



The Fork & Spoon

"Eat, Speak and Be Merry!"



District 56 – Area O-12 Club #9951— Editor:Diane Niño, ACS/ALS, e-mail: sisternino@yahoo.com, telephone: 713-560-2633

President's Message

ACCOLADES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Roasts and Toasts

The September 8th Dining Out meeting was one for the record books. It was a great evening of Roasts and Toasts. I appreciate that everyone in attendance behaved themselves in front of my Mother! You truly made me feel like Toastmasters royalty, complete with special gifts and a sparkling tiara. (see page 2 for story and photos)

O-12 Contest Champs

Congratulations to Diane Nino and Mary Spain, the reigning O-12 Table Topics and Humorous Speech Champions! Dining Out Rocks! Diane and Mary were awesome at the contest. Don't despair if you missed the O-12 contest, you have another chance to cheer them to victory at the Division O contest on Saturday, October 6th. Be there!

Promises and Pumpkins

Thanks to all DOT members who renewed their membership by October 1st. There are a few of you that have promised to pay this month. Be sure to show Charlie the money by October 10th or you will turn into a pumpkin!

Speaking of pumpkins, the fall pumpkin patch is full of ripe CCs ready for the picking! Let's go out and get us some energetic new Competent Communicators for our merry meetings. Think of someone you can invite to join us at our November 2nd meeting at Farrago's.

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Opportunities in October and November

- Oct. 06 Division O Speech Contest - Come to support the O-12 Table Topics and Humorous Speech contestants from Dining Out - Diane Nino and Mary Spain
- Oct. 16 6:30 p.m.Region III Conference Committee meeting at IHOP on I-10 @ Washington near Memorial Park
- Nov. 02 November Dining Out Meeting at Farrago's in the Heights
- Nov. 10 District 56 Fall Conference - 9a-8p It's not too late to sign up for the Fall Round Up on November 10th at E.B. Cape Center.
- Nov. 30 December' Meeting of Dining Out Toastmasters at Denis' Seafood I-10 near Memorial City Mall on the East bound frontage road
- Dec. 02 Toastmasters Leadership Institute - Attend Club Officer Training

Pamela McCown, DTM
2007-2008 Club President
Club 9951, Dining Out Toastmasters



NEXT MEETING:
Friday, November 2, 2007
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Farrago's
 318 Gray St, Houston, TX 77002 - Midtown
 Location phone: 713-523-6404
 www.farragohouston.com

To get on the agenda,
 Contact Club VPE Eddie Merla, DTM
 eddiemerla@yahoo.com

****EARLY DECEMBER MEETING****
Friday, November 30, 2007
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Denis' Seafood House
 9777 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024
 Location phone: 713-464-6900
 www.denisseafood.com

To get on the agenda,
 Contact Club VPE Eddie Merla, DTM
 eddiemerla@yahoo.com



DATE: November 10
TIME: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
LOCALE: E.B. Cape Center
 4501 Leeland
 Houston, TX 77023



For more information or to hep' out, contact Fall conference chair Jessica Frost at jessicaf@metronational.com

CLUB MISSION

The mission of a Toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

TRIBUTE TO PAMELA McCOWN, DTM

by Jill Moffitt, DTM



Pamela takes her place of honor to make notes for her rebuttal.

Roasting & Toasting the Immediate Past District Governor is an annual tradition that began in District 56 in 2003. This tradition was started by Dining Out Toastmasters (DOT), one of the clubs that includes many district leaders. This year, the younger Clear Lake sister club, Spaced Out Toastmasters (SPOT), co-sponsored the event with a joint meeting on September 8th at Fuddruckers on Kirkwood in Southwest Houston.

Having led very successful tribute programs in the past, I was honored when asked to serve as Roastmaster for this year’s tribute to Immediate Past District Governor Pamela McCown, DTM.

A successful event like this takes 10 times more planning to get a variety of speakers and past team members on board. It is essential to reserve a convenient location capable of handling the expected audience way in advanced for a scheduled time when people can attend. This type of event could merit a High Performance Leadership Project because of so many elements requiring coordination such as a public relations and marketing team to help promote the event early and encourage key people to attend; a decorating committee; and an optional gift coordination effort. These extra elements help put icing on the cake, and an experienced speech coordinator is the meat of the event.

The Roast & Toast followed the tradition of honoring the IPDG with tributes to her year as District Governor with a FLAG IT theme. However, the tribute also honored her time as “Dorothy” from Division O with her theme “There’s No Place Like O.” This was also one of those rare occasions where we heard a little bit about Pamela’s childhood and a special dress she had.



A little “sparkle and dazzle” is presented for Pamela to wear.

This year’s event was a showcase of 16 speakers contributing to a delightful evening. Since there are always numerous advanced project requests out of the Special Occasions Manual, particularly the Roasts and Toasts, the speeches are short and peppy. However, this year there were many more requests for alternative full manual speeches than normal. These speakers didn’t always heed our diligent timer, Peggie Pentecost, ACB’s cues. Only the Toastmaster and Timer fretted. All others were so entertained that the time seemed to go by quickly.

The carefully planned, varied arrangement of speakers, skills, and topics was essential and helped with the ebb and flow of pacing. Putting current or former fellow club members early on sets a nice tone since few will discuss District events. The exception was Max Rasquinha who had other obligations and needed to be early on the agenda and John Moffitt who set a friendly and fun tone for others to follow.

It was important to weave in District Team members with Toastmasters friends for a variable pace. Also key to successful speeches is to make

sure the more experienced, or the speakers with more unique personal stories, went later on the agenda since their material would not be duplicated by earlier speakers who may not have as many unique, memorable experiences. The more experienced speakers can change speeches in midstream should others share similar stories. A novice would falter in delivery if he or she saw an advanced speaker give the material that was planned. Since there were not any novices in the group, this made my job easier. I did have to worry about duplication of material and experience in determining order.

Since there were so few roasters and a significant gender gap, I had to schedule gender proportion carefully and put in a roasting speaker when the program had a string of sweet tributes and glowing accolades. Spice is essential to an effective event and the Toastmaster has to weave it in between speakers if there are not enough willing speakers scheduled who could dish it out.

Roasters included Richard Ruchhoeft, DTM’s multi topic chiding, John Martin, DTM’s Barbies and Paula Hooper, ACB’s sister memories. These were greatly appreciated for the entertaining balance required of an effective Tribute.

Only once, have I seen someone’s feelings get hurt at a Tribute like this. Generally only friends and fond acquaintances will ever dare speak. Those who do always know what areas the person is sensitive about or at least can address it in a light hearted way that isn’t hurtful.



John Martin explains one of Pamela’s “multiple personalities” using a hat as he roasts the immediate past district governor.

Also speaking were John Moffitt, DTM, ID; Max Rasquinha, DTM, PDG; Diane Niño, ACS, ALS; Mary Spain, DTM; Nancy Reingold, DTM; Cecelia Marlin; Charlie Pitts, DTM; Mary George, CTM; Margaret Henck, DTM; Ola Joseph, DTM; Cynthia Wagner, ACG, CL; Allen Prescott, DTM, PDG; and Brenda Thorne DTM.

As in all Roasts and Toasts, the honoree gets the last word. Pamela was feverishly writing responses as the speakers continued on. She was showered with gifts and the piece d’resistance was the completed and packed charm bracelet that was presented to her with charms from those absent and present who offered a personalized charm choice that would bring back memories.

Not only did all of her top team and Division Governors provide unique charms, all of her Division governors were in attendance to pay tribute. This turnout offered so many warm “fuzzies,” Pamela glowed as she gave a very special rebuttal to all. With over 60 Toastmasters and family attending, this was an incredible tribute that will be remembered by Pamela and her team for a long, long time.



Pamela’s charm bracelet with all “tributes” attached.