



# The Notable Flier

Toastmasters Club Number 6949, Winter 2012

## **Presidential Ponderings**

By Lance English

Happy New year Notable Northgaters! It is an excellent time to look back on the old year and forward to the new and the fact that we are well on our way to yet another successful year. At this time we are already half way toward Distinguished Club Status and right on track to complete it this year.

I wanted to take a moment to write about my Resolution for this year...to not procrastinate! It was actually last year's resolution so now is the ideal time to do it right! And where is it I procrastinate the most? Speeches! I'm not proud to admit it but more than once I have found myself frantically typing some Tuesday afternoon for a speech on Wednesday. "But wait," you say, "isn't that the sign of a Qualified Toastmaster: the ability to speak at length on any subject in an instant?" Absolutely! A Toastmasters' meeting is where we need to be more deliberative about the objectives that we are hoping to meet and learn from. At a meeting, we are speaking to learn and polish, not just for speaking sake.

My resolution for my time in Toastmasters in 2012 is simple. I am going to stop procrastinating on my speeches and stop cheating myself of the learning opportunity that it is! I will do this by looking at my manuals for the speeches I need for my next level, reading more than just the objectives on the projects, and knowing when my next speech I due, so I can start planning right after my last one!

2012 is going to be a great year for us! With 8 new members this year, an eager group of officers, and the consistency that only comes from a focuses membership core, there is nothing stopping us from exceeding in every way we wish! Happy New Year!

## **Notable Events**

The Notable Northgaters celebrated the Holiday Season with Festivus at Changs this year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Tammie planned a fun event enjoyed by everyone with few grievances. Eggnog usually perks up the party attitude. Note: Festivus is a secular holiday celebrated on December 23 as a way to commemorate the holiday season without participating in its pressures and commercialism.

Melissa organized the Toastmasters Leadership Training on January 7<sup>th</sup> and it is rumored to have been the best training ever for District 2. Denise and Ya-Han volunteered. With that amazing trio at the helm no wonder this event packed them in the halls.

The Club has added eight (8) new members since July: Alan, Lucy, Chris, Mark, Gary, Rich, Roma and Ya-Han.

### **Better Speaker Series**

With the burst in membership, the Club decided to offer the *Better Speaker Series*, as a way to informally train the new members and some of the experienced crew on communication skills. This are prepared speeches from Toastmasters International. Richard presented, *Introductions*, and Julie spoke on, *Preparing and Rehearsing a Speech*. Melissa and James are in the speaker line up for the last two weeks in January.

### **Member Spotlight**

The member spotlight is on Jenée. Read more about her below.

Jenée selected and joined Notable Northgaters in May 2011 after visiting two clubs as a guest. Notable Northgaters was by far the superior club in energy level, participation, and caliber of members. Initially she joined at the recommendation of her supervisor, who saw her with increasing project management duties that required public speaking. After her second meeting with NN, she realizes that this was going to be much more fun than she expected! She has not looked back since her induction.

Jenée works as a toxicologist for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. She fills a technical role in projects and also manages several large research projects in her section. Her job is very diverse which is what she loves about it. Also, she is privileged and motivated to help King County clean up polluted waterways, prevent pollution, and watchdog water quality.

Volleyball is Jenée's favorite sport to play. She has played at the high school, college and adult level and coached girls' club ball. She still plays weekly at the "prime" age of 42 and will continue until either a major injury or her spondylitis (a type of arthritis) makes her stop. Jenée also likes to ski, play tennis, practice Pilates, and try any sport. Other hobbies include volunteering for PAWS animal shelter, playing piano, home projects and exercising her two dogs (lab and lab mix) with her boyfriend, Brian.