

# Talk of Des Moines Toastmasters

Volume 6, Issue 8

October 2001

## The President's Corner

*Barb Ranck, Chapter President*

### The Distinguished Club Update

To recap, each year Toastmasters International honors several clubs participating in the Distinguished Club program. The program runs through June 30th, 2001. Clubs must meet **5** of the **10** goals listed below. As of right now, the following goals have been met:

GOALS:	ACHIEVED?	ACTUAL
1) Two CTM's		1: Brian Lynner!
2) Two more CTM's		
3) One ATM		
4) One More ATM		
5) One CL, AL, or DTM (Competent Leader, Advanced Leader, or Distinguished TM)		
6) Additional CL's, AL's, or DTM's		
7) Four New Members		
8) Additional New Members		
9) Minimum of 4 officers going through training (fall and spring)		
10) Officer list <i>and</i> Semi annual Dues <i>on time</i> (fall and spring)		
	4 for fall	Officer List & Dues Submitted

It's still early in the season, so it doesn't look like we've done much, but don't be discouraged. Our hard work now will pay off when it comes time for the final tally.

Keep up the great work, and let's all work to get new members to join! This mission IS possible.

## The Corn Cob Returns

The coveted honor was returned to its rightful place during the Area Contest on September 25<sup>th</sup>. For those who are new to the club, or those who do not know the full story behind the beautiful green corncob trophy, read on...

Three years ago, in a cornfield far, far away, then-Area Governor Jim Wells was impressed with a new young club named Talk of Des Moines. Jim was to lead the area contest that year, and before the contest started, he found and dusted off a prize trophy in his day – the coveted corn cob attendance trophy. This honor was intended to be awarded to the club at the area contest with the highest number in attendance. Since that time, Jim had witnessed a dwindling attendance rate at area contests, but he felt so strongly about this new group, he reinstated the award presentation. And it WAS presented at that next area contest – to our own Talk of Des Moines.

Since that time, the trophy has traveled out of our club only once – last term – when it was ripped from its position by the Rival Ruan Club. We were only one member short of the goal. Now, having our trophy returned, we proudly display it at every meeting, and challenge all club members to continue to keep the tradition alive!

The attendees at this year's contest, who helped us clinch the title, were:

- Ö Miriam Sayre (also serving as Chief Judge)
- Ö Anita Elliott (also serving as a judge)
- Ö Barb Ranck (Evaluation contestant)
- Ö Beth Wahlstrom (Humorous Speech contestant)
- Ö Bessie Parker (also serving as judge)
- Ö Paul Freeman (also serving as timer)
- Ö Doug Bradley (past president)
- Ö Larry Manning (need we say more?)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CTM  
BRIAN LYNNER**

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## Area 55 Contest Results

This year's area contest was held on Tuesday, September 25, at the downtown Des Moines public library.

Clubs participating in this fall's contest included the Ruan Toastmasers, the Principal Toastmasters, the Multicultural Toastmasters (also located at Principal) and our own Talk of Des Moines.

Beth Wahlstrom was our club's Humorous Speech contestant, keeping everyone in stitches as she recounted her experiences as a young first grader, a time when her mother planted a spy in the elementary lunchroom. Beth's speech was entitled: "I Spy!" Beth received second place, with Courtney Thompson from Principal placing 1<sup>st</sup>.

Barb Ranck was the club's evaluation contestant, going against tough competition from the three other clubs. Though she was the second contestant to participate, Barb did not place in the Area contest. The Evaluation winner was Peggy Dvorak from the Principal Club, with Jeff Liittschwager from Ruan placing 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Total attendance for the contest was 29. Special guests in attendance were the test speaker for the Evaluation Contest, Cedrick Windley, and Division Governor Al Edwards.

Thanks to the eight club members who attended from Talk of Des Moines, the corn cob trophy was returned to our club, for having the most members present at the

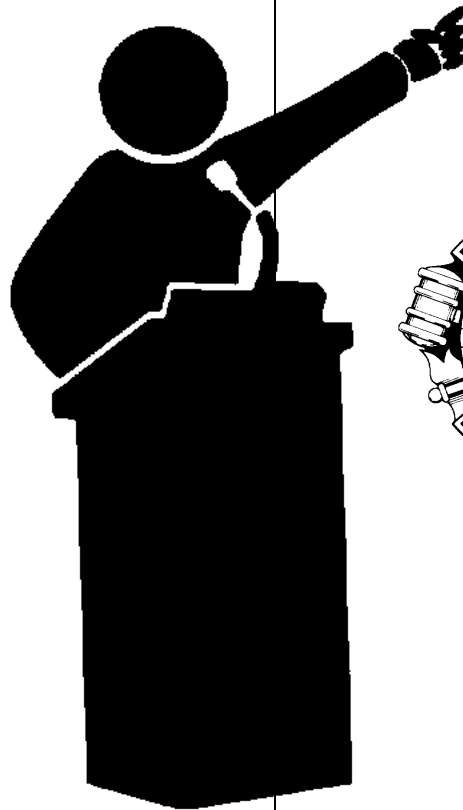
contest!

Way to go talk of Des Moines!

On a down note, colds and Kleenex

went hand in hand with the competition that night. Several in attendance were afflicted with some form of cold, including our own Bessie Parker who was still able to complete her duties as judge.

The contest was an overall success, thanks to the time and patience of those who helped bring it all together. As our area still has no governor, the clubs relied on their own members and leadership to pull together in this time of need. It just goes to show what can be accomplished when we all work together! Let's do it again at the Table Topic and International Speech contest next spring!



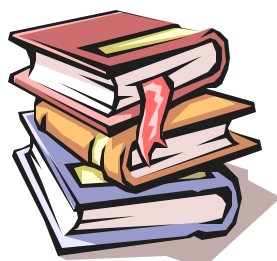
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## 2001- 2002 CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

<i>(Not shown: Marshall VanderLinden, Susan Jenks, Elaina Jones)</i>	<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	Review Distinguished Club Status
<i>February</i>		
<i>March</i>	03/04 Anita Elliott 03/17 Paul Freeman 03/20 Doug Bradley 03/25 Brian Lynner 03/29 Barb Ranck	Spring Speech Contest: International Speech/Table Topics
<i>April</i>		<b>Club/Semiannual Dues DUE</b>
<i>May</i>		
<i>June</i>	06/08 Bessie Parker	
<i>July</i>		
<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>	10/05 Deb Seibel 10/23 Virginia Hudson	<b>Club/Semiannual Dues DUE</b>
<i>November</i>		
<i>December</i>		Christmas Party??



### 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) **CONTACT: MIRIAM SAYRE**
- **(4) Successful Club Speeches** **CONTACT: BARB RANCK**
  - Evaluate To Motivate
  - Setting the Stage for Success (Club Roles & Responsibilities)
  - Creating the Best Club Climate
  - Finding New Members For Your Club

**CHECK IT OUT**

## God Bless America

An original poem by Bessie Parker

So much sorrow  
So many to blame  
Who's to fault in this tragedy  
Such a shame

To see all Americans  
Standing so proud  
I was glad to be able  
To be part of that crowd

We stop and think  
Of the One most High  
And we all have had tears  
Fall from our eyes

And down on our cheeks

It was evil of those  
The ones who creep

Answers may come  
But will the loss of so many  
What will be the answers  
If any?



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### The Power of Positive Thinking

By: Barb Ranck, CTM, CL

On Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at a few minutes before noon (West Coast time), I crossed the finish line of the Portland marathon. Though I never doubted that I WOULD cross the line, I admit there were times I wondered if it would happen that DAY, or if I'd still be out on the race course until Monday!

After training for 5 months and raising \$3,300 for the Luekemia and Lymphoma society, I was honored to be able to run for so many who could not. Having the race dedicated to the tragedy on September 11<sup>th</sup> also made the race a memorable one, and I know I will NEVER forget the pain I was in!

Finishing in 4 hours, 55 minutes, much of that time spent telling my body just to keep going, I am amazed at what the mind can accomplish. I encourage all of you to try something you never thought you could do – you'll be amazed at what you can achieve!

## RAGBRAI: DEFINED!

By: Colleen Lange, CTM, CL

Ragbrai is like a rolling carnival with 10,000 different personalities all going to the same destination, the Mississippi River.

As you ride along, you see people with unusual sayings on their t-shirts ("Team Raw Hide" or "The Donner Team -- We eat the slow ones."), strange attachments on their bike helmets (cans of Spam, small dolls, pink tu-tus, and Pez dispensers to name a few) or weird bike accessories (blow up dolls, stuffed skunks, and mannikin legs were spotted).

Fortunately, these strange sights help to keep you pedaling along in the wind, rain and over hills and I found that even when people were wearing unusual attire, they were all very friendly and helpful.

Give consideration to trying Ragbrai sometime-- whether as a bike rider, support person or host in a town on the bike route; it will make you smile.

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### 2001-2002 Talk of Des Moines Board Officers

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