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Send comments or ideas to flash@tmd55.org

September-October 2005

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What's in YOUR Wallet!

—by Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM, District 55 Governor

If you've seen the humorous Capital One Credit Card commercials touting the benefits of having a Capital One credit card, you know at the end of the commercials, actor David Spade says, "What's in your wallet?"

John Maxwell, in his book, "Developing the Leader Within You" explains in a chapter about transferring a leader's vision to his masses that people carry pictures of other people and things they love.

Metaphorically, it is easy to find people's passions by looking in their wallets.

What would we find in your Toastmasters wallet if we were to take a peek? Would we see that every speech given at your club is a manual speech? Would we see you've taken on the task of serving as a club officer? Would we see you making plans to serve as an Area Governor, or perhaps working your way toward District Governor?

Maybe we would find the same "pocket" speech you give every opportunity you have. Maybe we'd find you sitting on the sidelines at your club meetings, deciding not to serve as a club officer. Perhaps we would see a dusty advanced manual with a few speech ideas penciled in and no completed speeches signed off on by your Vice President Education.

What is my point? All of us joined our Toastmasters club for a particular reason. Our passion lies behind part of

that reason. Did you want to become a better speaker or leader? Did you want to seek a promotion at work and saw Toastmasters as an avenue for advancement? Did you want to network with other members who also want to better themselves?

Whatever the reason, that is "what's in your Toastmasters wallet!" I encourage you to reflect on why you joined your club and rekindle that passion, reaffirming those reasons for yourself once again.

None of us suddenly becomes something overnight. The preparations have been in the making for a lifetime.

—Gail Godwin, novelist

Our educational and leadership programs are as effective as you want them to be. I usually say that when I am selling someone on the benefits of

Toastmasters. My

Toastmasters friend, Clark Lyman, once said that if you take a check to the bank for \$5, the teller gives you \$5. If you take a check to the bank for \$5,000, you get \$5,000 back.

Our programs are the same way. If you study your speech objectives and put time, thought, and practice into your manual speeches you are going to gain immensely from the experience. If you prepare your speech on the way to the meeting, and only glance at the speech objectives, you haven't gotten everything you could from the experience.

Our theme this year falls along these same lines—"Building on Our Successes, Focusing on Our Dreams." Remember the successes you had at your

club meeting the first time you felt confident answering a table topics question, or the exhilaration you felt to get your evaluation from your Ice Breaker speech?

Remember when your club put together its Club Success Plan, and it ended the year with more accomplished than you set out to? Our theme implores us to celebrate those old successes by setting new goals and focusing on the higher goals of our dreams.

Write down on a piece of paper what your passion is for your Toastmasters membership. Reflect on the successes you've had by writing down your accomplishments in your club. Then, set a course to get from your past successes to your future goals. Keep this journal entry where you can review it regularly. When someone asks, "What's in your Toastmasters wallet?" you'll know what your Toastmasters passion is, and you'll

know where you are on the road to accomplishing your dreams.

In my Toastmasters wallet is a vision of healthy clubs--community and company, open and closed, new and established. In my Toastmasters wallet, I see members who have gained so much from their club that they can't wait to serve as Club President, as Area Governor, as Lt. Governor, or even as District Governor. In my Toastmasters wallet is a District of successful clubs that have had their officers trained, completed their Club Success Plans, and are meeting the needs of their members by completing CTMs, ATMs. CLs, ALs, and DTMs.

Building on Our Successes, Focusing on Our Dreams!

—Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM, District 55 Governor

Plans For Building A Quality Club

—by Atheria Scott, DTM, Lt.-Governor Education & Training

Are you on track for achieving Distinguished Club status by June 30, 2006? The Building a Quality Club Plan is designed to help your Club reach its goals! Just like an architect uses plans for a supportive foundation, use this Plan to support your club's goals.

If your Club will be participating in the Building a Quality Club Plan, please **notify Atheria Scott**, DTM, Lt. Gov. Education & Training, **by October 27** (send e-mail to <mailto:lget@tmd55.org>). For information about the program, visit our Web site www.tmd55.org.

Resource Spotlight—Save Time Online

Did you submit the dues on time?

Did you remember to submit that CTM application?

Don't worry; just check it on the Internet! From the District 55 main (home) page, **you're a click away from reports on Educational Achievements, Dues Renewals, and more!** (It's all from the most current data processed by Toastmasters International).

[Click here to Save Time On Line](http://tmd55.org/)

(or go to <http://tmd55.org/>)

One Step Away To Your “CL” Award

—by Atheria Scott, DTM, Lt.-Governor Education & Training

Did you know that if you...

- received your CTM Award (Competent Toastmaster),
- served at least six months as a Club officer AND, while an officer, participated in the preparation of a Club Success Plan,
- attended a District-sponsored Club officer training session, and
- presented any two speeches from the Successful Club Series and/or the Leadership Excellence Series (may NOT be those completed for any previous award), then

You are eligible to receive your Competent Leadership Award (CL)! Most officers need only to complete that last requirement to fulfill the CL criteria.

Doing so is your first step in the Leadership Track! Your time has come! Step up to the next level in your development as a Leader!

BONUS: Earning your CL also supports your club in achieving its goals for Distinguished Club Status.

So sign your L.O.T.T.O. ticket and we can celebrate your CL! (What's L.O.T.T.O., you ask. Read the "[Did you get your L.O.T.T.O. Tickets?](#)" article in this newsletter.)

Exercise Your Club's Voting Rights!

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.” Alice Walker, an American author best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Color Purple*, probably didn't have in mind a Toastmasters District 55 club member when she penned that quotation. However, her thoughts are, in fact, applicable to the democratic process known as **the District 55 Business Meeting**.

Our District Constitution and By-Laws require us to participate in a democratic process whereby the business of the District is approved by members of the District Council. On Saturday, October 29, in Round Rock, Texas, District Council members will vote on the appointment of Area Governors and Division Governors (appointed by the District Governor), and review and approve the District budget along with other business conducted twice a year by the District.

Each **club's President and Vice President Education are**, by virtue of their offices, **members of the District Council**, and it is imperative that these members represent the 130 clubs in District 55 at the District Council meeting. While most members, when they think of the District Council, envision only officers like the District Governor, an Area Governor, a Division Governor, or even a District Treasurer. But in fact, **the heart of the Council membership lies in** the Presidents and Vice Presidents who represent their **clubs**. While District Officers represent the District to the International organization, District Officers wouldn't have any business to conduct if it

weren't for the club members. The District Business Meeting will be:

October 29, 2005 (Saturday)
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Austin Marriott North
La Frontera Rooms III and IV
2600 La Frontera Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78681

It's important to attend this Business Meeting even if you aren't attending the District Conference. Please arrive (early) to check in and pick up your ballots (we promise no chads!) at the Credentials Desk. Checking in is very important to determine if a quorum is present (required to conduct business).

There will be major [road construction](#) on the roads in front of the Marriott that weekend, so we recommend that you anticipate delays in traveling to the hotel.

As an incentive for arriving early, **International Director Nancy Starr-Cassidy** will be presenting her “Toastmasters 101” General Session just prior to the meeting.

What if your club's President and/or Vice President Education cannot attend? They can send club members on their behalf (proxies). The officers must sign a [proxy form](#), which the member (or members) must present at the Credentials table at the conference before the Business Meeting begins. With the proxy, the member(s) can vote on behalf of the club for the two District Council members. There is a copy of the [proxy form](#) at the end of this newsletter and on the [District 55 Web site \(www.tmd55.org/\)](#).

Whether you are a member of the District Council—Presidents, Vice Presidents Education, Area Governors, Division Governors, District Governor, District Secretary, and District Treasurer—or you are holding a proxy representing your club, when you arrive at the conference please come directly to the Credentials table. Credentials Chairman Harry Truman and his committee members will assist you through the process of signing in to receive your ballots.

IMPORTANT: The Credentials table closes at 3:30 p.m. (30 minutes before the meeting begins).

Make sure you pick up a copy of the District Budget, Area Governor and Division Governor Appointments, and

any other information the committee has for your review. These items will be voted on by the District Council members at the meeting on Saturday afternoon. Anyone with active membership in a District 55 club is invited to attend the meeting, however, only those with ballots will be recognized by the Presiding Officer.

Please make sure your club's voice is heard by making plans to attend the District Business Meeting on Saturday, October 29. If you have questions about proxies or other business related to the District Business Meeting, please contact Credentials Chairman Harry Truman or District Governor Elizabeth Sprecher at dg@tmd55.org.

Did you get your L.O.T.T.O. Tickets?

Lots Of Toastmasters Talking Openly (L.O.T.T.O.) is a commitment card for every member to sign. On it, each person commits to educational goals (of their choice) to be accomplished **between now and May 6, 2006**. This L.O.T.T.O. ticket is designed like a raffle ticket. You keep the commitment card (which has a number), then tear off a portion (perforated) to be entered in a drawing: \$25 gift certificates award at our 2006 Spring Conference.

You **must be present to win**. Need L.O.T.T.O. tickets? Contact your Area Governor, Division Governor, or Atheria Scott, DTM, Lt. Governor Education & Training, at www.lget@tmd55.org.

Help Wanted

- **Conference Helpers** needed for registration, promotion, contests, signs, donations, and other tasks; contact Jennifer Grube (512-340-9960), Dee Mickelson (512-491-9799), or send e-mail to fallconf@tmd55.org.
- **Web Page Suggestions** for content, links, or anything you may want to see on the site; contact Bob Dashman (webmaster@tmd55.org).

TM Word Puzzle

How many of these words and abbreviations can you find and circle?

* For newer members, these are abbreviations for Advanced Leader (AL), Advanced Toastmasters (ATM), Competent Leader (CL), Competent Toastmaster (CTM), and Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM).

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. AL* | 7. Distinguished |
| 2. ATM* | 8. District |
| 3. CL* | 9. DTM* |
| 4. Club plan (as one word) | 10. Members |
| 5. Conference | 11. Renewals |
| 6. CTM* | 12. Training |

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| X | I | U | N | Y | L | E | N | E | W | L | Z |
| T | R | N | I | G | R | L | S | L | A | U | X |
| D | S | E | N | R | O | N | F | W | I | B | A |
| T | T | X | I | L | A | N | E | V | O | P | A |
| M | U | G | A | B | C | N | C | I | O | L | W |
| T | D | S | R | J | E | K | B | C | R | A | L |
| D | I | S | T | R | I | C | T | Y | U | N | U |
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| C | N | O | I | M | M | E | M | B | E | R | S |
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| E | U | X | E | R | I | E | U | E | P | A | K |
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District Achievements: YOUR Successes!

As of October 8, 2005, **YOU** earned these educational honors:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM)..... | 2 |
| Competent Toastmasters (CTMs)..... | 34 |
| Advanced Toastmaster (ATMs)..... | 13 |
| Bronze | 7 |
| Silver | 4 |
| Gold..... | 2 |
| Competent Leader (CL) | 11 |
| Advanced Leader (AL) | 2 |

Vice Presidents Education: Be sure to submit educational achievements as soon as possible after members complete them. [Save time, do them on line!](#)

Congratulations and Celebrations!

Former District Governor Recognized

The Social Security Administration, Office of Communications, presented **Anna Lopez** (Brownsville, Texas) a national award for outstanding service providing clear communication on Social Security issues to members of the public and media. This Citation represents the highest recognition in communications within the agency. Anna is a past Toastmasters District 55 Governor (2001-2002).

New Clubs

312 Toastmasters, Austin (August 15, 2005)
Grill Masters Club, San Antonio (September 26, 2005)

New DTMs

Ken Estes, Armadillo Avenue Club (August 1, 2005)
Vondakaye Dashman, Lone Star Leaders (September 1, 2005)

Happy Anniversaries!

In 2005, these Toastmasters are celebrating their anniversaries as members.

35 Years

Howard Baker, Balcones, Austin

30 Years

Edward Dylla, DTM, Business-Professional, San Antonio
Norris Yates, DTM, Business-Professional, San Antonio
Art Finston, ATM, Mid-Valley, Harlingen

20 Years

Alan Cirlin, DTM, Slick Talkers, San Antonio
Ira Garrett, ATM, Universal City, San Antonio
Dave Stamper, ATM, Talk of the Tower, San Antonio
Lee Maulding, CTM, Get Up And Go, Austin
Conley Giles, CL, Austin, Austin

15 Years

Thomas Pardue, ATM, Business-Professional, San Antonio
Debi Sigrest, ATM-B, Today, Austin
Carl Hensley, ATM, North San Antonio, San Antonio
Dale Kohler, ATM, Austintatious, Austin
Anton Rozsypal, CTM, Austintatious, Austin
Desi Mora, ATM-S, Austintatious, Austin
Lark Doley, DTM, Today, Austin
Steve Geunther, CTM, Talk of the Tower, San Antonio
Yolanda Solis, CTM, Speakeasy, San Antonio
Joann Oldenwelder, ATM, Morrow Street Irregs, Austin
Yvette Scott, ATM-B, Morrow Street Irregs, Austin

10 Years

Nadine Berger, CTM, SABOR, San Antonio
Sam Bloom, Balcones, Austin
Bo Whiteaker, CTM, Highroller, Austin
Albert Cantara, ATM-B, Capital City, Austin
Donald Schoch, DTM, New Braunfels, New Braunfels
Gloria Teegardin, ATM-B, Downtown, San Antonio
Albert Escobedo, ATM-B, USAA Bank, San Antonio
Thomas Rosol, ATM-S, Business-Professional, San Antonio
Gloria Williams, DTM, Toastmasters of the Universe, San Antonio
Norman Fischer, West Austin I, Austin
Stephen Anderson, ATM-S, Southside Evening, Corpus
April Nicolay-Bliss, CTM, IBM, Austin
Anthony Reyna, ATM-S, Business-Professional, San Antonio
William Berry, ATM-B, Kerville Area, Kerville
Mark Goulet, Get Up And Go, Austin
Byron Marsales, ATM-B, Austin, Austin

Congratulations to all of you on this significant milestone!

Calendar

Also view and search for events on the [District 55 Calendar](http://www.tmd55.org) (www.tmd55.org).

September 2005

- Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests – Area and Division Levels
- Division Council Meetings

30 Deadline for the Smedley Award (August 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005)

October 2005

1 Club Dues Renewals due to Toastmasters International

1 Division H Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests
Resurrection Baptist Church
1002 Live Oak Rd., Schertz (near San Antonio), TX
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

15 Division K and L Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contests
Elks Lodge
700 Dawson Road
Austin, TX
Division L Contest from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM followed by
Division K Contest from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

27 Building Quality Club Plan participants to notify Atheria Scott, Lt. Gov.
Education & Training

28-30 District 55 Conference; District Table Topics Contest
Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera, Round Rock, TX

29 Humorous Speech Contest; District Business Meeting (Austin Marriott North)

30 Area Governors' Club Visit Reports Due to District Governor

November 2005

- Club Officer Elections and Training

District 55 Fall 2005 Conference

The section provides a brief summary of conference information. Find more details in the conference brochure at the [District 55 Web site](http://www.tmd55.org/conference.htm) (www.tmd55.org/conference.htm).

Summary Conference Schedule

October 28 (Friday)

- Table Topics Contest
- Costume Contest
- Toastmaster Air Guitar/Lip-Sync Showcase (please bring your own CD)

October 29 (Saturday)

- District Executive Committee Meeting
6:45 AM to 8:00 AM
La Frontera I and II
Breakfast Provided
This meeting is only **for voting members of the District Executive Committee** and those invited to attend by the District Governor.
- District 55 Business Meeting
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
La Frontera III and IV
Open to all members; however, at this meeting, **Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education (or their proxy holders)** should be present for voting. If not attending the conference, these officers or proxies must **pick up ballots at the Credentials desk by 3:30 p.m.** in order to cast votes.
- Breakfast (on your own); Keynote Speaker
- Educational Sessions
- Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon
- Humorous Speech Contest

Special Prizes

Road-Trip Reward! The Club traveling the farthest to the conference wins this prize!

Traveling in Packs! The Club with the highest percentage of members in attendance (full conference registrations) wins this prize!



Conference Registration Form

There's no doubt about it...District 55: We Rock! Toastmasters from all over central and south Texas will convene on the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock, Texas, Friday, October 28 through Saturday, October 29, for a ROCKIN' GOOD TIME-TOASTMASTERS STYLE. Don't miss the fellowship, fun, competition and educational opportunities offered by District 55.

♪ Friday Night – Release Your Inner Rock Star Costume Contest and Table Topics Contest

♪ Saturday Night – Humorous Speech Contest and Post Contest Entertainment.

♪ Interesting educational sessions sure to enhance your communication and leadership skills

♪ Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon

♪ Events for “First-Timers”

♪ And much more!

District 55 Fall 2005 Conference Registration October 28-30, 2005 Round Rock Marriott, Round Rock, Texas

___ \$114 Full Registration (all activities, educational sessions, meals)

A La Carte Registration

___\$25 Educational Sessions only

___\$30 Table Topics Contest AND Friday Night Fun

___\$35 Saturday Awards Luncheon

___\$40 Saturday Dinner AND Humorous Speech Contest

Contest Only (no meal) ___ \$15 for one contest or ___ \$25 for both contests

\$ ___ Total (Please enclose your check for this amount, payable to District 55 Toastmasters)

Complete one registration form for each person registering:

Name: _____ Toastmasters Designation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Club Name: _____ Club Office: _____

This is my first District 55 Conference! ___ Yes ___ No

Yes, I will help!

___ Promotion

___ Contests

___ Signs

___ Registration

___ Donations

___ Wherever you need!

Mail to: Jennifer Grube, District 55 Toastmasters 5217 Old Spicewood Springs Rd. #2305, Austin, TX 78731

Hotel accommodations at Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock, 512-733-6767
Limited rooms available at \$99 per night!

Questions: Contact Jennifer Grube 512-340-9960/jagrube@sbcglobal.net
or Dee Mickelson 512-491-9799 Dee.Mickelson@tlc.state.tx.us



Travel Notice—Detour Around Road Closing

Please allow yourself extra time for traveling to the conference site. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will be closing the road the weekend of the conference, which means a detour around **IH-35 North (Exit 250) near Louis Henna Boulevard**.

From IH-35

- Take Exit 250 (Louis Henna Blvd.) and go up to the second exit after 250 (Hester's Crossing)
- At Hester's Crossing, turn left and follow the detour signs to Marriott on La Frontera.

From Loop 1 (MOPAC) North

- Take Loop 1 North until it becomes State Highway 1325 (at Parmer Lane).
- Continue northbound on Loop 1 (1325) until you get to State Highway 45
- Go straight and you'll see the Marriott on the left.

For help getting to the hotel, contact:

Austin Marriott North
2600 La Frontera Blvd.
Round Rock, TX
Phone: 512-733-6767

Club Proxy Form for District 55
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Exercise your club's voting rights!

Attend your 2005 Fall Conference in Austin on October 28-29, 2005

We need your presence in Austin at the Marriott Hotel, 2600 La Frontera Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78681, October 29th, 2005 in order to have a quorum to conduct the District Business Meeting.

Your Club President and Vice President Education are voting delegates. If you are one of these officers, you are at the right place! We encourage you to visit the Credentials Desk **BEFORE** 3:30 PM on Saturday, October 29th, 2005 to pick up your ballot. The Business Meeting begins promptly at 4:00 PM. If one or both club officers (President or Vice-President Education) cannot attend the conference, the club needs to have a club member carry the voting proxies (see form below) to the business meeting. **Please have your President and/or Vice President of Education SIGN the proxy form below and bring it with you to the Credentials Desk at the conference.**

PLEASE help us have a quorum on October 29th. Your club's votes are important!

CLUB PROXY form for the District 55 Council Business Meeting

I hereby authorize _____, a member in good standing of the _____ Toastmasters, Club # _____, to cast my vote at the District Council Meeting on Saturday, October 28th, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel,

Club President Signature _____

Club Vice President Education Signature _____

(Reproduction of this District Proxy form above **IS** acceptable.
Signature reproduction is **NOT** acceptable. **Signatures must be original.**)

NOTE: A club President or Vice President Education may designate, in writing, any other member of their club to act as the club proxy at the District Council Business Meeting. Members of the District Council or their proxies are entitled to cast one vote. A Toastmaster carrying both club proxies is entitled to cast two votes. Voting District officers may cast up to three votes (their District officer vote and two votes from clubs of which they are a member and for which they have signed proxy forms OR from clubs of which they are a President or Vice President of Education.) All other Toastmasters are limited to a maximum of two votes.

Answers to TM Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| M | A | D | G | N | I | R | A | M | C | C | S |
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| D | S | E | N | R | O | N | F | W | I | B | A |
| T | T | X | I | L | A | N | E | V | O | P | A |
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***Toastmasters
District 55 Officers***

District Governor

Elizabeth Sprecher, DTM

**Lt.-Governor Education &
Training**

Atheria Scott, DTM

Lt.-Governor Marketing

Jeff Stoddard, DTM

Past District Governor

Harry Truman, DTM

District Secretary

Irma Blancas, CTM, CL

District Treasurer

Bill Watson, CTM, CL

**District Public Relations
Officer**

Tonia Ramirez, DTM

Publishing Staff

Webmaster

Bob Dashman, ATM-S, AL

Flash Editor

Diana Barkley, CTM, CL

District 55 serves about 5,000
members in more than 120 clubs
in South-Central Texas.

*Building on Our Successes,
Focusing on Our Dreams!*

From the Editor

On behalf of the District Council and Board, District 55 extends its deepest sympathies and keeps in its heart the well being of those members affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Connected as we all are, it's hard to find someone who was not affected by these natural disasters.

—Diana Barkley, CTM/CL
Flash Newsletter Editor
flash@tmd55.org