



Minnesota Speaks

The Electronic Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Speakers Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. May 16
Annual Awards Gala
Begins 5:30 pm

Mon. June 12
Board Planning Retreat
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Tues. June 27
Board Meeting
9-11 am

Sat. July 29
Summer Social

TO REGISTER
Contact the
NSA-MN
OFFICE

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A PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS, MENTORS AND GUESTS:



2006 ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Tuesday, May. 16th

5:30 pm— 9:00 pm

We join together for an evening of celebration and fun as we toast a wonderful chapter year of great programs, fantastic speakers and strong growth.

AGENDA

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 5:30 p.m. | Social (Cash Bar Available) |
| 6:30 p.m. | Dinner and Awards Presentation |
| 8:15 p.m. | Featured Speaker, Tony Schiller |
| 9:00 p.m. | Grand Prize Drawing |



- Member Fee: *No Additional Fee*
- Apprentice/Candidate Fee: *No Additional Fee*
- Guest Fee: **\$49 per person**

This event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Bloomington. **Register Today!**

IT PAYS TO BE EARLY!

At this year's May Gala, members will be able to renew their memberships for the 2006-07 membership year. The names of renewing members will then be entered into a drawing. The lucky recipient of this drawing will receive a *Laugh Out Loud Package*, compliments of the Sheraton Hotel.

Valued at over \$150 this gift package includes:

- Dinner for Two at the Sheraton
- One night stay at the Sheraton
- Two tickets to Stevie Ray's Comedy Cabaret
- Breakfast the next morning



Come prepared with your checkbook or credit card and you could go home ***the lucky winner!***

REGISTER NOW

Call to register 763-398-0818
Email: mksmith@synergy-resource.com
Fax: 763-566-5780

NSA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

In 1989, the National Speakers Association (NSA) Foundation established a scholarship program that encourages and rewards juniors, seniors and graduate students who major or minor in speech or directly related communication study, as well as an award to recognize two outstanding speech or communication professors.

In the past 17 years over \$270,000 in scholarships have been awarded to communications students and professors. In 2006, the NSA Foundation will again award four \$4,000 student scholarships and two \$2,000 professor awards.

To request an the application form & Scholarship criteria, please contact the NSA-MN chapter office.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Tim Cimbura
Cimbura.com Entertainment
www.cimbura.com



How long have you been speaking? I've been speaking since I was almost 2 years old when I said my first word "mama". Seriously, I began doing magic shows when I was about 9 years old. During college I did magic and juggling shows with my cousin and spoke at national church conventions. I rebirthed my entertainment programs in 1997 and for the last year or so I've been moving into more speaking engagements.

What's your favorite food? Although I enjoy fine dining, my favorite foods are pepperoni pizza and chewy chocolate chip cookies.

Name the last movie you went to or rented: The Chronicles of Narnia

What book is on your nightstand? I'm currently reading "The Power of Full Engagement" by Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz

Name someone who inspired you to speak professionally: Bill Arnold (magician of Triple Espresso fame), Scott Burton (juggler and cancer survivor), and recently Andy Andrews

What is your alma mater? I graduated from The University of Minnesota Institute of Technology with a degree in Electrical Engineering and minor in Theater Arts.

The place where you grew up: I grew up in Fridley, Minnesota but attended Columbia Heights schools.

A favorite place you like to visit: I love visiting France and speak fluent French. Any place warm in the winter is a great treat.

A favorite quote or something that most people don't know about you: I had jaw surgery and my teeth were wired shut for 7 weeks.

One of your pet peeves: I hate web sites that display "under construction". The web is ALWAYS under construction. Irregardless, I also get irked when people use the word "irregardless" and put multiple exclamation points at the end of a sentence!!!

If you weren't a professional speaker, name the job or profession you'd like to be working in: My other work is consulting and developing software for computers. I guess I could do that all the time and try to keep my mouth shut. Maybe I'd be a musician in a jazz band playing trumpet, piano, or drums.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ralph Jacobson

Synthesis Consulting, Inc. / The Leader's Toolbox, Inc.
www.theleaderstoolbox.com



How long have you been speaking? Five years

What's your favorite food? Seafood bouillabaisse

What book is on your nightstand? Kite Runner

Name someone who inspired you to speak professionally: Peter Block

What is your alma mater: Albright College, The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota

The place where you grew up: Malaga, NJ

A favorite place you like to visit: Victoria Island, Canada

A favorite quote or something that most people don't know about you:

A leader is someone who does whatever is necessary to make the right things happen...regardless of the impact to themselves.

One of your pet peeves: When I don't give something my best effort.

If you weren't a professional speaker, name the job or profession you'd like to be working in:

Classical Guitarist

Gavin Jerome

The Morale Mechanic
www.moralemechanic.com



How long have you been speaking? 15 years

What's your favorite food? Pizza

What book is on your nightstand? The 5 People You Meet in Heaven

Favorite Color? Minnesota Viking Purple

Name someone who inspired you to speak professionally:

My parents. They were both teachers and I couldn't get a word in at home.

What is your alma mater: University of Northern Iowa

The place where you grew up: Dubuque, Iowa

A favorite place you like to visit: Any golf course on a sunny spring day...

A favorite quote or something that most people don't know about you: Quote: In the valley of the blind, the one eyed man is king...Something most people don't know about me...I played in the 2005 World Series of Poker and was eliminated from the tournament by actress Shannon Elizabeth from the American Pie movies.

One of your pet peeves: People who are unkind to animals.

If you weren't a professional speaker, name the job or profession you'd like to be working in: Show business...either a Calvin Klein underwear model or Nathan Lane's stunt double...

APRIL FIRESIDE FORUM WITH BOB PIKE:



M.O.R.E. AWARD

APPLICATION FOR THE NSA M.O.R.E. AWARD HAS BEEN SUBMITTED!

Thank you to all who've helped in this great endeavor. There's been a wealth of materials submitted and many have added the logo to their materials and website.

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges and participating chapters will be notified of the results before June 15, 2006. The winning chapter will receive

Are you a Website Wizard?

NSA-MN will be revamping our website this summer...but we need your help! We are looking for members who would like to help the chapter to create a better more user friendly website that will show off our membership. If you would like to join the review team or for more information contact Mary Kay at mksmith@synergy-resource.com

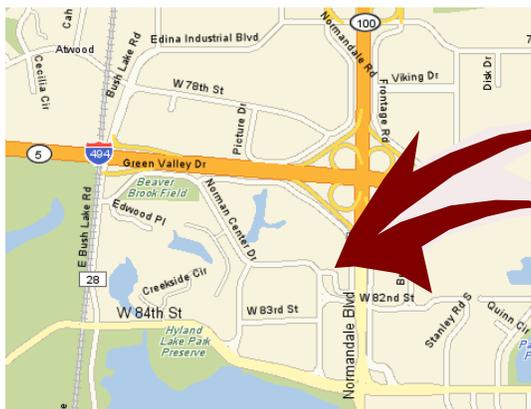
SEND US YOUR NEWS

We love to hear about you or your fellow members' accomplishments. Just send an email with the information to: mksmith@synergy-resource.com



	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submitted By:</u>
Upcoming Deadlines:	June	May 20th
	July/Aug	July 1

IT's the PLACE for NSA-MN: *The Crowne Plaza West*



Conveniently located
near the intersection
of highways
494 and 100
5401 Green Valley Drive



CROWNE PLAZA
HOTELS & RESORTS

The Institute of Professional Speaker Development™ — From NSA-Minnesota

“Change is one thing, progress is another.”

— Bertrand Russell

“Progress is the life-style of man.”

Victor Hugo

NSA-Minnesota has seen its share of change and progress in the recent past. Our new vision of Chapter operations delivered Professional Member-Only Events, Small Business Forums, and new members involved in a very active Chapter. NSA-MN continues to move ahead boldly into the future, with an expansion of our educational offerings.

The Institute of Professional Speaker Development™ (IPSD) provides a new structure of professional education designed to introduce the Professional Speaking Industry to others, resulting in the growth of our industry, as well as offer exceptional, high level *local* educational opportunities to our Professional Membership and affiliates.

The IPSD will initially have three (3) divisions dedicated to the professional development of professional speakers:

The Apprentice Program – An eight month experience based on the NSA Core Competencies for a successful professional speaker. Both basic education of the Speaking Industry and a focus on developing a personal business plan provide the Apprentice with the tools necessary to achieve the stated objective of Professional Membership within 12 months of matriculation.

The Graduate Program – A four month action based mentoring program for speakers that may or may not have attained Professional Membership in NSA-MN. Designed to firm the base of a speaker’s business and at the same time help them make a quantum leap. The logical progression for those who have completed the Apprentice Program, as well as existing professional speakers. A workshop format based on business plan expansion and implementation will help the Graduate Participant get their business to the “Next Level.”

The Professional Development Series (PDS) - A new opportunity that will bring in the finest talent in platform dynamics, theatrics, presentation sciences, storytelling, and other advanced topics. PDS is designed to help the successful professional speaker become even better. The PDS will also be marketed to the public as a way to generate bottom-line revenue to the Chapter, with NSA-MN Professional Members and Affiliates enjoying a reduced admission price.

The Institute of Professional Speaker Development™ will be a showpiece for NSA-MN as we continue to expand our offerings to meet the needs of our members and our Chapter continues to grow. Cavett Roberts, founder of NSA and an American speaking icon, encouraged us to “bake a bigger pie.” The Institute will help us do just that, by helping us add to our skill-sets, as well as adding to those exposed to NSA-MN. The force that is the new NSA-Minnesota continues to spread our influence in the Professional Speaking Industry, and we are all privileged to be along for the ride!

Look for the exciting details as these programs are rolled out!

Michael Roby
Director, IPSD



**Your source
for NSA-MN
information**

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From the Back of the Room

**Oh Give Me a Home...
Where I Don't Have to Roam !**



At most speakers meetings there is some point at which the question of how many engagements people had the previous year, or how many states or countries have been on the itinerary. A fellow speaker veiled his latest boast under the guise of how hard it was for his family because he was traveling so much. I would have believed his lament had he not taken great pains to include exactly which cities he was scheduled to speak.

If I could do every gig but one or two right in Minneapolis I would be a happy boy. I am a true Minnesotan, I don't like leaving home. And when you run your own business, as speakers do, you always feel like you aren't getting as much done when you are on the road. The last few days have cemented my quest to keep my feet firmly planted in the land of 14,562 lakes.

I got booked for a workshop for a company holding a retreat at a resort in Oregon. This involved landing in Portland, renting a car, and driving two hours to the resort. The plane ride was uneventful, which meant I wasn't seated next to someone who considered bathing to be optional. I was excited at the rental car checkout because they could upgrade me to a small convertible for free. Riding through the mountains with the top down sounded a lot more exciting than my usual drive through Richfield in a minivan to Lunds, until it was time to look at a map.

I had downloaded directions to the resort from their web site. I want to meet the people who are assigned the task of providing directions for out-of-towners. *Go straight out of the airport until you can't turn anymore, then turn. Follow the signs for the road construction* (which was completed two years ago) *and turn North on 185th street which is also Hwy 3* (I forgot my compass). *Turn left at the tree that was hit by lightning twice, then stop and ask someone how to get here.*

Not only am I trying to read this map to buried treasure, I'm reading it with the top down on the car. If you want a clear picture of what this is like, next time you are cooking a dish for the first time, take the recipe card and tape it to the blade of a window fan and try to read it. Passing motorists saw me swerving all over the road trying to get my bearings. They tried to help, I could see them mouthing the directions to me. At least that is what I think they were mouthing. I don't see what raising their middle finger to me had to do with providing driving tips. And if someone finds my hat that blew off on the highway, I hope they return it.



A resort always seems exotic to your friends. This particular resort was in a desert, complete with instructions on what to do to keep your room free from invading insects, reptiles, and arachnids. I didn't sleep well that night. When my wife dropped me off to come to this gig she said, "Well, at least you'll have some quiet time to work." I was looking forward to quietly taking care of business until I discovered that deserts aren't the best for cell phone coverage. Every member of the retreat spent the weekend hiking, not searching for rare Indian artifacts, but for a high butte to see if their blackberries could catch a signal. The closest thing the desert had to high-speed wireless was a ham radio to report brush fires. Let me tell you, those are lousy for e-mail.

The beauty of being at home is that, after a presentation is done, you can schmooze a little while, then head home. On the road you are invited to participate in all the clients funtime activities. That night they had planned an outdoor bar-b-que followed by an authentic Indian dance performance. "Great," I thought. "I can chill out by the fire with some ribs and watch the show." It was either that, or sit in my room scanning for Bull snakes. I forgot that when you are the speaker you are considered fair game for constant entertainment. Someone had bribed the leader of the dance group to "get the funny guy up there with you." So, amid the cheers and camera flashes of the crowd, I find myself standing across from a Shoshone woman in traditional dress. She is as wide as she is tall, kind of like a brick with legs. She does not appear to own an Oral B toothbrush, which would have come in handy for the three teeth she had left. I don't know how many times around the fire you're supposed to dance with your partner to become officials engaged, but my wife is not going to be happy with the news.

The irony is, after leaving the desert I went straight to another gig in Las Vegas. I'm not into dancing shows and I never gamble, so I'm right at home. I figure, at least I love buffets and I can finally check my e-mail and get some work done. It's midnight and the hotel technician just left my room after checking why the hotel internet wasn't working. "There seems to be a problem with the connection in just this room sir. If you need to get on the internet right away we'll have to call the service. They could be here by 2:00a.m." Apparently, not only does the city of Las Vegas never sleep, they don't expect anyone else to either. I'm going to start using the strategy of fellow speaker, Robin Getman. Here is my fee, and if you let me stay at home to do the gig, I'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT!

Stevie Ray's Improv Company
"Making it up as we go since 1989"

