



Cleveland Connection

Cleveland Toastmasters Club #351

Fall 2011

Edited by Liza Heinig, VP-PR Volume 2 Issue 1

Our Mission Statement

The mission of a Toastmasters 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.

Cleveland Club #351 2011-2012 Officers

General Club Information

ClevelandToastmasters@gmail.com
<http://cleveland.freetoasthost.org>

President

Mary Kay Bilczo
440.785.3471
marykay.bilczo@ssd.com

VP of Education

Tom Greiner
216.696.7170
TJJGreiner@forbes-fields.com

VP of Membership

Tiffany Schleich
216.526.7195
tschleich1012@yahoo.com

VP of Public Relations

Liza Heinig
202.423.3144
lizaheinig@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gary Fishman
216.621.9181

Secretary

David Blanchard

Sergeant At Arms

Audrey Spuhler

Contests... Contests... Contests...



Speech contest, **MIKE MACZUZAK** was the lone participant. He spoke about the companionship of cats, and then of women. It was a wide-ranging and very entertaining speech.

Kudos to first-time Contestmaster **MATT LAWLER**, and first-time Chief Judge **WILL TARTER**. They each performed their roles with class. Thanks to all who helped out by performing roles at our club contest—invocator **EBONI DAMMONS**, timers **DAWN TARKA** and **WESLEY POON**, ballot counter **TRACY HOLLIMON**, and sergeant-at-arms **WARD PIERSON**. Thanks, also, to our judges, who must remain anonymous.

Contestmaster **MATT LAWLER** (right) congratulates Table Topics club contest winner **TOM GREINER**

By Jerry Masek and Liza Heinig

Our regular meeting routine took a week off on Thursday, September 29 for the fall contests for Table Topics and Humorous Speeches.

With "reputation" as the target word in Table Topics, **TOM GREINER** edged out **JERRY FALCON**. Two other planned contestants—**MARY KAY BILCZO** and **AUSTIN MCGUAN**—had last-minute conflicts and were not able to compete.

In the Humorous

Area 51 Governor **DAMEKA NICKERSON** was on hand to congratulate the winners and to prepare us for the Area Contest, held in the Case Western Reserve Auditorium on the ninth floor of Key Tower on Tues-

(Continued on page 2)

Your club wants to hear about YOU!!! Please don't forget to share your news! If you have any announcements or milestones, please contact Liza Heinig.

(Continued from page 1) - Contest results

day, October 4. In addition to **TOM GREINER** (Table Topics) and **MIKE MACZUZAK** (Humorous Speech) representing our club, our own **STEVE HILTON** competed in Table Topics as the representative for his dual-membership Keycommunicators club.



We were proud of all three gentlemen, who excelled at the Area Contest. **MIKE** won the Humorous Speech Contest and **STEVE** and **TOM** came in first and second, respectively, in the Table Topics Contest. Thanks, too, to Keycommunicators for hosting such a nice get together.



(l to r: **MIKE MACZUZAK**, Area 51 Governor Dameka Nickerson, **TOM GREINER**, District 10 Lt. Gov. of

Training and Education Deonna Moore, and **STEVE HILTON**)

STEVE HILTON and **MIKE MACZUZAK** will now advance to the Northern Division contest from 6-8 p.m. November 1 at the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute, 9620 Carnegie Ave. (parking validation available). More info on this contest available at <http://www.district10.org>.

Division winners advance to the District 10 contest at the fall conference November 19 in Westlake. **WILL TARTER** will have the great honor of serving as Contestmaster at the District 10 Table Topics contest.

Congratulations to all of our contestants and best wishes to those advancing in competition!

A Message From Our President

By Mary Kay Bilczo

T

hese things happen....
Ah, a little saying that

my Grandma used to say when the unanticipated occurs and you need to simply deal with the situation at hand. Generally, it was a kitchen-related incident that drew her consternation, but unplanned events occur every day for each of us.



Every week, our steadfast Vice President of Education, **TOM GREINER**, diligently plans the weekly agenda and forecasts the next several weeks. Our Vice President of Public Relations,

LIZA HEINIG, organizes, formats, and circulates the weekly agenda. Both of these responsibilities require dedication and time. Both **LIZA** and **TOM** field changes to each week's agenda as our members' plans change. These things happen...

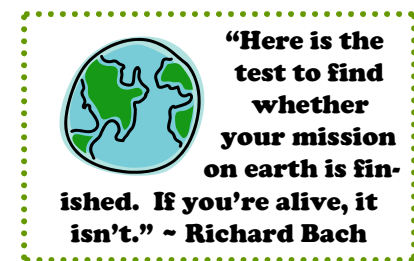
During our weekly meeting time, generally last-minute role substitutions and adjustments are required. Each week you, our club members, simply deal with the situation at hand and guarantee the meeting will go on. It all comes together for each meeting, just as it should.

We can diligently plan to attend our weekly club meetings, but sometimes other responsibilities take precedence and we may miss the opportunity to fulfill our scheduled role. These things happen...

But it is magic; the meetings occur without issue and you, our valued

members, step in and take on roles or contribute where needed, sometimes even without being asked. Naturally, "proper planning prevents poor performance"—as the axiom puts it—but these things happen and we roll with it and adapt. Sometimes our regular meeting room is unavailable (without notice) and we have to make a mad dash to new room. Teamwork steps in and we carry on with our meeting regardless of the obstacles which seem to stand in our way.

Thank you for making each meeting a genuinely great meeting! It's you—our club members—who make our club so GREAT!!!



On the Lighter Side

Q. How do you communicate with a fish?
A. You drop it a line.

If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.

A man walks into a diner and

snarls, "Do you serve crabs here?"
The server replied, "Yes, sit right down."



Two peanuts were walking down the street; and one was a salted.

Q. What do you call a fish with no eyes? A. FSH.

Planning WAY Ahead...

JERRY MASEK informs us that the 2013 Toastmaster International Convention will be held in Cincinnati. It may not be this close to Cleveland again for a long time and this site gives us Ohioans a chance to easily attend a spectacular event. The convention is usually held in mid- to late August—details will be announced as the date nears.

Family Corner

We are thrilled to celebrate some happy occasions in our Toastmasters family!



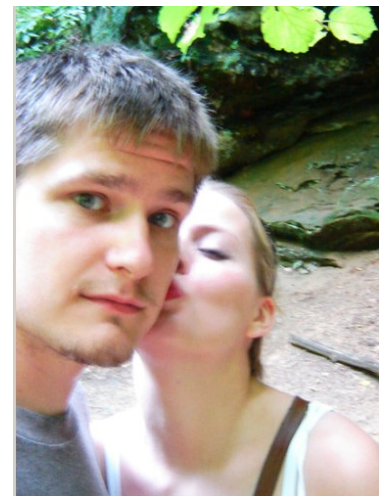
STACY CONTE welcomed Christian Peter (above) on June 7. Christian weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. According to Stacy earlier this summer: "Christian is growing so fast, already up to 13 pounds now. He has learned to laugh and really enjoys playing piano on the iPad. He also enjoys watching

his mobile. The last eleven weeks have gone by so quickly."

TERRY HUA and his family had a new addition as well—Sean H. Hua (below) was born September 12. Sean weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz.



In her speech at our July 21 meeting, **LIZA HEINIG** announced that she and her husband are expecting twins around the end of the year. **LIZA** appreciates everyone's kind wishes at this happy time.



The beautiful weather perfectly set the scene for the September 17 wedding of **BRIAN MILLIFF** and **AUDREY SPUHLER** (above). According to **BRIAN**: "We have hastily cashed in 2 weeks of vacation time and are planning to pack up her car and head to Savannah Georgia. Our 'plan' is to take advantage of modern GPS technology and see what else catches our eye along the way. (Charlotte, Nashville, etc) We may not even get to Savannah! That's about as far as our plans take us. We look forward to returning to Toastmasters with a full tank of 'table topics' and 'speech' ideas!" Congrats to the happy couple!

Summer Party

By Liza Heinig

A beautiful early fall day greeted those who gathered at the home of Scott and **LIZA**

HEINIG on Saturday, September 10 for our annual Summer Party. Despite wet weather earlier in the day, by party time the sun was shining and the yard games and cookout beckoned all of the participants.

Special thanks to **MARY KAY BILCZO** and **MATT LAWLER** for bringing their cornhole games and to everyone who took the time to make and bring so many tasty potluck treats. Scott Heinig manned the grill with aplomb, and everyone enjoyed the relaxed setting, good food, and lively conversation.



“Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.”

—Emily Bronte



Toastmasters Around Town

Everywhere you go there is a Cleveland Toastmaster!

JERRY MASEK entered a recent photo contest sponsored by the Downtown Cleveland Alliance (DCA). He did not win, but his photo (shown below) and others will be displayed on the Dollar Bank LED board on East Ninth Street at the Galleria. The photo was taken at CSU. **JERRY** plans to present a manual speech on photography to our club later this year.

Cleveland Toastmasters are everywhere!!!



almost 2 years now. I will start work as a Sr. Consultant for Stone Crossing Solutions. I will be working out in the Valley View area.” We wish **WARD** the best in his new position and are looking forward to having him attend our meetings as his job duties allow.

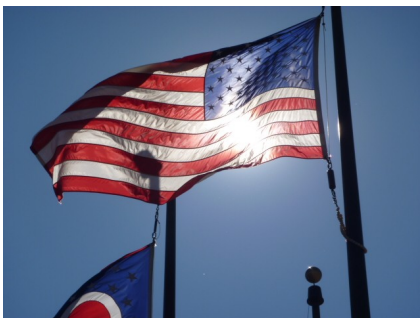
On the move: **WARD PIERSON** let us know over the summer that: “I have now officially left the City of Cleveland where I have worked for

KRISTAL DICARLO, a Past International Director who has helped many Toastmasters, has moved to Georgia to accept a new job. Her counsel will be missed by many in District 10. While she is not a member of our club, she is well-known in the area and our best wishes go with her to Georgia.

Fall Club Contest chairman **JERRY MASEK** has now completed all Competent Leadership requirements. Congratulations **JERRY!**

Congratulations are also due to **AUSTIN MCGUAN**, who completed the requirements for his Competent Communicator award with a very moving “reverse icebreaker” speech about his Toastmasters journey at our October 6 meeting. Great job, **AUSTIN!**

LIZA HEINIG was a guest lecturer on patent, trademark, and copyright law to a class of undergraduate engineering students at Case Western Reserve University on October 11. She has become a regular speaker on the topic to many types of audiences and is seeking additional opportunities to present this material. Please contact **LIZA** if your group would find this topic of interest.



Icebreaker Conquerors

The following Cleveland Toastmasters have completed their Icebreaker speech and are ready to proceed through the CC manual:

WARD PIERSON	23 JUNE 2011
JERRY FALCON	7 JULY 2011
ANTHONY BUEHRER	21 APRIL 2011
WESLEY POON	8 SEPT 2011
TRACI HOLLIMAN	29 SEPT 2011

Congratulations to all!



Once you face your Icebreaker, the following speeches are so much easier!

Remember, your Icebreaker is the gateway to becoming a better speaker!

Report on Bylaws Update

By Austin McGuan

Now that the dust has settled from our Club's Bylaws review and amendment process, I thought that I would take this opportunity to bring you the back story of the process that led to adoption of our amended Bylaws in May of this year.

At the request of our esteemed former President **LIZA HEINIG**, I agreed to chair a committee comprised of volunteers from the Club who were interested in reviewing and proposing amendments to our Bylaws. Fortunately, many able Club members stepped forward to serve as Bylaws Committee members, bringing their diverse perspectives. Once constituted, the Committee consisted of **MIKE MACZUZAK, DAVID BLANCHARD, STEVE HILTON, AUDREY SPUHLER, MARY KAY BILCZO, TOM GREINER, JERRY MASEK**, and myself.

Before the Committee began its work, it was noted that Toastmas-

ters International only had incomplete forms of our Bylaws and Constitution, with no evidence of our Club's adoption of either document, on file. Without official, adopted Bylaws and a Constitution on file with Toastmasters International, the Committee decided that it would start from scratch with the incomplete form Bylaws and Constitution and propose "amendments" to those documents, as necessary.



Although the Committee initially endeavored to review and amend both the Bylaws and Constitution, conforming both documents to our Club's customs and set up, we quickly found that any amendment to the Constitution was beyond the Committee's scope. Although the standard form Constitution, which is the same for all Toastmasters clubs,

contains many provisions irrelevant to our Club and its strong traditions, it is the Constitution that we are expected to follow—unless or until the Club decides to take it up with Toastmasters International, through the lengthy, difficult, and costly amendment process for that document.

Ultimately, the Committee turned its attention to reviewing and proposing amendments solely to the Bylaws. Unlike the Constitution, the Bylaws may be tweaked by individual Toastmasters clubs in certain respects to meet individual club's circumstances and preferences by filling in blanks or picking among different options. Two obstacles, however, limited what could be changed in the Bylaws: (1) the Constitution (i.e., nothing in the Bylaws can contradict the Constitution); and (2) to become official, the Bylaws must be filed with Toastmasters International through an online interface that provides only fields for entering information (i.e., the information must

(Continued on page 6)

The District Web site, www.district10.org, lists all the area and division speech contests and conferences.

(Continued from page 5) - Bylaws Update

comply with what may entered into the field and/or be within a character limitation). During the course of two meetings at our Club's unofficial off-campus meeting site, [Erie Island Coffee Co.](#), the Committee discussed each provision of the Bylaws and selected among the presented alternatives or filled in the blanks on the form Bylaws, as we deemed appropriate for our Club. Given our Club's long tradition and the Committee's desire to respond to some members' specific concerns, the Committee also proposed a few additional provisions, outside of the fill-in-the-blank framework, which the Committee nevertheless believed should be a part of the Bylaws.

Following two in-person meetings, and a number of email discussions regarding the proposed Bylaws that the Committee drafted, the Committee distributed an initial draft to the Club for review and comment. The Committee received much thoughtful feedback on this initial draft of the Bylaws. After discussing the comments and edits that we received, the Committee incorporated much of that feedback into a second, near-final draft of the Bylaws that was distributed to the Club via email. At our May 12 meeting, I formally proposed, on behalf of the Committee, the amended Bylaws to the Club membership for consideration at the May 19 annual business meeting, in accordance with the procedures established by the "existing" Bylaws. On May 19, the Club adopted the amended Bylaws—and officially adopted the Constitution—by a majority vote, occurring at a meeting where a quorum was present, again, in accordance with the procedures established in the Bylaws.

All done, right? Not quite. The Bylaws required that one last step occur before the amended Bylaws could become effective: filing with Toastmas-

ters International. **LIZA HEINIG**, as President of the Club at the time and in the absence of the Secretary, "filed" the amended Bylaws with Toastmasters International, through the online database on Toastmasters International's website, for a very twenty-first century ending to our long Bylaws review and amendment process!



Although our Club now has adopted Bylaws and a Constitution in place, the hard work is far from over. One of the many extraordinary things about our Club is that it offers numerous methods of teaching about public speaking and leadership. Just as I found an opportunity to grow and learn from serving as chair of the Bylaws Committee, the Bylaws themselves and the requirement that we work within those Bylaws provides an opportunity to learn and grow. My hope for our Club going forward is that we are an organization that adheres to and works within our Bylaws and Constitution, giving meaning to the words contained in those documents.

Much gratitude and praise should be offered to all of the Bylaws Committee members for the time and effort that they invested in and the professional manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the Bylaws review process. We are fortunate to have members like them who not only have varying talents but also care so much about our Club that they were willing to dedicate their time to the successful completion of this project.



"Adults are always asking children what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas."

—Paula Poundstone

District 10 Conference

W

ill you be there? Our

District Conference will be Saturday, November 19 at the Holiday Inn Westlake. In addition to the Fall District Humorous Speech and Table Topics contests—**WILL TARTER** will be Contestmaster at the latter—there will be a jam-packed day of seminars, sessions, and Toastmaster fun! For sign-up information, go to <http://www.district10.org/conferences>

Dues Increase

T

oastmasters International announced

that annual membership dues will increase from \$54 to \$72, payable in increments of \$36 every six months, effective with the 1 October 2011 dues half-year. Cleveland Club #351 local dues remain at \$6 per half-year, for a total half-yearly amount of \$42 each renewal. The new member fee of \$20 (imposed by Toastmasters International) has not changed. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TI-dues-FAQ>

Rebranding Initiative

By Liza Heinig

You may have noticed a slightly “different” look to our front page this issue of the newsletter. At the International Convention on 18 August 2011, Toastmasters International introduced a new set of logos and other Toastmaster brand materials.

Clubs are expected to use the new logo going forward and to transition to the new logo as new materials are obtained.

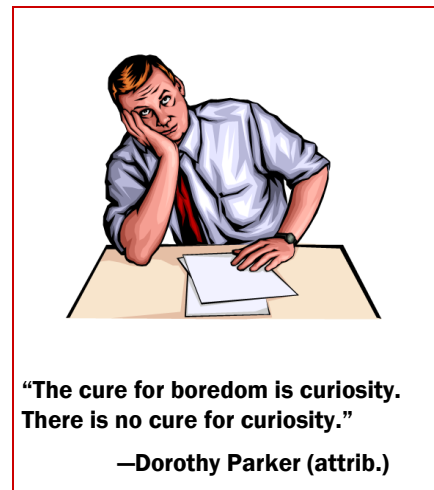
However, the old logo is permitted on existing materials, which should be updated as funds and time allow.



(old logo, left)



(new logo, right)



“The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.”

—Dorothy Parker (attrib.)

Distinguished Club Progress

By Liza Heinig

Cleveland Club #351 earned the Distinguished Club Award from Toastmasters International for 2010-2011. **DANIEL REX**, Executive Director of Toastmasters International, sent us this message on August 1:

“Congratulations! Your club has earned the Distinguished Club award for its achievements in the 2010-2011 Toastmasters International Distinguished Club Program.

We appreciate the tremendous effort your club made to achieve this award. Club officers and members worked closely as a team to meet Distinguished Club Program goals. Officers organized and conducted exciting club meetings, made sure all members had plenty of speaking and leadership opportunities and promoted membership growth. Members, in turn, pre-

pared carefully for meeting assignments, earned educational awards and invited friends, relatives and co-workers to meetings to help build membership. Because of everyone's efforts, the club achieved the Toastmasters club mission.

A banner ribbon emblazoned with the designation your club has earned will be sent to you. If any of your club's officers attend the Toastmasters International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, I invite them to attend the Hall of Fame program on Thursday August 18 at 9 a.m. The 2010-2011 President's Distinguished Clubs are recognized during the Hall of Fame program.

Again, on behalf of Toastmasters International, I congratulate you. We hope your club continues its success and commitment to excellence this year.”

Let's take **DANIEL'S** words to heart and concentrate on pursuing our individual and club goals throughout the 2011-2012 Toastmasters year!

DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM STATUS

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
CCs	2	1	
Additional CCs	2	0	
ACs	1	0	
Additional ACs	1	0	
CL, AL, or DTM	1	1	
Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	0	
New Members	4	2	
Additional New Members	4	0	
Officers Trained (both sessions are required)			
June-August	4	6	
December-February	4	0	
Submitted the following items on time (both items required)			
October/April Renewal	1	1	
Officer List	1	0	
TOTAL GOALS ACHIEVED TO-DATE:			

“No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible”

—Stanislaw Jerzy Lee

