



Past President *SPEAKS!*

BREAKING NEWS for 90210

Mark D'Anna –
President Jan 2007 – June 2007

Fellow Toastmasters:

As we have now officially transitioned to a new Executive Committee and the Toastmasters calendar year has drawn to a close, we thought this would be an excellent time to take a moment from our busy schedules and look back at some of the **accomplishments of the last year.**

First and foremost,

WE HAVE ACHIEVED PRESIDENTS DISTINGUISHED CLUB!!!!

While I would like to say that this is all thanks to me (and believe me, I do say that to people who don't know any better), the truth is this is an honor that belongs to the entire club, and it is one of which we should all be proud. To achieve this distinction we have had to achieve **ALL of the goals** set out at the beginning of the year by T.I. This is a job that took the **dedication of two Executive Committees** and the **entire club membership.** Very few clubs achieve this distinction, and here's how we did it:

- 1) 4 Competent Communicators – DONE!
- 2) 4 Competent Leaders – DONE!
- 3) 2 Advanced Awards (Competent Communicator Bronze and Silver) - DONE!
- 4) All Club Officers trained – DONE!
- 5) All dues and paperwork submitted to Toastmasters International on time – DONE!
- 6) Minimum of 8 new members – DONE! **(We had 30, by the way)**

Thank you to EVERYONE for your commitment to the club over the last year.

Achieving President's Distinguished Club absolutely would not be possible without the **support and participation of the entire club.**

This is truly a distinction that belongs to all of us. In the immortal words of Janine Burke, *(with an Australian accent)* **"90210 ROCK'S"**

Now it is time to thank the **best executive committee** money can buy:

Maria Markosov – Knowing full-well that **VP of Education** is perhaps the toughest job out there, Maria volunteered to do it...**TWICE!** At first I thought maybe there was something wrong with her, then I realized she wanted nothing more than to see our club flourish. Her commitment to the club is awe-inspiring, and I cannot wait to see what she has in store for us as President. And, I must mention, Maria is the **genius behind the new club ballots** and speaker notes forms. She has single-handedly revolutionized the way we vote at meetings. **She is to ballots what Edison was to the light bulb.** If they have a Nobel Prize for Toastmastering, I think Maria is an early favorite.

Amy Wilson – Amy made it her personal goal to make sure each and every person at our club was **intimately familiar with both the CL and CC Manual**, and I believe she has succeeded. **VP of Public Relations** is not an easy job, but she approached the task tirelessly and did an **outstanding job** working with Janine to set up club contests, meetings at Fu's Palace, and helping out with so many other things behind the scenes. It has not been the same these last few weeks sans Amy, so we are all looking forward to the day when she returns to the club (which will be very soon!!).

Rosanne Rabito and Cynthia Levy – always the **first to show up and the last to leave**, lugging equipment up and down the stairs and all around town in the trunks of their cars, cleaning up after us when we leave the classroom, these two ladies have done it all. Day after day, week after week, Rosanne and Cynthia have done an amazing job as **Sgt. At Arms. They were excessively organized, reliable, thoughtful, and most importantly, efficient.** Shawn has some big shoes to fill, though I'm sure he's equal to the task!

Maria Quiachon – she had the unenviable task of **keeping track of the progress** of each and every member of the club. And given how many members we have clamoring for speaking roles each and every week, this is not an easy job. But Maria never faltered, and did a wonderful job. Add to that the fact that she somehow managed to translate our Executive Committee meetings into **clear and coherent notes for the entire club**, and I am certain she is operating on a different plane than the rest of us. Thank you Maria for your organization and support these last six months.

David Martinez – David Martinez is the hardest workingman at Toastmasters. He has somehow managed to pull off the Toastmasters Hat Trick, holding down **three committee jobs in the span of one year.** Two successful terms as Treasurer and then preserving my sanity by filling in as VP of Membership when the club needed someone so very badly, David is a tremendous asset to our club.

Eric Grunfeld – Eric was an **outstanding President** and **he and his committee accomplished more than their fair share of the goals** during their term. We would not be a President's Distinguished Club without the leadership of Eric and his team. While Eric is busy pursuing his MBA, we know we'll be seeing him back soon.

I also want to thank **Janine Burke** for keeping a watchful eye on me these last six months! There is NO ONE more committed to this club than Janine, and her support over the last six months has made my life considerably easier, and I know each and every one of her mentees knows exactly what I am talking about. Thank you, Janine, for taking the time out of your own schedule to mentor not only me, but all of us in the club. And now that you are **VP of Membership**, I'm sure we'll have to rent out the Staples Center or some equally enormous venue to accommodate all the new members we're likely to have

Special thanks to Annie Hastings, DTM (International Director 2005-2007) for **founding our club, hosting our monthly committee meetings, hosting our Christmas Party**, and for being a **great example, inspiration and leader** to us all. We are incredibly fortunate to have Annie in our presence week after week. **Thanks Annie!!**

PERSONAL NOTES & FUN 90210 FACTS

Asher has returned to the fun after a serious illness. He is **looking slimmer and better than ever**, and I'm sure as soon as he is called on for Table Topics, he'll be taking home plenty of ribbons. Welcome back Asher!!

Michelle Garbin and Roy Houlette married!!

Now, before you drop your jaw in amazement, they were not married to each other, but rather to other wonderful people. **Best of luck to Michelle and Roy in your new lives!**

We are truly an **International club**. At last count we have members from **Australia, Bolivia, Turkey, Germany, Moldova, Canada, Mexico, India, Israel, Russia, China, South Africa, the Philippines**, and a few other countries I'm sure I've forgotten. Oh yes, there are **even a few Americans thrown into the mix** for fun. And at least one native Californian (that would be me). And our speaking skills extend well beyond the reaches of the English language. As best as we can tell, Toastmasters 90210 is ridiculously multi-lingual. Our membership can **boast fluency in 21 foreign languages; including Hindi, Russian, Bengali, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Turkish, Spanish**, and many others that I have no idea how to spell. **We are an amazing bunch!**

And well it is true that I may only speak English, I can proudly say that I speak it really good. Or is it well? *Whatever!*

Switching gears from the foreign to the local...

as you know, since we do meet in Beverly Hills, it stands to reason that **we are all fabulously wealthy.** So to celebrate our glorious prosperity our club has not hesitated to surround us with some of the finer things in life. We are now the **proud owners** of an **LCD Projector**, which anyone can use to **spice up a presentation.** And though our *camera has been a bit under the weather* these last few weeks, we will soon have a new one in place.

Past President SPEAKS!

And I promise it will be **easier to operate**. And yes, we even own our **very own easel**.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

And finally, from the **“In Case You Missed It”** section of the Newsletter, **in the last six months**:

We have celebrated:

Our Past President **Eric Grunfeld placing 1st** at our Club in the Tall Tales Contest! And then **winning the Area Contest**, for good measure.

Wayne Himelsein placing 1st at our club’s **International Speech Contest**

Annie Hastings turning 70 – yes, it is possible and just goes to show that loving what you do and having **passion in your life is the KEY TO STAYING YOUNG**. See our website for a wonderful article from *Annie*.

It has definitely been an eventful year, and the coming year figures to be just as much fun. I want to again **thank the entire club for your support** and friendship during my term as president. I would be lying if I said I didn’t take the job with a little nervousness and hesitation. But that fear quickly turned into excitement...**it was truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life**.

Welcome to our new rock star committee:

as they lead us into the coming T.I. year

Maria Markosov President

Robert Crick Vp of Education

Janine Burke Vp New Membership

Mou Chatteriee Club Secretary

Sean Imai Sgt at Arms

Vikrant Verma Treasurer

Tomek Kosalka Vp of PR

Mark D’ Anna

(Past President Toastmasters 90210)

Please be sure to visit our website

<http://www.toastmasters90210.org/>

- Dates we are closed for 2007 & 2008
- Directions for guests
- Membership information
- Recommended reading
- Handy links to Toastmasters International
- **and so much more!**

The Mission of the Club

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.

