



Soaring Eagles Toastmasters Club

Vol. II, Issue 8 – February 2005 Newsletter

Soaring Eagles Toastmasters Club (#9647)
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MISSION

To provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

www.geocities.com/eagles_toastmaster/

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WELCOME

February marks the beginning of Black History Month. Throughout history, there have been many powerful African American orators that we can learn from. One of which, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., didn't stumble in his speech by saying "ah" and "um" or reading his notes. He was a dynamic speaker that used the power of speaking to change this country.

As we say farewell to our now former club Secretary & Treasurer, Mr. Jim Turner, we welcome with open arms our new club Secretary & Treasurer, Ms. Cheryl Terry.

CLUB LEADERSHIP

President Mike Duerksen, CTM
VP Education June Cunha
VP Membership Renee Cantave, CTM
VP Public Relations .. Walter Kelley, CTM
Secretary Cheryl Terry
Treasurer Cheryl Terry
Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Germer

QUESTIONS, ANYONE?

* What's the best way to prepare for questions?

Start by anticipating questions that might come up. What questions are likely to be prompted by your presentation? But don't stop there. If you've done your audience analysis, you should know what concerns your listeners might have, even those unrelated to your presentation that could lead to questions. Make a list of all the questions that might arise, including especially the toughest ones. Then prepare a response for each one and make this part of your rehearsal. Prepare even if you're not sure there will be a formal Q&A session. Be ready for those "impromptu" questions that might arise.

* What if there are no questions?

Turn the tables. Go to a specific point you made in your presentation—one that's likely to stimulate discussion. Ask your listeners what they think. Do they agree with you? Do they have other opinions? Some of your listeners may have questions they'd rather not ask in an open meeting. Allow for that possibility by offering to take questions one-on-one at the end of the session.

* Are there other techniques that help?

As the presentation comes to an end and you've taken your final question, it's a good idea to repeat your closing remarks, particularly if you've been responding to questions for a while. That way you can drive home your call to action and avoid ending on a vague or weak note.

CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars and try to attend the following activities:



9 Feb (SKY7: 1W38)
Club Meeting
1200-1300



23 Feb (SKY7: 1W38)
Club Meeting
1200-1300



9 Mar (SKY7: 1W38)
Club Meeting
1200-1300



23 Mar (SKY7: 1W38)
Club Meeting
1200-1300



13 Apr (SKY7: 1W38)
Club Meeting
1200-1300

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TESTIMONIAL

By: Seth Cowand, CTM, CL

I have been a member of the DISA Soaring Eagles Toastmasters club since December 2004. I have been active in Toastmasters since approximately 1999.

My first exposure to a Toastmaster club was in Dallas, Texas (Callier Communicators). At that point in my life, I was petrified of speaking in front of people. I would sweat profusely and my heart rate would increase to the point that I could literally feel it pounding on my chest. I would get very jittery before, and during, the speaking situation. To complicate the situation (which was the reason for the anxiety), I have a very noticeable stutter.

In 1999, while attending a meeting at the Dallas chapter of the National Stuttering Association, then Chapter President (Russ Hicks, DTM), talked about the Toastmasters Club that he was involved in specifically for people who stutter. My experience in Toastmasters has been extremely satisfying. One of the things that we discussed continuously is the importance of "communicating".

Toastmasters also instilled in me the confidence to speak in any situation. I now have the self-confidence to speak in front of groups, no matter how large or small. In 2003, I spoke to an audience of approximately 300 people at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). As a result of being in Toastmasters, I did not have the "sweaty palm syndrome", or get so nervous that I did not feel comfortable speaking to the group. Of course, I still had a slight nervous feeling, caused by being afraid of forgetting my speech, not because I stutter.

I attended the DISA Intern Week recently and recall hearing the DISA Director, Lieutenant General Harry Raduege, speak about "Raduege's Formula For Success". He stated that 85% of being successful is "attitude", and only 15% is "ability". Toastmasters has changed my "attitude" towards public speaking and has instilled in me the confidence to be a more effective communicator. My involvement in Toastmasters has had an extraordinary effect on my life and I am grateful for my involvement.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Bill Cosby

DEATH BY POWERPOINT?

Lately, magazine articles have been popping up with titles like "More Power than Point" and "Friends Don't Let Friends Use PowerPoint." Why the backlash? Because too many presenters simply fail to use visuals correctly.

The thing to remember is that visuals are simply a tool. Use them wisely and they can add power to your presentation. Misuse them, and all you do is obscure your message and distract or confuse your audience. Here, then, are a few tips on using visuals effectively:

🕒 **Visuals are an aid—not the whole**

Armed with the likes of PowerPoint, presenters often let the focus turn away from them and onto the projected image.

🕒 **"At-a-glance" works best**

This means visuals that enable your audience to grasp your main points quickly and easily.

🕒 **Keep your audience in mind**

Good visuals serve your audience's needs, not yours. That's why visuals should not be designed as a script for the presenter.

🕒 **Pictures say more**

Avoid diluting graphic visuals with lots of words.

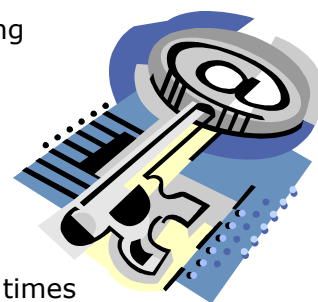
🕒 **Where to stand**

Position yourself directly facing the room, ideally at center stage, with the visual to your left at an angle of roughly 25 degrees.

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WEBSITE UPDATE

Have you visited the Soaring Eagles website lately? The site not only provides information for visitors about the Soaring Eagles club, but it provides timely and helpful information for members as well. The website is updated several times a month and has schedule items and announcements. Check back regularly to find out what's happening in the Soaring Eagles Club.



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