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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area Toastmasters Held 2011 Humorous Speech Contest

Winners chosen from **North Little Rock Contest** will represent **Arkansas** in the next round

North Little Rock, ARKANSAS, October 8, 2011 — District 43, Divisions A & B Toastmasters

joined more than 13,000 Toastmasters clubs from around the world participating in the 2011 Toastmasters International Humorous Speech Contest this month. The contest took place on Saturday, October 8 at the First Pentecostal Church in North Little Rock.

Winners for Division A, covering central and southeast Arkansas, were as follows: Humorous Speech Division winner was Judith Bledsoe, El Dorado; runner up was Christine Valdez, Little Rock. Table Topics Division winner was David Vrudny, Little Rock; runner up was Roger Pritchett, Little Rock.

Winners for Division B, covering western and northwest Arkansas, were as follows: Humorous Speech Division winner was Devang Thakore, Bentonville; runner up was Tim Bell, Little Rock. Table Topics Division winner was Jessica Duff, Little Rock; runner up was Dick Suits, Fort Smith.

The Division A & B contest was the culmination of three levels of Toastmasters speech contests throughout Arkansas. Winners from this contest will go on to represent Arkansas in the District 43 Conference and Speech Contest in Springdale, Arkansas on October 28-29 at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center. District 43 serves more than 1400 Toastmasters from western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and all of Arkansas. More information on the upcoming District Contest can be found at www.district43toastmasters.org.

About Toastmasters

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has more than 270,000 members in over 13,000 clubs in 116 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people of all backgrounds become more confident in front of an audience. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please **visit toastmasters.org**.

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Four images attached for inclusion at your discretion:



Division A Humorous Speech Contest: L-R: Christine Valdez, Little Rock, runner up; Judith Bledsoe, El Dorado, winner.



Division A Table Topics Contest: L-R: ; Roger Pritchett, Little Rock, runner up; David Vrudny, Little Rock, winner.



Division B Humorous Speech Contest: L-R: Tim Bell, Little Rock, runner up; Devang Thakore, Bentonville, winner.



Division B Table Topics Contest: L-R: Devang Thakore, Bentonville, 3rd place; Jessica Duff, Little Rock, winner; Dick Suits, Fort Smith, runner up.