

District 13 Press Release

Rick Ley, Public Relations Officer

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL®

Dated: Thursday, July 1, 2010

Another Trophy for Pittsburgh?

This August the World Championship of Public Speaking trophy will be awarded by Toastmasters International and it may very well be presented to a young Pittsburgh area resident named Jeff Esper. Jeff lives just south of Pittsburgh and works for an Internet firm in Green Tree, but on a regular basis he attends the South Hills Toastmasters Club meetings to practice his craft ... public speaking.

Toastmasters is an international organization that helps individuals improve their communications and leadership skills while building self-confidence. This non-profit organization has over 12,500 clubs serving nearly 300,000 members in 106 countries. Each year Toastmasters conducts a series of speech contests that culminate with the World Championship of Public Speaking contest in conjunction with the Toastmasters Annual Convention.

The 79th Annual Convention will be held in Palm Desert California from August 11 - 14. Annually, nearly 30,000 Toastmasters enter their club's speech contests with the dream of being the World Champion of Public Speaking. Jeff will be one of 81 Toastmasters from throughout the world competing in nine semi-final speech contests with the hopes of moving on to the finals on Saturday, August 14.

To earn his spot in this world-class event, Mr. Esper needed to win his club's speech contest in addition to contests in his Toastmasters Area 1, Division A and then the District 13 International Speech Contest held at the Spring Conference in State College on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Jeff's speech "No Average Joe," was a tribute to his father, Joe Esper, who just happens to have an uncanny resemblance to Beaver Falls native and Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath.

Jeff also won the District 13 International Speech Contest last year and two years ago the District was represented by Mr. Charlie Wilson of State College. Mr. Wilson made it to the Toastmasters International finals giving him the distinction of being one of the top ten public speakers in the world.

Toastmasters District 13 covers all of Western Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland with over 1,200 Toastmaster members in 67 local clubs. Most of the Toastmaster clubs are community oriented open to all residents over the age of 18, while others are corporate sponsored clubs that use the Toastmasters program to support their employee development efforts.

District 13 is supporting and encouraging Jeff as he prepares for his next two speeches. With the experience he gained and a little luck, Pittsburgh might just have another championship to celebrate!

Mr. Jeff Esper can be reached at JeffEsper@gmail.com

About Toastmasters - Toastmasters International (TI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1924 to help individuals improve their communications and leadership skills while building self-confidence. TI has over 12,500 clubs serving nearly 300,000 individuals in 106 countries. Toastmasters clubs can be community oriented serving residents over 18 years of age or corporate clubs supporting the employee development needs of the company. District 13 serves club members in western Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland.

Contact - Email: Rick.Ley.TM@gmail.com • Phone: 724.933.0074