anita Elliott 03/13/02 03/17 Paul Freeman 03/20/02 03/25 Brian Lynner 03/29 Barb Ranck	BRIAN LYNNER PLAYS PIANO! Spring Speech Contest: TTopics
<i>March</i>		Contest: International Speech
<i>April</i>		Club/Semiannual Dues DUE
<i>May</i>		
<i>June</i>	06/08 Bessie Parker	
<i>July</i>	07/02 Susan Jenks 07/18 Elaina Jones	Distinguished Club Status DUE
<i>August</i>	08/21 Colleen Lange	OFFICER TRAINING: TBA
<i>September</i>	09/30 Larry Manning	Fall Speech Contest: Humorous Speech/Evaluation Membership Drive?
<i>October</i>	10/23 Virginia Palmisano	Club/Semiannual Dues DUE
<i>November</i>		
<i>December</i>		

THE TALK OF DES MOINES SPEECH LIBRARY

The following materials are available for use by any Talk of Des Moines member:

- **10 Advanced (ATM) Manuals** (one of each)
- **(4) Successful Club Speeches**
 - **Evaluate To Motivate**
 - **Setting the Stage for Success (Club Roles & Responsibilities)**
 - **Creating the Best Club Climate**
 - **Finding New Members For Your Club**
 - **CONTACT: 248-5447**

