

# Northern Outlook

April 2011

A Publication of the Yukon-Alaska Council of Toastmasters

## Hello YACT Executive Committee members!

The next meeting of the YACT Executive Committee will take place on **Friday, April 15, 2011, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Alaska Time** at the Spring Conference (Baranoff Hotel, Juneau, Alaska).

The Executive Committee includes the following YACT officers – Immediate Past Governor, Governor, Lt. Governors, Division Governors, Area Governors, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms. If you cannot attend in person, but are available to call-in, please let me know and I'll provide a call-in number.

If you have anything you would like to include in the agenda, please send an e-mail to me no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 11, so I can add it.

Each officer will have an opportunity to give a report for their area or responsibility. We only have an hour total for the meeting, so please keep your comments focused on your goals, progress to date, and plans for meeting the critical success factors for your position.

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## Spring Conference It Is Almost Here!

By Alicia Chilton

We have a great [Spring Conference](#) scheduled and we hope to see you here in Juneau! Come early, stay late for the annual Alaska Folk Festival scheduled from April 11<sup>th</sup> thru April 17<sup>th</sup>, <http://akfolkfet.org/>

The Westmark Baranof Hotel has a special conference rate of \$119 per night. To make a reservation contact them at 907-586-2660 and mention you need the **Toastmasters Conference room rate**.

[Alaska Airlines](#) will be offering their special "Constituent Fare" this year and the dates coincide perfectly with the conference! To receive a 30% discount, reservations must have a 7-Day advance reservation.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Conference Co-Chairs; Joyce Vick at [joycevick@yahoo.com](mailto:joycevick@yahoo.com) or Justine Bishop at [jerica.b1967@gmail.com](mailto:jerica.b1967@gmail.com).

**The Spring Conference runs Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Juneau!**



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## YACT Executive Committee

Note that the **General Council meeting** (which includes the Executive Committee members plus the Club Presidents and Club VPEs) will follow this meeting, proposed to be 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (waiting on final confirmation from the conference planning team). There will not be a call-in option for the General Council meeting due to the large number of participants.

THANK YOU for all you've done for Toastmasters so far this year! Remember that there are still **3 months** left in the Toastmasters year, giving us lots of time to further our progress. Hope to see you all in Juneau.

YACT rocks!!

--- Jane Thomas, DTM ---  
Governor - Yukon Alaska Council of Toastmasters

## When the time is right!?

By Duane Epton, DTM  
Lt Governor, Education & Training

As the year progresses and the various bench marks in life pass by I am mindful of the phrase "When the Time is right I will get that done." Now that we are all looking at the last three months of this Toastmasters year I have been looking at the speech manual with one or maybe two speeches left to complete. How did I get to this point in the year without fulfilling those speeches? What about the three or four additional roles left to complete the next part of my leadership track. GUESS WHAT, the GOOD NEWS is THERE IS STILL time.

For those wanting recognition for completing the coveted **TRIPLE CROWN** award at the spring conference you can do it now. **FINISH** any three of the educational bench marks in the **LEADERSHIP TRACK** (CL,ALB, ALS) and or the **COMMUNICATOR TRACK** (CC, ACB, ACS or ACG) or submitting your DTM. How many clubs are in your area that you can visit and be a guest speaker (Communication) or a grammarian (Leadership)?

In the January issue of the Toastmasters Magazine, Craig Harrison, DTM in a great article inspired me to consider what it was that was left undone in my Toastmaster "Bucket List." Here is my short rendition of a Toastmasters "Buck List", written down, shaken out and put into motion.

1. I love to present so speak before each club in YACT in the next 18 months.
2. I love to share what I have learned and help others to find success in life. So I will be part of the mentor/ sponsor team to move new clubs to begin with solid foundations.
3. I want to stay outside of my comfort zone, so run for YACT Governor. If chosen then lead using the strength of team found in our Toastmasters family.
4. I love to present meaningful/ motivational speeches in the business community so I will market several speeches to program planners for groups where I am connected.

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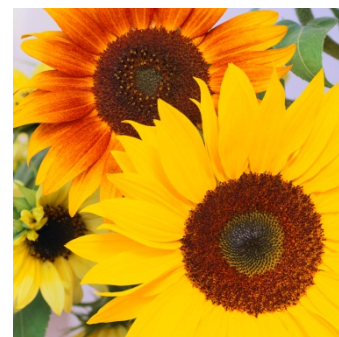
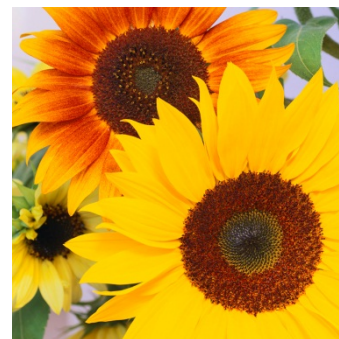
## A Toastmaster Bucket List

The article goes onto list some ways to keep this “Bucket List Alive and Moving.” Here are some steps that I have adapted and am now using.

1. Set it in concrete, write it down, and then share the list.
2. Use the Toastmasters tools as resources, High Performance, the speech Manuals, Better Speakers Series, Leadership Excellence Series.
3. Ask for people to be your FANS, find a coach, and become a mentee.
4. Be willing to change the vision, celebrate the small successes and Keep the Faith.

Please develop you bucket list and fill it with action steps that a measurable and fulfilling. The question asked by the author “When thinking about a goal, ask yourself, ‘How do I want this story to end?’” **Fear** is what keeps many from doing and using the skills we have been working to obtain in our Toastmasters walk. As I walk beyond my fear and out of my **comfort zone** I find I embrace both to provide the energy to move forward and move on.

My wish for each of you is a full “Bucket List” and a happy ending.



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## How Close Are You?

Three people have currently achieved the Triple Crown Award this Toastmaster Year. They are:

\* **Duane Epton**

\* **Beth Fread**

\* **Dawn Williams**

The following people have 2 awards submitted this year. What can you do to get a third?

Alison Boyce

Jacqueline Debevec

Cathy Giessel

Katherine Love

Dennis Moore

Nanette Pineault

Bernadette Phillips

There are still three months in the Toastmaster year to complete your educational awards. All awards must be submitted to Toastmasters International by June 30<sup>th</sup> to qualify. Go for it!

## Message from the Council Governor

What a wonderful visit we had from John Hawkins, DTM, our Regional Advisor, in Anchorage in March! His impact extended beyond simply Toastmasters members. Thanks to John, many others in the community are now more aware of how they and their organization can benefit from Toastmasters.

Regional Advisors are volunteers who help the districts and councils in their region to build new clubs, build membership, and handle other marketing issues, as well as train and support the district/council leaders. Region 1, John's territory, covers Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, plus a bit of Oregon, Nevada, and Nebraska. John serves this large region from his home in Vancouver, BC.

We sure put John to work for his 3 days in Anchorage. Following is a rundown on his activities. He visited three local clubs:

- Borealis Toastmasters Club, where he led a mini Moments of Truth session
- Chevron Anchorage Club
- Spotlight Speakers Club

He made four corporate visits:

- Chugach Electric Company (home of Chugach Power Talkers)
- State Farm (home of Untwisted Tongues)
- BP Exploration (home of BP Club and Borealis Toastmasters Club)
- Wells Fargo (home of Stagecoach Speakers)

At the corporate visits, we met with managers to thank them for their company's support of Toastmasters, provide examples of how their company has benefited from the growth and development of participating employees, and to encourage them to continue that support. The managers in the meeting varied from company to company, but tended to include some combination of managers or executives from operations, human resources, and public affairs.

It was clear that the managers attending those meetings learned more about Toastmasters and their employees who are involved in the clubs.

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## **A Message from Jane~**

In addition, a number of wonderful ideas emerged from those conversations, such as how to better leverage company communication vehicles and maximize the use of company facilities. And as an added bonus, several of us who participated in those corporate visits now have a better appreciation of the value of such visits and are inspired to do more of them.



John facilitated a workshop on recruiting, retaining, and recognizing volunteers - Members NOW! The workshop was attended by Toastmasters as well as leaders from other non-profit organizations. See the article in this Northern Outlook, where attendees share some of the lessons they took away from the workshop.

John ended his visit by connecting with lots more Toastmasters at the Joint Areas 3 and 5 Contests.



The entire visit was a grand success! We greatly appreciate John taking the time to visit YACT and share his expertise, insights, and enthusiasm with us. Hopefully we'll have a visit from our next Regional Advisor, Brenda Smull, DTM, during her term.

I hope that I'll see many of you at the Spring Conference in Juneau on April 15 – 17. The conference planning committee has a wonderful event for us. Besides the business meetings where we'll elect next year's YACT officers, interesting workshops, inspiring contests, and delicious food, we'll also have lots of opportunities to reconnect with and meet Toastmasters from all around Yukon and Alaska. I can't wait!



Make the most out of the last 3 months of the Toastmasters year! How can you get closer to your goals during that time? Finish up an educational award? Help get your club's membership roster to 20? Help start a brand new club? So much can be done in a quarter of a year. Make the most of it.

YACT rocks!

---- Jane Thomas, DTM ----  
Council Governor

# Northern Outlook

## **An Important Message about Proxies**

**Attention Club Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education! Your vote counts – and it's the only votes that count... unless you send a proxy!**

**As taken from the official proxy form:**

*Either the Club President or the Club Vice President of Education may designate, in writing, (using form or other written communication) any active member in good standing of the Club to act as a proxy or proxies, and can cast one or both ballots of the Club at the Council Meeting. In the event one of those Officers is not in attendance at the meeting and has not designated, in writing an active member of the Club to act as proxy or proxies of the Club at any Council meeting, the other Officer in attendance may cast two votes. No other proxies shall be valid at any such meeting.*

*Each Member of the Council, or Club proxy for the Club President or Vice President Education in attendance is entitled to one vote. Any active member who carries the proxies of both the Club President and the Vice President Education from the Club is entitled to two votes; and any such Toastmaster who is also a member of the Council Executive Committee is entitled to three votes. All other Toastmasters shall be limited to a maximum of two votes, regardless of the number of Clubs to which they belong. The Maximum number of votes that any Toastmaster may cast is three, regardless of the number of Clubs to which that Toastmaster belongs.*

**Make sure you send your proxy if you will not be at the Spring Conference! An official proxy is attached at the end of this newsletter.**

## **Attention New Area Governors and Candidates for Division Governors!**

On the morning of Sunday, April 17, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., at the end of the Spring Conference in Juneau, we will have a training session to help us all jump start the upcoming Toastmasters year. Although it will be especially applicable to Area and Division Governors, all Toastmasters are welcome to attend. There will be something for all of us.

Attendees will develop knowledge and skills around team-building, which can be applied at all levels - club, area, division, and council, and to our day-to-day life. Also, we'll work on increasing the quality of our contests, learn about building new clubs, and more!

For the newly-elected Area and Division Governors, this training will fulfill much of the requirement for District Officer Training; ensure that you understand the responsibilities and expectations of your roles; and introduce you to available tools and resources. So if you can attend the conference, please stay for the Sunday morning session. It'll be fun and educational, plus a great way to begin teambuilding with the newly-elected leadership team.



**Toastmasters International  
Yukon-Alaska Council of Toastmasters  
Undistricted  
PROXY**

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**City,** \_\_\_\_\_ **State,** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province,** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conference Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dates** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Club #** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby appoint** \_\_\_\_\_ **to vote as my proxy at the conference listed above.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Print** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Club President or  
Vice President of Education**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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The original is handed to the Sgt at Arms; a copy goes to the Lt Gov Education.  
Updated 10/07/2002