State Of The Club
Twin Oaks Toastmasters
Donald W. Larson, President

November 7, 2004

To all members:

The first half of our Toastmaster year is almost over. Current officer terms end on December 31st of this calendar year. Before the upcoming elections starting on November 17th, occur, I would like to bring the club up-to-date on a few matters.

First, I would like to say thank you for electing me your President this term. It has been a wonderful opportunity to exercise some leadership skills that were strongly supported by the other officers and members of the club.

At this time I would like to make it clear that I will not be an officer next term. I believe strongly that our club is a leadership club and that new leaders must emerge when elections are held. That is the only way that we can give everyone an opportunity to lead and evolve the growing needs of the club. I will be serving as Past-President next, but that is not an elected position.

I believe in accountability. To lead without accountability is to not lead, but to do something else. When I ran for President last May, I published a, “President Position Paper” to let all members know my perspectives and goals. I would like to review those main points (please refer to the “President Position Paper” for more detail) and how close I came to achieving them with the help of all supporters:

- Increase membership to between 40 to 50 members (from 28). We now stand at 38 members as of this date.
- Additional meetings. This has not moved past the officer discussion phase. As membership grows it may need to be addressed by all members.
- Minimum Achievement of each member to attain CTM and CL. We have made some progress against this goal. I gave 18 months for a target date from the time new members joined. This goal remains undecided, although several of us have completed the CL requirements since I became President. It remains for other members to keep the ball moving on this goal.
- Advanced Achievement for CTM’s and above. This goal is somewhat aligned with the second and third goals stated above. We continue to encourage
educational levels beyond CTM and CL. We already have several members working on those goals.

- **Community Activism.** Several members of our club use their Toastmasters skills by working on other community and volunteer efforts. We still need more members to use their Toastmaster skills to help in areas they are interested in outside of the Toastmaster realm.

- **Technology Presentations.** There have been more slideshows given this term since I joined. Such tools are important in today’s world. Using them in our meetings is a good way to increase your experience and to empower your ideas outside of Toastmasters when you present them there.

- **Special Memberships.** This goal has not been discussed further. It may not be as feasible as I once thought it was.

- **Leadership Focus.** This upcoming election is the true test of this goal. Of the current 38 paid members, 22 have already served as an officer at least once. Several members have served more than once and in different positions. Many members have been participating, as Mentors and helping the meetings get prepared ahead of time. We have accomplished many things together for a club of five+ years. We can only continue to strive towards improvement if people who have not served before now serve.

You are the only people that can assess whether the officer and mentor contributions have helped move the club ahead or stay status quo. The officers and mentors think we moved the club ahead with the help of all members. Only you can know whether we said we would. Only you know if you can help carry the momentum forward for the next six months.

We, as a club, are already on track to repeat Presidents Distinguished Club again for this Toastmaster Year that ends June 30, 2005. We need help from those that are close to getting their CTM, the next set of officers to get four officers trained, and to have some paperwork submitted next Spring.

I believe I have described the State of the Club accurately. We cannot coast now. We need to keep the inertia in our favor. That’s why we have the membership that gets things done. That’s why we have gained over eight members since July 1st. If you like what Twin Oaks Toastmasters offers, then contribute where and when the club needs you. That time is now.

Sincerely,

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