



Member Spotlight

Steve K. joined Notable Northgaters in August 2009, prompted by what he called “a great first impression combined with convenience.”

Initially drawn in by the club’s “outstanding Web site,” Steve, who first became Toastmaster in 1986, was pleased to find our meetings take place a mere eight blocks from his office.

“My first impressions of Notable Northgaters have proved true in that members of the club are vibrant, engaging, supportive, and definitely funny. Toastmasters is about honing one’s communication skills and that requires a good balance of praise and critique. I think the Northgaters do a good job of that, making the club a great venue for personal improvement.”

Steve brings 11 years of Toastmasters experience to our club, having been involved in five clubs (twice as a charter member) in the past. He has held officer positions and participated in several competitions.

“Toastmasters taught me to organize my thoughts, make my statements clear and succinct, ask better questions, and be a much better listener,” he said.

“Because of Toastmasters, I can create and deliver effective presentations in short notice, and can easily adjust those presentations to fit whatever audience or timeframe I encounter. It feels great to be able to step up and deliver.”

A self-proclaimed “ex techie,” Steve is an acupuncturist who studies Buddhism and Daoism, and enjoys woodworking, baking, kayaking, and trap shooting.

Presidential Ponderings

Last week I had the pleasure of having dinner with some fellow Notable Northgaters after our meeting. We talked about all kinds of things, including marathons. Specifically, why someone would go out and perform a task where the very first person to do that same task died immediately afterwards?

The answer to that question is to do something, to be a part of something bigger than yourself. Completing a marathon, even a half marathon, is not easy. It’s hard work. It takes months of training and is often painful and scary. With the proper training anyone can complete a marathon, yet only 1 percent of the world’s population has ever done it.

At this point, I’m sure you’re wondering what any of this has to do with Toastmasters. Every-

thing really. Why would we as Toastmasters willingly show up every week to speak in public? Why would we willing do the one thing that more people are scared of then dying? Because we want to do something, to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Everyone brings something to the Toastmasters experience that the rest of us can learn from.

As 2009 comes to end, I challenge you to look back at the year and see how far you’ve come. Did you complete your CC or CL? Or perhaps an advanced award? I challenge you further to look to the year ahead. What will you achieve in 2010? How much will you grow, how far will you go?

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the success in the world in 2010.

— *Melissa A., President*

DECEMBER

16

Holiday Celebration!
Immediately following the meeting at the Northgate Macaroni Grill.

JANUARY

20

Notable Northgaters Open House!

27

Officers’ Meeting (All members welcome)



FEBRUARY

24

Officers’ Meeting (All members welcome)

Join Notable Northgaters on Facebook and Twitter!

Certainly our club's Web site has proven a very effective tool to bring visitors to our meetings and share valued resources among members.

Notable Northgaters' online presence has expanded recently to include two social media platforms: Twitter and Facebook. Both can be used to engage new members, but also to provide a forum for lively club conversation that extends beyond the walls of



the church basement.

Twitter is a simple online space designed to keep people informed about "what is going on" in real time. Notable Northgaters' page can be found here: <http://twitter.com/TMNotableNorth>.

You can keep up to speed on club activities and conversations by simply navigating to the site and checking it out at your convenience or you can contribute to the site through your own Twitter account by becoming a "follower" of the club page.

Many club members are already active on Facebook. Search Notable Northgaters on Facebook and you will discover our club's page. Everyone is encouraged to join as

a "fan" of the page, so you can share thoughts on the Wall, post photos, and be part of the ongoing



dialog for the club. The Facebook page has

sections that are visible to the public, as well as those for members only under the "just fans" link.

We will be using both Facebook and Twitter to help draw folks to our January open house and other upcoming events. The sites will also serve as a place where people can go to learn more about Notable Northgaters — and get a sense of our energy and culture.

While our Web site will continue to serve as the main source of information about the club, these two additional tools will help potential members understand more about who we are...and will also give us the opportunity to keep in touch with one another throughout the week.

Many thanks to Michelle W. for taking the lead on developing these exciting new communications avenues for the club.

— Karin G., VP PR

GLOVE: A Handy Hint for Effective Evaluating

Remember giving your first evaluation? You'd seen it done dozens of times, and you'd read all of the tips in the manual, but when your turn came up, did you wonder: what am I really looking for?

Club veteran Richard Ripley shares this quick rule of thumb: "Just think about 'G.L.O.V.E.'" which covers many of the key skills to look for and mention in

'opportunities for improvement' sections of your evaluation."

- G - Gestures**
- L - Language**
- O - Organization**
- V - Vocal Variety**
- E - Eye Contact**

This acronym makes good evaluations a snap! Thanks, Richard!

The DCP Checklist

It's five months into the Toastmasters year and time to review our progress toward the Distinguished Club Program. We have 3 new members as well as: four Competent Communicator, one Competent Leader and one Advanced Communicator Silver awards. That's a great start to maintaining the Notable Northgaters' tradition of achieving the Presidents Distinguished award but we still need your support. If you haven't checked out the Competent Leader (CL) program yet, I recommend taking a look. Getting started is easy, just bring your CL manual to the meeting and find the role you are filling in one of the leadership projects.

— James E, VPE

Two CCs

Peter James

Two more CCs

Patrick Julie

One AC or DTM

Michelle

One more AC or DTM

One CL or AL

Scott

One more CL or AL

Four new members

Dawna Steve

Dale _____

Four new members

_____ _____

_____ _____

Dues submitted on time

Fall

Officers trained

Summer: Melissa, James, Will, Karin, Julie, Ali, Barney

Winter: