



THE COMMUNICATOR

First Oakville Toastmasters #2245 Newsletter

November 13, 2006

THE 2006-2007 EXECUTIVE

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Michael Walornyj, Co-Sergeant at Arms
Art Jain, Co-VP of Public Relations
Laura Baker, Co-VP of Public Relations

A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Loreen, edited by Laura

In 1983, I took a semester-long sabbatical to complete some studies. It was springtime when I saw a small newspaper advertisement in 'The Beaver'. It stated that Oakville Toastmasters would be admitting women and to call Jack K. or Mike. I chose to phone Mike, because Jack's telephone number put him in the vicinity of the school where I taught and for all I knew, he might be a parent of one of my students! My one remaining memory about that conversation was that I had survived a very stringent telephone job interview ONLY because I was a colleague of an existing member of the Club, John. The last reminder Mike provided over the phone was that the meeting started PROMPTLY at 7:30 p.m. at Sheridan College.

I made sure I got there by 7:15 p.m., but I couldn't find them. They were not listed on the directory and no students I approached had heard of them either. I finally got Administration to call the custodian who knew everything. He said, "They aren't in this building, but there is a southern campus you know!"

By this time, it was 8:00 p.m. I rushed out to the car, tore down Trafalgar Road, south of the QEW, to what is known as "the old barracks." At break, I sailed into the designated room where I bounced off a very tall Mike, whose first words were, "I thought I said 7:30 p.m.!" My reply was, "At Sheridan College, I believe; I was there, at the main campus."

There were five females at that meeting, and only one other beside myself, Marg, returned for a 2nd visit and became a member. She was also a teacher.

That September I served as Secretary on Mike's executive. He was the 1983-1984 President of the Club and we (eventually) became good friends. Over the past 23 years, it has been wonderful to watch women joining the Club in full force!

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Let's Be Distinguished

By Katherine

The Distinguished Club Program (DCP) is an annual program that runs from July 1st through June 30th, consisting of 10 goals every Toastmasters Club should strive to achieve. Toastmasters International tracks the progress of our club and at the end of the year recognizes us based on the number of goals we have achieved.

The goals are based on various criteria such as:

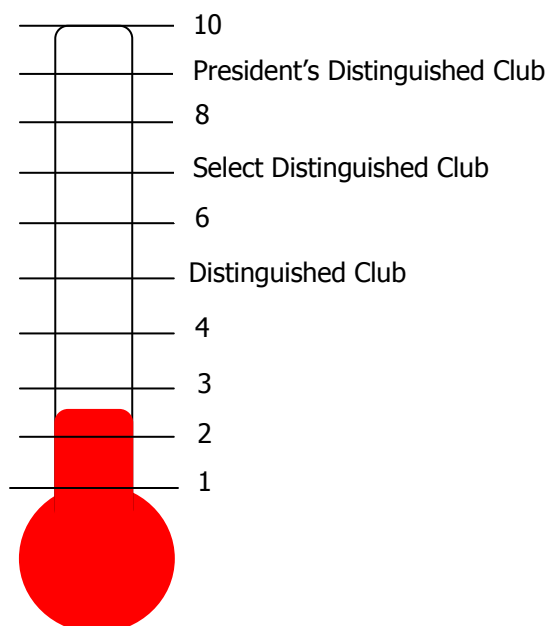
- Net growth of the club (new members)
- Achievement of designations by members such as Competent Communicator and Competent Leader
- Club officers participating in training sessions
- Membership reports and club officer lists submitted on time

Recognition:

- Achieve 5 of 10 goals to earn Distinguished Club
- Achieve 7 of 10 goals to earn Select Distinguished Club
- Achieve 9 of 10 goals to earn President's Distinguished Club

This is a club award that requires everyone to be motivated and committed as a team. We have achieved the President's Distinguished Club for at least the past two years. The thermometer below will help us track our progress to achieving President's Distinguished Club once again in our 50th year.

The Distinguished Club Program: First Oakville Toastmasters



HOW WE'VE EARNED OUR POINTS

We earned 1 point for submitting our membership reports and club officer lists on time.

We earned another point with Art and Laura attaining their Competent Communicator designation. Congrats!

We earned a ½ point for Club Officer training in August.

Let's keep up the hard work to reach our goal!

The Sky's the Limit

By John

One Toastmasters diary of the Fall Conference. After a late night dash down the QEW and a smooth check in at the Registration Desk on Friday evening, November 3, there was time to shower and change before getting to the "Reach for the Stars" party in the Grand Ballroom. Almost won a prize as a space creature. Glad I didn't, as I didn't have on a mask or costume. Unintelligible MC made taking breaks to replenish drinks a pleasure. DJ played an interesting range of music that prompted lots of dancers onto the floor. It was lovely later to look out over Niagara Falls at night -- a sight not to be missed.

Missed the early (to me!) ceremonies and keynote speaker to save energy for the rest of the day. Lovely photo of Jennifer parading the First Oakville banner was a big hit later in the day.

Made it to two excellent workshops in the morning. Tough to decide which to attend, all looked good. Attended Communication and Leadership lunch and enjoyed speech from Brenda, who received the award this year. Then it was off to the bookstore to inspect what remained in stock. Made reminder to self to get to the bookstore when it opens on the Friday night. Toastmasters are like vultures when there is a deal about!

Attended one more excellent workshop before attending the Humorous Speech Contest. All speakers were excellent. I picked the first three but not in the same order as the judges. Close but no cigar! After all that fun, I did my duty as a club officer and attended the District Council Business Meeting. Unintelligible (to me and others) financial information was presented and not explained well at all, but passed all the same. Interesting! Significant decision was made to recommend that the District be split in two.

Time for a quick wash and brush up before heading off to the District Governor's Gala Banquet. The food was edible, the drinks drinkable, the ladies looked lovely and dancing went into the wee hours despite the fact that the DJ had the same play list as Friday night. Thank goodness the clocks went back overnight! That extra hour was well received.

True to expectations I missed the early start and the International Director's Workshop. But I did get to the Table Topics Contest on time. "Freedom" was the word and all contestants did well. Adam from the Mansion Club came in second. Next came the brunch and a keynote speech from Ted, DTM, Past International President. Ted was in top form and gave a wonderful speech entitled "We Can Be Heroes For More Than One Day". It was a fitting end to an excellent conference. Lori and Philip did a splendid job of leading the organization of the conference. So, full of good food and new speech ideas, it was time to hit the road to Oakville to get some rest.

Etiquette 101

Providing fellow Toastmasters with your written comments on their prepared speeches is a great method of providing feedback and suggestions to fellow members. Your opinion counts and it's enlightening to get so many different opinions on the same speech. When providing written comments, it's important to listen carefully to the evaluator's reading of the speech objectives before the speech. Your comments should be related to the objectives of the speech. And, don't forget to sign your name. Providing your name allows a Toastmaster to follow up with you if they have any questions or want to talk further about the advice/feedback you have provided.



What can I do when I disagree with a decision that the Chair has made?

Robert is our friend

Though the Chair of the meeting is responsible for running the business session at our weekly meetings, they are not all knowing or all powerful. The assembly has rights that must be recognized by the Chair.

Appealing the decision of the chair is a good way to voice your disagreement with any action that the Chair has taken. To appeal the decision of the Chair, simply rise and say (without waiting to be recognized), "I appeal from the decision of the Chair." An appeal requires a seconder because one disgruntled member is not enough to warrant a vote from the assembly. You can state your Appeal even if another member has the floor (i.e. an appeal takes precedence). At this time, the Chair can provide their arguments for the decision that he/she made and then calls for a vote by saying, "Those in favour of sustaining the decision of the chair say 'Aye'. Those opposed to sustaining the decision of the chair say 'No'. A **majority** of 'Aye's' from the assembly means that the Chair's decision is upheld. If the 'No's' have it, the Chair must reverse their decision and proceed with business accordingly.¹

Next time you disagree with any decision that the Chair has made, stand up and make an Appeal. Remember, each week is a great chance to learn more about Robert's "Rules of Order" by putting them into practice!

¹Jones, O. Garfield. *Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance*, Penguin Books, 1971.

Answer to Take the Quiz

In the October 12, 2006 issue of 'The Communicator' we asked which past President wrote the famous words, "Let's roll the bones!"

The answer is Hal!

Feedback/Comments/Story Ideas?

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