

# TEAMWORK

## Member Spotlight

*Tanis Brown (CTM & CL)*



Tanis Brown is one of our club's past presidents, serving in 2004 when Twin Oaks first earned the President's Distinguished Award. She has also been Vice President of Publicity and Sergeant at Arms. As a charter member, Tanis was significant in our club's founding. She had attended several other TM's in North County, but decided with several colleagues at Cal State San Marcos

to start a new club through the university. Initially the club was open only to those connected with the university. According to Tanis, this posed a problem when everyone went on vacation and the club had too few members present to fill the functionary roles. The club decided to open up membership and as Tanis says, "That's when the club began to blossom." She cites the club's "survival spirit" for its success over the years and recalls the recent five-year anniversary as a high point. "We had a lot of people come to the celebration and it was really great to know that we had achieved that milestone."

Tanis says that TM has helped her career. She is the Training Coordinator at Cal State San Marcos where she develops a range of training programs from New Employee Orientation to Communication Skills. She also serves on the President's Cabinet, the Balanced Score Card Team, and the planning committee for Campus Connect. About TM and her career, Tanis says, "Toastmasters has helped me organize presentations more effectively. I have learned a lot about body language and speaking extemporaneously."

TM benefits extend beyond the professional realm. Tanis affirms that TM "has enriched my life through the members – each wanting to be a better public speaker, and being able to give and receive good feedback from each other." Tanis is currently working on her ATM Bronze. After more than five years of TM participation, Tanis still finds weekly meetings inspirational, "like a mental spa – invigorating and refreshing!"

Tanis's hobbies include traveling, quilting, assembling things from kits (like the two Adirondak chairs and patio table she put together for her granddaughter).

### *Club News*



Every officer position is filled with nominations and voting is in-progress as this edition goes to press. The election results will be announced at the May 18th meeting.

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With the completion of Debby Weiner's upcoming 10th speech, our club will again qualify as a Presidents Distinguished Club for this Toastmasters year.



*President's Tip -- Yvonne Devine (ATM-S)***Be Aware of Image Distracters**

Recently during a debate tournament, my partner and I lost judging points because of "sunglasses" pushed up over the hair/head while speaking. While it seemed a silly way to judge our speaking, it made me think of the importance of "dressing" for a talk. We make judgments about each other within the first 20 seconds of meeting someone--much of that is visual.

To avoid distracting the audience from our speech, we should be conscious of distractions from the clothing or accessories we choose. If an audience member spends time wondering about some element of our appearance, we can bet that the same audience member has lost the message of our talk. Speech day is not the day to pull out the Santa Clause tie or dangling earrings we purchased at a local festival for our adornment. Consider the environment and style of the audience. The key is to "dress like the

rest of them" and look good. Select fabrics & styles that are one cut above that which audience members are generally wearing. In a pinch for information when making fashion choices, always better to dress professionally with a conservative flair--think "if I had to go to an interview with this audience, what would I wear?"

When an event has a theme, consider whether your choices expand that theme or draw attention away from your message.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We gained a new member in May. Welcome to Jackie Basa.

We held our first successful Speech Marathon on May 7. Seven members gave prepared speeches and round table presentations. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who made the Speech Marathon a success. Please find the Power Point presentations from the Speech Marathon on our website <http://www.twinoakstoastmasters.org>. Don Larson's "Delivering Tangible Results" discusses our club's success and future. Lela Hankins, April Horton, and Michael Munyer pool their knowledge in an informative first time home-buyers' seminar in "Dream Home Team." And Lela and Don teach how to move around more comfortably in "Gestures and Body Movement."

**OUR AWARD WINNING TM'S**

Recently ribbons were awarded to...

**Best Speaker:** Monique Cordeau, Mike Munyer, Bill Hampton, Aparna Vemuri, Harry Riback

**Best Table Topics:** Lela Hankins (ATM-B & CL), Monique Cordeau, Lela Hankins, Sassan Haghgoo (CTM)

**Best Evaluator:** Tanis Brown (CTM & CL), Tom Savell (ATM-S & CL), Sassan Haghgoo (CTM), Don Larson (CTM & CL)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

June Club Party, look for details soon. June Officer Installation followed by July Officer Training sessions.