

Spice Up Your Club Meetings!

- **Grab Bag Meeting** - Pick a meeting day when no meeting roles are assigned. All members are informed well in advance that they should be prepared to take on any meeting role, including having a manual speech ready to be delivered (remind them to bring their manuals). At the meeting, participants will draw the positions out of a bag.
- **Speakathon** - Set this up independently or as a follow-up to the grab bag meeting. Hold a special meeting for manual speeches and evaluations only (no Table Topics). Members who did not deliver their prepared speeches at the grab bag meeting now have the chance to deliver those speeches.
- **Backwards Meeting** - Reverse the order of the normal agenda. In other words, start from adjourning the meeting, conduct evaluations before the speeches, and so on. This may appear awkward; however, many members enjoy this type of meeting once in a while.
- **Debate** - Select a controversial topic. Assign participants randomly to speak for or against the issue. Doing this, instead of allowing them to choose their stance, forces them to “put themselves in the other person’s shoes” - a good exercise to stretch the mind. Toastmasters International publishes a *Debate Handbook* (catalog # 104) with detailed information on the debate format.
- **Mock Trial** - Make up a scenario of a legal issue, such as a person caught breaking into a house. Divide participants into two sides speaking on behalf of the prosecution and the defense, respectively.

These are the most popular program formats. More ideas are available in the Toastmasters International publication *Patterns in Programming* (catalog # 1314). Try them out!