



ALOHA DISTRICT 49

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Larry Lands DTM
District Governor



Hard to believe that 2005 is here, but isn't it a great time to be here? Our Toastmasters year is half over, and while we've accomplished a lot, there's more yet to go. Our International President's theme this year is "Friends Helping Friends Succeed, One at a Time", and isn't that exactly what we do here in Toastmasters in Hawaii. Your challenge is our challenge; your success is our

success. Topics is the scariest part for new people, but I love it. Every time I do Table Topics I approach it like it is the District Contest. I give it my very best, and I find it keeps my skills sharper. Speaking of that, someone will win the Table Topics contest coming up this spring. Why not You? No one came to Toastmasters to be mediocre. Work on excellence. The International Speech contest will also be coming up, and I strongly encourage every Club to hold a contest, and every member to participate. Nothing tests your skills and teaches you more than participating in a contest.

For those of you working on advanced credentials and up for a challenge, there are Club Coaches needed for several clubs. They need to know how to hold vibrant fun meetings, where educational goals are met, and where guests will want to come and join. One of the hardest credentials to get in Toastmasters is the Club Sponsor/Mentor/Coach, required to ultimately reach your DTM. Here's a chance to go get it!

I really encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities this great organization has to offer. Help your friends, help your club, help your District. Volunteer to help at a conference, or at an Area contest. Learn all you can, and then learn some more. Go visit another club! Make a New Year's resolution to give one speech this year outside of your home club. You won't believe how much you'll grow.

Pick up those "Tools for the Journey of Life" and use them!

success.

I often say that Toastmasters is a personal growth organization. In it we have a chance to gain confidence in our communications, and learn leadership skills as well. You even get recognized for your achievements. The self-satisfaction of a speech well delivered is a pretty big reward in itself for most people. I see Toastmasters growing their skills every day, and they often don't even realize it.

Take the time to really work on your skills, and you will be the one who benefits. Be creative in writing a speech. Find a subject that you don't know much about and research it. Work on your listening skills and try to give great and useful evaluations. White wash doesn't help anyone grow, but you can't pound on them either. Work on the balance. Table

ATTENTION CLUBS

JoAnna Lands

Database Administrator

As we go through the year, new members come, and some old members go. People change their addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Unfortunately, the District is not given any information on our membership automatically by TI. We keep our own database, in order to contact our members and let them know about upcoming events, training, contests, fund-raisers, etc. To do this we need accurate data, and it is the responsibility of each Club Secretary to provide it. Because we deal with 1000 members and 60+ clubs, we need it in a specific format, an Excel spreadsheet that every club has been sent several times in the past. If your previous Secretary left and never told you

about it, we will be happy to send you a copy of what we have so you can update and send it back, or you can get the blank form on the District website. Look under Resources > Club Forms. Please read the directions, as the data needs to be entered correctly or we can't paste it from there to the database.

Please check with your club Secretary and make sure she has sent it in recently. Less than ¼ of our clubs have sent it to us after the last dues paying period! Questions and revised data go to JoAnna Lands jalands@hawaii.rr.com. Many thanks to those who have already sent their latest in!

Because I had nothing better to do.....

By Kevin Doyle

Area 9 Governor

Once attended one of those all-too-common kick-off meetings where a group gets together to develop a plan or start a task force or project. All of these meetings start with that dreaded task – everyone introducing themselves and explaining why they came.

You're instantly faces with the dilemma – how much do I say? What if I talk too much? What if I don't say enough and that chummy chair starts asking more and more questions? Do I really have the courage to say "because my boss told me I had to come."?

At this particular meeting the introductions made their way awkwardly around the table, everyone muddling through and breathing a sign of relief as they passed the torch to the next victim -- until it got to me.

I gave my name and department and then said I was here because I had nothing better to do. The chair smiled his stock, thank-you grin and started to look at the next fellow, when he suddenly realized what I had said. His jaw dropped and his eyes opened wide. The

next person turned and looked at me dumbfounded. As I quickly glanced around the table I saw faces of disbelief, and then more than a few small smiles – from people glad someone had said what they wanted say, but weren't foolish enough to actually come out and say it.

I beamed a great knowing smile and said – "I'll bet you don't believe what you just heard, so let me expound a bit. I said I was here because I had nothing better to do and that's true. That doesn't mean I don't have anything else to do – I do. But right now, nothing I have to do is more important – better - if you will, than being at this meeting, getting ready to do what we are about to do. There's nothing more important right now, for me than being right here, with this team. I really don't have anything better to do right now."

So next time someone asks you why you decided to do something, make sure you can look them in the eye and smile and say, 'because I had nothing better to do.' Then make it count!

Battleship Missouri Club 123 Welcomes New Members In Afghanistan

Capt. John Reynolds, ATMB

PEARL HARBOR - Quite a few numbers separate the members of the Battleship Missouri's Toastmasters club - nearly 7,500 miles, 14 time zones and three continents.

Although the Battleship Missouri Club meets on the ship in Pearl Harbor, six new members are meeting half a world away while deployed in Afghanistan. They consist mostly of members from Hawaii's 25th Infantry Division, who have joined forces with the 18 member-strong Battleship Missouri club.

Three of the new members are experienced Toastmasters and between six and 10 participate in the meetings. Until the members who joined in Afghanistan return to Hawaii, expected to be in May 2005, the group will meet every Sunday from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Zulu time, in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Despite the fact that some of its members will not return to Hawaii following their mission in

Afghanistan, many have committed to renewing their memberships with clubs in their new base locations, including clubs in Mississippi, Minnesota, Illinois, and even other countries after they redeploy.

For its members in Afghanistan, Club 123 helps them in a number of areas relevant to their service in the U.S. military. The meetings aid them in strengthening their presentation skills for promotion boards and other high recognition boards such as soldier of the month, quarter and year. It is also useful to enhancing military officer's briefing and leader counseling skills.

Meeting in Afghanistan was the idea of Capt. John Reynolds, past president of the Downtown Detroit Toastmasters Club and Sgt. Bruce who is a member of several clubs in the greater Chicago area. The idea was born after the two men decided to develop activities for the service members other than the usual

activities such as movies, billiards, chess and card playing. Capt. Reynolds then called District Governor Larry Lands. "Club 123 is excited to support our troops by hosting meetings, and the soldiers are very pleased to have this option extended to them. JoAnna and I sent them a care package with Basic Manuals, a gavel donated by Kamaaina Toastmasters, some forms, and some chocolate covered macadamia nuts!" said Larry, who's also a past president of the Battleship Missouri club.

The Battleship Missouri Club was originally the Pearl Harbor club, chartered in July 1950, and has always had a significant military membership. In 1999, Jim Jones, senior tour guide at the Missouri transferred it to the Battleship Missouri. Initially, all the members were also volunteers at the memorial but later non-volunteer members were added. Currently, about half are active and retired military and half are civilians.

YOU'RE A COMPETENT TOASTMASTER...NOW WHAT???

Sherry-Ann Stowell

Congratulations, my fellow Toastmaster! You're now a CTM after completing the 10 projects in the Basic Communications & Leadership Manual. Along this wonderful and fascinating journey, you've probably done various positions within your club meeting (such as Timer, Grammarian/Ah Counter, Jokemaster and even Toastmaster of the Day). You've given some great speeches (and perhaps some not so good ones, you might admit), gotten positive feedback in a caring and supportive environment and was able to hone your speaking skills or even take it to levels that you never could imagine. Now armed with your Competent Toastmasters Award, a congratulatory letter from the Toastmasters International Director tucked away in your personnel file at work and a major boost of confidence, your next question may be "What do I do NOW???"

After I became a Competent Toastmaster, I was faced with the challenge of deciding whether I wanted to continue the communications aspect OF my Toastmasters journey or kick back and enjoy the moment with my fellow club members. I saw in my own home club of 20 members that about one third of our membership were CTM's and satisfied with that level of achievement. They were very active members in our club, attending and contributing their expertise at the majority of club

meetings and even taking executive board positions from time to time. But I used to wonder, why didn't they continue to do more manual speeches to obtain their Advanced Communications Awards?

Then I got a look at the list of the different advanced manuals that Toastmasters has available. This list is available at the back of your Basic Communications & Leadership Manual; you may choose two free manuals just for getting your CTM! There are 15 manuals available covering different types of communications skills. WOW! My eyes bulged and I went into Information Overload. So many manuals to choose, so difficult to decide! Being that I was so excited about getting my CTM, what did I do? I bought the whole set of manuals from TI! That way, I could go through each one at my leisure and decide which manual would be a great fit for me. After much perusal, I made my choice: the Storytelling and Specialty Speeches manuals.

I loved going through the Storytelling manual. When my children were little, I enjoyed the Bedtime Storytime, when I had the wonderful opportunity to make up stories to amuse them, teach them and even pass along some family traditions through the telling of different events in my ancestor's lives. My children are older now and think that my stories are so OLD! The Storytelling manual

gave me the opportunity to relive those wonderful times with a different audience, my fellow club members. I also enjoyed going through the Specialty Speeches manual, particularly the project "Speaking in Praise." Recently, I attended a memorial service of a dear friend of mine. This manual speech taught me that one can interject some rays of respectful humor even in the most serious of moments. My friend was a very funny lady with a sharp sense of wit, and I was able to illustrate that without taking away from the seriousness of our gathering.

Last year I completed both manuals as a one of the requirements to obtain my Advanced Toastmaster Bronze Award. I received my Certificate of Completion, which is framed and proudly displayed in my office at work. A congratulatory letter is nestled very nicely in my personnel file, along with other achievements that I've obtained along the way of my Toastmasters journey. For all of you who have achieved your CTM, I would encourage you to continue your journey through the communications track of the program. The 15 manuals cover different aspects in communications; you will find one that will be a good fit for you.

So go on, take that next step in the communications track and go for your Advanced Toastmaster Awards. I'm so glad that I did!

The November 15th Fall Conference received assistance by way of donations for door prize items from the following companies. *Please frequent these companies as you travel throughout our beautiful District.*



Ala Moana Hotel - Centrally located between downtown Honolulu and Waikiki, and across the Hawaii Convention Center, the Ala Moana Hotel provides guests with spectacular views, elegant dining, and convenient access to shopping and the beach.

Battleship Missouri Memorial

The *USS Missouri* is now a museum located on battleship Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Six decks are open for you to tour Mighty Mo.



row in the



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HMSA - Choices for a Healthier Hawaii



The HTH hotel group consists of three Hawaii hotel properties, which include the luxurious 837-room Pacific Beach Hotel on Waikiki Beach, the 360-room Pagoda Hotel with its famous Pagoda Floating Restaurant and carp ponds in downtown Honolulu, and the 460-room beachfront and historically significant King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Island Insurance Companies is Hawaii's largest locally owned and managed property and casualty insurance carrier, serving island families and businesses since 1939. Island Insurance is rated "A" (Excellent) by AM Best, the world's oldest and most authoritative insurance company financial rating organization.





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Ohana Hotels You could be surfing, sailing or outrigger canoeing off Waikiki Beach



Red Sail Sports is well-known on the Big Island of Hawaii as the Kohala Coast's premier adventure outfitter and watersports experts. Red Sail Sports offers both afternoon and morning dives aboard the Delta dive boat the Lani Kai and the Noa Noa, a 50-foot custom designed catamaran.

Servco Pacific – Our heritage is demonstrated by the quality brands and products that we represent and our commitment to support these products with excellent customer services.



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line music store carrying the top name guitars, ukuleles, keyboards, recording and pro audio. Between our knowledgeable staff and service department, we at Easy Music Center promise the best quality, the best prices, and the best service to be had in the islands.

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Toyota City - The car you drive is one of your most important purchases, so you want to know you're getting the best value. You want to know that you're backed by good dealer support, so that you get the attention you need. By putting the customer first, Servco's Toyota City has grown greatly, but our attention to service and value remains the same.



Wal-Mart features many departments, as well as a photo center, pharmacy, vision center, L&L Hawaiian Barbecue and an American Savings Bank branch.

Dole Foods - Dole delivers the finest high quality products.



From Kona to Waialeale, Paul Brown Salon's & Day Spas are located throughout the Hawaiian Islands. You're invited to discover the unique experience of hair styling, esthetician treatments, massage therapy, nail care, complete depilatory services and cosmetic artistry at any of Paul's Salons & Day Spas. You are also invited to experience Paul's unique beauty products developed and created using organic plants naturally grown in Hawaii's tropical environment.

Toastmasters District 49 thanks all these merchants for their generous contributions to our Conference. We hope you will frequent these companies as you travel throughout our beautiful Aloha District.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches communication skills and leadership in the venue of public speaking through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has over 180,000 members in over 9,000 clubs in 70 countries. Since its founding over 75 years ago in October 1924, the organization has helped some four million men and women give presentations with poise and confidence.

The mission of Aloha District 49 is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater number of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational programs by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by District educational and membership goals.
- Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for Club and District officers.

The **Aloha District Newsletter** is published every other month by the Toastmasters Aloha District 49 electronically and is distributed through the districts website <http://www.district40.org>. It is published to promote the ideas and goals of the Aloha District 49. This publication carries only authorized articles and notices regarding the activities and interests of the organization, but responsibility is not assumed for the opinions of the authors of the articles.

For information on joining or building a club, call: **808.922.TALK (8255)**.
email via web: <http://www.district49.org>