

“WHAT’S GREAT IN 598”

The Diablo Toastmasters Club is a community Toastmasters Club that meets every Thursday at 7 PM in the Sizzler Restaurant, 1353 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA.

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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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

<p>February 21, 2008 – 598 Table Topics and International Speech Contests April 19, 2008 598 Awards Banquet May 10, 2008 – D57 Spring Conference</p>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Let's welcome **Fred Lather**, who joined the club on January 24, 2008. Greet **Fred** and get him off to a fast start with the program. **Ron Jue** sponsored **Fred**.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

The **Talk Up Toastmasters** membership contest began on February 1st and runs through March 31st. Each club that adds 5 new members during that time will receive a selection from the Successful Club Series, Better Speaker series, or the Leadership Excellence series of educational programs. How many of us have asked our February guests?

ADDITIONAL CC AWARD EARNED

12-Year member **Louis Stifter** earned his first Competent Communicator (CC) award on February 14th.

THE GREAT DEBATE

The club held their “**Great Debate**” on February 7. We had 19 members and about eight guests in attendance.

TableTopic Master, **Steven “Shags” Shagrin** warmed up the group with his pro and con questions.

Our Affirmative Team, **Mary Bloxham** and **Louis Stifter** took on our Negative Team, **Carie Featherstone** and **Earl Ansley** and argued the topic:

Resolved: *The United States Constitution should be amended to eliminate the Electoral College System and provide for choosing the President by nationwide popular vote.*

The audience considered the Affirmative and Negative arguments and the judges decided that the Affirmative team edged the Negative team by a very close margin.

It was a great educational experience and everyone had a good time.

Our thanks to VP-Education, **John Peterson** for developing the idea and turning it into a reality.

WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Webmaster **Rose Falgot** reports that our website is up and running again after the re-hosting effort. Take a look and see if you can identify your club officers from their portraits! **Rose** also reports that the Blog is ready to go and **Carie** will be our first blogger. Thanks for your work in maintaining the website, **Rose**.

SPEECH CONTESTS NEXT WEEK!

The 598 Impromptu and International Speech Contests are next week. Any member can participate in the Table Topics Contest and the good part is that you can sign up at the last minute. We have five contestants who will demonstrate their prowess at thinking on their feet. Look for a hot contest here!

Members who have given six speeches from the Communication and Leadership Manual can participate in the International Speech Contest. Our three contestants are getting ready to go and this will be a good one.

The winners will represent us at the Area 6 contests in March. If you don't compete, our speakers still need you to be a good audience. So come out, bring guests, and have our usual good time!

AWARDS BANQUET UPDATE

Our Awards Banquet Chairman, **Ron Jue**, has found a location for our next awards banquet. Grissini's Trattoria Restaurant in the Concord Hilton has a banquet room that was discovered at a recent Post Toasties gathering.

Pat Welsh distributed a questionnaire and the club has decided to have our banquet on April 19th. More information to follow.

DCP STATUS

As of February 15, 2007, 598 is a Select Distinguished Club because we have completed eight goals: 2 CCs; 1 ACB; 1 more ACB; 1 CL; 1 ALB, 4 new members, officers training, and our administrative information.

We have until June 30, 2008 to deliver 1 more CC or 2 new members to complete the nine goals required for President's Distinguished Club status.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Those are the facts -- I can't fake it: If you want the news, ya gotta make it!

Happy Toastmastering! *Editor*

HAVE A STORY? HAVE AN IDEA?

The editor invites our members to share their Toastmasters story with their peers. To be considered for publication, articles must be well written, must be related to Toastmasters activities, and submitted in *Word* format. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject all submissions.

<p>"What's Great in 598" is the publication of Diablo Toastmasters Club (598-57), Concord, CA Publisher, Howard Adams Editor, Louis Stifter Reporter, Your name here Photographs,</p>
