

District 49 Newsletter 2008/09 • Issue #4 • October 2008



Meet Jana Barnhill on November 22, 2008! 2008-09 International President

(By Jana Barnhill, DTM, AS- excerpted from Toastmaster Magazine, September 2008)

The Courage to Conquer!

I know what it is like to be so paralyzed by fear that you cannot breathe. Many years ago, Bob and I were flying to the 1985 Convention in a small plane. Along the way we were sucked into a horrific storm. We spent the next two hours being tossed about by high winds and pelted by rain. The storm was too strong for the small aircraft; we couldn't get above it. In fact, two attempts do so resulted in the plane stalling. We were at its mercy. Finally, we ran out of gas and crash landed, coming to a stop after wrapping a wing around the kitchen of a small rural home.

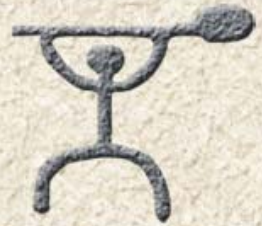
“Come to the edge,” he said
They said, “We are afraid.”
“Come to the edge,” he said
They came
He pushed them...
They flew
(by Peter McWilliams)

Four years after that accident, I could not step onto a plane without a strong medication. I was at the mercy of my fears. Then I thought about what we do in Toastmasters. As our vision statement so aptly states, we give people the courage to change! How so? Week after week we come together in our club meetings. We stand before each other and practice what we are uncomfortable doing. We may struggle at first, but our fellow members look at us and say, “You can do this! Try it this way.” So we practice some more. Little by little we let go of our notes. We step away from that lectern. Each time we do, we build more confidence. That confidence eventually transforms into courage. That courage allows us to conquer our fears. That is why I have chosen as my theme this year “Toastmaster: The Courage to Conquer!” We all come to Toastmasters with something we want to conquer. It may not be on the scale of a plane crash, but the fears are just as real! We may have a fear of speaking to clients, of leading a meeting, of believing in ourselves.



Fellow Toastmasters, I am honored beyond words that you have placed your faith in me to lead this organization this year. I would be lying if I said I didn't have just a little bit of fear!..My challenge to us all this year is to come to the edge of our fears. Allow our fellow members to push us. With that push we will fly, giving us the Courage to Conquer!

Download the Conference registration form, by clicking [here](#).



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District Governor's Message...

It has been nearly three months since I took office on July 1, 2008. As District Governor, it has been an amazing journey as I visited clubs, inducted officers and paid social visits. But my journey has only just begun! There are still more clubs to visit and members to meet! Currently, we are at approximately 25% of our Toastmaster year and there is still much more to do!

The measure of a District's success is based on the Critical Success Factors which are part of the District's mission. Critical Success Factors include: Membership payments, building new clubs, educational awards and leadership achievements.

Critical Success Factors at the Club Level

Club needs to establish clear, precise and measurable goals in membership payments, building new clubs and educational programs. The Distinguished Club Program (DCP) makes an effective guide for clubs to achieve their Critical Factors Success. Clubs should display the Distinguished Club Program Chart at every meeting and track the progress of its members.

Critical Success Factors at the District Level

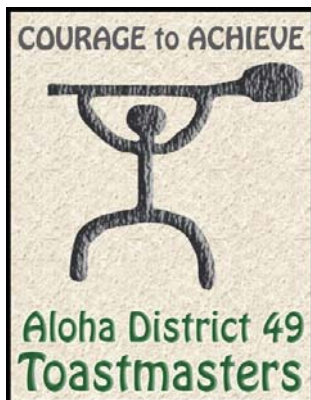
The District's success is measured by the District Success Plan (DSP). However, the success of the District in achieving the Critical Success Factors for membership payment, club extension and educations can only be achieved through the success of clubs themselves as Distinguished Clubs.

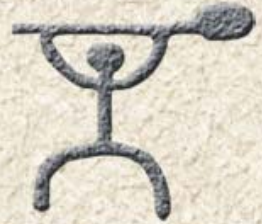
The District Governor's Challenge

I challenge members and clubs to become Distinguished Clubs with a minimum of 20 members, or a net gain of 5 members by March 31, 2009! The task before us is to build upon the successes of the prior years and "raise the bar" for our Critical Success Factors on all levels.

Courage to Achieve

We are members of the District 49 Toastmasters family. In our unity we have strength; in our diversity we have uniqueness. Let's have the Courage to Achieve and make a world of difference!





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Mission of the District

The mission of the district is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:



Focusing on critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals



Insuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members



Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers