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Photo Available Upon Request

Toastmasters members elect Theo Black to international Board*New Director at 250,000-member organization is from Wayzata, Minnesota*

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, Calif., Aug. 24, 2009 – Theo Black of Wayzata, Minn., has been elected to the Board of Directors of [Toastmasters International](http://www.toastmasters.org), the world's leading organization devoted to teaching skills in communication and leadership. Black was elected to the two-year term at the organization's 78th annual International Convention, held last month in Mashantucket, Conn.

Black is an ASQ Certified Six Sigma Black Belt with OptumHealth Financial Services, where he manages quality improvement projects. He joined Toastmasters 10 years ago to improve his presentation skills. He is now a member of four different Toastmasters clubs and has earned Distinguished Toastmaster status – the highest speaking designation a member can achieve. He has also served in Toastmasters leadership positions, including district governor.

"Toastmasters has been a very supportive environment for refining my speaking skills and trying out new techniques," says Black, who earned his MBA from the University of Minnesota. "I am a better trainer and facilitator today as a result of Toastmasters. It has also taught me how to craft and use humor to liven up presentations."

Married with three adult children, Black is a man of many interests: He is a bridge player and Sudoku buff, as well as a Frisbee enthusiast. He is a member of the American Society for Quality, the Project Management Institute and the Minnesota Frisbee Association.

About Toastmasters

[Toastmasters International](http://www.toastmasters.org) is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has 250,000 members in 12,000 clubs in 106 countries. Since its founding 85 years ago in October 1924, the organization has helped more than four million men and women give presentations with poise and confidence. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org.

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