

Toastmasters Treasures...Profiles in Performance

by Peggy Lynn, CTM/CL, PR Reporter



If you think there's something funny going on in Topeka, you're right! The lady described as "a country singer and the godmother of half the Toastmasters in Topeka" -

Maggie Kelley, ATMB, loves to laugh and infect others with a chuckle.

Her latest venture, in fact, is starting the first Laugh-

ter Club in Kansas! Sponsored by the surveying company, ILC of Topeka and Lawrence, LLC, which, like Maggie, is dedicated to community service, she instituted the "I'm OK Laughter Club."

Maggie became a Certified Laughter Leader via psychologist, author Steve Wilson from the World Laughter Tour this past November in Atlanta to lay the groundwork. With all of today's "busy-ness" WLT teaches people how to laugh in a NON - political, religious, exploitative, perfectionistic, competitive or threatening fashion - where everyone is welcome to have fun and laugh the stress away, maintaining healthy balance while "preventing hardening of the attitudes!" Maggie discovered the organization in researching her speech titled "Does Laughter Massage the Internal Organs?" She's delivered this speech three times now professionally and will happily do so again. Massaging with laughter is a perfect integration of Maggie's career as a Massage Therapist these past 24 years and public speaking. One never knows what might start from a Toastmasters speech!

In February, Maggie celebrates her 10th Anniversary in Topeka's Heartland Toastmasters. She is also currently the President of Unity Toastmasters, a club sprouted from a Speechcraft. Never the shy leader, Maggie has LEAPed into the position of VP Public Relations for both

Topeka clubs. She has been an Area T2 Governor for a couple of years in the past too. Maggie Kelley believes in leadership plus TI's basic program, and that is no joke. She has completed the CTM manual three times! It helps her help others. Maggie says, "I've stayed in TI because I believe in the program and I LIKE to help." Ah, "the godmother" emerges! Speaking of "ahs," Maggie also relays that she's "an especially good Ah counter. It is such an important part of the TI training."

Besides the two Toastmaster Clubs, Maggie's favorite activities revolve around Senior Class, an Improvisational Comedy Company under the auspices of the Topeka Civic Theatre. This over 55 senior improv group is enjoying their 8th season. It's evident Maggie has integrative abilities and TCT feels all the better for it! She and a team of other Massage Therapists have provided their services to the cast and crew at TCT on Dress Rehearsal nights for nineteen theater seasons!

On top of doing TI clubs' publicity, Maggie does it for her American Business Women's Association (ABWA) chapter in Topeka. They have "raised \$166,000 for scholarships at Washburn University." ABWA provides women of diverse occupations opportunities for help and growth through education, leadership, recognition and networking. Maggie loves to travel and has integrated this with financial support and international outreach in helping another venture, Women of the World, get off the ground in countries like Russia for ten years.

As one might guess, mentoring comes naturally to Maggie Kelley. It holds true for her with all the above-mentioned activities and Toastmasters. Whether by sitting on various Topeka community boards or empowering another to feel good through her help or alone, Maggie Kelley is an expert at helping people feel good mentally, emotionally and physically. She is the TREASURE we TREASURE! District 22 values this GEM, Maggie Kelley, who chooses to be here with us us-

ing her innumerable skills massaging people's needs wherever in the world she finds them.

In mentoring, one occasionally corrects another and thus Maggie casually did so, "By the way, I was a singing waitress on a dude ranch (actually two dude ranches), not a country singer!" Well, sometimes the resource just has the general idea so you'll have to ask Maggie about this singing

business. You can try reaching her at maggiekelley@cox.net but if you don't hear back quickly, she may be out of town, the country or just doing the most cherished activity of all - picking up great-grandson, Robert, from school! This supposedly retired, grand lady of Toastmasters, Maggie Kelley, is definitely enjoying her golden years!