



Sunrise NEWS

Fall 2009 Vol. 1, Issue 1



For Members of Lehigh Valley Club #8388

President's Podium



As president of Sunrise Toastmasters, I'm excited to introduce the first edition of *Sunrise NEWS*. This year has been one of tremendous growth not only for the club, but for each member. We've had a tremendous surge of new members, all of whom have come in with great enthusiasm. Our club has put forth two area governors. Two members have earned 1st and 2nd place in the Division E Humorous Speech & Table Topics contests. I'm so proud to be a part of such a talented, supportive and caring group. I learn something new each Wednesday morning meeting. This newsletter can help our organization stay connected and highlight our achievements. Tell us what you'd like to see in the newsletters. Share your accomplishments with us!

Happy Speaking,
Justin Corsa

Special Thanks

Thanks to Keenan-Nagle Advertising for their in-kind services developing the layout and design for

Sunrise NEWS.

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Sunrise Spotlight



Susie Lloyd: Mom, Author, Actress, Speaker

To know some important things about Susie Lloyd, take a quick glance at the titles of her two published books, "Please Don't Drink the Holy Water" and "Bless Me Father For I Have Kids."

Immediately we discern she writes, she's funny, she's Catholic, and she's a mom. What we soon find out is that she is a mother of seven children, all of whom she homeschooled. Five remain at home and two are at college. Gee, what does she do with all her spare time?

For starters, every other Wednesday morning, Sunrise Toastmasters is the happy beneficiary of Susie's fine wit and comic delivery (oh, yes, theater training completes this package). Susie joined our group in January 2009 to prepare to be the featured speaker at a homeschool conference in St. Louis after publication of her second book.

"Homeschooling is pretty tough and as far as I know, I'm the only one writing jokes about it," she explained. "Anyway, I had spoken at a few conferences after my first book and found out that it was one thing to write humor and another to perform it. I read my speeches with as much dramatic effect as I could muster - I've done a fair bit of community theater - but I could tell that people were not connecting with me.

"My goal in joining TM was to get over my fear of public speaking so that I could give an audience my best effort. I wanted to talk with them, not at them. On top of conferences, I knew that I would also be doing radio, TV and Internet interviews. Fast answers. No stuttering, stammering or awkward pauses! Last, I would be standing at tables for hours selling signed copies of my books. It's tiring and you have to be "on" the whole time.



"Although I like people, I'm not naturally comfortable as the center of attention in a group. I did six conferences throughout spring and summer, a couple of talks, one published writers' panel, and several interviews. TM had prepared me for it all. I gained confidence after winning Best Speech for my ice breaker and then a blue ribbon for each and every speech after that. And even though my performance in Table Topics is just as consistent - as in I bomb every time - my interviews went beautifully. I was not at a loss for words. I actually made sense!

"I am so grateful to TM for helping me discover new opportunities," she said.

And TM is so grateful to Susie for being such an enthusiastic member of our group!



Toasty Points

By Jesse Tamburino,
VP of Education

Always read your manual to prepare for your upcoming speech.

One of the most important things a Toastmaster can do to prepare for an upcoming speech is to thoroughly read the project description in the manual he/she is working through. The manuals and projects within them are designed to help us in different aspects of our speaking. Each project within the manual has a specific goal in mind and you should make sure you completely understand it.

It is also a very good idea to read the elements that you will be judged on so you understand what your evaluator will be looking for when evaluating your speech! Following these couple tips will allow you to ensure each speech you deliver is helping you advance in Toastmasters and your ability to communicate.

Welcome, New Members!

Lester Wills
Melissa Leffel
Henry Lai
Patricia Goehring

“Sunrisers” Shine at Area and Division Contests

Sunrise Toastmasters members Jeff Chirico and Dan Brown both walked away with trophies after the Division E Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest. The competition was held October 24 at Alvernia University in Reading.

Before competing at the division level, Chirico and Brown won the club and area contests.

Sunrise Toastmasters held its contest on September 2. In “A Short Speech,” Chirico spoke and joked about the “pluses of being pocket-sized.” In the impromptu table topics portion of the contest, Brown answered how he’d help resolve the budget stalemate in Harrisburg.

On October 7, Chirico delivered the same speech in the Area 23 humorous speech competition. Brown creatively answered how he’d react if he were a fly on the tail of a jet flying 400 miles per hour. He spoke about the amazing view it provided and how it presented an opportunity to colonize new areas.

The winners of four areas then met for the division competition. Chirico won first place with his “A Short Speech.” Brown won second place in the table topics competition. He was asked to create a story or joke using three animals.

Chirico advances to the District 38 Humorous Speech competition on November 14. It will take place at the district conference at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre.

For more information about the November 14 conference, please read the article “Fall Conference” in this issue of the *Sunrise NEWS*.

Fall Conference Promises Learning and Laughing

By Jeff Chirico

Time is running out to sign up for District 38’s Fall Conference on November 13 – 14 at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre. The theme is “The ABC’s of Toastmasters.”

Do you want to know what the A, B and C stand for? Well, you’ll have to attend. But we can divulge some of what you can experience.

Friday night, funny lady Loretta Casalaina will have you in stitches as she talks about a very serious topic – humor. She’ll talk about adding humor into speeches by learning from our favorite comedians.

There are plenty of educational sessions planned for Saturday. The 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking, Dana LaMon, will deliver a keynote address during breakfast about achieving excellence in speaking.

Also don’t forget to bring your funny bone on Saturday. The district humorous speech and table topics contests will be held then.

To sign up for the conference and for more information, go to www.tmdistrict38.org. We’ll look for you there.

Staff and Credits

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Send newsletter suggestions to jchirico@gmail.com

The club meets the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays of the month, 7:15am, Parkland Diner, Allentown