



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

**81st ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUGUST 15-18 2012 • ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

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## Speaker Bios and Handouts

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### Matt Abrahams - Handout

Matt Abrahams is a business executive and university professor. He is co-founder and principal of Bold Echo Communications Solutions, a presentation skills consulting company in California's Silicon Valley that coaches employees and executives to become more confident and compelling speakers.

Matt has held senior leadership positions at several software companies. After a decade in the corporate world, he turned to his true passion: teaching. He now teaches strategic communication at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, and speech communication at De Anza College in Cupertino, California.

He is the author of *Speaking Up Without Freaking Out*, a pocket guide helping people overcome speaking anxiety.

Matt is a member of I'm Feeling Chatty Toastmasters in Mountain View, California.



### Sidd Chopra, DTM, PMP - No Handout

Sidd Chopra is a software developer, entrepreneur and professional speaker. Having traveled to 35 countries, he speaks around the world on topics such as "brain-friendly" communication, creating power presentations in 15 minutes, intercultural communication and how to sell an idea.

Sidd founded LookWiser.com to create cutting-edge presentation tools and training programs designed with the help of leading neuroscientists, cognitive psychologists, and professional speakers.

Currently, he serves on advisory boards for North Carolina State University and Wake Technical Community College, and on the speaker's bureau for the global entrepreneurial organization, TiE. He has served on the national board of directors of the Network of Indian Professionals and also the North Carolina Project Management Institute.

Sidd has been an active Toastmaster in Raleigh, North Carolina, for more than 20 years.



### Sam Davidson - Handout

Sam Davidson is an entrepreneur, professional speaker and author who tells stories that he thinks need telling. He cofounded Cool People Care, an apparel and media company that raises money and awareness for causes around the world. He is also the co-founder of Proof Branding, which helps companies, nonprofits and entrepreneurs launch their ideas. Both companies are based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sam's entrepreneurial success has made him a sought-after speaker at conferences and colleges around the U.S. on the topics of leadership, productivity and making an impact on society. He has been interviewed by *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, National Public Radio and other media outlets.

Sam is also the author of three books: *50 Things Your Life Doesn't Need*, *Simplify Your Life* and *New Day Revolution*.



### **Jock Elliott, ATM - No Handout**

Jock Elliott is a trainer, speechwriter and speech coach. He is also Toastmasters' reigning World Champion of Public Speaking. When he captured the title last year, at the International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, it was his sixth time competing in the championship finals — a record for the event.

Jock's winning speech, "Just So Lucky," reflected on the true nature of relationships. A resident of Bribe Island, Queensland, Australia, Jock is also a professional after-dinner speaker and master of ceremonies. In addition, he is a certified civil marriage celebrant.

Jock has been a member of the same club, Adventurers Toastmasters in Brisbane, Queensland, ever since he first joined Toastmasters in 1975.



### **Chris Ford, DTM, PIP - Handout**

Chris Ford's leadership experience spans more than 35 years in the Canadian Forces as well as in Toastmasters, where he reached the top leadership position, becoming the International President in 2007–2008. He served in the Canadian Army's engineering branch, retiring as a brigadier-general. Chris spent six years leading the conflict management programs at the Canadian Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of National Defence before retiring (again!) as Director General of Alternative Dispute Resolution in 2011.

Currently he is a keynote speaker and provides consulting services in the area of communication, leadership and conflict management through his company, Generally Speaking.

A veteran Toastmaster, he belongs to four clubs in the Ottawa, Ontario, area.



### **Henry Givray - Handout 1, Handout 2, Handout 3, Handout 4, Handout 5**

Henry Givray is president and CEO of SmithBucklin Corporation, the world's largest association management company, with principal offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. Since Henry became CEO in 2002, SmithBucklin has broken every performance record from the previous 60 years.

SmithBucklin provides full-service management and high-impact specialized services to associations, corporations and government institutes. Henry led the transfer of the company's ownership from financial investors to employees, making SmithBucklin 100 percent employee-owned. Several of his articles about leadership have been published in *BusinessWeek* and *Crain's Chicago Business*. He is one of 25 leaders featured in *Apples Are Square: Thinking Differently About Leadership*, a book about the ideal characteristics in a 21st century leader.



### **Paddy Kennedy - Handout**

Paddy Kennedy is a speech and voice coach and an expert on business communication and etiquette. She teaches communication workshops with a strong international and cross-cultural focus.

Paddy is founder and principal of Kennedy Communication Studio in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where she coaches business professionals on international business-communication strategy, accent reduction and intercultural communication and etiquette.

Paddy, a longtime Toastmaster and former division governor, has a strong sense of social responsibility. She created a communication program, Speak-Up! Performance Work, for at-risk youth in Harlem, New York, and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.



### **Lisa Panarello, CC - No Handout**

Lisa Panarello is a career coach and communications trainer. In 2010, she was a finalist at the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking.

As the founder and president of Careers Advance, Lisa has developed a revolutionary career-readiness curriculum and created more than 2,000 resumes while guiding job-seekers in advancing their careers. Simultaneously, her workshops, seminars and keynote speeches have inspired more than 550,000 students, parents and professionals nationwide, and her corporate trainings have led to improved performance, retention and sales.

Lisa, who was a member of the Richmond County Toastmasters in Staten Island, New York, has appeared on CBS's *The Early Show*, co-authored the book *Unleash the Leader Within You!* and produced *The Power of a Smile* DVD.



### **Lars Sudmann, DTM - No Handout**

Lars Sudmann is an entrepreneur, speaker, trainer and international consultant on the topics of leadership and communication. He worked more than 10 years in management, strategy and finance for Procter & Gamble, serving as chief financial officer of Procter & Gamble in Belgium.

Lars also has more than 10 years of experience in professional keynote presenting, training and coaching. A member of the Global Speaker Federation, he has spoken at major European events such as TEDxFlanders.

A Toastmaster for nearly eight years, Lars is a member of the Brussels Toastmasters club in Brussels, Belgium.



### **Pete Weissman, CTM, CL - No Handout**

Pete Weissman is an award-winning speechwriter and communications director with more than 15 years of experience supporting leaders in the White House, United States Senate and Fortune 100 companies.

His firm in Atlanta, Georgia, provides speechwriting and strategic communications services to high-profile companies, foundations and associations. Pete specializes in helping senior executives become recognized thought leaders.

A former speechwriter for Coca-Cola Company Chairman and CEO Neville Isdell, Pete has written for international venues such as the World Economic Forum and the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also a frequent speaker at international communications conferences.

Pete was a six-year member of the U.S. Senate Toastmasters club in Washington, D.C.

