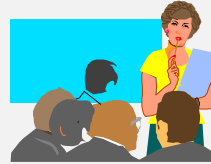


The Oracle

Volume 1, number 1, October 12, 2000

Bigyani Das, Editor

<http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM>



The mission of a Toastmasters Club is 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.

Toastmasters International

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Going for the Gold - Toastmasters Style

By Jeff Bolognese, ATMB, President

Well, the 2000 summer Olympics have come and gone. By now we've all had enough swimming, track and field, gymnastics, and heart-warming stories of Olympic athletes to last us for another four years.

This, of course, got me thinking about Toastmasters.

But what does that have to do with Toastmasters? Well, as Toastmasters, we're all a bit like those Olympians striving for Gold. We all joined Toastmasters because we believed that it could help us to improve ourselves. We may have wanted to become more comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, or maybe to learn leadership or meeting management skills. Whatever our goals, we each set sights on a personal gold medal of self-improvement.

There's another way that we're like those Olympians, too. Each and every one of us, no matter how personal the goal we set, is part of a team. We're all part of the Goddard Toastmasters team. What that means is that we all have a vested interest in the success of our fellow Toastmasters. It means that the ability of any individual Toastmaster to reach the gold depends on the support of the rest of the club.

What do I mean by that? What does teamwork have to do with an individual giving a speech? Think about it. Sure,



you may be out there by yourself, writing and delivering that speech, but are you really alone?

You may have a mentor to help you prepare your speech, an evaluator to help you analyze your presentation, a grammarian and whisker counter to help you improve your verbal skills, a timekeeper to help you pace your presentation, and a Toastmaster of the Day to introduce you. And, of course, there's the audience. That's your Toastmasters team. Quite an impressive support structure. When you think of that team, also remember that you, in turn, are part of every other member's support team. You, at various times in your Toastmasters career, need to play all those other roles for your fellow Toastmasters. They're depending on you, as well.

So the next time you think about your Toastmasters goals, remember your team. Help your fellow Toastmasters achieve their goals as well. Come to meetings. Sign up for TMOD and evaluator and grammarian and every other position available. Be a part of making each and every Toastmasters meeting productive and rewarding for everyone involved. There are a few sure things in life. In the Olympics only a small percentage of athletes come home with medals, and even fewer with gold medals. But I can guarantee that if you commit to put your best effort into Toastmasters, you, and every other member of Goddard Toastmasters, will always go home with the GOLD.

How To Thrive On Table Topics

Ashok Ambardekar, ATMB, Past president

Table Topics must be really a dreadful and painful subject because most of the times we get advice on how to survive them or how to get by without embarrassment. Here is some creative thinking and new strategies on the subject that would help all the toastmasters, rookies as well as seasoned, not to merely survive the table topics but to thrive on them.

Attitude:

Positive attitude is the necessary starting point in any endeavor. What is the single common factor among all the skilled speakers and successful individuals in your profession? Isn't it a great attitude? Therefore we need to pause and assess our attitude. Developing a positive attitude towards table topics simply means looking forward to the topic. We need to psyche ourselves up beforehand. If we start with a negative attitude as we anticipate speaking on a topic, it is only natural that our response turns out to be poor.

Chart Your Course:

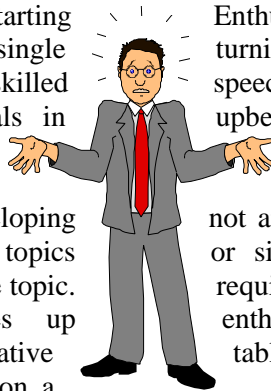
After getting the table topics master's call, we need to decide immediately where we are going with the topic, we simply can not assume that once we start talking, our mind

will light up with a bolt of inspiration. It may happen once in a while, but it cannot be a reliable strategy. We have to chart our course from the outset. We need to go with our first thought. Instead of criticizing our first thoughts and praying for our "light bulb" to go on, we should use our first thoughts to chart our course, then relax and start enjoying the topic as we expound on it.

Enthusiasm:

Enthusiasm is a crucial ingredient in turning a marginal speech into a good speech. The audience enjoys hearing an upbeat and dynamic speech versus a calm and emotionless speech. How do we acquire this enthusiasm? It is not an elusive trait that we either possess or simply lack. We need to exert the required effort and act as if we are enthusiastic. And it will separate our table topic from the rest.

So the choice is ours. If we can apply these strategies and be enthusiastic, be prepared with our charted course from the outset and then inject a dose of enthusiasm, our table topics will be exciting. If we practice these strategies over and over again, table topics will be easier and soon become the highlight of every club meeting.



Where do I go from here ??

Jane Liu, ATMB

To speak in front of a group of people used to scare me to death. I would rather die than speak in front of people. However, the higher I climbed in my career ladder, the more I had to deal with people. The more I dealt with people, the more I had to express my opinions or ideals in meetings. This was the reason I joined the Goddard Toastmasters.



I've been a Goddard Toastmasters member since October 1994 after I attended two or three meetings. During my ice-breaking speech, I felt that my heart was going to jump out of my mouth. My hands and legs were shaking, so was my voice. I was sweating all over. Guess what ?? The majority of the people in that meeting said that I did not look nervous at all. How little they knew!!! The more speeches I gave, the more I overcame the fear facing a group

of people. I set a goal for myself to complete the 10 speeches in the Basic Manual within one year.

At that time, club members thought that was an impressive goal and hard to reach. This meant that I had to do one speech every month. It was not easy. It took great commitment, but I did it. I was a CTM by November 1995. After I received the CTM certificate, it seemed that I lost the motivation. I accomplished the goal I set originally, where did I go from there?? ATM??? DTM?? Did I really need to go to the higher level???

As I studied the advanced manuals, I found that each manual was different. There were different objectives for each speech and each speech had a specific purpose. But they were all based on techniques I learned from the Basic Manual, i.e., speak with sincerity, organize the speech, vocal variety, persuade with power, etc. Some of the specialty speeches would help me in different occasions. So I set up another goal for myself, to achieve an ATM-Bronze certificate. Except this time, it took me

almost four years. I did not get it until July 1999.

As I achieved each goal, there was a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in me. As I made more speeches from the Advanced Manuals, I learned how to prepare myself for facing different situations, i.e., to give a toast, to praise someone, to roast someone, to present and accept an award, etc. As I listened to other TM members' speeches, I learned the strengths and weaknesses in their speeches, and tried to apply that knowledge to my own speeches. I found myself more comfortable and confident in dealing with people.

This year, I set up another goal for myself: I want to get my ATM-Silver certificate by July 2001. I want to challenge each member of Goddard TM: If you still work on the Basic Manual speeches, try to finish them and become a CTM this year. If you are a CTM, don't stop there!!! Set up a new goal for yourself, aim at becoming ATM-Bronze within one year!! Once you achieve your goal, it will be a rewarding experience.

Distinguished Club program

Mike Heney, Vice president, Education

Toastmasters has a "distinguished club" program, and I am looking forward to achieving that recognition for our club this coming year. One of the purposes behind this program is to help both the club and individual members set and achieve goals for the year. As our club's VP for Education, it's my job to see that we do indeed work on moving forward as a club and in our personal development through Toastmasters.

There are 10 goals defined for the distinguished club program; meeting 5 of them makes you a Distinguished Club, 7, a Select Distinguished Club, and 9, My goal for this year is meeting **at least 7** of the 10 goals and qualifying for Select Distinguished Club. Becoming a President's Distinguished Club is hard at it.



distinguished club program; meeting 5 of Club, 7, a Select Distinguished Club, and 9, My goal for this year is meeting **at least 7** Select Distinguished Club. Becoming a within the realm of possibility - if we work

I will list the goals in a bit. In order to help meet the goals, however, I need help from every member. Some of the goals involve members getting their CTM, ATM, or DTM certificates. I would like to work with all of you on determining where we all are in reaching the next level, and when we plan on getting there. In order to do this, I will be contacting every member of Goddard Toastmasters to find out what you are currently working toward and how far along you are. As a

part of this, I'd like to make sure that everyone's manual is up-to-date. As you complete speeches, the VP-Education (me, this year), should sign off on them in the manual. I'd like to have a chance to look at everyone's manual between now and the end of the year to bring them current.

Now, if you're not currently working on a manual - WHY NOT?? In general, every speech should be a manual speech; it makes sense to make each speech count - it helps both you, AND our club!

OK, so what are these goals?

- (1) 2 new CTMs (Competent Toastmasters) awarded during the year
- (2) 2 *more* CTMs (i.e., 4 CTMs equals 2 goals met)
- (3) 1 new ATM (Advanced Toastmaster) awarded
- (4) 1 *more* ATM (i.e., 2 ATMs equals 2 goals met)
- (5) 1 new CL, DL, or DTM (Competent/Distinguished leader or Distinguished Toastmaster)
- (6) 1 *more* new CL, DL, or DTM
- (7) Four new members during the year
- (8) Four *more* new members during the year
- (9) Four officers at TM training Jun-Aug AND Dec-Feb
- (10) Officer's list and Semi-annual report on time

We've already met goal 10, and the June-August half of goal 9, so 2 of the goals are in the bag. I am confident that we'll hit 4 new CTMs and 4 new members during the year - unless we slack off - so a Distinguished club should be easy. Getting that Select level will require a couple of advanced certificates and/or a total of *8* new members for the year; that will be a bit of a challenge, but doable - especially if we know that we're working toward 'em!

For the pedantic, the year is defined as July 1 - June 30, and doing another of the "more" type goals doesn't count extra (i.e., 6 new CTMs doesn't count as 3 goals - although it *does* make us look good!)

The officers are doing what they can to meet goals 9 and 10 - we need *YOU* to pitch in on the other 8. Decide what certificate you're working on (if you don't already know); get up and speak, and bring new people in. We need everyone - the newest members as well as the long-time veterans - to work together as a club to get us recognized for the outstanding and truly lovable bunch that we know we are!

You can check our club's status on-line via Toastmaster's International at "<http://www.toastmasters.org/creports.htm?choiceMenu=Distinguished+Club+Program>" (just enter our club number - 3496 - and hit "submit"...). With a little work, we can nail down 5 goals by Christmas, and 7 (or more) by next June. I know this is a distinguished group - let's find out just how distinguished we are!

Announcement

District 36 Fall Contest on Humerous Speech and Table Topics will be held on November 18, 2000 at Town Center Hotel, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD. For more info check <http://www.district36.org/id150.htm>



Oh Baby, Baby

Congratulations to **Mike Heney** for becoming a father



Welcome New members:
Goddard Toastmasters Club
*welcomes Mike Rilee, Joel
Schafer and Paul Cleveland*

Congratulations:



Congratulations **Mike Heney** for winning the area level Humorous Speech Contest



Congratulations to **Jane Liu** for tying the knot.

News

The Area 42 Table Topics and Humorous Speech contests were held on Sept 21, 2000. Dan Mandl represented our club in table topics, and Mike Heney in the speech contest. Both contests were very close, and table topics required a tie-breaking vote. The table topics winner was Denny Derr from Parliament Speakers and runner up was Bill Gallagher from Space Speakers.

In the speech contest, our own Mike Heney won! Dan Kaczmariski from Riverside Toastmasters was runner up. Mike will now go on to represent

Area 42 at the Division D contest which will be held on Friday, October 27th. Not bad for a first-timer! Flyers for the Division contest will be available at our next meeting.

Congratulations to Dan and Mike for competing in the contests, and additional thanks to Martha O'Bryan and Carl Taylor for coming out and helping with the judging and ballot counting duties. All the contestants were very good, making it a tough job for the judges and ballot Counter.

September Meeting Minutes :

On Sept. 13 the toastmasters meeting was opened with a presentation on how to use the AV equipment in rmE210 of B-28. Don Moore arranged for Dr. Horace Mitchell from the Visualization and VR lab to give the tutorial. A copy of the handout from the demo is in the TM quipment case.

Jane Liu was TMOD of this jammed-packed meeting. Chris Scherer gave the WOD (campaign) and Pat McHale gave a very inspirational TOD. The manual speeches are: Mike Rilee's icebreaker - "My Space Program", and Barry Sherman's keynote address - "We Can Make a Difference". In addition to those

speeches, Mike Heney presented the speech he had to give at the Area 42 Humorous Speech Contest on September 21 - "Breaking News".

Mike Rilee was selected as most effective speaker and Paul McCeney, who evaluated Barry's speech, was most effective evaluator.

Sept. 27 meeting was another stellar Toastmasters meeting! There were three great speeches and table topics. Mike Rilee talked about teaching everyone to learn, and Jan Gervin gave an inspirational speech on Shenendoah NP. Also there was a great Icebreaker by Joel Schafer, who received the best speaker award.

President:	Jeffrey Bolognese	Meeting Schedule: Every 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of every Month
Vice President, Membership:	Carl Taylor	Place: Bldg 28, Rm E210 (90% of the time)
Vice president, Public Relations:	Bigyani Das	Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Vice President, Education:	Mike Heney	Contacts: Any Executive Committee Member or
Treasurer:	Chris Sherer	Refer to our webpage
Secretary:	Regina Cody	
SGT at Arms:	Don Moore	

Goddard Toastmasters Fall 2000 Schedule

(To e-mail a member, click their name to launch an e-mail window.)

				Oct. 11	Oct. 25	Nov. 8	Nov. 29	Dec. 13	Jan. 10
Name	Office	Phone	Code	B-28 E210	B-28 E210	B-28 E210	B-28 E210	B-28 E210	B-28 E210
					Halloween Meeting			Holiday Party	
Ambardekar, Ashok ATMB		6-9624	224.4	E		SP			
Armbruster, Maureen CTM		6-8457	568.1						
Bolognese, Jeff ATMB	President	6-4252	542	E	TMOD		SP		
Cleveland, Paul		6-1327	442						
Cody, Regina CTM	Secretary	6-3782	691						
Das, Bigyani	VP-PR	6-8090	931	SP	E	SP	TOD		GE
Findlay, Oswin CTM		464-3346	440.7						
Gervin, Janette		6-4911	421	SP	SP				
Henev, Mike	VP-E	4-6539	910	E		SP	TT		SP
Ku, Jentung		6-3130	545						
Liu, Jane ATMB		6-2468	480	SP			SP		
Mandl, Dan CTM		6-4323	584						
McCeney, Paul ATM		6-6499	450	TT					
McHale, Pat		410-362-7677	HP	SP					
Moore, Don	SAA	6-9195	931	GE	TOD	SP			
Ng, Carolyn CTM		6-1359	633						
O'Bryan, Martha CTM		6-1412	562	TMOD	TT	E			
O'Donnell, Hugh		6-7684	453						
Pham, Long		4-5132	902						
Pullen, William ATMB		6-6337	453.7	TK		TOD			
Rilee, Mike		6-4743	930	WOD	SP	SP			
Schafer, Joel		4-6668	923	TOD					
Scherer, Chris CTM	Treasurer	6-8677	567.2	E	WOD		GE		
Sherman, Barry DTM		6-6649	740.3						
Taylor, Carl	VP-M	6-8833	541	BC	TK				
Thomas, Louis CTM		6-0969	300						
				Job Assignments Available					
				SP	GE	TMOD	TMOD	TMOD	TMOD
				E	SP	GE	SP	GE	SP
				W	E	E	E	E	E
				G	W	TT	WOD	TT	TT
					BC	WOD	TK	TT	TOD
					G	TK	W	TOD	WOD
						W	BC	WOD	TK
						BC	G	TK	W
						G		W	BC
								BC	G
								G	G
TMOD=Toastmaster of the Day		E=Evaluator		GE=General Evaluator					
TOD=Thought of the Day		BC=Ballot Counter		TT=Table Topics					
SP=Speaker		WOD=Word of the Day		G=Grammarians					
W=Wisker Counter		TK=Time Keeper							