

AREA 26 GOVERNOR'S REPORT

This year in September marks the 15th year since I became involved with Toastmasters and I am still finding I can be thrilled by what is done within a club, every bit as much as when I first began. Something has changed over the years, now it is not so much the working on speeches or the club fellowship that excites (though that is good too) but finding that my actions can help another person discover their own speaking voice. To be of assistance to clubs and to members in clubs has been my motivation to take up Governorship this year. I hope my actions will make a positive difference for them.

Since the 1st of July, when my AG role began, I have attended Area governor Training, and Eastern Division Club Officer training. I have visited all five clubs in the Area 26 at least once and two twice (163.9K so far). I am also active in assisting with judging in order to help build the ties between areas that allows us to ask for outside judges so our most able members can compete.

For the Area 26 Contest on 24th November 2012, I have arranged the venue, and Pam Greenway has agreed to be Chief Judge. The contest organisation will be divided between the clubs, one club per contest and one club for the catering/ door sales/ publicity. The venue (the brand new school hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Shearwin Rd, off Mains Rd, Sunnybank) will cost only \$60 for cleaning afterwards and no other charge which is extremely reasonable compared with other venues I have looked at. We will have to provide our own catering but Sunnybank Plaza is conveniently nearby with its many food outlets.

Later this year I need to form a new club, perhaps early morning, breakfast club to appeal to time poor professionals who would enjoy a great start to their day.

I will need helpers with this and possibly with a speechcraft or speechcraft(s) to assist clubs who remain low in numbers after October.

There are benefits to any toastmaster who takes part in new club start-ups or in speechcraft. They have opportunities to deliver manual speeches outside their club, they can benefit from honing presentation skills, they can tick off projects in the CL manual, or for AC Silver or Gold and they can grow as people when they see the effect their actions can have in helping others. There is also a collegiality, a friendship that grows when toastmasters work together across clubs for a common goal.

Why do I need a new club? At the beginning of the financial year, when the Areas realigned, Area 26 had 6 clubs, including one that had already obtained papers to formally close. In order for this Area to be Distinguished I must create a new club to replace the one lost almost before we started. I also want every club to be Distinguished and hopefully Presidents Distinguished, not because that would look good (though it would) but because I have seen that covering the points in the DCP is in fact the only true measure of how well the club is meeting its members needs. This report seems to be all about "I" however everything done has been to be of service to you, the members of the clubs of this Area and I welcome every Idea you have to improve your own clubs, or further your own growth in Toastmasters and hope to hear these on Sunday, or when I next visit your club.

Adi Strickland, ACG, CL, Area 26 Governor (2012/2013)