

# The President's Gavel

Minutes, news, events, from The President's  
Toastmasters Club, East Cobb, Georgia

February 25, 2008



Dear Emma,

Please find enclosed the very first edition of **The President's Gavel**. We hope you like it!

Each issue will be sent out by email the Monday after a meeting has been held. A limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting. Each issue will also be archived on our club's website. Please email me with any cut and pastable content--jokes, quotes, tips, bios (for member spotlight section), and news/events. This MUCH appreciated--your name will be credited.

Many thanks to **Sutham Cheurprakobkit** for providing the meeting minutes on which much of the content is based.

Sincerely

**Emma Hitt**

VP PR, The President's Club

## In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Other Announcements](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

[Meeting Info](#)

## Upcoming Events

## Meeting Info

**The President's Club** meetings are held on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of each month from 7pm to 9pm. Please check club calendar for exceptions.

## Upcoming Meetings

**March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd**

East Cobb Government Center: 4400 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta.  
[Directions](#)

## Quick Links

[The Presidents Club Website](#)

[District 14 \(Georgia\) Website](#)

[Toastmasters International](#)

[The Georgia Gavel](#)

## Officer's Corner

## Area 44 Table Topic and International Speech Contest



Come join us in support of **Jim Dawson**, DTM, (we're pretty sure he's going to win actually)

### When:

Saturday, March 8, 2008, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Please arrive at between 8:30 - 8:45 AM

**Where:** To be held at Coca Cola Enterprises, 3200 Windy Hill Rd., Atlanta, GA 30339 in the West Tower, on the first floor conference room in Wildwood Office Park. See map. Park in the rear of the office complex and enter the building from the back revolving door.

Spring Conference May 2 & 3, 2008 in Peachtree City GA. Click [here](#) for details.

## Other Announcements

We have achieved Distinguished Club status! See what we have accomplished and what other goals lay ahead of us by clicking [here](#)

Your Dues Are Due by March 19, 2008. Please send a check for \$45 to treasurer **Rob McGoldrick** as soon as possible at 2866 Johnson Ferry Rd Marietta, GA 30062. Make check payable to The Presidents Club.

## Meeting Minutes 2/20/2008

Prepared by **Sutham Cheurprakobkit**

### Attendees

Number of members in attendance: 18

Number of guests: 5

**New Members Needed!** Please think about which friend, family member, or colleague you might invite to the next meeting. We currently have 29 members--the more the merrier--you'll be helping to build a stronger club.

## Newsletter Contest

**Emma Hitt**, your VP PR, is on a mission to win the next newsletter contest. Please email with content, suggestions and feedback to help our club get first place. Entrants will be judged on: content, layout, visual appeal, ease of understanding, overall impact. Deadline to submit entry April 15, 2008. Prizes will be awarded at the Spring Conference: May 2 & 3, 2008 in Peachtree City.

## New VP

**Membership** Thank you **Judi Rogers** for stepping up and becoming our New VP of Membership

## Member Awards

**Sutham Cheurprakobkit**  
**Kumar Choudhuri**  
**Jim Dawson**  
**Robert Gaskin**  
**Sharp Gillespy**  
**Lisa Goodman**  
**Rachel Hilgers**  
**Emma Hitt**  
**Trae Johnson**

**Rob McGoldrick**  
**Rush Netterville**  
**Tom Nixon**  
**Patricia Osborne**  
**Ernie Pollitzer**  
**Judi Rogers**  
**Sean Ryan (Toastmaster)**  
**Denna Shelton (General Evaluator)**  
**Vahn Wagner**

Congratulations to the following Presidents Club members who won the following awards at this year's annual banquet on January 18, 2008:

## Helpers

**Jim Dawson** - Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance  
**Lisa Goodman** - Joke Master  
**Ernie Politzer** - Grammarian  
**Judi Rogers** - Ah Counter  
**Vahn Wagner** - Timer  
**Patricia Osborne** - Vote Counter  
**Kumar Choudhuri** - Videographer

**Judi Rogers** won most enthusiastic helper for the ah counter--the stethoscope was a great touch!



Toastmaster of the Year: **Lisa Goodman**

Most Improved: **Rob McGoldrick**

Most Enthusiatic: **Tom Nixon**

## Speeches



**Rob McGoldrick** won best speaker for his speech "It's About Taxes." Now it takes *talent* to win with a topic like that!

**Trae Johnson** gave the ice breaker speech titled "It's All about Me." Trae showed himself as a nice, friendly, humorous, and socialized person. He belongs to a fraternity group and a volunteer organization that helps feed the homeless. He has just started a job as a middle person between his employer and its clients who still have some balanced accounts (also known as a bill collector). Trae said he has already applied his Toastmasters speaking skills to persuade his girl friend to let him have his way! Trae also shared with us his favorite quote from his mom: "Be who you want to be, say what you say, and go after your goal." **Rush Netterville** evaluated the speech.

**Sharp Gillespy** gave the second speech, which is his ice breaker, titled "Follow Your Passion." Sharp started with his thesis statement, "when people pursue their passion is when they feel happiest." Sharp told the audience his many previous activities and careers dictated by his passions, including a legal profession, traveling to 22 different countries in 52 days, snow skiing and doing other outdoor sports in Colorado, and river-rafting in Grand Canyon, and even holding a financial job at Wall Street in New York. His current passion, which is his present occupation, is in health and fitness (i.e., providing the speed and agility equipment to schools). **Tom Nixon** evaluated this second speech.

**Emma Hitt** gave the third speech titled "Aloha! Happiness in Heavenly Hawaii." Emma shared with us her fun and memorable trip to the land of Aloha. That's right. Emma started her speech with the lovely Aloha dance. She used powerpoint slides to show the geography of Hawaii, briefed

## Member Spotlight

This area will contain info about one member each week (who ever wants to be included, please email Emma a similar piece of text). I'll start to provide an example.

**Emma Hitt** has been with TM since June 2007 and currently serves as the club's VP PR. **What she likes most about TM:** the people/the supportive environment/the organized approach;  
**Biggest TM goal:** to speak um-free;  
**Age:** Not your business;  
**Occupation:** self-



us the history of Hawaii and its demographic, and revealed two key appealing characteristics of the Islands (low unemployment and low crime rates). **Rachel Hilgers** evaluated this third speech.

**Rob McGoldrick** presented the fourth speech titled "It's About Taxes." Rob started with a quote "Tax return is like the most imaginable fiction." Rob talked about the filing for tax return and some of the commonly overlooked information (i.e., information about the mutual funds sales and dividends and capital gains). He also handed out a fact sheet on tax rebate and answered two tax-related questions from the audience. **Sutham Cheurprakobkit** evaluated this last speech.

**Rachael Hilgers** won best evaluator for her evaluation of **Emma Hitt's** speech



#### Table Topics-"Quotes and Words"



Best Table Topics speaker: **Tom Nixon** "it is fine to fail as long as people can learn from such a failure and see it not as a stumbling block, but as a stepping stone."

**Robert Gaskin** was our Table Topics Master, and the theme was "Quotes and Words" and the idea was to allow the participants to respond and give their opinion about the quote given.

First quote: "Don't marry the person who you think you could live with, but marry the one you think you couldn't live without" **Kumar Choudhuri** responded that he knows about an arranged marriage. Although such a marriage was not originated from love, it does have positive sides. That is, there is no expectation from either side, so there are only the upsides.

Second quote: "You should keep on swinging and trying, although you might be in fear." **Trae Johnson** said he agrees with the quote because one should never give up. Rather, one must keep trying in order to achieve his/her goal.

Third quote: "It will take 3 weeks to prepare an impromptu speech."  
**Mike**, one of our guests, responded by saying that it will be difficult anyway for an amateur to speak off-the-cuffs. However, for an experienced speaker or a good writer like Mark Twain, it should be no problem to give an impromptu speech.

Fourth quote: "Be a failure with something you love to do vs. be a success in something you do not like." **Tom Nixon** argued that this quote might not apply well to those who "never or seldom" failed in their life. He believes that it is fine to fail as long as people could learn from such a failure and saw it not as a stumbling block, but as a stepping stone.

**Business Meeting Dues are due--see "other announcements"**

employed medical writer/journalist;  
**Family:** Married to Michael for 7 years, mother to Madeleine, 4, stepmom to Bryant, 18, and Nathanael, 21; **Place of birth:** London, England; **Proudest moment:** a tie between grad school graduation ceremony and any time my 4-year old Madeleine displays signs of consideration towards others; **Hobbies:** stained glass, sterling silver jewelry, reading of nonfiction, dance/aerobics classes at the YMCA; **Greatest talent:** condensing complex scientific information into an understandable, logical format (I know, not very exciting, but it is what it is) I also make a delicious lasagne; **Favorite quote:** "If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right" Henry Ford.