



# Night Talkers Gazette



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

**Seventh Issue** **January 2010**



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

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

Happy 2010! This year, be the person you can be. Be brilliant. Laugh more. Expect more. Fear less. ACT NOW! Dare to be! Contribute to your newsletter.

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### RESOLUTION!

*By Sonia Parris*

**“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”**  
~Abraham Lincoln

“Another year over, a new one just begun,” sung John Lennon. The beginning of 2010 will bring

millions of resolutions and its end will see the failure of many. Sometimes, we fail because we do not experiment with different ways to change our habit. This year, employ variety, “the spice of life.” There are many different ways to skin a resolution.

You can *relax* into an unwavering mental attitude; simplify complications or end the abnormal condition; still, you can reduce the resolution into several objectives, or move from a disagreeable to an agreeable attitude, among others. Like a curious child or Thomas Edison, experiment with various methods until you get the desired outcome.

If your resolution is regular participation at Night Talkers (NT), then, like balloons, release all the excuses you give for non-participation. Let go of the self-talk that the meeting will be satisfactory without your presence—*your presence* will fortify the gathering. Relinquish the false notion that the meetings do not need your performance—*your performance* could stimulate interest and sell the benefits of Night Talkers. Renounce the feeling of dissatisfaction—*your enthusiasm* could excite

and help nurture you and your fellow NT. In an article in December's Night Talkers Gazette, **Demetrice Vassar** told us how **Frank Ricchi** influenced her to use the Competent Leadership manual and how **W. Jeannette Strickland** persuaded her to do the High Performance Leadership program. You too can inspire and motivate Night Talkers through your regular participation.

Maybe, your resolution is to develop the leadership skill of persuasion. Begin by reviewing all the Toastmasters roles; from ah counter to prepared speaker ([read](#)). You will see that each Toastmasters task is significant. "There are no small roles, only small actors," someone said. Valuing each function will inspire you to do your best and then the effectiveness of the Toastmasters' program will begin to develop your leadership skills. Musically, your thoughts and emotions will become less dissonant and more harmonious because the leader in you will intuitively begin to appreciate and persuade others.

Maybe your resolution is to make each meeting count by discounting the weather or minor annoyances. In those instances, reduce the meeting into its constituent parts: speakers, evaluators, timer, tag team roles and audience. Isn't each functionary important? You bet he/she is. Therefore, rain or a little fatigue should not deter you from being with Night Talkers. Give up the conventional attitude that says, "Rain, rain, go away," and substitute it with Robert Loveman's, "It isn't raining rain to me, it's raining daffodils; in every dimpled drop I see wild flowers on distance hills." There are no more beautiful daffodils or wild flowers than Night Talkers, so brave the weather and master your circumstance. A friend who has lived in Florida for forty years now told me he has had the same gardener for the past thirty-five years. "Wow," I exclaimed, "he must be a good gardener." "No, he's a horrible gardener, but a

good guy," he retorted. "He uses any excuse not to work. Once he called me and said, 'It's raining, I can't work today.' John, I said, it's not raining. 'Are you kidding,' he cried. 'It's raining cats and dogs in Australia!'" Your excuses may not be as obvious, but your absence will be as transparent. Our meetings are valuable, so "Come rain, or sleet, or snow," **BE THERE!** If we see you attending against all odds, we might begin to mirror your example and soon, we will pack our meetings to capacity. Go ahead and make every meeting count!

Albert Einstein said, "You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it. You must learn to see the world anew." There are many ways to fulfill your resolution. If making a formal decision is difficult, break it into small objectives, or rid yourself of inflexibility, or move from a disagreeable to a harmonious outlook and open your mind to many possibilities. Relax and enjoy the journey into your resolution so at year's end, you can say, "2010 was a good one without any fear." ♣

## TEN RELEVANT QUESTIONS TO PONDER

*By Demetrice Vassar, VP of Education*

I brainstormed for two weeks about what to write for this edition. There was a barrel full of ideas to choose from, and I chose to pose ten relevant questions to ponder. You will notice that I offer nine answers for your consideration. The tenth question requires a response from you to me.

- 1. Are you preparing yourself well in advance for your next upcoming meeting role?**

Peek at the 2010 Winter Schedule at the award-winning Night Talkers website to see your

scheduled role from January - March. New members might consider writing a script for each functionary role to recite during the meetings. Read the "About the Club" section in the Competent Communication manual for detailed information about each role.

**2. Are you on track for achieving your first or next educational awards?**

Set aside some time to evaluate or re-evaluate your goals for 2009-2010. Then start thinking about educational award goals for 2010-2011.

**3. Are you keeping track of your educational accomplishments?**

Consider recording your accomplishments using the *Member Achievement Record*. This important tool will be provided upon request.

**4. It's Monday and 6:30 p.m., do you know where your manuals are?**

Make it a habit to keep your manuals on hand at all times. Consider keeping them in your car to ensure that they are with you at all times.

**5. Mentors, are you keeping track of your mentee's accomplishments?**

Mentor, it is essential that you keep open communications with your mentee. Contact your mentee today and offer your assistance. Remember, building a stronger mentor/mentee relationship builds self-confidence and nurtures the commitment to succeed.

**6. What is a CL?**

New members, the Toastmasters program is not just about making speeches. Developing leadership skills is also a critical part of the Toastmasters experience. Please familiarize yourself with the **Competent Leadership** manual. Contact your mentor to learn the usefulness of this important manual. Learn how to use this resource effectively to achieve your

Competent Leadership award. Finally, ask different members to evaluate your performances because a medley of objective perspectives helps you in developing strong leadership skills.

**7. What website resources should new members bookmark?**

New members, become familiar with the Night Talkers and Toastmasters International websites. Bookmark these sites for helpful and valuable information:

Night Talkers: [www.nighttalkers.org](http://www.nighttalkers.org)  
Toastmasters International: [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)  
Toastmasters District 84: [www.toastmastersd84.org](http://www.toastmastersd84.org)

**8. Are you interested in contributing to the Night Talkers Gazette newsletter?**

Consider writing something compelling, informative, entertaining, thought provoking or motivational that your fellow toastmasters will enjoy reading in upcoming editions. Submit your contribution to Sonia Parris, Vice President of Public Relations.

**9. Do you have extra time on your hands?**

Then, spend some time brushing up on your speaking, table topic, evaluation and functionary role skills. Consider the following suggestions:

- Read Toastmasters manuals, newsletters, *and* books on public speaking.
- Videotape a 10-minute speech presentation, review it and self-evaluate your performance.
- Visit the Toastmaster International website: [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)
- Contact club members and ask them to provide you constructive criticism on your communication and leadership skills.

## 10. Finally, how can I better serve your needs?

The past six months have been both adventurous and challenging as Night Talkers' Vice President of Education. At every turn, I encountered interesting and memorable experiences that, oftentimes, shocked me into unbelievable reality. Still, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as club officer. I hope that I have delivered on my promise to be an effective leader. As we near the end of 2009-2010, I want to do more for my Night Talkers family. Please e-mail me your suggestions on how I can better serve your needs for the next six months. Help me to help you. Thanks a bunch!! ♣

### UPCOMING CONTESTS

The Night Talkers' International Speech & Table Topics Speech Contest will take place on February 15, 2010, from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Please make plans to attend this exciting event and witness fellow Toastmasters compete for the first place trophy and the opportunity to compete at the Area level speech competition. Get involved and support your club. We will serve refreshment. ♣

### WELCOME!

Since September 1, 2009 to date, Night Talkers has had the pleasure of adding to its mix six articulate and vibrant members. **Wayne Rhoden, Shawn Baker, Michael Haldavnekar, Rita Leverault, Nixi Vega** and **Eric Dolhon** have enriched us with their diverse experiences and viewpoints. In the same vein, we promise to help maximize their potential. Welcome to Night Talkers! ♣

### FYI

#### Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

January 16 at Roth Jewish Community Center,  
851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751.

[Click here for program.](#)

January 24 at Building 110, Room 112  
Daytona State College, 200 W. International  
Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114.

[Click here for program.](#)

#### 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. ♣

### POET'S CORNER

"A poet looks at the world  
the way a man looks at a  
woman." ~Wallace Stevens

#### *Rainbow Eyes*

It wasn't so very long ago  
I recall admiring the rainbow  
Arched within the firmaments so plain  
Glowing brightly after the rain  
Juvenile eyes inspired for a mile  
Impressed by its authentic style  
The colors ranged from moods to moods  
From a red-hot temper to Monday morn blues  
Yellow, orange, indigo, violet, green  
Among the seven prisms to be seen  
Yes, my juvenile eyes would light aglow  
Each time they saw a rainbow. –demetrice ♣

## 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>

## NEW FREE RESOURCES

Check out the *new* Virtual Brand Portal. Use these branded documents for all your communication, marketing and PR needs.

[More](#)

“We always hear about the rights of democracy, but the major responsibility of it is participation.”  
~~Wynton Marsalis

## OFFICER RESOURCES

“Your responsibilities are your opportunities”

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/OfficeResources.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>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Andrés Roque February 4

Shawn Baker March 8

“It takes a long time to grow young.”  
~~Pablo Picasso