



## **MANSION TOASTMASTERS – PALETTA ESTATE 4250 Lakeshore Road West, Burlington**

### **Newsletter March 2004**

Welcome to Spring and the promise of warmer, longer, colorful days ahead.

#### **What's New?**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, Vern Dueck, Charlie Johnstone and Bruce Shepherd. The house currently holds 41 members and I promise you that it won't take long for you to feel at home at the Mansion.

Congratulations to Doug Murray on the arrival of his daughter, Elizabeth, and to Amberin Chandhry, whose daughter, Aqsa, was born on March 8. Understandably, both Toastmasters will have their hands full for a while but please come back to visit us when you can.

The overwhelming success of last year's Video Night leads us to April 7 – Video Night II. The purpose of this evening is to give speakers an opportunity to see themselves on film and learn from that experience. The format of the evening will be to have 12 participants in the first half of the meeting video taped presenting two-minute speeches on the subject of "Spring Fever". During the second half of the evening we will review those performances in an open forum of discussion. Speakers will be asked to present in front of the lectern so that we can capture all of the body language.

Seeing and hearing yourself on tape offers a whole new dimension to self-evaluation. Last year, Dave Howlett cautioned us to be aware of our physical mannerisms..."Don't do things like cock your head to one side as it undermines your credibility". So, what's the first thing I did?

The same evening will give us an opportunity to celebrate Mansion Toastmasters Charter date, April 9, with coffee and cake so plan to attend this EXTRA special evening.

'Don't Speak With Your Mouth Full!' on March 15 was a successful change of format. Thanks to Doreen for chairing, club members and their guests for participating, and the Rude Native Bistro for providing a scrumptious dinner. Your verbal/written comments on the evening will be taken into consideration when planning another dinner meeting.

Congratulations to all of our recent International & Evaluation Speech Contest participants, and particularly to Dave Howlett for scoring #1 in the Area Evaluation Contest. Best of luck representing Area 7 at the Division Contest – Saturday April 3 in St. Catherines.

Upcoming Tall Tales Contest – May 5

Yes, there will be yet one more opportunity this year for you to create an original, highly improbable, humorous tale and to possibly compete up to District level. This is a 3-5 minute speech, substantially original, largely exaggerated...start thinking...

**"The Difference Between Ordinary and Extraordinary is That Little EXTRA"**

Ever thought of participating in a Debate? In conjunction with the Area Tall Tales Contest – May 13, Dave Howlett has introduced a one-time Debate Contest for Area 7. Details concerning this project can be found on our website (go to Member's page) and if this looks like something that interests you, please speak to Dave or to your executive for further information in representing our club.

Consider this: Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Kindly keep in mind that any general mailing to the club membership, whether related to TM or not, must be cleared by the President or V.P. Ed. It's all in the interest of streamlining communications and preventing unnecessary e-mails.

## **'Distinguished Club' Update**

Mansion is fast approaching the President's Distinguished Club status and I believe we will have achieved this goal by the end of June:

- 10 CTM's earned this year – Cecilia, Jeannie, Julie, Dalia, Jenny, Ken, Tokiko, Mike H, Don, Mike W
- Doreen has earned ATM-G & DTM
- a growth of 9 new members
- 6 of 8 club officers have attended both training sessions
- club reports submitted to TM International

## **Additional Notes**

In order to maintain the high quality level of meetings that we at Mansion have enjoyed, I would like to remind everyone to carefully and regularly check your assignment schedule so that you are prepared for your role 2-3 weeks in advance. Should you encounter a conflict, find a replacement and notify the Chair for the evening.

If you are rescheduling a Speaking assignment, remember to notify the V.P.Ed, CH, TM & GE for the meeting(s) effected ASAP.

It doesn't hurt to also keep the President in the loop as I may be able to help you with your situation. To better keep up to date with changes in the schedule, and to keep the lines of communication open between the required meeting participants, your V.P. Ed will issue a revised schedule partway through the month.

I cannot emphasize enough the role of support for others. We are a speaking club and speakers need an audience. Plan on being an active audience participant on nights when you have managed to escape a speaking role. Offer your best evaluation, sit back and appreciate some of the finest stories you've heard all day and the same will be returned to you.

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away." – George Carlin

Keep Friday June 4 available for Mansion Toastmasters yearend social function. Wendy and her committee have been hard at work planning an evening of characters, fun speeches and delicious food & drink. Details of this exciting event will soon be coming to a theatre near you...

Keep well,  
Dalia

## Important Dates:

Saturday April 3, 9:00am	Division International Speech and Evaluation Contest. St. Catherines Library 54 Church St., St. Catherines
Thursday April 7, 7:30	Video night and Charter celebration
Wednesday April 21, 7:30	Hal Shaw – Education speech “Small Talk With Strangers”
April 23, 24, 25	District 60 Spring Conference Doubletree International Plaza Hotel 655 Dixon Road, Toronto
Wednesday April 28, 7:30	Microphone night
Monday May 3, 7:30	Executive meeting
Wednesday May 5, 7:30	Club Tall Tales Contest
Wednesday May 12, 7:30	Club Elections for 2004-2005 Executive
Thursday May 13, 7:30	Tall Tales & Debate Contest hosted by First Oakville. Knights of Columbus at 1494 Wallace Rd near Spears and 3rd Line.
Friday June 4, pm	Yearend social function
June 11-12	2004 Region VI Conference East Lansing, Michigan
Wednesday June 16	Last regular meeting at the Mansion. Summer club starts June 23 every 2 weeks - location TBA.

## Your 2003-2004 Mansion Toastmasters Executive:

Janine Reed	VP Education
Ken Barkman	VP Membership
Jeannie Boniface	VP Public Relations
Doreen McRitchie	Treasurer
Shelley Thornton	Sgt-at-Arms
David Cartwright	Secretary
Bob Hicks	Past President
Dalia Petrusis	President