

**OMNI Talker—Summer Edition**

**July 2010**

## *OMNI is President's Distinguished 11 Years...in a row*

Omni Toastmasters celebrated on June 24th, 2010 when it became a President's Distinguished Club for the eleventh year in a row. OMNI members Darrell King and Chuck Rudis completed their Competent Communicator manuals to push OMNI to the top. Stepan Babanin also completed his Advanced Communicator Bronze.

In order to be a President's Distinguished Club there are ten requirements. The club must have all officers trained at semi-annual training sessions, there must be a net gain of at least 2 Competent Communicators; in addition, the club must have a net gain of at least one advanced communicator or advanced leader. The club must also recruit new members and may qualify for one or two points by the number recruited. Membership dues and officer lists must be reported to Toastmasters International in a timely manner.

So what's the big deal? Clubs that reach Distinguished Status have their act together. They are the "movers and shakers" of Toastmasters. These clubs are doing the right things to attract new members and train them to be better speakers and leaders. This is a team effort and the OMNI officers for 2009-2010, under the direction of outgoing president Tim Tyckoson, made it happen.

As OMNI moves on to its new year, 2010-2011, we again look forward to attracting many new members to our club and helping them achieve their goals to improve their speaking and leadership skills. President's Distinguished is our club goal but more importantly we want to train our existing members and new members to attain the leadership and speaking skills they first sought out at OMNI.



June 24th Meeting Darrell King, CC, Stepan Babanin ACB, Chuck Rudis, CC and OMNI Past President Tim Tyckoson

## *New Omni Members Welcome to...*



**Chris Duroseau**



**Deepshikha Gupta**



**Gerda Mothersil**



**David McDeed**



## Introductions

**Introductions** - reminders and tips to get the most out of your Toastmaster experience:

The **purpose** of the introduction is to give a pertinent background of the speaker that encourages the audience to listen to what that person has to say.

**Preparing your introduction** helps you focus on the message of your presentation in your role. It can "set the stage" for your talk, and can also be a nice tie-in to the theme of the meeting.

**For the speaker**, your introduction should be a 15- to 30-second written biography, sharing your authority or experience, or something that defines you as a toastmaster or an individual.

However, it is important to use this feature to introduce your speech – to pique interest in your topic, to explain your objectives, or to describe your target audience if it's in a setting other than a Toastmaster club.

**For everyone else**, your introductions should be short and sweet. Focus on a couple of sentences about yourself as a toastmaster or maybe something about you related to the theme of the meeting.



**Sending your introduction prior to weekly meeting:**

***Toastmaster of the Week:*** please e-mail your introduction to the Sergeant at Arms , who will open the meeting and introduce you.

***Speakers, General Evaluator and Table Topics Master:*** please e-mail your introduction to the Toastmaster of the week.

***Evaluators:*** please e-mail your introduction to the General Evaluator.

(The technical table participants do not need introductions.)

**When introducing others**, you are encouraged to memorize and present the content of the introduction versus reading it, unless the speaker requests that something be quoted. This gives you practice in **thinking on your feet**, as well as presentation skills.

## Club Ambassador Program...

**District 84** has a special program that helps clubs find new ideas and network with other Toastmasters. A club Ambassador visits other clubs to see how they conduct meetings, makes notes of things that make the clubs visited unique and builds up the local Toastmaster organization by networking with other club members. At the completion of three different club visits, the Toastmaster is awarded a special pin and certificate for his/her work. Why not consider being a **Club Ambassador** this year. Check out the following link to District 84 for more information: [Club Ambassador Program](#)



## Omni Team Builds for Success By Howard Brenner

On Saturday, June 5, many OMNI members, family, and friends gathered at the Airport Lanes Bowling alley in Sanford for an evening of fun, fellowship, and a bit of competition. The event was a social gathering to celebrate another great year of OMNI 6861's twenty-two years and an opportunity to strengthen our team; OMNIans and guests came from near and far to enjoy. Once the fashionable and timeless bowling shoes were laced up, balls chosen, and pizza and soda delivered, the evening got off to a great start. Bowling is and can be great fun as a social sport; it provides exercise, good times, and an opportunity to cultivate friendships. My family and I arrived a little late but were greeted with warm open arms and shared a lane with Darrell, "I haven't bowled in over 100 years", King; guess who won all games in our lane, scoring well over 100 and encroaching on the 150s?



Aside from the bowling it was a great opportunity to get to know each other more and learn about family, jobs, goals, etc. Holding events like this can not only build a better club but also create new friendships. Thanks to Tim Tyckoson, Immediate Past President, for setting up this event because a good time was had by all and it has strengthened our club and team. As we embark on this 23<sup>rd</sup> year for OMNI 6861 I would suspect that more team building events are on the horizon to ensure future successes.

## Website News - Members Only



The OMNI Toastmasters web site and many other freetoasthost toastmaster websites offer an area for members to keep track of their progress as Toastmasters. In order to do this, you need to go to the "members only" area of your local club web site and login with your user id and password. If you don't know your user id or password, contact your club's webmaster.

Once you are in to the members area you can do many things. There is an area to plan your goals for the year, an excellent way of tracking your progress in the club. We all know that goals need to be adjusted from time to time; this tool has the ability to make those changes.

There is also an area where you can update your website profile. Just like we all need to update our resume when we attain a new skill, this website function lets you add new information about yourself to the site in the "meet our members" section.

There are club tools available in this area so that club officers can plan out the year and realize their goals. This area has two tools: the "The Duty Roster" helps plan club meetings, and the "Club Goals" section has a template for how the club can obtain "Distinguished" status.

Take a few minutes and tour the "members only" area; it has many tools to make you a successful OMNI Toastmaster.

by [John Reilly](#)

## OMNI Accomplishments 2009—2010

Lisa Beyer ACB	Stepan Babanin ACB	Mary Carol Holbert	Darrell King CC
John Reilly CL	Chuck Rudis CC	Jordan Smith CC	Marjorie O. Smith, CC CL

### Take Five

By Mary Carol Holbert

“Take Five” usually means to take a five-minute break, but what if we give the expression an OMNI twist? What if we were to “take five” **words** (*Toastmasters love words*) to describe what makes OMNI special?



Mine would be:

**Welcome.** From the first evening I walked into an OMNI Toastmasters meeting, I felt welcomed and appreciated. They were having a special awards night, with food and presentations of “Toastmaster of the Year” and the “Gerry O’Meara Spirit of Success” Awards, the format of which they explained was not typical of their meetings. They invited me to come back the next week to see what their normal meetings were like, which I did. Again, I was warmly welcomed. The atmosphere in both meetings seemed nurturing, with lots of encouragement and shared laughter among the participants. From the very beginning, OMNI was a place where I instinctively felt “at home”.

I still see this attitude toward our visitors. Whenever I receive calls from people interested in attending an OMNI meeting, I can tell the prospective guest that he or she will be welcomed with open arms and know that my words are true. OMNI always greets its guests warmly, and offers a nurturing home to all who seek development of their communication and leadership potential.

**Encouragement.** I remember wondering what a Toastmaster meeting would be like... Would the speakers be evaluated critically? Would the standards be strict? What were the club’s expectations? My questions were answered in short order, as it soon became clear that OMNI encouraged its members to learn and grow by creating a safe, nurturing environment in which to spread fledgling wings and fly.

Indeed, whether we are on our first flight, or soaring with the eagles, OMNI provides guidance appropriate to our communication level. Care is taken to affirm what we’ve done well, and to wrap insightful suggestions for improvement inside meaningful, encouraging feedback.

We are inspired to soar higher and further, always learning (whether it be from our own speaking experiences or from listening to others.) I love the feeling that we are all being cheered onward by our fellow OMNIans and the knowledge that they sincerely want each of us to succeed.

**Growth.** One of the most appealing things about being a Toastmaster is knowing that we share something very special – the desire to continue developing and growing. To that end we seek to improve our communication and leadership skills through the programs OMNI and Toastmasters International offer.

I have seen individuals grow beyond their own expectations, overcoming their fear of public speaking to achieve Competent Communicator and Advanced Communicator status, as well as compete in speech contests at the club level and beyond. Our confidence grows with each new accomplishment. Watching the transition from Ice Breaker to CC and beyond (both for myself and others) highlights the growth possible with our work at OMNI.

Even more growth is possible for the future. Area 41 has just gotten more competitive, with three new clubs that will challenge us in competitions. OMNI will be pushed to new levels of excellence, which is good news for all of us.

On the Leadership side, OMNI’s record is a testimony to what is possible within Toastmasters International. We’ve had Area, Division, and District officers rise from our ranks (and OMNI’s banner has the ribbons to prove it.)

My positive experience with OMNI, from the first OMNI Officer Meeting I attended (*when I was not an officer but only interested*), through the first District Training session I attended (*when I was still not an officer*), continuing with multiple District 84 Conferences and my year as OMNI President prompted my belief that I could take on the position as Chair of our District 84 2009 Spring Conference. In turn, the people I met through Toastmasters and the support I have from OMNI led me to accept the office of Area 41 Governor for this 2010-2011 term.

Additionally, watching Dennis Wooldridge (past and now [hooray!] current OMNIan) take on his new office as District 84 Lt. Governor Marketing shows that even further advancement is possible for any of us in OMNI. (Jim Ocque is another inspiring example of OMNI success.) Our leadership potential is wide open – it's up to each of us to embrace the opportunities that present themselves.

**Diversity.** You've got to love a club that resembles a mini-UN. I find the cultural diversity in OMNI fascinating, educational, and thought-provoking. On any given Thursday I may learn something about growing up in China, going to school in Russia, attending college in Sweden, naming conventions in Pakistan, Carnival in the Caribbean islands, or life with siblings in Turkey (to name just a few possibilities).

OMNI has managed to attract and keep members from around the globe. Additionally, thanks to the lure of our beautiful Florida sun, we have members originating from many different states, ensuring a delightful regional diversity and a wealth of unique experiences.

**Fun.** While I mention this word last, it could as easily come first, for it's the one thing that runs through everything we do in OMNI. At meetings, competitions, conferences, or training sessions, humor abounds.

OMNIans have fun. We laugh – a lot! We like to play – with our meeting themes, our parties, our special functions... it's part of who we are, and why OMNI works so well. (Again, check out those ribbons on our banner – we're doing something right!)

Anniversary Celebration? You bet. You want to have a picnic? We're in. Bowling, you say? Absolutely. Oh – and if we're planning something special, don't dare forget the food! You see, we OMNIans like to eat... Sharing food is communal and friendly, not to mention delightfully (and sometimes sinfully) delicious. (Yummmmm... did someone mention 'pie'?)

So there you have it – my “take five” on what makes OMNI special. What's yours?

## District 84 WebSite

See what's happening on the District Level



## Voices of Opportunity gets its Charter...Yeah!

**Congratulations** to our sister club, Voices of Opportunity which received its charter on July 12, 2010.

This club was started back in 2009 and meets Mondays at the Cork and Olive in Lake Mary at 6:15 p.m.

Come visit VOO to network with your fellow Toastmasters and maybe share a glass of “vino.”



## The President Speaks...

The 2010-2011 Toastmaster term started on July 1, 2010. I would like to thank all OMNI members who have given me the opportunity to serve the Club as the President. The 2009-2010 OMNI Officers left the new officers with huge shoes to fill. During the last term, 2009-2010, OMNI once again achieved the Presidents' Distinguished Club title, which means that we maintained 10 out of 10 of our program goals for the club. This is a result of the dedication of our OMNI Officers and, more importantly, our fellow OMNI Members.

For the 2010-2011 term it is our goal to once again become a President's Distinguished Club, but more importantly it is our goal to have fun and enjoy our experience at Toastmasters. For the 2010-2011 term, here's what OMNI members and guests can expect:

- Continue to uphold the status of President's Distinguished Club title.
- Continue our excellent marketing drive for new OMNI members.
- Prepare special themed meetings.
- Invite guest speakers to conduct educational and valuable workshops, not only to assist us as Toastmasters, but as professionals as well.
- Hold once-a-month officers' meetings.

Your officers are excited about the 2010-2011 term. We will hold our first OMNI Officers meeting on Monday, July 26, 2010, at 6:00 pm. We encourage all OMNI members to join us for this first officers meeting. We will set our goals for the term, Including planning themed meetings, contest etc...

Come one, come all — let's plan for the Fall.

**Jordan Smith, OMNI President 2010-11**

## OMNI Installs New Officers 2010-2011

On July 1, 2010 OMNI Toastmasters said "Thank You" to the outgoing Officers for 2009—2010 and installed its new leadership team. We look forward to having another productive and exciting year as we all grow in leadership and communication skills.



**VP Education - Heather Chou , VP Membership - Stepan Babanin  
VP Pubic Relations - John Reilly, Treasurer - Howard Brenner  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Darrell King  
President - Jordan Smith, Secretary - Marjorie Smith**

**Club Contests  
will be held  
in August...  
Be Prepared**

**Humorous Speech  
&  
Speech Evaluation**



Thank you to our outgoing Officers for 2009-2010 especially our past president Tim Tyckoson.



Jordan Smith and Tim

**OMNI TALKER  
Publication  
Team**

**John Reilly - VP Public Relations - Editor**

**Lisa Beyer - Editor**

**Stepan Babanin - Editor**

We are in need of writers and contributors for our Fall edition. Contact [jreilly620@gmail.com](mailto:jreilly620@gmail.com) with news or articles.

