

SPOTLIGHT

The Spotlight is on Your Success

AUGUST 2011 - VOL 32, ISSUE 2

Club 699
Area 12
District 5
Region 10

EXCELSIOR TOASTMASTERS



IN THIS ISSUE:

President's
Message:
**THE BIGGER
PICTURE**

A Regional
Advisor's
First Year

Southern Division
Governor Talks
about Goals

New Member
Spotlight:
Richard Dial

Let's Get Frank!

Club Level
Contests

Mark Your Calendar



THE BIGGER PICTURE

*A MESSAGE FROM
OUR PRESIDENT,
NORMAN NOMURA*

The Toastmasters International Convention was held from August 17 – 21 at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Many of our Excelsior members attended as did many other Toastmasters from District 5. It was the first full Convention that I have attended. Had I not been invited as a speech contestant, I may not have attended, fearing that it was too expensive, too far, not worth it. I would have been wrong.

New International officers were installed. The new Rebranding was unveiled. Educational opportunities abounded. A Speech Champion was

crowned. Old friendships were rekindled. New friends were made. There's something magical that happens where like-minded individuals

congregate for the greater good. It was time and money well spent. We go through life creating memories that we hope will remain a part of us in future years. The 2011 Convention will have a special place in the recesses of my cavernous mind.

I competed in one of the nine semi-finals of the International Speech Contest. A gentleman from the Maori people of New Zealand won

continued on page 3



MY FIRST YEAR AS A REGION ADVISOR

by Joyce Persichilli

In April of 2010 I was notified that I was selected as the first Region Advisor for the new Region 10. Toastmasters International is made up of 14 Regions. Each region is assigned an International Director and a Region Advisor. I have had the pleasure of working with our International Director, Roberta Perry and the district leaders of each district in our region. Roberta is a Past District Governor from District 52 Toastmasters.

Region 10 is made up of the following 7 districts: Founders District which serves the western part of greater Los Angeles; District 1 which serves Los Angeles and Orange County; District 3 which serves Arizona; Our own District 5 which serves San Diego County, Imperial County, and Yuma Arizona; District 12 which serves Inland Empire from Diamond Bar to Temecula, Barstow, San Bernadino, Riverside and east Los Angeles County; District 34 which serves the country of Mexico and District 52 which serves Downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, Burbank and Glendale.

Since this is a new position in Toastmasters it has been a challenge in defining the role of Region Advisor. It has been an evolving process but an enjoyable one for me. The main goal is to keep each of the district teams (DG, LGET and LGM) focused on achieving their district goals of being a Distinguished or Better District at the end of their term of office. This is done by training district

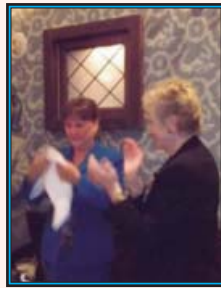
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MY FIRST YEAR AS A REGION ADVISOR *(continued)*

called mid-year training; having monthly conference calls with each district, visiting the districts when requested, reviewing their District Success Plans and making adjustments to the plan when needed, offering suggestions for districts to consider. While I offer suggestions for districts to consider it is up to the districts to decide whether or not to heed my suggestions. I can say the districts that have heeded my suggestions were very successful this year.

This year at the TI Convention districts were recognized for achieving Distinguished or Better District. I am happy to report that out of the 7 districts in our region 4 of them were in the Top 15 Districts. Toastmasters International recognized six districts as President's Distinguished Districts, six districts as Select Distinguished Districts and thirty-three districts as Distinguished Districts. Of the six Select Distinguished Districts three of them were from our region. They are District 1 – Number 9 in the World, District 34 – Number 10 in the World and District 12 – Number 12 in the World. Of the thirty-three Distinguished Districts Founders District was top on the list and is Number 13 in the World. It was an honor to stand on stage with each of these districts when they received their awards. It is also an honor to have been reappointed to serve another year as Region Advisor for Region 10. I look forward to working with the new districts teams to help them achieve their district goals in 2011-2012 and to stand on stage with all 7 districts achieving Distinguished or Better District.



Joyce crying after being recognized by Club 407

I must say that the highlight of the TI Convention for me was at the Club 407 Breakfast Meeting where I was recognized for my work in Toastmasters and as the first Region Advisor for Region 10. I was very touched that the club made a donation to the Ralph Smedley Fund in my honor. My name will be on a plaque at Toastmasters World Headquarters. For those of you not familiar with Club 407 it is a Toastmasters Club made up of past district leaders, current and past international directors and past international presidents.

SOUTHERN DIVISION GOALS

by Mark Rauschenbach, Southern Division Governor

The first goal has been mandated by the District 5 Governor – to be “Distinguished or Better”. This goal is always attainable and always a challenge. Southern Division has 23 Toastmasters’ clubs, six of those clubs have membership of less than TEN members, that’s one quarter of the Division that is struggling with membership.

My second goal is to work with the respective Area Governors and the District Leadership to find coaches and methods to increase membership in those clubs and all of Southern Division Clubs.

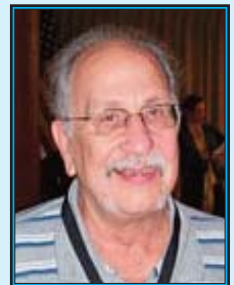
My third goal has to do with Toastmasters International new tag line “Where Leaders are Made”. As I look at

Southern Division statistics, 75% of the division’s membership has not yet attained the “Competent Leader” level in the organization.

I would like to see every club in Southern Division promote the Toastmasters Leadership Track to the degree that at least one member from every club attains a “CL”

designation this year. Toastmasters has always been about communication, but it’s also about leadership, and we need to stress that in our clubs.

I’m looking forward working with all of you in the coming year, and I am proud to represent you as your Southern Division Governor.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD DIAL

Richard Dial is one of Excelsior's newest members, joining us just this past June. Richard has been a Toastmaster for just over five years (with a multiple-year break during those five years!) Richard first joined Toastmasters as a Charter member of Callaway Toastmasters, in late 1997.



He served as its first President, and during that year, earned both is Competent Communicator (CTM) and Competent Leader awards. In 1999, Richard left Callaway (and Toastmasters), ultimately pursuing a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine.

Fast forward to July 2007, when Richard joined HDR Engineering as a Senior Transportation Planner. When he learned that HDR had its own High Density Rhetoric Toastmasters club, his Toastmasters interests were re-kindled. Within a couple of months, Richard was asked to serve as President, in which office he has served for three of the past four years. Richard's other TM offices have includes a year as HDR's VP of Education, a term as Area 5 Governor, and his current job as District 5 Contest Chair for 2011-2012. Richard has also served as a club sponsor (he helped establish a new TM club at HDR's Irvine office) and as a club mentor (for SymiToast Toastmasters).

Professionally, Richard is engaged in rail and transit planning (think Amtrak and Coaster rail services), and serves as HDR's National Manager for Sustainable Transportation Solutions. Already a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, Richard is currently studying for accreditation as a LEED Green Associate through the U.S. Green Building Council.

In his personal life, Richard enjoys watching independent films, reading, music, and walking. He has one teenaged son, Austin, and has recently become engaged to Ana Mengoli, an Interior Designer at HDR (and HDR Toastmasters' current VP of Membership!) We're happy to have Richard as a member of Excelsior, and look forward to his active participation in our meetings.

President's Message *(continued)*

the semi-final that I was in. I don't know when I've met a finer human being in my travels. I was more happy for him that he won, than disappointed that I had not. He spoke of the importance of the word "Hello".



There were many times when the word, "hello" was uttered over the several days there. As I looked around at the many attendees, I felt as though I knew most of them, although of course I did not. There is a familiarity among Toastmasters regardless from which corner of the world we hail. We all speak the same language, and I don't mean English.

When I was a new member of Toastmasters in 1999, the bigger picture began to unfold. I saw just how a club fits in to the many levels of the district. Later, I was able to attend a Regional Conference and marveled how the different districts came together as one. But not until experiencing the widespread geography of our organization did I truly see the bigger picture. Just like the dots of paint in a masterpiece in pointillism, or the pixels of color that make up a digital photograph, we are each an integral part of the bigger picture that is Toastmasters International.

Norman Nomura
President, Excelsior Toastmasters

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2011 - 2012 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Norman Nomura
President

Jan Lewellyn
Vice President, Education

Jean Douglas
Vice President, Membership

Edna Nerona
*Vice President, Public Relations
and Newsletter Editor-In-Chief*

Linda Parker
Treasurer

Malcolm Pusey
Secretary

Harry Sundblad
Sergeant-At-Arms

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Helen Blanchard
Richard Dial
Jan Lewellyn
Edna Nerona
Norman Nomura
Joyce Persichilli
Mark Rauschenbach

PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Tucker
Ron Gross

CLUB INFORMATION:

MEETING DAY:
FIRST TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

TIME:
6:00PM-8:30PM

MEETING LOCATION:

EL FANDANGO
RESTAURANT
(2ND FLOOR)
2734 CALHOUN ST.
SAN DIEGO, CA
(OLD TOWN)



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EXCELSIOR MEMBER IN ACTION



Submitted by Helen Blanchard

Frank Jonasson, Ed.M., will present a free seminar for parents and students (grades 10-12) on September 18, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church of San Diego.

Frank is a long-time Church member and has helped many church youth with financial education and planning.

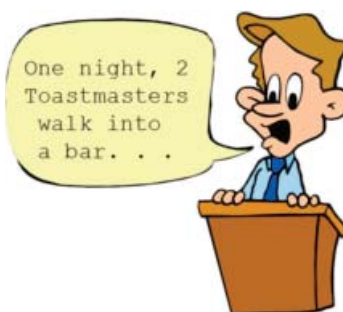
To learn more about his seminar, please visit:
www.fumcsd.org/event/2011-09-18-college-financial-aid-planning-for-parents-and-students/ or his financial web site: frankjonasson.com/.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:

CLUB CONTEST

Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests

**Tuesday: September 6, 2011
6pm**



Chief Judge: Rose Waring
email: rosesunlimited@mindspring.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Labor Day	Monday	Sept 05
Excelsior Club Contest (Evaluation & Humorous Speech)	Tuesday	Sept 06
Area 12 Contest	Saturday	Sept 10
Semi-Annual Club Dues due at TI	Friday	Sept 30
Southern Division Contest	Saturday	Oct 29
Veterans Day Holiday	Friday	Nov 11
D5 Conference & Humorous Speech Contest	Saturday	Nov 12

NOTE: Consult the D5 Calendar as dates and times may change without notice, <http://d5toastmasters.org/>