



Member Spotlight

Dale K. is a minister who has been wanting to improve his public speaking skills. A parishioner introduced Dale to Toastmasters, and with additional encouragement from a good friend and fellow Toastmaster in Colorado, Dale first visited our club last spring.

Dale was impressed with the Notable Northgaters and their desire for excellence, and appreciates the friendly, encouraging, and supportive people at Toastmasters. "It's a place where you can learn and sharpen your public speaking skills," he said. "It challenges me to work toward excellence in my everyday world. Also, there's a lot of fun and laughter."

Dale joined Notable Northgaters last fall. He calls Table Topics his greatest challenge, although he's getting more comfortable with it. As a minister, Dale finds himself in many situations where he has to think on his feet. He said his improved extemporaneous speaking skills are an asset in numerous settings, including staff meetings. Before joining Toastmasters, Dale took a lot of classes on giving sermons. "It's one thing to take a week to prepare a 30 minute sermon. Responding on a moment's notice is a whole different story."

Dale also appreciates his developing evaluation skills. "Giving honest feedback is an important gift to give others, enabling them to grow," he said. Working with volunteers at church provides lots of opportunities to utilize this skill.

— Steve K.

Presidential Ponderings

I'm writing this on the first day of spring. It's the day when the days start to get longer and we get to open the windows and clear the cobwebs and shake off the last bit of winter. It's a time of renewal.

It's probably no wonder that it's also dues time within Toastmasters. When you send your check, you are renewing your commitment to Toastmasters, your commitment to Notable Northgaters and most importantly you are renewing your commitment to yourself.

Think back to what brought you to Toastmasters in the first place. Have you achieved that goal? Are you a better speaker or a better leader? If not, your officer team and the entire membership of Notable Northgaters are here to support you. If you don't have a mentor, let us know, we'll hook you up with one.

If you have achieved it then it's time for a new goal. There are a lot of opportunities to take advantage of. Strive for the next educational award and work towards an advanced speaker level or complete a leadership award. Become a mentor for a new member or a member that is in a different place in their Toastmasters experience than you are. Or, perhaps you could put everything we talk about as speakers and leaders into practice and fill a club officer role.

We often talk about the club goals and we even highlight those goals in the newsletter. But, the club isn't anything without the members. As you renew your commitments, know that I, and the rest of the officer team, also renew our commitments to the club and to you.

— Melissa A., President

APRIL	
28 Officers' Meeting (All members welcome.)	
MAY	JUNE
TBD Election of new officers.	16 Quarterly social get-together.
26 Officers' Meeting (All members welcome.)	30 Officers' Meeting (All members welcome.)

Club Effort Supports Contestants

Speaking in front of a live audience. It used to be pretty much the scariest thing many of us could think of.

Maybe it still is, but certainly we're all improving, meeting after meeting. Our confidence is building, and we're growing with every speech, evaluation, and table topic.

Of the million frightening aspects of public speaking, one of the deepest fears it evokes may be the dread most people have of being judged by others.

So, I asked myself, as I sat re-viewing my speech notes before the Notable Northgaters International Speech and Evaluation Contest in early March, *what am I doing here?*

Nothing makes my heart pound like the spotlight. And to intentionally put my budding skills out there to be judged by a panel of esteemed peers, was a little terrifying. And, I will admit, highly gratifying — especially in the appreciation it gave me for our club and its ability to work as a team.

Odd Wednesdays

Melissa A. recently resurrected a past Notable Northgaters tradition with great success.

"Odd Wednesdays" have returned, with the third meeting of the month featuring an unexpected twist devised by the Toastmaster.

At the beginning of our March "Odd Wednesday" meeting, Toastmaster Melissa asked each participant to draw a slip of paper out of a box. On each slip was written an emotion or attribute. As the meeting progressed, each person had to play their roles and deliver Table Topics answers conveying their assigned emotion.

Among the hilarious highlights were a happy Mike S. hugging people during Table Topics,

James E. organized a very well-run contest, taking care of numerous behind-the-scenes details and putting the evening's hosting duties into the very capable hands of Richard R. Chief judge Michelle W. made sure those judging the speeches and evaluations followed protocol. Barney C. and Dale K. preserved the formality and flow of the meeting as our sergeants-at-arms. Cindy C. and Lance E. served as our timers.

With a different room arrangement, many guests and an agenda that departed significantly from a usual Wednesday, Notable Northgaters proved we can run contests with professionalism and the appearance of ease.

And speaking on behalf of my fellow contestants Melissa A., Will W., and Julie S., certainly this impressive organizational effort allowed us to focus on our speeches and evaluations and not worry about any details other than the task at hand. Thank you very much!

— Karin G., VP PR

silly Dale K. assigning "smiley faces" during his ah-counting duties and Michelle W.'s deliciously depressing GE turn.

Join us April 21 when Toastmaster Fred brings the theme "Something in the Air" to life with an extra dose of playful fun!

Topics of Conversation

Ever wonder where our meeting themes come from, maybe some official schedule? As Vice President of Education it's my job. Other than a list of suggestions and past themes I'm on my own. I try to pick themes that are familiar and leave room for the Toastmaster and Table Topics Master to be creative. When a theme works well it's because of their work.

— James E., VPE

The DCP Checklist

Spring is here and it's time to review our Distinguished Club Program status. We have earned at 8 of 10 points. We're almost there in the communication and leadership categories; we'll earn 1 more point when the next advanced leadership award is achieved. In the membership category, we're over half way there, with 5 new members having joined us since July and 3 to go for the final point.

— James E., VPE

Two CCs

Peter James

Two more CCs

Patrick Julie

One AC or DTM

Michelle

One more AC or DTM

Scott

One CL or AL

Scott

One more CL or AL

Four new members

Dawna Steve
 Dale Leisha

Four new members

John _____
 _____ _____

Dues submitted on time

Fall Spring

Officers trained

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

Winter: Melissa, James, Richard, Barney, Julie, Karin