

T-Toasters begins rejuvenation program

by Bruce Hayes, Club President

April 30, 2003 marks the first meeting of T-Toasters at the Paces West building. For the past several months, the constant dealings with building security at 2100 RiverEdge (T-Toasters' previous location) became burdensome. Gates and doors were being locked long before the building's official closing time. Management refused to help or support T-Toasters or Toastmasters. As a result of these issues, membership decreased and meeting turnout became mediocre at best.

To resolve this problem, and to attempt to rebuild the club, T-Toasters sought the help of building management at Paces West. Previously a Toastmasters supporter, management granted T-Toasters use of their facilities and also agreed to promote T-Toasters throughout the building.

To aid in rebuilding the club, T-Toasters went through an internal re-branding of sorts. A new logo was created highlighting the club's commitment to communication, leadership, and success. New marketing and advertising literature was created for distribution at the new building as well as area establishments. Information packets were sent to all club members, and a new membership campaign was developed that will run from April 30 to June 30 and will include prizes! The club aims to recruit ten new members within the next two months.

To have done so much in such little time is a testament to the dedication of the T-Toasters members. This first meeting at our new location is the first step toward a new and revitalized fu-

TOP 10

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIPS

1. Know the room
2. Know the audience
3. Know your material
4. Relax
5. Visualize yourself giving your speech
6. Realize that people want you to succeed
7. Don't apologize
8. Concentrate on the message - not the medium
9. Turn nervousness into positive energy
10. Gain experience.

What do you think?

by Theresa Schneider

“What do you think?” - an oft-asked question that requires an honest answer. Yet, just how do you tell your coworker that the (you fill in the blank) _____ is ugly or the (you fill in the blank) _____ is unprofessional and you wouldn't put your name on it. A common quandary that most of us are hit with daily.

Toastmasters International has two aspects to its program that will help you to answer “What do you think?” with aplomb. Firstly, every Toastmaster meeting has a segment called Table Topics. The Table Topics Master, who facilitates the session, randomly selects audience members to answer questions on any number of topics. With or without a theme, individually or paired, current or historical, fact or fiction, you name it - any and every question is fair game. If chosen, the respondent has between one and half and three minutes to complete an answer. Good Table Topics responses are like good speeches - they are organized, the speaker uses vocal variety, and gestures and they are memorable. An excellent way to practice thinking on your feet, Tables Topics is a skill which will definitely help you answer “What do you think?”

Secondly, Toastmasters evaluation process

is another tool when faced with “What do you think?”. Every speech in a typical Toastmasters program is given a written and oral evaluation. There are many philosophies on how to effectively deliver an evaluation. All of those philosophies include the following elements:

1. What did the speaker do well?
2. What could the speaker improve?
3. Encourage the speaker.

When asked “What do you think?”, follow the elements of evaluations for your answer. Find something that the person asking the question did well - “The colour is very trendy” or “The font you used is appropriate for the size of the page.” Then, identify what needs to be improved - “Those pants would look better with a pink shirt” or “The graphics dominate the page without adding any meaning”. And finally, a dose of encouragement - “Next time, try another colour combination and that will make a big statement” or “Have you thought of using another graphic to add some punch and meaning?”. Evaluating effectively is not a skill typically taught in business. Toastmasters provides many opportunities to hone the evaluation skills in a non-threatening environment.

FAMOUS TOASTMASTERS INCLUDE...

Tim Allen, actor
 James Brady, fmr press secretary
 Peter Coors, of Coors Brewing
 Debbie Fields, of Fields Cookies
 Tara Holland, Miss America 1997
 Billie Jean King, tennis pro
 James Lovell, astronaut
 Sam Nunn, Georgia senator
 Pat Roberts, U.S. Congressman

The many roles of club officers

Each officer in T-Toasters is given specific responsibilities. The listing below explains each officer's roles in our club. For an extended list, consult the resource section on the T-Toasters website.

Officer elections are coming up soon! If you would be interested in holding one of these positions for the upcoming Toastmasters year (July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004, please contact one of the current club officers listed to the right.

President

- Leads the club by promoting club excellence.
- Presides over club meetings.
- Conducts club business.

VP of Education

- Plans dynamic club meetings.
- Orients new club members.
- Oversees mentor program.
- Presides in absence of the president.

VP of Membership

- Builds club membership.
- Increases member satisfaction.

VP of Public Relations

- Plans a public relations program (see cover story & website).
- Prepares publicity materials.
- Produces club newsletter, club website, business cards, etc.

Treasurer

- Collects payable dues and fees.
- Pays all bills promptly.
- Presents a monthly report.
- Keeps complete and accurate records of all transactions.

Secretary

- Maintains an accurate membership roster.
- Records meeting minutes.
- Circulates *TIPS*, the Supply Catalog, and *The Toastmaster* magazine.
- Maintains general club correspondence.

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Arranges room before meeting.
- Greets all guests/members.

Officer meetings are held once a month. All club members are invited to these meet-

Club Officers

Bruce Hayes, President
bahayes@mindspring.com

Matt Berenson, VP of Education
mjb1010@bellsouth.net

Hank Mix, Treasurer
hank.mix@snr.fr

All remaining officer positions are available.

Calendar of Events

April 30

First meeting at Paces West
New member campaign kick-off

May 14

Officers' Meeting

May 28

Evaluation Contest

May 31

New officers must be elected

"Quotable Quotes"

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

-Helen Keller

Information about T-Toasters

T-Toasters meets every Wednesday at the Paces West Building: 2727 Paces Ferry Road. Meetings are held in building 2, 3rd floor and run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Toastmasters program consists of impromptu talks, prepared speeches, and also evaluations of the prepared speeches.

Our membership is a diverse group of individuals ranging in age from early twenties to early seventies. Guests are always welcome. For more information about T-Toasters, see our website at <http://www.ttoasters.com/>

