

Region VIII Newsletter



November 2007

The **Mighty Seven** is
Turning Up the Heat for a
Focused, Determined - Soaring to New Heights year!
It's Time to Focus on
Dual Paths to Greater Achievements as we
Lead, Serve, and Be the Light for 2007-08.
The World of Toastmasters is already our
Passion With Purpose as we show our
Excellence in Action to all who cross the Region VIII path.
Go forth and charter clubs!!!

- Pam Christopher, DTM, D37 Governor
- Douglas Wilson, DTM, D58 Governor



In This Issue

From the International
Directors

The Four Critical
Success Factors

Leading by Example

Diversion

Toastmasters: Making a
Life-changing Difference

Tidbits

Rise to Stellar Success

From the International Directors

What more can we say? Pam Christopher and Douglas Wilson have summed it up so well. Our district governors have inspiring, goal-oriented themes and they are putting words into action! We have seven outstanding district teams leading The Mighty Seven districts. We expect no less than seven Distinguished Districts in 2007-2008!



- Margaret Wan, DTM
2nd Year International Director
magic@margaretwan.com

- Lee Holliday, DTM
1st Year International Director
topeagle@mindspring.com

The Four Critical Success Factors Paid Clubs, Membership Payments, CCs, and ACs

As of November 30, 2007, Region VIII has the highest percentage of membership payments among all regions. We are very proud of what The Might Seven have accomplished. There is still work to be done as the goal of every district is to achieve 50% of its membership goal and 100% of its paid club goal by December 31, 2007. The Region VIII **Midyear Special** challenges the district leaders - if the district achieves 100% of its paid club goal by December 31, 2007, the district team will receive special recognition and mystery prizes at the **midyear meeting**, which will take place on January 11-12, 2008 (<http://www.region8tm.org/pdf/midyearReg.pdf>). In addition, the **Region VIII Superstars** for the first half of the year will receive their awards at that meeting (http://www.region8tm.org/pdf/Education_Contest1.pdf).

District	Paid Clubs	% of Goal	+ / -	Membership Payments	% of Goal	CC	% of Goal	AC	% of Goal
14	238	91.19	-23	5,037	45.35	128	33.60	83	76.85
37	128	92.75	-10	2,752	46.69	84	41.58	38	66.67
47	336	91.06	-33	7,473	45.18	221	38.98	114	70.37
58	110	91.67	-10	1,794	43.41	60	42.55	27	67.50
66	116	92.80	-9	2,300	45.93	65	38.01	27	55.10
68	42	95.45	-2	739	47.65	31	58.49	13	86.67
77	85	93.41	-6	1,459	44.89	31	27.93	18	58.06
Total	1,055	91.90		21,554	45.39	620	38.13	320	69.26

Leading by Example

Some of our top district leaders have achieved one or more educational awards since July 1, 2007. Congratulations on your accomplishments and thanks for leading by example!

District	Leader	Award
D14	Joy Lewis, Governor	DTM
D37	Pam Christopher, Governor	CC, ACS
D37	Deb Lee, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training	ALS, DTM
D47	Kristina Kihlberg, Lieutenant Governor Marketing	ALS
D58	Douglas Wilson, Governor	CC
D58	Pat Gann, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training	CC
D66	Alice Blake, Governor	CC, OCL
D68	Frances Morrison, Lieutenant Governor Education & Training	ACG, ALS, DTM

Diversion

Here is a quiz to test your "Toastmasters knowledge": **Where is the Toastmaster Café?** (Answer on page 4.)

Photo courtesy of Region III Toastmasters.



Toastmasters: Making a Life-changing Difference

Frances Morrison, DTM, D68 Lieutenant Governor Education & Training

A judge wanting to help rehabilitate prisoners . . . what a novel idea! Then again, Judge Robert Downing, 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, is a Toastmaster so he is different anyway. He saw that within two years 70% of those released were rearrested and returned to prison. Repeat offenders committed 85% of violent crimes. The majority of inmates had little education and very poor communication skills. When they had an issue and could not communicate, they used violence. He suggested to a self-help group in a prison near Dequincy, Louisiana, that they should talk to a local Toastmasters Club about learning communication and leadership skills. In June 1986, C Paul Phelps Correctional Facility formed the **Men of Vision Toastmasters Club**. Since then seven other clubs have been formed: **Women of Success, Turning Point, Forgotten Voices, Distinguished Gentlemen, One Vision - One Voice, A Voice For Change, and Speakers of Valor**. In 2006-2007 three of these clubs were President's Distinguished and three others were Select Distinguished. Four members have earned their DTM, with another member expected to complete by June 30, 2008.

You might wonder how they pay their dues. Some members have their own money. Others are not as fortunate, but the Toastmasters members in the institutional clubs know how much difference this program can make. They raise funds doing anything from selling hamburgers and baked potatoes, to working a booth at the rodeo. They are a team - a family - and they help one another.

What are the benefits for inmates? One - they

gain self-confidence, the lack of which probably resulted in their actions that landed them in prison in the first place. Two - They learn leadership, responsibility, and compassion. Three - Once they learn the communication and leadership skills that come from working the Toastmasters program, they become people that they never knew they could be.

Why should YOU care if there is a Toastmasters club in any institution? With a 70% recidivism rate for the average person released from prison, not only are your tax dollars wasted, but the repeat offenders are committing violent crimes. Since the first institutional club in District 68 started in 1986, the recidivism rate for our TOASTMASTERS released from prison is . . . 0%.

Toastmasters is making a difference in the lives of people in ways that the average member has no idea. Some institutional members were serving life sentences. In Louisiana, "life" means until you die, unless new evidence is discovered or because the person changed drastically. Several Toastmaster inmates have had their sentences reduced. Ask them what changed them and you can bet that Toastmasters is one of the main reasons. These Toastmasters are club and district leaders. One division governor and three area governors in correctional facilities achieved Distinguished status or better. They attend district-sponsored training. They compete in speech contests. They are men and women who aspire to be great. They truly show the meaning of *Shaping Ourselves . . . Shaping Our World!*



Tidbits

It's a Girl!

D47 Lieutenant Governor Education & Training **Antionette Fox, DTM**, gave birth to a baby girl, Ciarra Lynae, on October 13, 2007. Congratulations to Antionette and her family!



Meet our Webmaster

Jim Miller, DTM, works at lightning speed. Send him something at 2 am to post on the Region VIII web site and it will be up on the site by 5 am or earlier the same day! We are very fortunate that Jim is willing to serve Toastmasters as a volunteer since he owns or manages two or three businesses.



Learning is a Journey

This motto is literally true for **Pat Gann, DTM**, D58 Lieutenant Governor Education & Training.



After organizing an excellent fall conference in her own district, she took the time to travel to and visit three other district conferences in the region. She said that this was the most desirable way to learn best practices. Notice that her mother is also a Toastmaster - **Edith Gann, CTM**.

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Publisher

Margaret Wan, DTM
2nd Year International Director
Saint Petersburg, Florida
727.643.9389
magic@margaretwan.com

Co-publisher

Lee Holliday, DTM
1st Year International Director
Alpharetta, Georgia
678.232.8383
topeagle@mindspring.com

We love to hear from you. Submit your district news, photos, or articles (limit 300 words) to:
magic@margaretwan.com

Rise to Stellar Success!

REGION VIII CONFERENCE 2008
The Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport
June 19-21, 2008



Mark your calendar! Enjoy . . .

- Precious networking opportunities
- Focused educational sessions
- Entertaining fun night
- Inspiring Communication and Leadership Luncheon
- Exciting International Speech Contest

With optional tour of Atlanta's world-famous attractions

More information will be posted in January at the Region VIII web site
<http://www.region8tm.org/>

Answer to Quiz: The Toastmaster Café is located on US Hwy 70 in Globe, Arizona, about 90 miles east of Phoenix. If you are in the area, check it out!