

## Division “A” News – May 2010

### Votes of Thanks

**Thank you** to everyone who has given it a go this year – registered awards, entered contests, served on Executives, been a mentor (recognised formally or not) to others or just pitched in and helped. Did I miss anyone? All those help us create that “positive and mutually supportive learning environment” central to our mission.

**Thank you**, too, to those who have helped out at training, contests, clinics, workshops and the other events we’ve held this year. “Helping out” is giving up your time, whether as an organiser, presenter, chair arranger, refreshments wrangler or audience member. These events bring clubs together and breathe life into the organisation.

As well as the contests and training, your Division has held three clinics and two special events. They’ve been fun to organise and, from feedback, fun to attend. We’ll see if they’ve blown the budget later!

### The end of the Year

It’s not over yet! As a member, this is **your** chance to help **your** club, because your club needs **members**. As of now, 18 of 42 clubs are eligible for Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) recognition – but 25 would be **now** if they had the numbers, and another ten have four DCP goals. That’s 17 clubs that might miss out if they don’t increase their membership.

What can I do, you ask – plenty. First, check your DCP report.

Go to [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org), put ‘DCP report’ in the search box, click the first entry, put in your club number and hit Enter.

If your “to date” figure is 20 or more, sweet as – if not, add 5 to the “baseline” number. If the result is less than 20, that’s the number you need – if not, you need 20. If that’s more than your numbers now – you have a job to do.

### What Can I Do?

This is a great time to look round, see who you know who might need a burst of Toastmasters and ask them “What would make Toastmasters a good option for **you**?” Make sure you stress the WIIFM (What’s In It For Me) factor. If just one in three members got a friend to join, our average club strength would be 23.

Clubs, consider running special offers. How about “Join in June, pay until March and your first four months is free”? Cost per member – around \$35. Not bad if you only need one or two.

Think about it!

### Coming soon

(July 1 to be exact)

### **Single Sign-on (SSO) To World HQ**

Yes, this will affect you! Please make sure you have an account set up before July 1; and be prepared to help those who don’t use computers as much as you do. If in doubt – ask!

### **Next year’s challenge**

Toastmasters is changing in many ways, most of them electronic. But is “*Yuh gotta be on Facebook*” enough for us?

Murray Coutts, our incoming LGM, will challenge us to use social networking next year. As incoming Division PR, I say “Know your enemy” – if you know how to get the best out of the social networks, I want to hear from *you*.

Finally, watch out for the Division blog, because we’ll have one. Details will follow when they’ve been worked out! ☺

Have a great last few weeks but...

### **Above all- HAVE FUN!**

**Mike Diggins, DTM – Div. A Governor  
(for a limited time)**

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### Breaking News:

It’s not in the stats yet, but congratulations to A4’s Harrison Road. After years of not quite making the DCP because of low membership (but otherwise scoring most of the goals), they’ve done it in style. Not just 20 members – but Select Distinguished now and quite possibly President’s by June 30. Well done everyone – just shows what a little post-Speechcraft motivation can do!