



## *Saturday Morning Live!*

*Toastmasters International  
Club 9196, Rivers Division,  
District 6*



## **Membership & Distinguished Club Plan**

By Harvey Bernard, President, Saturday Morning Live!

Ten possible points – when we as a club accumulate ten points on the Distinguished Club Program we have achieved as close to perfection as a club that it is possible to measure. Receive nine or ten points and we have achieved the highest club honor: President's Distinguished Club.

Saturday Morning Live! Toastmasters has a long history of consistently receiving recognition as a President's Distinguished Club. But every year, we need to do it all over again. Why? Is it so that we can have another pretty ribbon to hang on our banner? So that we can be recognized by others? That would be nice, but isn't there a more important purpose?

If I were to poll our club members, I believe most would respond that there is a greater purpose to the Distinguished Club Program. That is, when we go through the process of achieving the points, we are filling the members' needs by performing the essential duties of a club.

How well are we doing?

We will hear the details at our April meeting. But even before we receive the official report, it is obvious that adding new members is a critical action point for our club. Two of the ten points are awarded for adding new members. In addition, our club membership must be at or above twenty members on June 30 to qualify for recognition.

While we desire the recognition, more importantly, we know new members add new spark and vitality to our group. They bring new ideas. More members help us all to become better communicators through the enthusiasm, ideas and feedback they contribute.

SML! needs seven new members by June 30 to fulfill the two membership points, to be recognized as President's Distinguished, and to keep our club the strong, shining beacon it is in District 6. I encourage you to talk up Saturday Morning Live! in your home clubs and at other Toastmaster events. Bring other Toastmasters as guests to our meetings. Once they see what we do, they will want to join. (They are eligible for SML! membership if they have achieved the Competent Communicator designation. But even if they are not there yet, they will be soon and can become a member at that time.)

This is important – not only for us as a club, for us as members but also for other Toastmasters who can benefit from the evaluation, communication and leadership training that Saturday Morning Live! Toastmasters consistently delivers. Make it your mission to invite other Toastmasters you know.

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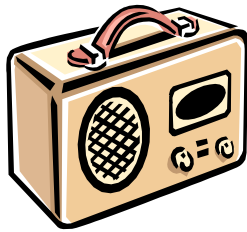
## Leadership Advantage

By Keith Hardy, DTM, Director, St. Paul Board of Education



“Yours was one of the best grass roots campaigns I’ve ever seen!”

Those words from a current elected official in St. Paul make me smile broadly every time I replay that conversation in my head. Indeed, my successful campaign to be elected as a member (director) of the Saint Paul school board was a testimony to the power of Toastmasters leadership—and the teamwork of many, many people at the grass roots level who are members of this great organization.



From my Webmaster (Andrew Schlack) to my treasurer (Daniel Grundtner) to my right and left-hand assistant (Sandy Ryan) to my main helpers (Joy Sorenson-Navarre, Mary Jo Parker, Ruth Alliband, Pat Croal and Charles Stander) my campaign was bolstered by great leaders who are Toastmasters. All those club meetings, speech contests, District events and networking/socializing that we get to participate in Toastmasters paid off royally for me on November 6, 2007 when my name was included with the four people who were elected to the St. Paul school board.

For myself, I was able to practice impromptu speaking skills daily as I fielded phone calls, held fundraising events, attended political events and otherwise met potential voters. Not to mention all of the media and endorsing organization questions I had a chance to answer!

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*“...I was considered an underdog about a month into my campaign....”*

I was able to use my negotiation skills and open-mindedness as I worked and interacted with people who traveled at different speeds in life, had differing viewpoints on public education, believed campaigns should be run in different ways and otherwise who challenged my way of thinking. All of those people made me a better candidate and now a better school board member.

You know how we practice listening skills in Toastmasters, especially when we’re part of the evaluation team? Oh my goodness, how I was able to use those skills on the campaign trail! And my sincerity resonated with people. But not only mine, but my campaign team members’ too. You see, they listened, they persuaded, they asked and they showed up over and over. That consistency and respect for others paid off on November 6, I firmly believe.



Indeed I was considered an underdog about a month into my campaign. My financial coffers weren’t as big as some of the other candidates and I didn’t have the political machine lined up behind me as others did. What I had going for me was my integrity and character, honed through Toastmasters. And most importantly, the character and integrity of my campaign team members, from the Leo Smiths who made campaign buttons that were popular to the Sage Holbens who knocked on hundreds of doors.

Thanks to all who helped with my election. May I have a chance to return the favor for YOUR campaign for an elected office in the near future!



## SML Club contest

By Ravi Rai, SML member  
Mar 8, 2008.

What a contest we had today. SML members came forward to give fantastic speeches and gave evaluations for our target speaker.

Our Target speaker Dan Grundtner gave a speech titled "Passion".

The participants Mary Torno, Don Ritter, Orapat Sivatanpisit took turns evaluating his speech.

Don Ritter was judged the best evaluator and was chosen to represent the club at Area 72 contest.

The International speech contest saw the following four contestants:

Bob Gausman: "A gift from the coach"

Orapat Sivatanpisit: "You might save a life"

Mary Torno: "Face the Facts"

Don Ritter: "Get to the point"

Don Ritter was judged the best speaker and was chosen to represent the club at Area 72 contest.



*A beaming Don Ritter after winning two gold medals at Area contest*



## Don Ritter & SML rocks at Area 72 Contest

By Caroline Baker, Area 72 Governor, Rivers Division, Dist 6  
Mar 24, 2008.

Big news for SML! Don Ritter won both the Evaluation and International Speech Contest last night at the Area 72 Spring Speech Contest. He had stiff competition in both contests and took home two gold medals.

### Evaluation Contest

1st - Don Ritter, Saturday Morning Live!

2nd - Linda Taklo, Woodwinds

### International Contest

1st - Don Ritter, Saturday Morning Live!

2nd - Dave Kenan, Positively Outspoken

Judy Gentry, Positively Outspoken, was the third participant in Evaluation Contest.

We were honored to have the District 6 Governor, Pat Croal, attend along with Rivers Division Governor, Catherine Cardenuto. We were also privileged to have a wonderful presentation speaker who stepped at the last minute. Her name was Janis Daly, visiting the Twin Cities from Toronto, Canada. She gave a fabulous speech titled "More!". As an experienced speaker and DTM, she provided some thoughts for all in attendance to ponder.



*Don Ritter with Caroline Baker (Area 72 Governor) & Catherine Cardenuto (River Div Governor)*



## Open House

Feb 9, 2008

SML hosted a open house to showcase the club. Keith Hardy gave a speech that highlighted the history of the club. We surely learned a lot about Saturday Morning Live.

Clarissa Green was the 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker.

We had a room packed of visitors and members and a great breakfast.

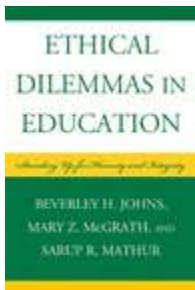
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*“ Our Open house was called Breakfast of Champions.”*

## Holiday Party

Jan 25, 2008

SML had its holiday potluck party with over 25 people in attendance. We had some great dishes that was shared and the white elephant gifts were shared. The winner of the sale was a talking fish bought by Ravi for \$15. We raised over \$100 for the club. During the party each person was asked to identify the character assigned to them. They had only 3 guesses. Thanks to Clarissa for this wonderful idea.



## Mary McGrath's new book

### **Ethical Dilemmas in Education: Standing Up for Honesty and Integrity**

*Ethical Dilemmas in Education* addresses the dilemmas teachers face every day throughout all aspects of education in a comprehensive manner. The book outlines standards of professionalism and presents information teachers can use for the challenges teachers face. With the policies of today's educational system, teachers need to stand up for honesty and integrity, providing role models for students in their future careers. This book guides teachers towards developing ethical habits and a professional demeanor.

## New Member: David Hutcheson

Dave rejoined Saturday Morning Live! during a visit to club's open House. Welcome aboard Dave.

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*“Saturday Morning Live! celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year..”*



## Building a Championship Club (Lance Miller)

Shared By Bob Gausman, VP Membership, Saturday Morning Live!

Following is Lance Miller's outline for building a great club. Lance Miller is the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking. He is also a core member of a club that became the fourth highest rated Toastmasters club in the world.

- \* First step - DECIDE TO BUILD A GREAT CLUB!
- \* Read and follow the Toastmasters Officer Manuals!
- \* Attend District Officer Training.
- \* "Improvement is the Hallmark of Toastmasters."
- \* Hold a high standard so there is always room for members to improve.
- \* It's not a meeting, it's an EVENT!

The **Three Elements** of a Championship Club

### Element One - Abundant Communication

- The amount of communication to run a Toastmasters Club is usually grossly underestimated. As President, I spent 4-6 hours/week outside of the club communicating with officers and members.
- Ensure that everyone speaks at every meeting.
- Watch the body language of the members and make sure they are bright and shiny when leaving. If they are not, get with them and find out what is happening.
- Call members when they don't show up and tell them they were missed and encourage them to return.
- Executive Council communicates through monthly Executive Meetings.
- Talk to each member. Get their agreement to complete one speaking or leadership level each year.
- Document in writing what is successful so you do not lose it.




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*"...Do the ordinary...  
the extraordinary way...."*

### Element Two - High Positive Energy

- Maintain a Friendly Fun Environment.
- Clubs must be a safe place to fail.
- Control through encouragement & service, not force or pressure.
- Run meetings on schedule keeping the energy high & laughing a lot.
- Handle planning, problems and upsets outside of the meetings.

### Element Three - "Do the ordinary - But do it extraordinarily well..."

- Have a professional attitude and venue.
- Have a meeting venue with room to grow.
- Have a "Dress Code"
- Meetings planned out & speakers scheduled well in advance.
- Room is ready to go 10 minutes before time to start.
- Welcome guests and get them to speak.
- Start on time, run on time, end on time.
- Meeting runs on a set agenda.
- All speeches are manual speeches and are evaluated.
- Have excellent speech evaluation for speakers.
- Encourage and reward speaking outside of the club.
- Hold extra meetings if more members need to speak.





Meeting Days:  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

Time:  
9.30 AM



Place:  
Coldwell Banker  
Burnet Realty  
7645 Curell Blvd  
Woodbury,  
MN 55125

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*At  
Saturday Morning Live!  
Toastmasters,  
we believe that  
Every Toastmaster  
receives real 'valu'  
through  
Quality Evaluations..*

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Website!

See us at:

[Sml.d6pages.com](http://Sml.d6pages.com)

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## Editor's note

It has been a very rewarding year. I joined Saturday Morning Live almost a year ago and I can see how much of learning has already taken place. Saturday Morning Live! is a place where a camaraderie of leaders exists. A sense of excellence prevails. To top it all, everybody believes in the core specialty of Toastmasters "The evaluations".

The environment was the main reason, this newsletter is possible. Please feel free to provide any feedback you have any changes that you would like to see in future newsletters.

Sincerely  
Ravi Rai  
(VP – Public Relations)

## SML! Focus Statement

The focus of the Saturday Morning LIVE! Toastmasters Club is to provide an environment in which experienced Toastmasters can achieve a degree of excellence made possible in an advanced club setting, with emphasis on the ability to provide and receive skillful evaluations of advanced-level speeches.

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.

## Saturday Morning Live! Officers...

<b>President</b>	Harvey Bernard
<b>VP-Education</b>	Caroline Baker
<b>VP-Membership</b>	Robert Gausman
<b>VP-Public Relations</b>	Ravi Rai
<b>Secretary</b>	Don Ritter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Torno
<b>Sergeant at arms</b>	Tim Kelley



*Saturday Morning Live* is a monthly publication for all club members and future members.

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