

**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 extraordinaire  
 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 specter 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.**

**“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!”**