



# Night Talkers Gazette



Toastmasters International Club 6045  
District 84, Division E, Area 50

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**Publisher** **James Songster, ACB/President**

**Editor** **Sonia Parris, DTM/VP Public Relations**

February is Black History and Love Your Library Month and the month of the Presidents and Valentine. Study, read, write, speak and love! Contribute to your newsletter.

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## WHAT AN IDEA?

*By Sonia Parris, VPPR*

You have had ideas in your lifetime. I have had ideas in my lifetime. Together, we have had many ideas in our lifetime. However, have our ideas served others or did they just return into the heavens that birthed them? Unfortunately, many of us discount the value of our imaginings

and our failures to act caused them to serve no purpose. Not Ralph C. Smedley!

As members of Toastmasters (TM), we should appreciate the importance of manifesting our idea. Our fear of public speaking, our desire to become eloquent speakers, or our hope to be influential—whatever the reason we joined TM—is served because Ralph C. Smedley honored his idea in a YMCA Building on October 22, 1924 and founded Toastmasters.

Eighty-five years later, Mr. Smedley’s action has improved the communication and leadership skills of more than 4 million people in 106 countries, and will continue to help more. His instituting the Toastmasters program has “changed my life,” said Chris Matthews of MSNBC’s *Hardball* and *the Chris Mathews Show*, and “played a tremendous role in building my self-confidence and communication skills,” said Tom Peters author of *The Pursuit of WOW*.

As Toastmasters, we might agree with Linda Lingle, Governor of Hawaii, who said,

“Toastmasters is the best and least expensive personal improvement class you can go to.” Toastmasters “is the only organization I know dedicated to the individual,” Ralph Smedley said. The Toastmasters program, indeed, actualizes YOU to fulfill your full potential.

Many lives would not have profited if Mr. Smedley had discounted his idea and not begun club meetings with members rotating duties at each meeting. More than four million people would not have profited had he deferred his dream: a colossal waste that would have been!

Using Ralph Smedley as a role model, never again should we devalue our imagining. Never again should we do nothing with the idea that reveals itself to us. Never again should we be content with not taking the first step that might potentially change the lives of millions of people 85 years from now. An idea is an angel—the harbinger of a product or service—and like Ralph Smedley, entertain it now.

Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Toastmasters. What an idea! ♣



## HELP YOURSELF—GIVE QUALITY SPEECHES

*By Demetrice Vassar, VPE*

I'm stuck! I am working on project #3, The Sales Training Speech, in the advanced communicator manual, The Professional Speaker, and I am sweating rubber bullets and struggling immensely because I don't have the mentality of a salesperson. What's more, I don't

trust salespeople because, in my wary mind, they falsify information in order to close deals with gullible prospects. I truly do not believe I've ever crossed paths with a totally honest salesperson. Yes, my personal viewpoint is that salespeople lack fairness, but, honestly, that's how I feel. Feeling the way I do about this profession, how can I give a wonderfully crafted quality speech on sales training? That is my stressful challenge. Woe is me! It's time for a commercial break: *Calgon, take me away!!*

**Back to the regularly scheduled educational program:** I could easily put together a rambling sales presentation that shuttles me through the project; however, that would only hurt, not help me. *Ouch!!* Last October, I visited a Toastmasters club in Central Florida where a speaker gave a 15-minute sales training presentation. In my opinion, the presentation was poorly prepared, and the rambling speaker deserved a very low grade, but the evaluator gave the speaker high marks. I couldn't believe it!! For the record, I understand that “Toastmasters is not a pass-fail program,” and I understand that evaluators should encourage, not discourage the speaker. However, I do not understand why anyone would miss a grand opportunity to perform at his/her best during stage time just to hurry through a project: *Wait a minute, hold that thought fellow Toastmasters. Oh, silly me, I stand accused. I have given a couple of ill-prepared speeches because I wanted to get those projects behind me QFH* (quick, fast and in a hurry). In that case, I do understand why some speeches lack substantive quality. It's time for another commercial break: *“Where's the beef?”*

**Back to the regularly scheduled educational program:** The fact is that well-prepared speeches perk up ears to listen more favorably. Did you notice those blank or drowsy expressions on the audience faces when you gave that ill-prepared speech? Didn't you just

want to shoot sweaty, rubber bullets in both of your feet? Well, I got the message and started nursing my aching feet back to health after my second fiasco at the lectern. Suddenly I remembered that the Toastmaster experience promises great success for those who are serious about mastering the art of effective communication. On that note, I marveled in thoroughly understanding the importance of helping myself by giving quality speeches, no matter how challenging or daunting the objectives of an advanced manual's project may seem.

As Vice President of Education, I want to encourage everyone to give nothing less than your best when giving future speeches. Help yourself by giving quality speeches every time you stand before an audience, whether for three minutes or fifteen minutes. Help yourself by remembering that you became a Toastmaster to improve your communication skills in accordance to the project objectives in the various educational manuals - not to ramble your way through a speech project QFH. Finally, help yourself by appreciating constructive criticism when an evaluator rates your speech less than stellar—the truth does not hurt as much as a rubber bullet.

Well, we've come to the epilogue of this educational program. Fellow Toastmasters, it has been a learning experience, but I must return my focus to the sales training speech that I'm giving on March 29. And, yes, despite my stressful challenge, it will be a well-prepared quality speech. My goodness, it is time for another commercial break. *Calgon, take me away!* ♣



FYI

FROM:



**Action Alert: Critical IRS 990-N Deadline Approaching for US Clubs!** According to the IRS, any U.S. club that fails to [file an e-Postcard](#) will lose its status as an official Toastmasters club. Follow these steps to protect your club! [More.](#)

**Tax Deductions for U.S. Toastmasters**  
Read for [more](#) information.

**Talk Up Toastmasters!** From February 1 – March 31, 2010 add five new, dual or reinstated members and Night Talkers Club will receive a “Talk Up Toastmasters!” ribbon and 10% off the next club order.

**Check Your E-mail Inbox**  
Toastmasters World Headquarters will be e-mailing reminders to club officers about April dues renewals by the end of February. Beginning March 1, officers can submit the renewals through the Toastmasters Web site by using the Club Business login. [More.](#)

**Promote Toastmasters in Your Community**  
How do you get the message out to your community? Here are some great ideas for encouraging TI membership in your hometown. [More.](#)

**2012 International Convention Site Selected**  
Toastmasters World Headquarters has announced an exciting new site for the 2012 Toastmasters International Convention - the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort, in **Orlando, Florida!** [More.](#) ♣

**NIGHT TALKERS IS A PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED CLUB**

*Demetrice Vassar, VPE*

Night Talkers (NT) has already achieved its 2009-2010 President's Distinguished Club status. This is the highest achievement a club attains by achieving at least nine out of the 10 Distinguished Club Program/Membership goals before the end of the current term. Additionally, our membership base is 26. Our club remains strong, and NT will receive another beautiful banner ribbon to proudly display for the following accomplishments:

**Goal 1: Two CCs**

Brian Pugh, CC (July 2009)  
Jim Miller, CC (3<sup>rd</sup> - July 2009)

**Goal 2: Two more CCs**

Demetrice Vassar, CC (August 2009)

**Goal 3: One AC**

Annette Kennedy, ACS (July 2009)

**Goal 4: One more AC**

Kia Ricchi, ACB (July 2009)  
Sylvia Hypolitte, ACB (October 2009)

**Goal 5: One CL, ALB, ALS or DTM**

W. Jeannette Strickland, CL (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009)

**Goal 6: One more CL, AL or DTM**

Jim Miller, ALB (2<sup>nd</sup> - August 2009)

**Goal 7: Four new members**

Wayne Rhoden (September 2009)  
Shawn Baker (September 2009)  
Michael Haldavnekar (October 2009)  
Rita Levreault (November 2009)

**Goal 8: Four more new members**

Nixi Vega (November 2009)  
Eric Dolhon (November 2009)  
Roger Bello (January 2010)  
Lydia Soto (January 2010)

**Goal 9: Minimum of four club officers trained during each of two training periods**

Seven officers trained in August 2009  
Four officers\*\* trained in January 2010:  
James Songster, Pres.; Demetrice Vassar, VPED\*\*; Andrés Roque, VPM; Sonia Parris, VPPR\*\*; Brian Pugh, Tre.\*\*; Miriam Songster, Sec.; Frank Ricchi, SAA\*\*

**Goal 10: One semiannual membership report and one club officer list submitted on time**

September 2009 and July 2009 respectively

<u>Communication Track Achievements</u>	<u>Leadership Track Achievements</u>
CC = Competent Communicator	CL = Competent Leader
ACB = Advanced Communicator Bronze	ALB = Advanced Leader Bronze
ACS = Advanced Communicator Silver	ALS = Advanced Leader Silver
ACG = Advanced Communicator Gold	

**DTM=Distinguished Toastmaster (the highest recognition a member may receive)**

Robert Donenfeld, Jim Miller, Sonia Parris & June Wilson earned their DTM designation prior to the current year.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**Sonia Parris, VPPR**

On Saturday February 6, 2010, eight weeks of conscientious work by **W. Jeannette Strickland** and the Solid Rock Church of God Impact Youth, led by **Pastor Mark Nelson** culminated in the *Stand and Deliver* Banquet, which followed the format of a regular Toastmasters meeting.

Many attended to watch the youth displayed their magic. The speakers were articulate, entertaining, and erudite. Bright and courageous were the Table topics speakers. The evaluators were skillfully constructive in their feedback ability, and each member of the Tag Team was brilliant.

Everyone involved in the *Stand and Deliver* program was par excellence. If you missed it, you deprived yourself of the awesome performance and wisdom of your community's youth. Be there next time! ♣

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Sonia Parris, VPPR*

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." *Maya Angelou*

In February 1926, historian **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**, the second African American to graduate from Harvard University, founded the "Negro History Week" to preserve the heritage, richness and diversity of the African Diaspora. He chose February because it is the birth month of two men who revolutionize the future of African Americans, the abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation and promoted the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment.

Dr. Woodson and **Rev. Jesse E. Moorland** co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in order to research and bring awareness to the achievements and global contributions of the African Diaspora. They disseminated written materials,

photographs of influential men and women, plays and the like to schools, clubs and communities in order to dispel deceptive stereotypes and to educate the African Diaspora about their cultural background and to instill in them a sense of pride.

After a while, many organizations and cities across the U. S. began to celebrate Negro History Week, which proved crucial to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. The Black Power Movement of the 1970s, in order to emphasize racial dignity and unity prompted the name change, to Black History Week. In 1976, it became Black History Month, now recognized by the entire nation commercially and educationally. In addition, Canada celebrates Black History Month in February and the United Kingdom in the month of October.

The ASNLH now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History continues to promote and preserve the significant achievements, contributions and history of the African Diaspora.

Since it is *Love your Library Month*, can you tell me the contributions of Frederick McKinley Jones, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams and the Black Moses? ♣

*Happy Valentine's Day*



*Night Talkers*

## IN THE KNOW

### Night Talkers

Toastmasters Club 6045

Mondays 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at:  
**The Barney E. Veal Center**  
**700 Generation Point,**  
**Kissimmee, FL 34744**

**Night Talkers website:**

<http://www.nighttalkers.org/>

**District 84 website:**

<http://www.toastmastersd84.org>

<http://www.toastmastersd84.org/calendar.html>

**Toastmasters International Tips E-Newsletter**

<http://www.toastmasters.org/January2010Tips>

## OFFICER RESOURCES

“Your responsibilities are your opportunities”

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/OfficerResources.aspx>

### *Member Experience*

“The facets of membership”

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/MemberExperience.aspx>

### *Membership Building*

“Let the world know!”

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/MembershipBuilding.aspx>

## NEW FREE RESOURCES

Check out the *new* Virtual Brand Portal. Use these branded documents for all your communication, marketing and PR needs. [More](#)

“A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the sound of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.”  
*Jawaharlal Nehru*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Andrés Roque  
February 4

Shawn Baker  
March 8