

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of *Northwestern Toastmasters* Club 2946/37

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

OFFICERS (2009-2010)

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For more information
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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.

That's the Way it Was - December 29, 2009

by P. Fantum, asst. Secretary



Immediate Past President/VP-

Education Craig Thrift once again handled the business session with the dispatch of a pro. After a short recess

he introduced Toastmaster-for-the-meeting Joel Schanker, DTM, with his theme of "Recession and Recovery." Was it the Toastmaster who said "A creative life is the face of magnificence?"

Wordmaster Mark Perew (great to have you back!) gave "stimulus" as the Word for the Meeting. Makes one wonder if we should not call it the Word for the Week - as John would say "Just a thought."

Table Topics Master Craig Thrift gave topics to:

- Mark Perew thought that 9/11 was the most important event in the past decade.
- Greg Jordan (great to have you back, too) thinks the most influential person of the decade was the US President.
- Pan Windley thinks that reality TV is a big hit because those watching can get involved.
- Pam Christopher thinks the most important historical event of the next decade will be the next presidential election.

Prepared speeches were given by:

- Jeff Walker gave Speech #1 from the Advanced Entertaining Speaker Manual. His "A Christmas to Remember" was evaluated by Elaine Wiles.
- Barbara Schanker gave #4 from the Advanced Public Relations Manual. "Health Care" was evaluated by Butch Barney.
- Marcia Barney gave #7 from the Basic CC Manual. "More than Meets the Eye" was evaluated by John Clark.

Pam Christopher did such a great job as Grammarian that John and Marcia agreed she was outstanding even though she levied well-deserved fines to each of them. Greg Jordan did the timing. Pam Windley counted the votes. Barbie Morgan evaluated the meeting as General Evaluator.

Joel, Barbie, Jeff, Pam Christopher, John, Marcia, and Mark used the Word "stimulus" correctly and sometimes frequently.

Winners for the meeting were:

- Best Table Topic Speaker - Mark Perew
- Best Evaluator - Butch Barney
- Best Speaker - Marcia Barney

Thought for the meeting: Let's do our best to do every part of the program to the best of our abilities so that all Northwestern Toastmasters can get the most from each meeting in 2010!

Help Wanted

Madan is looking for Toastmasters to speak at the January 31 meeting of the Academic Challenge Event where is the host. For more information, email or call Madan.

Joel is looking for judges for a non-Toastmasters speaking contest. For more information contact Joel.

Both of these are a great way to enhance your Toastmaster skills and, at the same time, help others.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car.

A smart man covers his rear, a wise man leaves his pants on.

That's the Way it Was - January 5, 2010

by P. Fantum, asst. Secretary



President Don Barnett opened the first meeting of the year on a positive note as usual. Two leadership growth opportunities were the only business of the evening requiring attention - opportunities to speak and judge. (See "Help Wanted" on page 1

Toastmaster-of-the-Meeting Jeff Walker chose "Everyday Frustrations" as the theme for the meeting. His sense of humor kept us from feeling frustrated during the evening. Wordmaster Zoltan Rab offered "pathos" as the Word for the Meeting. Table Topics Master Don Barnett followed the meeting theme with topics to:

- Mark Perew suggested we alleviate frustrations by leaving our phone number twice on voice mails when we want a return call.
- Craig Thrift verbally expresses his everyday frustrations - sometimes loudly.
- Elizabeth McKinney, sporting a beautiful new ring on the third finger of her left hand, thinks those who appear unflappable just hide it well.
- Zoltan Rab is frustrated by the pressure to make too frequent speeches. (His friends want him to progress faster and become more able to express his brilliant ideas.)

Prepared speeches were given by:

- *Pam Windley gave #3 from her CC manual. "Listening With Discernment" was evaluated by Craig Thrift.
- *Marcia Barney gave #6 from her CC manual (how many times has she completed this manual?) "A Hair Brained Idea" was evaluated by Lance Kull.

Joel Schanker was the timer. John Clark was Grammarian. Mark Perew counted the votes and Elizabeth McKinney was Jokemaster. Butch Barney was quiet right up 'till the end when President Don sensed the silence.

Winners for the meeting were:

- ü Best Table Topic Speaker: Elizabeth McKinney
- ü Best Evaluator: Lance Kull
- ü Best Speaker: Marcia Barney

Suggestion for the meeting: Regardless of tenure with Toastmasters, before each program assignment review the online Program Participants Guide. If you have no assigned part, pick one of the responsibilities you have not performed recently and review it. We're going to find that elusive "excellence" someday if we pull together!

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

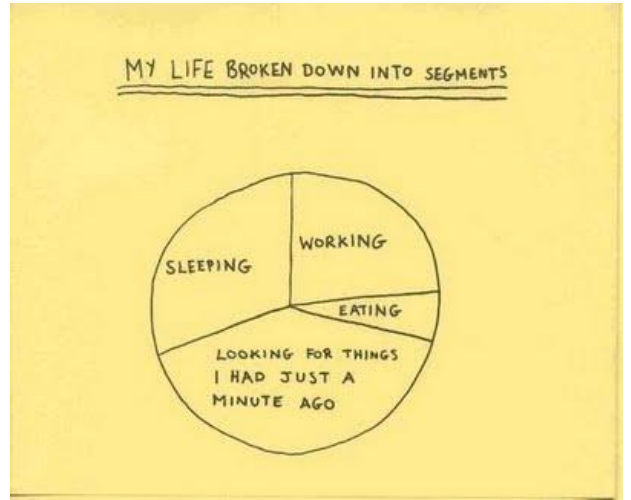
Life is sexually transmitted.

Improved Communications Seminar

Preparation is underway for our next ICS. Keep reading the newsletter for details. Think of it as a "Boot Camp." for Toastmasters skills - a concentrated course of Toastmaster Basics.

This course is designed for those in the community that are looking for a quick way to improve their communication skills for a modest fee. It is also available to our new members, at NO fee.

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.



Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again..

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, 'I think I'll squeeze these dangly things and drink whatever comes out?'

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

When you are an Evaluator - - -

Evaluations are one of the most unique, and most important, aspects of the Toastmasters Program.

The purpose of the evaluator is to provide the speaker with constructive feedback, positive reinforcement and areas that need improvement.

The Program Schedule (found in the newsletter and the meeting programs) will list Evaluators and Speakers. When the General Evaluator communicates with you before the meeting, you will be told the speaker you have been assigned.

At the meeting, obtain the speaker's manual and review the purpose of the speech and suggested methods for achieving that purpose. Review the questions listed in the evaluation guide. Listen attentively to the speaker. This is one of your best opportunities for improving your listening skills. You may also wish to jot notes while the speaker is speaking.

When the speaker is finished, write your evaluation on the Evaluation Guide page in the speakers manual. Organize your thoughts for the oral evaluation. The oral evaluation should be a mini-speech with greetings, opening, body and conclusion or summary. The General Evaluator will call on you at the appropriate time for delivery of your evaluation.

Start your evaluation with a positive point and end with a positive one if you want to keep the speaker's attention and friendship. However, be sure to include some points for improvement in the middle. Remember that you are giving your opinions and reactions, so be careful about using strong dictatorial words like "wrong," "never" or "always."

"I think" is a good phrase for an Evaluator to use. In addition to the points covered in the Evaluation guide some other points to consider are:

- ü How the speaker performed compared to previous speeches you have heard the speaker deliver,
- ü Body language (eye contact, gestures, facial expressions for example)
- ü Speech organization
- ü Enthusiasm
- ü Use of voice
- ü Self-confidence
- ü Use of visual aids
- ü How well prepared?
- ü Word selection, vocabulary
- ü Other items of special interest to speaker

While it is not your duty to editorialize about the speech content, a comment about the speech's value in making others think and vividness of descriptions are certainly in order.

Please do not cover areas that the speaker cannot change, such as stuttering. Those would only serve to embarrass the speaker and the other members.

When offering points that need improvement, try to also offer possible means for improving these points. Be as specific as possible. More advanced (in ability, not necessarily in membership length) members need more "Picky" evaluations. For the beginner, particularly for an Ice Breaker, be careful not to overload them with negatives. Remember that we like to help others build self-confidence as they improve.

A summary of the speaker's major strengths and a couple of the most important weaknesses or "needs improvements" is helpful at the end of your evaluation.

You will be speaking primarily to the speaker you are evaluating. However, do not ignore the rest of the audience since they, too, may pick up some self-improvement tips from your comments.

The evaluation should be delivered in a standing position near your chair. Target time for a speech evaluation is 2 minutes.