

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of Northwestern Toastmasters Club 2946/37

Meeting each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC

Volume 35, No. 16, Late February, 2009

On the web at www.nwtm.org

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See YOU
at our next Meeting



The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Getting the Most

by Marcia Barney, DTM



Are you getting the most from your speaking experiences? How much are you really improving from speech to speech? Perhaps it is time to take stock of where you are going and how you're going to get there. A few signs that you may be missing the

boat:

1. Your biggest thrill after a speech is checking off "one more project finished."
2. You neglect the reading of comments your evaluator wrote in your manual.
3. You sometimes read the manual project, but always *after* you've prepared your speech.
4. You consider evaluator's comments a mild form of grousing with just a touch of jealousy.
5. Your first practice of your speech is when you stand to deliver it at the meeting.
6. Editing a speech is foreign to your nature.
7. Your greatest goal as a speaker is to become just like _____ (you fill in the blank.)
8. The most important aspect of speaking is, to you, to win speaker-for-the-meeting.
9. You start to prepare your speeches the night before one is due.
10. You think of a great quote, a story, or a joke and build the speech around it.

Sure it takes time and effort to become a better speaker. However, the rewards are known to most of us. So why not get the most out of your effort by using the manuals, your evaluators, and your lectern time wisely?

Start your speech preparation by reading the next manual project. Prepare your speech in writing (face the fact that "preparing it in my head" is a cop out!), then practice it several times with editing bouts between practices.

Your evaluator can only help you effectively if you have prepared the speech well. You can only concentrate on the finer points of speaking if you are well prepared. **Just do it!**

Guest Editorial

Our guest column was first published in a 2001 issue of Northwest Words. As proof that truth is eternal, Marcia's words still ring true today. Considering that our first meeting in March is the Club level of the International Speech Contest, this seemed a good time to reprint this excellent article.

New Competent Communicator

Congratulations to Barbie Morgan, our newest CC. Barbie has given us some great speeches as she worked her way through the Basic Communications Manual and we all look forward to hearing her continue to improve.

Contests

Our Vice President of Education, Don Barnett, has set the dates for our Table Topics and International Speech Contests. Those dates are:
Table Topics - during our regular meeting on February 17.
International Speech - during the March 3 meeting.

Secretary's Report for February 3, 2009

by Evander Woo, Secretary



flair.

It was a dark and snowy evening outside, but a warm and toasty time inside as President Craig Thrift presided over our business session with his usual

Don Barnett, our VP of Education, served as the presiding officer for our educational session as he introduced our Toastmaster for the meeting, Craig Thrift. Craig's theme for the meeting was "Life, Laugh, Love."

Jeff Walker, our word master for the evening, gave us the word "Elicit" just before our Table Topics master, Barbie Morgan called on Maydan, Marcia, Don and Jeff with questions relating to love.

After Craig's prepared speech, as part of the Toastmasters warm-up, Craig called on our two prepared speakers for the evening - John Clark and Butch Barney.

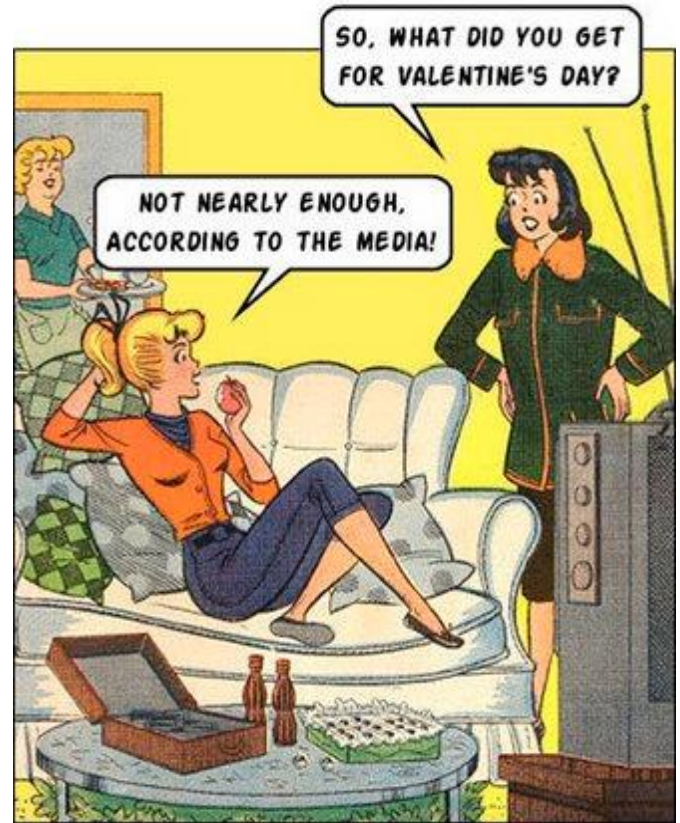
Craig then introduced Madan Rangabasyam, our General Evaluator for the evening. After Madan's glowing report on how well the meeting had progressed, he called on the evaluators for the prepared speeches. Marcia Barney evaluated John and Don Barnett evaluated Butch Barney.

Madan returned control of the meeting to our Toastmaster, Craig after he called on our timer, Craig Thrift; our Wordmaster, Jeff Walker; and our grammarian, Don Barnett.

Craig concluded the meeting by announcing the winners (Table Topics - Marcia Barney, Prepared Speaker - Butch Barney and evaluator - Marcia Barney. Craig ended the meeting by calling on Jeff Walker for the Joke Master's report

Working on the Competent Leader Manual?

If you are working in the CL manual (and if you are not, then why not?) talk with our Vice President of Publicity, John Clark. He can always use help and that help will get you credit for helping with the newsletter (Northwest Words) or our web site, or both. John claims that the work is not difficult and it is also mostly painless.



I went to a store to buy some insecticide. "Is this good for beetles?" I asked the clerk. "No," replied. "It'll kill 'em."



This could have been the snow during our meeting.

Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

Bumper Stickers

- If ignorance is bliss, you must be orgasmic.
- Born free... taxed to death.
- The more people I meet, the more I like my dog.
- If you can read this, I've lost my trailer.
- The more you complain, the longer God lets you live.
- Give pizza chants.

