



Toastmasters Treasure...Profiles in Performance

District 22 Toastmasters

FEATURE News

LARRY WILSON

July 29, 2004

By Peggy Lynn, ATMB, Public Relations Officer

Here we are nearly a month into the new Toastmasters year, ready and eager to put fresh ideas into action. Take a tip from this District 22 treasure, Larry Wilson, of Bluejacket and the DST Clubs: "Visit other clubs."

Larry admits he wasn't the first to say those words. In fact, he heard them from Ryan Hartwich, ATMB/CL, when thinking of joining the Bluejacket Club in Shawnee, KS. Early on in Larry's Toastmasters career, he decided to see which club would be the best fit for him. Larry took Ryan's advice, which was actually more like a "dare" to find a more likable club.



Periodically with the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department, Larry Wilson teaches a class: "How to Get Started on Family History." His interest in genealogy since 1980 grew to a passion. Larry thought others might benefit from his experiences as they journey into this ever blossoming past time. After acceptance of his class proposal, Larry was the instant leader for those adults on family history missions. Realizing Toastmasters would help improve his communication and presentation skills, Larry sought out the nearby Bluejacket Club. Another journey began.

As Larry took Ryan's "chasing away" or rather, "dare," he not only had a lot of fun, he discovered the benefits of visiting many clubs. Thrilled with the fact that no matter what club he visited, Toastmasters everywhere "immediately adopted" him, generously passing along expertise. Larry feels his skills were "rapidly fine-tuned." Ninety-four meetings with about eighteen different clubs later and still counting, Larry Wilson is on the Toastmasters fast-track! He ended up joining Bluejacket in May but before that, Larry visited Masters in Overland Park. Not knowing enough about Toastmasters to realize they were an "Advanced Club" and he wasn't even eligible to join, he did meet Jack Mackey, ATMS, then District 22's Lieutenant Governor Marketing, who was also visiting. Jack leaped at the fact that Larry worked at DST, a spot ripe for a club. As a Software Engineer programming workstations, Larry was eager to be a catalyst for others at DST merging two great organizations. Through the energy of Jack and Larry, amongst others, THREE new clubs formed for District 22! Don't Stop Talking at DST (a.k.a. DST@DST) where Larry was Charter President, DST TNT and the latest: Boulevard Boasters where Larry is Club Mentor, are parts of Larry's legacy. Not only that, Larry Wilson is also the district's initial Area L6 Governor this year! Okay, one can call him a Toastmaster addict, but there is no doubt Larry Wilson is a great Toastmasters' TREASURE! If you think one person doesn't make a difference, think again! Ask ANYONE who has met Larry. He is a man of action and one can't be around him long without realizing that fact! The photo shows Larry helping with handouts at the first Area and Division Governor Training June 19th in Overland Park.

Being the seasoned visitor and appreciating the different ways clubs do things, Larry also saw the need for more training on evaluations. So he set up a training session which will take place Monday, August 2nd, 6:30pm at the Thayer Building, Room 405-406, 816 Broadway (NW corner 9th & Broadway), Kansas City, MO. Meet Larry as the Toastmaster. There will be a presentation, speech, evaluation by an award-winning evaluator and Q&A with a panel discussion OPEN to all! Don't miss it!

Incidentally, Larry Wilson joined Toastmasters in January, 2004! We may need to rename "fast-track" to RAPID-FIRE! WOW! Contact him at LMW3@planetkc.com or LMWilson@DSTSystems.com (phone 816-435-8426).