



North Texas Speakers Named to Hall of Fame

Press Release (Dallas, TX. - August 3, 2009) The National Speakers Association (NSA), the leading organization for professional speakers, inducted five professional speakers into the CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame® at the 2009 NSA Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Three of those five had ties to the Dallas/Fort Worth Area.

Established in 1977, the Council of Peers Award for Excellence (CPAE) is a lifetime award for speaking excellence and professionalism given to speakers who have been evaluated by their peers and judged to have mastered seven categories: material, style, experience, delivery, image, professionalism and communication. The award is not based on celebrity status, number of speeches, amount of income or involvement in NSA. Past recipients include Zig Ziglar, Suzie Humphreys, Les Brown, Jack Canfield and locals Dianna Booher, Ed Foreman, La Donna Gatlin and Vince Poscente. This year the CPAE recipients included Randy Pennington, Connie Podesta and Amanda Gore.

Pennington is the owner of The Pennington Group, the resource for leaders who expect results. Randy cuts through the hype to focus on the core issues of results, relationships, and accountability; his work produces measurable improvements in profits, productivity, employee retention, and working relationships; and he's been doing it for over 20 years. He is the author of *On My Honor, I Will and Results Rule!* His website is www.penningtongroup.com.

Podesta of Connie Podesta Presents is an organizational therapist, human resource professional, and expert in the psychology of human behavior. Connie combines her business expertise combined with her diverse talents as a comedienne, author, Board Certified Professional Counselor, and radio/TV personality enable Connie to inspire her audiences to reach new heights in their personal and professional development. She is the author of five books, most recently *Make a Fortune Selling to Women*. Her website is: www.conniepodesta.com.

Gore of Amanda Gore International just recently left the Dallas area to return to Australia. Author of four books and numerous videos, Amanda has a degree in Physical Therapy, a major in Psychology, and expertise in physical therapy, group dynamics, neurolinguistics, and occupational health. Her website is www.amandagore.com.

All three also hold the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation.

"This is just one more example of the speaking and training talent we have right here in the North Texas area," states NSA North Texas president Susan Gatton. "It was fantastic that these accomplished speakers from the Dallas/Fort Worth are honored by their peers. However, having three out of the five with ties to this area is unheard of. We really had a presence in Phoenix."

Other highlights of the convention included keynote presentations from Dallas-based, former Olympic Skier and author, Vince Poscente and KRLD Financial Success Coaching radio host, Kim Snider. There was also a main stage performance by locals LaDonna Gatlin and Gary Rifkin and workshop sessions led by Rifkin and Linda Swindling.

"The buzz heard in Phoenix was 'Wow, you know the Texas speakers are here. They are winning and presenting all over the place.' It was fun and great to have DFW speakers noticed," said Swindling.

The National Speakers Association/North Texas (NSA/TX) is the local chapter of the NSA, the leading organization for professional speakers. NSA's thousands of members include experts in a variety of industries and disciplines, who reach audiences as trainers, educators, humorists, motivators, consultants, authors and more. Since 1973, NSA has provided resources and education designed to advance the skills, integrity and value of its members and the speaking profession. NSA/NT meets monthly on the second Saturday of each month. Visit the NSA/NTs web site at www.speaker.org.