



The Communicator

District 86 - Division L - NEW Area 56

In This Issue:

Your President's Message	P1
Your VP of Education's Message	P2
Your VP of PR's Message	P3
A Fond Farewell	P3
Results of the Survey	P4

President's Message from Toastmaster John Smissen

Now that the summer has finally arrived it is time to think about the new First Oakville Toastmaster session!

Our club theme for this session is "Unlock Your Potential". So, get out those keys and get ready to do some unlocking.

Your executive has been busy during the break. They have all attended officer training so they are even better prepared to do a great job than they were before.

Some of the executive have attended the first Area meeting of the new session.

We have held our first club executive meeting and have reserved the meeting facilities at the Quality Inn for the new session. Included in our package will be a bar set up outside our meeting room before the meeting for those who prefer a libation during the meeting.

Our first meeting of the new session will start on Thursday September 10 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Quality Inn on HW 25 at the QEW. We will run through until Thursday June 10 2010.



Toastmaster John Smissen
Photo by Peter West Photographer

Get your thinking caps on as we will hold our first competition on Thursday September 24 when we hold our club Table Topics and club Humorous speech contests. To enter all you have to be is a member. No previous speech experience is required. Don't be afraid to jump in to the deep end, get your enrolments in to our VP Education, Donald Knowles, as soon as you can.

More details will be coming soon including the schedule as our busy VP Ed beavers away at interpreting your replies to the club survey. If you haven't responded yet better get your fingers to the keyboard.

Watch this space as we get fired up for new session.



"We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated."

Mya Angelou



"We are so used to living in an instant world that it is difficult to wait for anything"

Kay Arthur

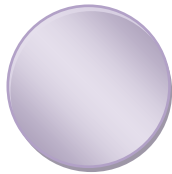
New Area 56

First Oakville ~ Mansion ~ First Burlington ~ Skyway



*"Everything worthwhile—
everything of any lasting
value—is the result of
effort and enthusiasm."*

Loretta Young



*"One of the things I
learned the hard way
was that it doesn't pay to
get discouraged.
Keeping busy and
making optimism a way
of life can restore your
faith in yourself."*

Lucille Ball



A Note From Your VP of Education Toastmaster Donald Knowles

Time is flashing by and the preparation for this coming year's schedule continues. The survey results were a bit disappointing at only 33% at this time so people will just need to be slotted as best can be fit. The V.P. Education position at First Oakville is responsible for setting the meeting schedules for the year, coordinating any and all club training, and for scheduling all competitions. This is going to be a really interesting exercise. The club has finalized the start date for the new year, Thursday Sept 10.

By the time you read this message you should also have the schedule for at least the first few months. All facets of Toastmaster education will be presented continuously



Toastmaster Donald Knowles

Photo by Peter West Photographer

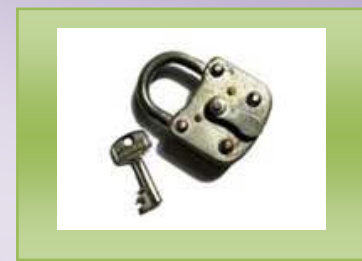
throughout the year with the hope that we can continue the great push started by Akeel Ghaib last year. I look forward to seeing all of our returning members in a few short weeks and I hope everyone has had a great summer and is all set up for another satisfying year at First Oakville Toastmasters.

NEW SESSION STARTS

Thursday September 10, 2009 @ 7:30 pm

THE 2009 – 2010 EXECUTIVE

John Smissen, President
Donald Knowles, VP Education
Dave Webster, VP Membership
Iryna Linkova, Treasurer
Tim Chung, Secretary
Jamie McHardy, Sergeant at Arms
Michelle Gillies, VP Public Relations
Katherine Ryell, Past President



A Note From Your VP of Public Relations Toastmaster Michelle Gillies

There is nothing I like to talk about more than my Toastmasters group, First Oakville. I have some business acquaintances that are sure I have joined a cult. I always tell them I am just an “unofficial cheerleader”. This year things are different. As the VP of Public Relations I am now the “Official Cheerleader” for First Oakville Toastmasters. Seriously, even as I type that, I have a big grin on my face.

We...that would be the “Royal” we (your elected officials) have big plans, dare I say, HUGE, plans for this year. Of course, all our plans include heavy participation from our members. This news letter will hopefully be the first of several you will receive this year. I say hopefully because keeping up a newsletter requires input from our members. Everyone of us who has ever written a speech can contribute something to our newsletter. Speaking of writing, we also have a blog on our website that has been highly underused. Writing a post for our blog will allow you to give your insight on a particular subject of your choice. It is for sharing your thoughts and opinions. In turn, we also have the ability for our readers to leave comments in an interactive format. If you would like to see a couple of examples I am familiar with, please check out Peter Wests blog at www.peterwestphoto.wordpress.com or my own blog at www.silkpurseproductions.wordpress.com.



www.silkpurseproductions.wordpress.com .

Both of these blogs have examples of blogs with comments posted pertaining to the blog. Bottom line...I will be looking for people who are willing to write and share their writing with their fellow Toastmasters.

Jason Nagy has been extremely generous with his time and talent over the years (insert applause for our Jason here) by hosting our website and operating our video camera during meetings. I am pleased to say that Jason is allowing me to lighten his burden somewhat this year by keeping the website up to date and taping the meetings in his absence.

I welcome any ideas, thoughts, suggestions or constructive criticism that you feel will benefit our club.



A Fond Farewell to Ann Crawford By Toastmaster Val Clements

Ann Crawford hadn't been a long term member but the effect she had on our club was amazing! Her friendly, outgoing personality is infectious. Her enthusiasm and boundless energy are motivating. We listened to her speeches with fascination. She grew with us and we grew with her.

She is realizing a personal dream and is leaving us to live and work in Victoria B.C.



Toastmaster Michelle Gillies
Photo by Michael Toole Photographer



On August 6 we met in the Coach and Four to hoist a few drinks and wish Ann a fond farewell.

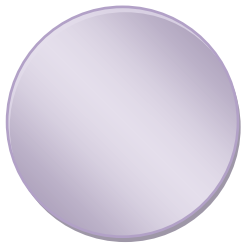
We know she will excel in her new ventures and wish her lots of continued happiness. Just don't forget us Ann.....we will miss you.....the door is always open.



"You need chaos in your soul to give birth to a dancing star"
Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche



"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts"
Winston Churchill



"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going"
Jim Ryan



Survey Says!!!... Compiled by Toastmaster Donald Knowles

First, I would like to thank everyone who took the time over the last couple of weeks to respond to the survey. It was painful to be reminded about TM in the latter days of summer and that a new round of work was up coming, but you responded and this allowed me to try to give everyone what they needed to move forward.

So what did this survey tell me. ? Interestingly enough the top 3 items were not specifically about speeches but about leadership. In descending order they were;

Improve Thinking Skills

Improve Listening Skills, and

Improve Management Skills

The next 2 items were;

**Improve Evaluation Skills, and
Parliamentary procedures**

We have quite the lineup of activity this coming year as we try to push not only people forward in Speaking and the Leadership designations but in all the other ancillary interests that were mentioned. I will keep an eye on activities to try to ensure that everyone has yet another fulfilling year in Toastmasters.



NEW FEE STRUCTURE

*~ Annual Member Fee ~ \$195.00 ~
~ One Time New Member Fee ~ \$50.00 ~*

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