



# Live! Wire

September 2008



## Saturday Morning Live!

Toastmasters International  
Club 9196, Rivers Division,  
District 6



## Just Do it....Now: President's Theme

Saturday Morning Live! is into the third month of our 2008-2009 Toastmaster Year. Wow!

Welcome to our new members who have recently joined. Our club will continue to be what it was destined to be when chartered over 16 years ago --- vibrantly pursuing excellence in communication using evaluations to improve all aspects of our personal and professional lives. We are happy you have joined, and look forward to your participation in all club activities.

Remember the club theme? "Just Do It, Now!" and that's what is happening. Our Area Governor, Faye Heffele, visited our first for the year club meeting to install SML!

Officers:

President, Caroline Baker; VP Educataion, Rick Suydham; VP Membership, Keith Hardy; VP Publicity, Ravi Rai; Secretary, Pat Croal; Treasurer, Mary Torno.

Our year is jammed packed with opportunity! We are challenged to COMMIT to communication and club growth. Please let Rick know what you plan to accomplish this year – another CC, CL, or Advanced C or CL. Let Keith know how many members you plan to bring to each meeting. We will have visitor placards available with a couple days' notice. Pursuit of Excellence (last year's theme) still applies...make a plan and

Just Do It, Now!

Caroline Baker, President

Saturday Morning Live! Toastmasters  
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***Inspiring people to excellence through evaluations, "Just Do It...Now!" is 2008-2009 Theme***



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## SML! is President's Distinguished Club

By Ravi Rai, VP PR

SML! achieved President's Distinguished status during 2007-2008 TI year. The year saw an exciting race to the finish line until the last day.

All the educational goals were achieved as members worked until the end of the year. The Competent Communicator awards were shared by Keith Hardy, Kirk Johnson, Pat Croal and Ravi Rai. The Advanced Communicator awards were earned by Caroline Baker and Dave Hutcheson. Tim Kelly shared his CL, ALB with the club and Kirk too shared his CL award with SML!

The club enjoyed the return of charter member Dave Hutcheson. Area Governor Penny Pinkerton Gearing joined the SML! team as a new member. Rick Suydam from District 35 joined the club in June. The fourth new member to join the club was Mary Wingert.

The club had 5 officers trained in round 1 & 6 officers trained in round 2. The club also ensured that the officers list were submitted on time and dues paid on time.

The club finished with 9/10 goals thus earning a President's distinguished status. You may be surprised to know that the club has always maintained President Distinguished status every year since its charter.



*"Pat Croal and Keith Hardy share a proud SML! moment with TI President Chris Ford at Spring convention"*

## Ralph Smedley Award: Keith's offer

As a reminder, to earn the Ralph Smedley award, we need to get five new members to join in August and September. As an incentive for us to earn the Ralph Smedley award for the first time in club history, please note how you can reduce the amount of club dues you pay this period:

- \$1 of your club dues paid for each club-eligible guest you bring/send. The guest must have his/her CC/CTM award already (thus club-eligible)
- all \$6 of your club dues paid if a guest joins

Invite members from your other club(s) and Toastmasters who have expressed interest in our club. Since we're having our contest, this is a great time to showcase our club.



## Jana Barnhill, TI President for 08-09

(From TI website)

Jana Barnhill of Lubbock, Texas, was recently chosen by 235,000 members to lead Toastmasters International in the coming year.

She was elected for a one-year term at the organization's annual International Convention, held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, August 13-16, 2008. With her chosen theme "**Toastmasters: The Courage to Conquer!**" she will help us all reach our goals and fulfill our organization's mission this year.

By way of explaining her theme, she says: "Most people want to do something of significance in life. But they often need courage to conquer obstacles separating them from reaching their goals. When armed with confidence and courage, there is no limit to what they can do... Toastmasters International is full of people who have achieved results beyond their wildest dreams."

A dedicated Toastmaster for 24 years, Jana has held many leadership positions in this organization. She is a Distinguished Toastmaster in more than one sense: She is only the fourth woman in our organization's history to serve as International President, and she is also one of a handful of women who have earned the prestigious Accredited Speaker award – and she has twice competed in the World Championship of Public Speaking, placing second in 1996 and third in 1993.

She is married to Toastmasters Past International President and Accredited Speaker Bob Barnhill, DTM. They live in Lubbock, Texas, where they run a professional speaking and training business called L.I.V.E Speakers, Inc.



*"Past District Governor Pat Croal shares a picture moment with Jana Barnhill"*



*"Catherine Cardenuto awarded the District Division Governor of the year award."*

## Dist 6 Annual Awards

By Ravi Rai, VP PR

District 6 leadership presented its 2007-2008 annual awards at July TELI.

Catherine Cardenuto, Rivers Division Governor, was awarded the Division Governor of the year for the district.

Jennifer Swanson was awarded the Area Governor of the year for the district.

Brian Hilton humbly accept the award of District 6 Toastmaster of the year.

Ravi Rai graciously accepted the award of Rivers Division Toastmaster of the year.

A lot of work goes behind the scenes to make the year a successful one. It is so humbling to recognize people who go outside of their comfort zones to make Toastmasters organization a success for everyone.



*"Jennifer Swanson awarded the District 6 Area Governor of the year award."*



*"Ravi Rai accepts Toastmaster of the year award for Rivers Division"*



## District 6 Celebrates Distinguished

(By Pat Croal, 07-08 District Governor)

Toastmasters from all over District 6 celebrated achieving goals and earning the Distinguished District award at a picnic at Immediate Past District Governor Pat Croal's home in July. The group was treated to beautiful weather, great picnic food and burgers grilled by Pat's husband Del - with a special welcome from Chloe, the family Siberian Husky.

Toastmasters were seen relaxing, kicking up their feet and generally feeling pretty giddy with achievement of District, Division, Area & Club goals for the 2007-08 Toastmaster year.

District 6 ended the year with 275 Toastmaster clubs and over 10,000 membership payments...which equated to nearly 5000 members! There was some evidence that current District leaders (Joan Watson & Allan Bernard) and other future district leaders were strategizing already with the plan to have a repeat performance for 2008-09!

Congratulations to all for your efforts in meeting personal & District goals for 2007-08.



*District 6 leadership team:  
Pat Croal, Kathy Neumiller, Joan  
Watson, Allan Bernard"*



*Pat Croal, Keith Hardy  
At picnic celebration*

## Guest Speaker: Anurag Shukla

By Ravi Rai, VP PR  
May 19, 2008.

After a fulfilled speech at the District, Anurag was encouraged to visit SML! to give his speech before he went on to Regional conference. Famous for its high powered evaluations, SML! Evaluation team of Don Ritter, Roger Revak and Harvey Bernard. The given speech was in the process of making. It included personal experiences and views of Anurag through his growing up years. Anurag was given tips on improving his speech by members of SML! as well.

Our guest speaker was very grateful for the feedback. He joked that he was given a very scary picture of SML! before he arrived. But he found a fun loving crowd that represented quality.



*Anurag Shukla visited SML! in July.  
He placed 2nd at the Region IV  
contest.*





## Harvey recalls the distinguished year

By Harvey Bernard, DTM, Past President  
September 5, 2008.




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*"I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people."*  
Gandhi

It is evident when first walking into a Saturday Morning Live! Toastmasters meeting that it will be a special Toastmasters experience. That was my reaction when I first visited SML!'s Breakfast of Champions in 2005.

The special quality of SML! made it an honor for me to serve the club as 2007-2008 President.

It's not always easy to identify the factors that make a club special. Saturday Morning Live! stands out, I believe, because of the commitment to excellence of its members. None of us are ever perfect and Toastmasters is certainly a laboratory that can allow us to fail while we are improving our communication and leadership skills. So, that gives us great opportunity to continue enhancing our skills.

Our members go into a meeting striving to do their best. This starts from the planning for the monthly meetings, often beginning two weeks in advance. It can be seen from the flow of e-mails and phone calls that crescendo as the meeting draws closer. Then, at the meeting even the best plans sometimes go awry, but our members always find a way to put on a quality meeting, even at the last minute.

We can also see SML's quality in the commitment our club has to achieving the President's Distinguished designation for countless consecutive years up to and including this past year. Even with a slower start toward accomplishing the required points this past year, our members pulled together in the last month, even the final week, and completed the necessary tasks. This says volumes about the quality of our members.

Being President of such an accomplished club committed to the pursuit of excellence was made so much easier because of the hard work of our members. It was a privilege to serve SML! and I look forward to the club's continuing success this year and beyond.

## Don Ritter: Evaluator of the year (07-08)

Saturday Morning Live! is a club focusing on evaluations. This allows us to continue enhancing our evaluation skills. It also benefits the speaker by receiving three quality evaluations for each presentation.

At each non-contest meeting, we select one of the evaluators or the grammarian who was deemed to have best demonstrated the high level of evaluation skill we are developing in SML!.

Then at the end of the year we vote to select the Evaluator of the Year. The nominees are the monthly Evaluators of the Month. This person exemplifies the high standards for evaluations that we are striving for in Saturday Morning Live!.

Please congratulate our Evaluator of the Year for 2007-2008, Don Ritter!




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*"Don Ritter's exemplifies the high standards for evaluations"*



## New Member: Rick Suydam

Rick joined Saturday Morning Live! in July, and is our new VP of Education. He has been a Toastmaster since October, 2003 and is currently the Northern Division Governor for District 35. He plans to complete his ACS by the end of this year, and his ACG and CL by the end of June, 2009.

Rick is a Performance Consultant and president of Organic HRD, LLC, a company dedicated to helping their client organizations understand and improve the performance of their most important assets: their people. In his free time (what there is of it), he enjoys hiking and biking with his wife Theresa, woodworking (many projects in the works right now) and artisanal bread baking (also a work in progress).



*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."  
- John Quincy Adams*

## New Member: Mary Wingert

Mary has been a Toastmaster since 2002 and joined SML in 2008. She is working on becoming a more effective evaluator, as well as speaker and negotiator. Toastmasters has been a great opportunity to expand her ability to first gain control of my speech making as well as develop skills to better communicate.

Mary has worked in health care research most of her professional life, where the broad array of skills Toastmasters develops come in handy.

## New Member: Mike Casey

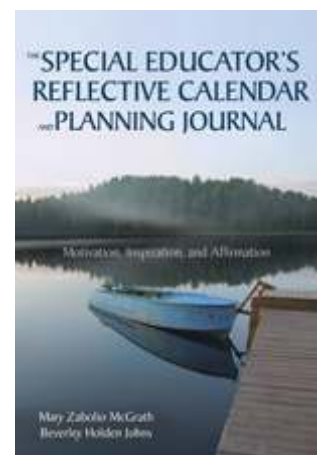
Mike Casey joined SML! in July 2008. He is currently serving as the Division Governor of Rivers Division.

We are very fortunate and proud to have Michael as part of SML! because of his service to the nation. Michael serves as Command Inspector General in US Army.

## Mary co-author's a new book

***The Special Educators Reflective Calendar and Planning Journal***  
by Mary Z. McGrath and Beverley H. Johns covers the school year from August through July and includes topics such as:

- Working effectively with parents
- Building team rapport with staff
- Writing and applying IEPs
- Managing stress
- Maintaining your ideals and energy



*Mary Z. McGrath is co-author of a new book*



## SML! Picnic (July 12, 2008)

The members of SML! started the new year with a picnic at Mounds Park.

Every year members celebrate summer with a potluck. Our Area governor Faye Heffle attended the picnic and the meeting. Pat Croal was the Toastmaster who selected "Viva le SML!" as the theme of the meeting.

Clarissa and Penny were the speakers at the meeting.



*"View of St. Paul from Mounds Park"*

## Anything on a Stick (Aug 9, 2008)

**Toastmaster:** Orapat Sivantanpisit  
**General Evaluator:** Harvey Bernard  
**Grammarian:** Caroline Baker  
**Refreshments:** Pat Croal & Mary McGrath  
**Videographer:** none

**Theme:** Anything on a Stick  
**Word of the day:** Plausible  
**Timer:** Mary Torno  
**Greeter:** all



*"Anything on a stick"*

### Members attended:

Caroline Baker Harvey Bernard David Hutcheson  
Mike Casey, Pat Croal, Bob Gausman, Clarissa Green, Muniesh Khandelwal,  
Mary McGrath, Ravi Rai, Orapat Sivatanpisit, Mary Torno, Mary Wingert

**Guests:** Kee Yang, Jim Niswonger, Neha, Violet Schmitz.

**Speaker #1:** Muniesh Khandelwal Title: "My Inspiration"  
Manual: Special Occasion Speech, project #2: Speaking in Praise  
**Speaker #2:** Ravi Rai Title: "The Glazed Side of Life"  
Project: Professional Speaker Manual, project #2: Speaking to Entertain  
Time: 15-20 minutes

### Evaluation team #1:

Bob Gausman (leader) , Dave Hutcheson, Clarissa Green

### Evaluation team #2:

Pat Croal (leader), Mary Wingert, Mary McGrath  
General Evaluator Harvey Bernard comments (general): Reminders to evaluators:  
Use specific points from speech to illustrate your points...rather than "restating the speech".

**Voted Best Evaluator:** Mary McGrath

**Sunny Award:** Orapat Sivantpisit. (She filled in as TM with short notice and really played up the theme "Anything on a Stick".)

### SML! Officers

**President**  
Caroline Baker

**VP-Education**  
Rick Suydam

**VP-Membership**  
Keith Hardy

**VP-Public Relations**  
Ravi Rai

**Secretary**  
Pat Croal

**Treasurer**  
Mary Torno

**Sergeant at arms**  
Nate Otto





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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(651) 497-8924

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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!

Visit us at:

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

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## From the Editor

By Ravi Rai, VP-Public Relations, Saturday Morning Live!

Hope you had a wonderful summer. I still refuse to accept the fact that summer is officially over. It was as if, the summer had started only yesterday. But every good time lasts not very long.

But the fact that we feel the summer was short means we were just having a great time. For me it was a not only months of fun, it was rewarding too. I felt somewhere I grew up. When we learn to appreciate everything that is happening around us, we start to enjoy our lives. I am so appreciative of the fact that I am part of the wonderful club and in the association of some of the finest people in the district. Watching fellow members go great lengths and then talk to them outside of club meetings is a calm blessing among the chaos of the modern life.

People have been very encouraging in all walks of life. When I ask for advice, I get plenty. When I seek guidance, a light seems to guide the way. For this year, our goals are very important for the club to leads its path to another distinguished year. I have committed to at least one goal of DCP for SML! Hope you have too.

Have a wonderful year of camaraderie and fun.

## Fall Speech Contest

Please consider attending the Area & Division contests to support our candidates:

### Area 72 contest:

**Date:** Sep 20, 2008, **Time:** 6-8 PM

**Location:** Heartland Credit Union, Inver Grove Heights (494 & S. Robert Tr.)

**Cost:** \$5

**Contact:** Faye Heffele at [ToastmasterFaye@q.com](mailto:ToastmasterFaye@q.com)

### Rivers Division Contest:

**Date:** Sep 25, 2008, **Time:** 6-8 PM

**Location:** Best Western South St. Paul Hotel and Conference Center,  
701 Concord Street South, South St. Paul, MN 55075

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Mike Casey, DTM at [riversdivision@comcast.net](mailto:riversdivision@comcast.net)



## 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.

## Toastmasters 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.

*Live! Wire* is a quarterly publication for all SML! club members and future members.

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Caroline Baker

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