



# SPOTLIGHT

The Spotlight is on  
Your Success

NOVEMBER 2011 - vol 32, issue 5

Club 699  
Area 12  
District 5  
Region 10

EXCELSIOR TOASTMASTERS



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## RETURN THE GIFT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
PRESIDENT, NORM NOMURA,  
DTM

November is the month when we traditionally set aside a day of Thanksgiving. Many of us look upon this as a time to take stock in the many blessings that we have in our lives. We often ponder quietly what we are thankful for and rarely pronounce our gratitude to the world. If we don't trumpet these thoughts loudly to others, are we less thankful? Sometimes it is our actions that say, "thank you."

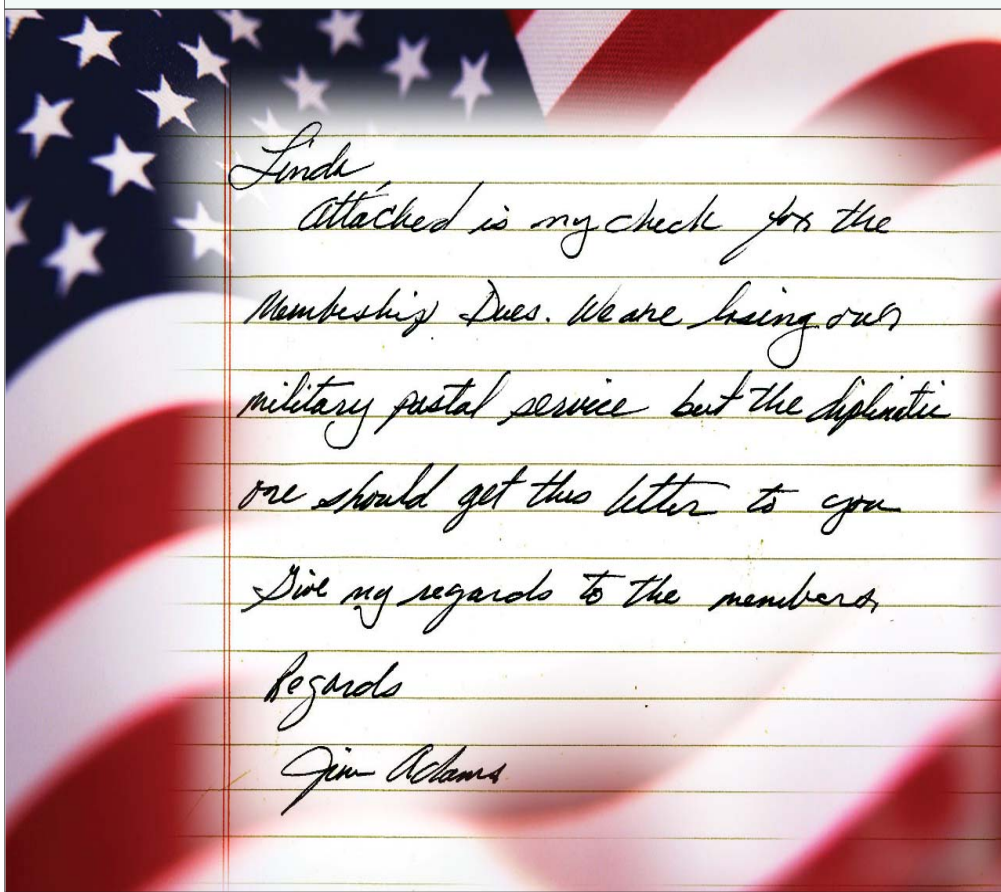
Toastmasters is a blessing in my life.

Often, I look back at my years in Toastmasters and the many gifts



that the organization and the individuals have given me. I call them gifts in the true sense of the word. To me a gift is given with no expectation of reciprocation. To expect something in return lessens the meaning of the gift. To truly accept the gift, and be thankful for it, means that I must in turn give back, and not necessarily directly back to the giver.

(continued on page 2)





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*President (continued)*

## Do you remember your early days in Toastmasters?

For me, I was barely able to string two words together. There were experienced members more than willing to help encourage a tongue-tied toastmaster through those first ten speeches. They were returning the gift of what someone before had given them.

**There were the evaluators** who knew it was time to offer us a serious, purposeful speech evaluation, casting aside the white-wash and the uncertainty of how we might take it. They knew

it was time to offer the valuable gift that someone before had given them.

**There was the mentor** who encouraged us to step outside of the club to explore the leader in us by getting involved in the district. They were giving back what others before had encouraged in them.

**There was the coach** who forced us to find our voice and share our messages with those who need to hear it. Because our messages can in themselves become a gift. They were giving back what others before had enlightened in them.

If this holiday season reminds you to be thankful for the many blessings in your lives, consider what Toastmasters has given you. Not the least of which are the friendships. Some will be friends for life. Friends whom you have may never have met outside of this common interest.

I've gotten many gifts from this organization. I am thankful for them all and accept them by returning them all. These are gifts that are meant to be returned.

*Norm Nomura*



## LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE EXCELSIOR ANNOUNCERS!

by John Stark, DTM

On Sunday, November 20th, the 65th annual Mother Goose Parade was held on Main Street of beautiful downtown El Cajon, CA.

A parade is not a parade without announcers. Right? So, who

better to describe the floats, bands, clowns, marching units and giant balloons than the highly experienced and professional members of Excelsior? This year six of our members loaned their clear and mellifluous voices to Mother Goose for the day.

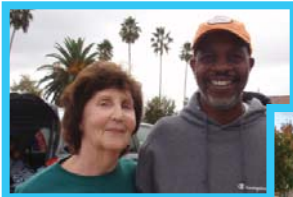
Sitting on the announcers' stands -- microphones at the ready -- to describe all of the action were (in alphabetical order): David Allen, Earl Chinn, Jean Douglas, Edna Nerona, Norm Nomura and Jim Tucker.

On behalf of Mother Goose herself, I thank each of these Excelsior members for rising to the challenge.

Their valuable microphone skills enabled thousands of little children and adults to laugh and cheer and forget the troubles of the world for at least one joyous November day.

### **Editor's Note:**

**Since 1974**, John Stark has been a dedicated volunteer of the Mother Goose Parade.



Jean Douglas & Jim Tucker



Edna Nerona & Norm Nomura



John Stark



Norm Nomura



John Stark checking on each announcer station.





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*Manuel Urrizola*  
ATM/G, Award Winning Speaker

## D5 Fall 2011 Conference

Thank you to the following Excelsior  
members who made this year's conference  
a great success.

Conference Co-Chairs  
**Eileen Hope & Linda Parker**

Contest Chair  
**Richard Dial**

Nov 11 Toastmaster &  
Region 10 Advisor  
**Joycelyn Persichilli**

Lt. Governor of Marketing  
**Ed Gain**

District Treasurer  
**Jan Lewellyn**

Nov 12 Toastmaster  
**Norm Nomura**

Graphic Artist  
**Elisa Castañeda**

Sergeant-At-Arms  
**Malcolm Pusey**

Audio & Visual  
**Joe Castañeda**



*Dana La Mon*  
1992 World Champion of Public Speaking



Rhonda Walthall (D5 Governor)  
Eileen Hope (Conference Co-Chair)



Rhonda Walthall (D5 Governor)  
Linda Parker (Conference Co-Chair)



Rhonda Walthall (D5 Governor)  
Elisa Castañeda (Graphic Artist)



Jan Lewellyn (District Treasurer)



Joyce Persichilli (Toastmaster)



Norm Nomura (Toastmaster)



Rhonda Walthall (D5 Governor)  
Malcolm Pusey (Sergeant-At-Arms)



Richard Dial (Contest Chair)



Ed Gain (Lt. Governor of Marketing)



Helen Blanchard & Alma Church



Ruth Hobson



Rhonda Walthall (D5 Governor)  
Joycelyn Persichilli (Region 10 Advisor)



Edna Nerona & Norm Nomura



John Murphy (Area 12 Governor)



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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:

Jan Lewellyn

Edna Nerona

Norman Nomura

Linda Parker

John Stark

## PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS:

Jean Douglas

Mark Kramer

Edna Nerona

Jim Tucker

## CLUB INFORMATION:

### MEETING DAY

FIRST TUESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH

### TIME:

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM



### MEETING LOCATION:

EL FANDANGO

RESTAURANT

(2ND FLOOR)

2734 CALHOUN ST.

SAN DIEGO, CA

(OLD TOWN)

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## December 2011 Meeting Roles

**Pledge & Inspiration:** Eileen Hope

**Table Topics:** Joyce Persichilli

**Toastmaster:** David Allen

*Speakers:*

**Theme:** ?

**General Evaluator:** Jean Douglas

**Ah Counter:** Marcia Hays

**Timer:** Jan Lewellyn

**Grammarian:** John Stark



Earl Chinn

Richard Dial

Ed Gain

## CONGRATULATIONS!

to the following Excelsior members who have  
achieved the honor of Distinguished Toastmaster  
(DTM):



Kathleen Behrens



Elisa Castañeda



Ferdonya Hendersen



Norm Nomura

WISHING YOU & YOURS

*Peace, Joy, and Love  
during this holiday season*