PARODY

T’was the Night Before Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) District 8
(adapted from public domain poem “The Night Before Christmas”
authored either by Clement Clarke Moore or Major Henry Livingston, Jr.)

T’was the night before TLI and all through the District
Not a club officer was speaking, not even in limerick.

The programs were prepped by trainers extraordinare
With hopes that their words would show that they care.

Club officers were nestled all snug in their beds
While visions of contests danced in their heads.

And Herman in Belleville and I in St Lou
Had just settled down for an overnight review.

When out on our roofs there arose such a clatter
We sprang to our storm doors to see what was the matter.
Out on our car ports we flew like a flash
Sleet poured into our gutters, and halted our dash.

The moon on the crest of the riverfront arch
Gave a luster of midday like the color of starch.

When what to our worrying eyes should appear
But a spector of TLI cancellation out of pure fear.

We picked up our phones in a blink and so quick
Speed dialed each other a solution to pick.

More rapid than a nanosecond our thoughts they did come
And we whispered and shouted and then we paced some.

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Co-Chair District 8 Toastmasters Leadership Institute
Tel. 314.997.3474
“Now foul weather! Now plans gone awry!  
Oh forecast! Oh sunrise! Oh temperature my o my!  
To the top of the 30’s, where a thaw we can call,  
Now melt away, melt away, sleet and ice—away all!”

As the sun rose on 1-22-05 so bright  
We scarce had a crystal or flake  
No obstacles there were for Toastmasters to overtake.  
So to Maritz in Fenton club officers came  
With a mindset of hope—at the top of their game.

And then in a twinkle we heard in the hall  
The meetings and greetings of each officer standing tall.

As we headed upstairs to begin the event  
Herman and I claimed the weather was heaven sent.

We keynoted and trained for three hours at length  
Till we knew club officers had a term’s worth of strength.

The bundles of thoughts trainers had tossed o’er the sills  
Gave the Toastmasters a full toolkit of skills.

Their eyes how they twinkled! Their dimples how merry!  
Their confidence evident! Their cheers were so very!

At the end of the session they all led the procession  
Out the doors of this venue and back to their clubs.

We heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight,  
“We’re a leadership team and we can do it right!”