



CanOrators

Communique

CanOrators Toastmasters Club

District 42, Club # 6823

Volume 1, Issue 2
Spring 2004

Executive Team

Immediate Past President

Linda Green

President

Theresa McGarry

VP Education

Judy Mooney/ Rupinder Sidhu

VP Membership

Wendy Fitzpatrick

VP Public Relations

Julie Skibington

Treasurer

Tricia Mulder

Sergeant-At-Arms

Cathy Kennedy

**The CanOrators
Toastmasters Club meets
every Thursday from
12:00pm to 1:00pm**

Room 2813 at EnCana Place
150 – 9th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

Visit us on the web at:
<http://canorators.tripod.com>

"The mission of a Toastmaster club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth"

A Message from the Editor

Ah Spring! The time of year when young people's fancy turns to love and CanOrators' fancies turn to speech contests, and the District 42 Spring Convention!

The club has been very busy since January with a number of things:

- The CanOrators Club Membership Survey
- International Speech and Evaluation Contest
- The Easter Party
- Area 43 and Division J International Speech/Evaluation Contest
- The District 42 Spring Convention

The theme of this year's District 42 Spring Convention was "Your dreams are your possibilities". How have your dreams become possibilities this past quarter? What dreams do you wish to pursue in the next quarter and beyond?

Through our activities over the past few months, we have seen quite a few dreams become possibilities and I know that I have definitely been inspired to make more of my dreams a possibility!

Dare to dream and dare to make your dreams a possibility!

Julie Skibington

Vice President ~ Public Relations



News and Views

Survey results affirm that members are happy overall with the Club ~ Theresa M.

Back in January, club members were asked to complete a member satisfaction survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback on what members think we are doing well, where we need to improve, and what else we could be doing to make our club even better. The key messages were:

Areas of strength:

- Well-run meetings and well-run club
- Attracting new members and making them feel welcome

Areas for improvement:

- End meetings on time
- Members need to push themselves to new challenges
- Fewer emails
- New member pledge seen as ritualistic
- Desire for social events and workshops outside the Thursday meeting

The next steps are for the executive team to discuss the results and develop recommendations for making the club even better. This executive will then pass these recommendations to the incoming executive on July 1, for their consideration.

Thank you for participating in the survey. Your input was very valuable!

Area 43 Contest ~ Judy M.

Thursday April 1st at the Amphitheatre in Encana marked the setting for what proved to be a very exciting Area contest for our club. Speak Easy was the host of the event with pizza being served at 5pm to kick things off. The evaluation contest came first, led by toastmaster Cathy Forsyth of the Speak Easy club. International speech followed with myself serving as the Toastmaster for that event. Stu in International Speech and Nicole in Evaluation swept the slate clean with their first place wins. Congratulations and what a proud moment for our club. Thanks to Theresa, Carolyn, BJ, Judy, Rick and Harvey for coming out to cheer on our contestants. Plaques were presented to both winners by Connie Nischuk the area 43 Governor.

Division J Contest ~ Theresa M.

April 17th was a very exciting day for CanOrators as Stu and Nicole went on to represent the club

They were wildly supported by Judy, Carolyn, BJ, Harvey and Theresa. Nicole's husband, Dan, also came along to cheer her on.

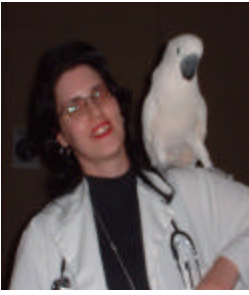
Both Nicole and Stu did a fabulous job of representing us at the contest. They both came in second in their contests.

We are so proud of them!



From left to right: Harvey, Carolyn, Nicole, Stu, Theresa and Judy at the Division J Contest

A Brief Overview of the District 42 Convention ~ Julie S.



**Julie with new friend,
Calypso**

From April 23 to April 25, 2004, I had the privilege of attending the District 42 Spring Convention, entitled "Catch Your Dreams". This was my first Toastmasters Convention and I left feeling very exhausted, but exhilarated at the same time!

Friday night started off with the parade of banners, a delicious buffet dinner, the Candidates Forum and the Dream Off. Attendees of the convention were encouraged to dress up as either a dream or nightmare for the Friday Night dinner. Cathy and I dressed up as career dreams, Cathy as an astronaut and I as a doctor. Judy dared to dream BIG by dressing up as Dolly Parton! Friday night also featured karaoke and I couldn't resist singing a few songs.

Saturday morning featured breakfast at 6:30 am and Linda Hawk was the keynote speaker. Linda's speech centered on how a small town girl could become International Director by taking things one step at a time. She finished her speech with a slide show which coaxed more than a few tears from friends and colleagues.

The International Speech Contest was scheduled directly after the breakfast. I had volunteered as a judge, so I got to hear nine very inspirational speeches about life and rate the speakers. I found this very educational and have learned a lot about what to aspire towards when writing and delivering speeches.

At lunch, we were treated to another keynote speech which was delivered by James K. Gray, this year's recipient of the Communications and Leadership Award. James delivered a wonderful speech about how to catch your dreams and about the great work he has done for the community at large. Saturday night featured the District Governor's Banquet/Dance, which was wonderful.

On Sunday, I attended the Speech Evaluation Contest as a judge and once again learned a lot about evaluations and what to watch for from our nine excellent contestants. After the contest, we were treated to a buffet brunch, where the incoming District Governor, Mavis Oberding, delivered her inaugural speech and introduced next year's theme: *Toastmasters: Changing lives one person at a time!* I had a wonderful time and look forward to attending the District 42 Fall Conference in November!

On Being a School Speaking Contest Judge ~ Stu S.

On March 26 I had the privilege of judging a speaking contest for grade 6&7 students. The level of poise and confidence demonstrated by the 11 class winners that competed was astonishing! Topics included: Racism, Castles, Football, the Taj Mahal, Disneyland and Planets. You should have heard the crowd when Tyler was comparing planets; with perfect comedic timing he described Pluto to be extremely cold and blue....much like Uranus!

First place went to Karrin on the strength of her story and her impeccable timing and delivery. Her personality shone through with about 2 million candle watt power as she mathematically proved that Santa Claus could not exist. Second place went to Meagan who explained what our parents *really* do for us. At 11 years old, her presentation and polish were so unbelievable; you would have thought she was an accomplished toastmaster with years of experience! Third place went to Kianna, she entertained us with a story of how gross it would be to take care of babies and toddlers as she described their diapers, boogers and other nasty habits in all their gory detail.

Thanks to Toastmasters, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the 3 hours I spent there that day. It was inspirational and moved me to volunteer at my daughter's school to start a speaking program.



**Judy Parton made a
special appearance at this
year's District 42 Spring
convention!**

Announcements

Congratulations to Bertha O. on her recent retirement!

The Club would like to wish Linda G. a speedy recovery

*Do you have special news that you would like to share with the club?
Please contact Julie S. with the information you would like published.*

Upcoming Events

Thursday May 27, 2004 –
Club Officer Elections

Saturday June 12, 2004 –
Bow Valley TM 50th
anniversary, Blackfoot Inn.
Gwyn Morgan is the keynote
speaker

Picture Highlights ~ Easter 2004



Club President, Theresa, is a distinguished Easter Bunny



Stu and Nicole are appropriately honoured after taking first place in the Area 43 Speech and Evaluation Contests. Congratulations!



Sergeant at Arms, Cathy, is in the Easter spirit!

Member Milestones ~ Spring 2004



Julie – CTM (April)

BJ – CTM (Pending)

Welcome New Members! (Since January 2004)

Stu S., Lisa R., Jane O., Marilyn D

Goodbye Departing Members...we'll miss you! (Since January 2004)

Blanche F., Margaret G., Marbella P., Rodney S., Paul W., Sara Y.