

The Advantage

Happy Holidays!

Club Officer Training

The date is set! Club Officer Training is required between December 1 and February 28 for a Club to get credit toward the Distinguished Club Program.

Division A will host its very own *Planet Toastmasters: College of Toastmasters Knowledge* on Thursday, January 16, 2003. Toastmaster club Speak Up America is kind enough to loan us the use of their facilities at Bank of America on Southside Boulevard once again. The training will begin at 6:30 p.m. Part A is Club Officer Training, Part B is Electives and wrapping up with each club meeting with their respective Area Governor. We expect to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.



It is very important that each club send at a minimum four officers to this training to be considered for the Distinguished Club Program. Make-up trainings provided in the past by the Area Governors at individual clubs **will not** be available. The **only** make-up will be provided on a Saturday in February, the day to be provided at a later date.

Club Officer Elections



Clubs electing officer's on a semi-annual basis need to do so before the end of the holiday season. Once your club has elected their new officers you need to submit a new Club Officer List to Toastmasters International before December 31, 2002. You may submit the list electronically through the Toastmasters website at: www.toastmasters.org/officerchange.asp?location=U.S

When using the website a copy needs to be submitted to the District, Division and Area Governors. At minimum forward a copy to the Division Governor and I will forward it to the others. Your Division Governors e-mail: DivisionA@bigfoot.com

Plan to attend the **District 47 Spring Conference** in Orlando.

Registration flyer

District 47 website: www.toastmastersd47.org

OR

Division A website: www.geocities.com/division_governor

Special points of interest:

- ☞ Dec 25 - Christmas
- ☞ Dec 26 - Kwanzaa Begins
- ☞ Dec 31 - Club Officer lists Due to TI (for Semi-annually elected officers)
- ☞ January 1 - Happy New Year!
- ☞ January 4 - Planet Toastmasters Orlando
- ☞ January 16 - Division A Officer Training

Variety in Table Topics

by Sherrin Ross Ingram

Education

The Keys to Having Table Topics that are Fun and Educational are:

1. **Creativity** (use the suggestions below and put “a little twist on them”)
2. **Planning** (you can do a little or go “all out”, and
3. **Education** (teach members techniques to respond so they really grow as speakers).

The following are topics compiled from my own ideas, the internet and personal interviews with many Toastmasters. If known the names* of the person or club submitting the idea are given at the end of the list. Some of the ideas I found were duplicates and the origin unknown.

Topics That Require Some Advance Planning

1. Jeopardy! Come up with six question categories and then make five questions for each category. Take a poster board and make pockets for each question. Label the categories and the top of each column and have the speaker select from a category. You get the idea.
2. Give the speaker a strange and unheard word from the dictionary and ask them to tell everyone what they think this word means. At the end, give the real definition.
3. Have each speaker pick from a bowl full of Chinese fortune cookies and have them read their fortune and interpret what it means to them. Note: Make sure everyone gets a cookie whether they speak or not.
4. Put everyday stuff into a bag and let each speaker select an item to discuss. However, the year is 2525 and the speaker is an archeologist. They will explain their opinion as to what the item was back in the 21st Century and how it was used.
5. Take the first line from a song and have the speaker explain what inspired them to begin this song with this phrase.

Topics That Present Though Provoking/Humorous Questions or Situations

1. Ask each person to describe his/her life if he/she was an object, I.e., a mirror, a table, a chair, a briefcase, a door, etc.
2. There's a saying that the difference between involvement and commitment is like that of a chicken or a pig to breakfast. The chicken is involved, and the pig is committed. When it comes to life, which are you, a chicken or a pig?
3. At five years old, we all dream to be a teacher or a fireman. At fifteen years old, we all dream to play or sing with a rock'n roll band. But, tell us why your dream would be to be a shoe (or some other object)?
4. Have the speaker discuss a weird place to live and defend the place as a nice place to live, such as:
 - * Next to a nuclear power plant.
 - * In a swamp.
 - * Bottom of the Grand Canyon.
 - * Top of the Matterhorn.
5. If you had to wear a button with a maximum of five words what would it be and why?

Remember, be creative and have fun!

10 Proven Ideas for Increasing Interest in Toastmasters and Building Membership at Company Clubs

by Sherrin Ross Ingram

Membership



1. Display Toastmasters posters at workstations and offices.
2. Display Toastmasters magazines or brochures on desk and in lobbies.
3. Have a display table for Toastmasters with a member present during lunch time either once a week or twice a month.
4. Purchase and wear “polo” shirts with the club name and the Toastmasters symbol on casual day or, if the company has a casual dress policy, pick one or two days out of the month to wear the shirts.
5. Have floating trophies that can be displayed on a desk as the prize for the best speech and table topics.
6. Follow up with all past guest.
7. Have regular announcements in company e-mails, newsletters or on the company’s intranet.
8. Target a different department each month and send a letter along with other Toastmasters marketing materials to the department head informing them about Toastmasters benefits. Offer to provide a brief (approx. 5 min.) speech at their next department meeting about Toastmasters.
9. Create a decorative Toastmasters bulletin board to display in the cafeteria and/or library. The board should be updated and changed regularly.
10. Occasionally have guest speakers on developing communication and leadership skills, and make extra efforts to advertise these meetings.

*Sherrin Ross Ingram is head of the International Center for Strategic Planning, a successful attorney, business owner, investor, speaker, and author of the best-selling book *Wealth Mentality: Program Yourself to Get and Keep the Wealth You Want*. She can be contacted through the web sites www.wealthmentality.com and www.sherrin.com.*

Congratulations! November Educational Achievements

Competent Toastmasters

John E. Roberts (Toast of Jax)
Kimberly K. Gresham (CSX)
Rufus “Al” Spratling (Work Source)
Edward J. Feldman (Work Source)
Donna Duke (Work Source)
Valerie Denise Vann (Work Source)

Advanced Toastmasters

Anthony R. Sam (Work Source)

Competent Leaders

Lisa M. Smith (Speak Up America)