



Welcome to

Toastmasters International

Making Effective Communication

A Worldwide Reality

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Club 4196 - Area 9
Division P – District 60

THE PHOENIX NEWSLETTER

THE MISSION OF THE CLUB

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

On a personal note

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People gives us the message: “Be patient with yourself. Self-growth is tender; it’s holy ground”. There is no greater investment.” And what an investment! Think about a child who learns how to walk. Each step is an investment toward an asset: the ability to walk enabling the child to move around and discover life’s gems. This skill didn’t show up overnight. With patient and above all resilience, this child learned from each step, rendering walking a powerful experience. Surprisingly, as we get more “experienced” in life we tend to be more impatient, seeking for quick answers, the ones that will come effortlessly to us and end our torments like the effect of a magic wand. The magic is the holy ground, this energy that bounds us together which allows us to learn from each other and teach each other. Personal growth and learning from our actions requires time and a strong level of commitment, but the benefits are rich and rewarding on many levels.

Cheers,
Pierre Perron,
V.P. Public Relations Phoenix Toronto Toastmasters

Reflections on the Club and Area Contest

Last year, I had only been a member of Toastmasters for about 6 weeks when I experienced the Club and Area Contest for the first time. I made a secret vow to myself that I would participate as a speaker the following year. It is my belief that in order to move forward, you have to establish goals with timelines. Well the year went by quickly and I had accomplished another goal of mine, to complete my CTM. When Pam Kublis asked for volunteers to be speakers at our Club Contest, there was no hesitation. I confidently raised my hand. To say that I wasn’t nervous would be untrue. But I will not let fear stand in the way of my personal growth anymore. The monkey who sat on my shoulder for so many years has permanently been given his walking papers. I have come to the realization that we must make choices that benefit us in a positive way. When we choose fear, it paralyzes us from moving forward. But it is our choice. Fear allows us to give away our

personal power. But once we realize that we are not victims of circumstance, we can begin to reclaim our personal power. That is truly when the magic happens.

Participating as a speaker in the Club Contest was a wonderful opportunity for me to see how far I could go as a public speaker. It was not a competitive endeavour for me but one that was more personal. I wanted to know, for myself, how well I could communicate a speech to an audience. No one was more surprised than me when I won. To win was wonderful. But the most interesting outcome of the evening was the pride I felt for myself in accomplishing a job well done. All the fears that I had carried around with me for far too long had now disappeared. I was overwhelmed in what I had accomplished in the past year and how far I had come. I felt transformed and it was electric. I was indeed confident to go forward to the Area Contest.

When I arrived at the Area Contest, I felt very nervous. I quickly reminded myself that this was another stepping stone in my personal journey and all would be well. I realize now that my competition is not with others but with myself. It is more important that I do my best and if I don't, what can I learn from the experience. I saw the other contestants as people that I could learn from. When we look at others as having something important to share with us, it changes how we see and perceive others. I was the third person to speak and being a middle child, I was comfortable with that placing. I can't explain what happened next but I moved to the front of the room with great confidence and pride in representing our club. Before I began to speak, I looked out into the audience and spotted our club's supporters. Never was there a more wonderful sight. I can still see it in my mind and it inspired me in a very meaningful way. I have never in my life given a speech with such power and conviction as I did that night. It is indeed a night that I will remember for the rest of my life. It was life changing and as I spoke, I felt like a transformed person. For some reason, it was easier speaking to a large crowd than at our club and I'm not sure why. I think perhaps it was because I didn't personally know these people and it was easier to concentrate on my message.

So next year, when our club asks for speakers for the club contest, take hold of your personal power and raise your hand. See it as a wonderful opportunity to see how far you've come and how far you can go.

Janice Basili
Toastmaster Member Phoenix Toronto Toastmasters

Quotes of the Month

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As you simplify your life, the law of the universe will be simpler."

Henry David Thoreau,
1817-1862, Essayist and Poet

"Conditions are never just right. People who delay action until all factors are favorable do nothing."

William Feather,
1888-1981, Author

"Do you remember the things you were worrying about a year ago? How did they work out? Didn't you waste a lot of fruitless energy on account of most of them? Didn't most of them turn out all right after all?"

Dale Carnegie,
1888-1955, Author and Trainer

Historically Speaking Part Two

It was now spring of 1983, and SEARS TORONTO was about to disappear. On March 22nd, the 6 active members voted to change the name (since it was no longer sponsored by Sears), to PHOENIX TORONTO. The new name was intended to symbolize a resurrection from the ashes of SEARS. International accepted the change effective May 5th, 1983. To continue the year round bi-weekly Tuesday meetings, PHOENIX needed a new home, since Burnhamthorpe was closing in June for the summer. The PHOENIX executive began their first search for new accommodation. (To be continued)

Rex French
Toastmaster Member Phoenix Toronto Toastmasters

Did I hear Celebration?

Can you believe it? Our Club will be 25 years next year! We should celebrate this special event. What about an evening gathering existing and old members of the Phoenix Club sharing memories and dreams? What do you thing Fellow Toastmasters? Definitely food for thought!

New Executive

This July 1st will see the transition between the Existing Executive and the New One. A warm thank you to those Officers who, under the leadership of Pam Kubis, made the year 2003-2004 a huge and memorable success;

Pam Kubis, President
Therese Hawn, V.P. Education
Pierre Perron, V.P. Public Relations
Alison Grundy, V.P. Membership and *Carolyn Howard* for her special help
Art Samuel, Treasurer
Gino Scialdone, Sergeant-at-Arms
Lidia Scialdone, Secretary
Lara Gunter, Past President

Help me to welcome our New Executive. May the Phoenix Spirit guide them in their new endeavors and the challenges ahead.

Pierre Perron, President
Janice Basili, V.P. Education
James Bennet, V.P. Public Relations
Fred Berni, V.P. Membership
Sandy Luke, Treasurer
Vacant, Sergeant-at-Arms
Vacant, Secretary
Pam Kubis, Past President

As you notice, two positions are vacant at this time. So how will take the challenges requires by those functions?

Congratulation Carolyn!

Congratulation to Carolyn Howard for her new appointment as Area 9 Governor. This is quite an achievement, as Carolyn was competing against two other experienced Toastmasters for this prestigious position. All the best to you in your continued career as a Toastmaster!

Final Note

I would like to thank the following Fellow Toastmasters for their contribution to the May Newsletter issue.

Janice Basili, for her article; Reflections on the Club and Area Contest

Rex French, for the “Historically Speaking Part Two” article as part of a series.

Michelle Warren, for proofreading my part of the Newsletter.

Pierre Perron,
V.P. Public Relations