By Senator Winsley

WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State Legislature to recognize and honor the contributions of individuals and organizations that reflect standards of excellence that enhance the well-being and quality of life of the citizens of the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International is a leading movement in making effective oral communication a national and international reality for all persons; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International, through its member Toastmaster Clubs, helps men and women of all ages learn the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking, vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of all mankind; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International, through its member Toastmaster Clubs, provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop the communication and leadership skills which foster self-confidence and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International member Toastmaster Clubs usually meet each week for one to two hours and usually contain three main elements: Prepared speeches, impromptu speeches, and evaluations of speeches which provide feedback on the positive aspects of the speeches and friendly suggestions for improvement; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International, through its member Toastmaster Clubs, benefits individuals, companies, communities, and countries by providing potential leaders in all walks of life the skills, discipline, and confidence needed to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International currently has over 8,500 member Toastmaster Clubs worldwide, made up of approximately 178,000 members with over 3,500 members in the state of Washington, and is growing by approximately 250 new members worldwide each day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor Toastmasters International, and its member Toastmaster Clubs, for the contributions it has provided the citizens of this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the week of February 1 through February 7, 2003, be recognized as Toastmaster Week and all persons encouraged to participate in the beneficial programs Toastmasters International provides through its member Toastmaster Clubs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Karen Evons, DTM, Past District Governor, Toastmasters International, Washington State Toastmasters Club, District 2.