

# Extremely ... !



*Extreme Toastmasters #595201*

## P. R. Pep Rally at Parade

Singing, dancing, jumping, cheering: If this is announcing, it's of the most interactive kind.

Chicago's Thanksgiving Parade, sponsored by McDonald's, winds its way along downtown State Street each year—in front of a massive group of 350,000 people who watch from the sidelines. Braving the city's cold winds and other winter weather conditions, these viewers enjoy the live aspect of the parade, while hosts of others watch from the warmth of their homes as the event is televised. This year, for the first time in the parade's 73-year history, the sidewalk

fans received unseasonably warm temperatures—and were given play-by-play information about what they were witnessing, just like at-home TV viewers.

Toastmasters District 30 was invited by parade producers and officials to act as ambassadors, emceeding floats and events along the parade route from four different 5-foot high platforms. The platforms bore banners advertising Toastmasters International (1-888-8-WE-SPEAK), while ambassadors wore sashes to identify themselves as official Toastmasters

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## Full Crowd at Fall Conference

A bevy of speakers gathered at Georgios in Orland Park, Illinois, over the second weekend in November for the annual District 30 Fall Conference, titled this year "Communication is Key"—and where even leaders went to learn.

Extreme Toastmasters' own leaders were on-hand, including outgoing club President John Foley, as well as incoming President Tim Wilson.

Both said they benefited from watching the various speaking styles of different presenters.

"Although I didn't get to give an educational session," said Tim, who has delivered such workshops at prior conferences, "... I did go to a few of

the educational sessions offered, and noticed the styles of the presenters, learning about different approaches to public speaking."

Sessions were held Saturday afternoon and evening, and included such topics as storytelling, image improvement, and the use of digital media and software in both club and career business. A general session was available to everyone in attendance that morning; Toastmasters International Director and Distinguished Toastmaster\* Charles Albright addressed the crowd on the subject of club-building.

Tim—who has served as club

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*Above:* Extreme Toastmaster Lisa Loverde, ATM-G, shares a platform with Charles Brooks of District 30, motivating and informing a section of the crowd at the McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade.

*Below:* Santa Claus is a featured regular on parade day.

*Below right:* Toastmasters from around Chicago bear sashes and serve as ambassadors in a first-ever effort to share parade and float information with those in the live crowd. Allen M. Green chaired the event, with help from Extreme team members Lisa Loverde and Pat Lee. Colleen Lawson of E.T. also participated.



## Continued Story P. R. Pep Rally at Parade

hosts.

"Our platform had a bar that was right at eye level for me," said Extreme Toastmaster Lisa Loverde, who shared a microphone at the event with Charles Brooks, another District 30 Toastmaster. "The entire crowd may not have been able to see me, but I know they heard me!"

Lisa and Charles garnered spectator interaction a number of times on Thanksgiving Day,

"When the Ukrainian dancing troupe came by and performed, I shouted, 'Who here is from the Ukraine? Jump up and down!' Of course, the dancers and I were jumping up and down," she laughed. "But I said, 'Come on, there are more Ukrainians than that in Chicago!' Then the people (in the audience) started jumping up and down."

Other platforms were shared by multiple Toastmasters ambassadors—including two others from E.T.: Pat Lee and Colleen Lawson.

Pat, along with Lisa, served on the

parade planning committee, organizing and rehearsing talent, as well as drafting press releases. Pat has held a leadership position at this club for the last six months, serving as the Sargeant-at-Arms—or in Extreme lingo, the Chief Hospitality Officer. Her other parade day duties included acting as her platform's stage manager.

"We all learned a lot and had fun," Pat said. "The parade itself was really quite wonderful, and the script was certainly descriptive."

Colleen, who is an incoming club officer, herself, helped Pat prepare for off-the-script possibilities, such as floats or groups that were out of order: She interviewed a Naperville-area parade announcer veteran, Steven Hyatt, and shared his tips online with all of Extreme.

"It was a great experience," Colleen said. ★



## Continued Story **Full Crowd at Fall Conference**

President in the past, as well as club mentor—also participated in the evaluation contest on Friday evening.

"I ... discovered I had no idea what criteria the judges were using to decide the winners of the contest," he told *Extremely ... !* "So, instead of obsessing about the competition, I enjoyed my 2-3 minutes onstage, had some fun in evaluating, and did my best!"

Tim's positive attitude is a large part of what makes him a winning leader.

Other winning leaders who attended and performed at the Fall Conference included District 30's own Edward Hearn, the World Champion of Public Speaking through Toastmasters International for 2006. His keynote address, "What Happens When There is a Failure to Communicate?" was a featured part of the opening ceremony for Saturday's full day of events—and was a big draw for a lot of the attendees.

"There were some good speakers there," judged John Foley of E.T.

He added that their diversity was an important factor for those in the audience who were looking for public speaking paradigms.

"Some have their own companies and do this for a living. Others (were) speaking to achieve their DTM," or Distinguished Toastmaster title\*, John explained.

In just a matter of months, the Spring Conference will be held, offering similar opportunities for professional and personal growth. ★

*\*Distinguished Toastmaster is a title awarded to any Toastmaster who achieves Competent Leader status, completes all previous Competent and Advanced Communicator criteria, and serves in club and regional offices. Additionally, Distinguished Toastmasters must either charter or mentor a club to obtain this pinnacle of achievement.*

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*"I ... noticed the styles of the presenters, learning about different approaches to public speaking."  
– Tim Wilson, DTM*

Tim Wilson (center) stands with a group of Distinguished Toastmasters being honored at the District 30 awards ceremony on Saturday evening at the district's 2006 Fall Conference. Having achieved this highest honor in the Toastmasters program, Tim is currently working toward earning the newly updated Competent Leader title. The conference—dubbed "Communication is Key!"—was part of the networking and leadership programs offered annually by Toastmasters throughout Chicagoland.



Extreme Toastmasters  
#595201

### Incoming Officers

Tim Wilson, President  
**wilsontctc**  
**@yahoo.com**

Brendan Tripp,  
VP of Education  
**btripp@aol.com**

Ed Erickson,  
VP of Membership  
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Sara Hall,  
VP of Marketing/PR  
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John Foley, Chief  
Financial Officer  
**jpaulfoley@gmail.com**

Colleen Carter-Lawson,  
Chief Information Officer  
**thewhynotgirl+**  
**publicspeaking**  
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Ryan Scharfer,  
Chief Hospitality Officer  
**scharfer55**  
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**Extreme  
Toastmasters**  
meets every  
Wednesday from  
6:15–8:15 p.m. in  
the residential  
building at 100 W.  
Chestnut, 2nd floor  
meeting space.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.\*\*Extreme\*\*  
\*\*Toastmasters.com\*\*](http://www.ExtremeToastmasters.com)

## New Member Profile: Maria Willmer

Our club welcomes **Maria Willmer**, a newer member, who tells us why she's extremely interested in E.T. in the following interview:

**E.T.:** Are you originally from Chicago?

**M.W.:** Nope. I'm from Michigan, but I've called Chicago home since 1993 when I struck out on my own.

**E.T.:** What do you do for a living here in the Windy City?

**M.W.:** I'm a Legal Research Specialist /Law Librarian at DePaul University, where I'm also working on my MBA.

**E.T.:** Fascinating. How can Toastmasters help you in these areas?

**M.W.:** I've found Toastmasters to be helpful before: Right after college in

Ann Arbor, I visited several different Toastmasters clubs and found them to be helpful in overcoming my fear of public speaking. I'll be leading workshops in my current job soon and need the updated practice!

**E.T.:** What led you to Extreme?

**M.W.:** Extreme Toastmasters is very close to where I live—and right on my way home from downtown. Plus, the welcome I received here was warm. The unfortunate news is that I have an accounting class this term that will cause my attendance with the group to be sporadic.

When you see Maria, wish her good luck in Accounting! And don't forget to encourage her to deliver her Ice-Breaker speech, too. ★

### Extremely ... ! Editor 'Retires'; New Newsletter to be Electronic

Kealah Parkinson (pronounced *KEE-la*), honorary Vice President of Communications, has been producing Extreme's club newsletter *Extremely ... !* throughout 2006—and has enjoyed bringing important calendar events and feature stories on a variety of subjects to the group's attention. This month marks the tenth and final issue of *Extremely ... !*

"My favorite part of producing this newsletter has been getting to know new club members," she says. "My second-favorite part has been receiving feedback on my work."

Kealah joined E.T. in early 2005 in

order to polish public presentations of her work: She's a writer who is self-publishing a book she wrote.

And her work will continue to benefit E.T., as she contributes articles to the group's website—a feature recently added by club co-founder Rocky Romero.

In addition, Extreme Toastmasters will also receive regular updates in electronic form from Rocky and others in the know, such as Tim Wilson, the club's former and returning President.

"I look forward to the new format," Kealah shares in saying goodbye. ★

### Mark Your Calendars!

Resolve to give better speech evaluations in the New Year! Extreme Club President Tim Wilson shows you how on **January 5, 2007** at Harris Bank downtown (111 W. Monroe) during the monthly **First Fridays** event sponsored by sister club Next Step. From **12:15-12:45 p.m.**, Tim presents "Informative Evaluations" to help you as an evaluator find the balance between supporting a speaker's efforts and encouraging him or her to improve. There is no cost to attend. ★

### About Our Organization...

At Extreme Toastmasters, we strive:  
*To provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop and*

*practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.*

Join us each week! ★