

GODDARD TOASTMASTERS --- CLUB 3496, AREA 42, DISTRICT 36

The Oracle

Volume 4, Number 5, December 11, 2002
Mrs. Wanda David, Editor

[http:// toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov)



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



Toastmasters International

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TOASTMASTERS



EMRACE THE BENEFITS

How did you spend a November weekend when it was cold and damp outside? I could have chosen to idle and do nothing. Instead, to fulfill my duties and to keep our club president company, I summoned my courage and overcame the immense inertia to attend the District Conference in Silver Spring. To my pleasant surprise, I learned something new about evaluation, effective meetings, humor and inspiration. I came home refreshed and uplifted.

Before the club officers' meeting and in between contests, I attended one elective course about providing positive and personal evaluation to speakers with specific examples. Perhaps I can share with you the techniques in a future speech.

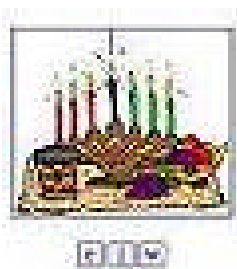
Next came the meeting with more than 100 club officers representing 6000 members in the metropolitan area. While not keen on voting for agenda items that were unfamiliar to me, I was

very impressed with the Division governors' reports. Each told stories about their areas and clubs, which included not only statistics but also growth, reorganization, new initiatives, and challenges. And most of them completed their reports in two minutes or less!

At the end of the day was the exciting humorous speech contest when 5 excellent speakers represented their divisions to compete against one another. These speakers have won previous contests in their clubs, areas, and divisions. As they took their turn on stage, some used props but all spoke with eloquence with a purpose and a great sense of humor. The audience was thoroughly amused and judges voted for three winners who spoke about geek wear, we don't know what we don't know, and perseverance in a rainy day.

In all, the District Conference has reinforced my belief in Toastmasters as a training ground for effective listening, speaking, and leadership skills. The next time there is a district or a regional conference, I encourage you to come along and see for yourself the benefits of being a toastmaster.

Carolyn Ng



Happy Holidays

Dr Bigyani Das, ATMB/CL

Holidays are for having fun, relaxation and spending some quality moments with our family members and friends whom we love, we care, we nurture, and who love us, care for us and nurture us. However, we avail these holidays after we work hard in our professions and complete some projects. If we keep some projects unfinished, our minds stay occupied and although we get holidays, we lose the holiday spirit.

Holidays are for balancing our life. Nature has created the balancing act of birth and death, summer and winter, day and night, land and water, fire and ice, and many other phenomena. We also follow the nature and make our own schedule to balance our life. We work during the days and sleep during the night. We work for five days and get two days off. We work for months and get some holidays. We spend our childhood in learning, adulthood in working and old age in advising and resting. In truth we complete one phase and start the other. Although sometimes we do work in a multi-phase system where we do many things simultaneously, in truth one particular phase dominates our life at a particular time.

We join Toastmasters to balance our life's goals. We have heard people, now we want to be heard. We have stayed in the audience, now we have to be in the stage. We have followed people for some time. Now is the time for us to lead. We have learned many things in life, now is the time to teach. We have eaten the fruits of the plants planted by others, now is the time for us to plant the tree. The reasons can be many, but we choose Toastmasters to have some type of balancing effect in our life. In Toastmasters we also balance ourselves by acting in many different roles. We take the greatest responsibility as a TMOD. We also relax and just attend the meeting taking a simpler role or just to listen to others. However, each role in a meeting teaches us something good. Each member of our club teaches us something new, something different. We also balance ourselves by taking different officer positions. We complete a project and then balance us taking rest for a few days.

Think for a moment if all the days will be given to us as holidays. Can we really enjoy those holidays as we do when we get a few days as holidays? Think about if you just decide to take only one particular role in our Toastmasters meeting. Can you really learn?

So friends, if you haven't attended Toastmasters meeting for a while, please plan to attend and enjoy. Taking so many days off from Toastmasters as holidays wouldn't become that interesting. If you haven't worked in a meeting role, please try to perform in that role and feel for yourself. Please balance your Toastmasters experience by taking different responsibilities and acting in different roles. Enjoy your holidays and work in your working days.

I wish you all Happy Holidays. Please come and enjoy our holiday party on Dec. 11, 2002. In this auspicious month of November when all Americans are celebrating thanksgiving, my gratitude goes to all of you, for teaching me a lot by sharing your ideas on many different aspects of life.

Let us make the New Year Resolution that we will try our very best to keep our Toastmaster promise and contribute our best to care for our club and our fellow toastmasters. We should do our best to uphold the respect and dignity of our club and our members. I'll see you each 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 11:30 to 1:00!

May God bless you all.



Time Well Spent

By Pat McHale, CTM

American author, Carl Sandburg said, ***“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”***

What value do you assign to your time? Are you in control or are other people deciding how you should spend your time?

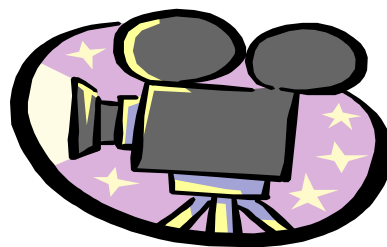
Several years ago, during a Table Topics session, Bill Pullen was mentioning a discussion he had with someone who was having a problem that did not pertain to him. Jokingly, Bill replied “Don't make your problem my problem.” I still remember every club member laughing! Although Bill's comment was spoken in jest, I believe he understood the importance of spending time wisely.

For almost twenty years, I have been selling technical products to my many customers. Time management is a critical asset for me. I am constantly learning new products, networking, cold calling and supporting customers. I need to decide how "my coin" will be spent. Each night, I consider how I spent my time today. Was I frugal or frivolous? Did I allow others to eat up my precious time or did I use it to my advantage? , How could I improve and be more efficient? How much time should be allotted for each of my customer's needs?

Besides my job, I also have a family that requires my time. It's a struggle to balance both. Children nowadays seem to have a myriad of activities and requests that can consume any excess time you thought you might have had. However, spending time with my wife and children is important to me and it's certainly "money well spent".

As you determine how you will spend your "coin", focus on the areas that are important to you. Minimize the distractions that will waste what precious time you might have. These distractions could be television, negative people, or dwelling on circumstances that are beyond your control.

Each day we are given twenty four hours. Invest your time wisely. Once spent, it's gone forever or so it seems. Time well spent will accumulate dividends that will be everlasting.



Member Spotlight GSFC Toastmasters Contest Winners

In the Area 42 contest our club's Mike Rilee won the Humorous Speech Contest and Wanda David won Table Topics contest. They both were wonderful.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped Mike refine his speech through constructive suggestions and encouraged both of them. My special thanks go to Paul McCeney, Mike Heney, and Jane Liu for helping with Goddard's responsibilities yesterday, and inspiring Wanda and Mike.

Please join me in congratulating both Mike and Wanda who were the representatives for our Area in the Division D contest held on Friday October 25, 2002. Although Mike Rilee was not able to compete for the Humorous Speech Contest because he was on travel, Wanda David Won 2nd place in the Table Topics Contest

Our Goddard Club has set a record for winning the Humorous Speech Contest for three years in a row. (Mike Heney: 2000, Jeff Bolognese: 2001, Mike Rilee: 2002). I am proud to be a member of this club. Aren't you?

Toastmasters Treat You to an Exceptional Agenda



Goddard Toastmasters Club #3496
District 36, Area 42
October 23, 2002

Call to Order:
Business Meeting
Word of the Day
TMOD
Thought of Day

Don Moore
Bigyani Das
Bigyani Das
Martha O'Bryan
Wanda David

Sgt. at Arms
President

VP-PR

Speeches:



"Watch Out for the Invisible"

Carolyn Ng
Advanced Communication
and Leadership Program:
The Speech to Inform
5 to 7 minutes



"What's a dollar?"

Mike Rilee
Advanced Communication and Leadership Program:
The Speech to Inform
5 to 7 minutes

Table Topics:

Table Topic Master - Carolyn Lott



Evaluations:

General Evaluator - Mike Heney
Jeff Bolognese evaluates Carolyn Ng
Oswin Findlay evaluates Mike Rilee

Critics Report:

Grammarian: Berry Sherman
Whisker Counter: Harold Felder
Time Keeper: Esther Woodward
Ballot Counter: Jane Liu



Awards and Conclusion of Meeting – Bigyani Das



Announcements

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) Winter Training Schedule:

Saturday, January 11, 2003
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
GEICO
5260 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase MD.

Sunday, February 9, 2003
2:00 - 6:00 PM
Uniformed Services University (USUHS)
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

October/November Meeting Minutes

On October 23rd meeting, Toastmaster of the Day was Martha O'Bryan. It was our Halloween Theme meeting and Martha had created ghost designs for the meeting agenda. There were candies in a pumpkin pot for members to enjoy. In the business meeting Club President Bigyani Das presented the tip of the day as "Hope for the best". With the sniper fears around Washington DC area, that was the only thing left for the people to do. The word of the day was presented by Bigyani Das as "pray". Thought of the day was presented by Pat McHale which focussed on Time Management. He described how every second is important in the life. Wanda David also presented another very appropriate thought, with a message to motivate the audience by considering the problems as opportunities. There were two prepared speeches presented by Carolyn Ng and Mike Rilee. Carolyn talked on the topic

"Watch Out for the Invisible", and Mike Rilee spoke on "What's a dollar". Carolyn Ng presented the solar storm by explaining the cause and effect of the storm very beautifully. Mike Rilee presented the past and present of American Dollar giving many examples from the history. Table Topics by Carolyn Lott was very interesting. She asked questions on Halloween facts. Mike Heney was the general evaluator. Jeff Bolognese evaluated Carolyn Ng and Oswin Findlay evaluated Mike Rilee. Mike Rilee was the Best Speaker, Jeff Bolognese was the Best Evaluator and Wanda David got the Best Table Topics Respondent award.

Paul McCeney was the TMOD on our November 13th meeting. Bigyani Das presented the tip of the day as "Do your best". Although hoping for the best is good, without attempting to accomplish

our goals can't make us reach our goals. Thus while we hope for the best we should also do our best to reach our goals. The word of the day was presented by Don Moore as "Remand". The thought of the day was presented by Jeff Bolognese as **"Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity. It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all"**. Two prepared speeches were delivered by Esther Woodward and Oswin Findlay. Esther talked on "Organizing and Developing Mission Documentation". Oswin presented the speech on "The Evolution of Project Planning and Scheduling", the Keynote Speech from the Advanced Professional Speaker Manual. The Table Topics session was led by Martha O'Bryon. Martha used her jeopardy style by sorting out questions in three categories, sports, automobiles, and "What's up". Bill Pullen was the general evaluator. Jeff Bolognese evaluated Oswin Findlay's speech, and Carolyn Ng evaluated Esther Woodward's speech. Bigyani Das received the Best Table Topics

Respondent award, Carolyn received the Best Evaluator award, and Oswin Findlay received the Best Speaker award.

On our November 27th meeting, Oswin Findlay was the TMOD. The word of the day was presented by Caolyn Ng as Harbingers, which means forerunners or heroes. The thought of the day was presented by Esther Woodward as "It's all about you". Paul McCeney gave a very good speech with the title "Freedom is not free" from the Storytelling Advanced Manual. The Table Topics Master was Bigyani Das who asked questions on "Who", "What" and "How" with Thanksgiving theme. Esther Woodward was the general evaluator. This was her first time experience in that role and she did a very good job. Martha O'Bryan evaluated Paul McCeney's speech. David Shultz, a Goddard employee and a toastmaster in another club who was visiting our club received the Best Table Topics Respondent award.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Bigyani Das	Meeting Dates:	Every 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of the Month
VP, Education:	Carolyn Ng	Place:	Bldg. 28, Rm E210 (90% of the time)
VP, Membership:	Jane Liu	Time:	11:30am-1:00pm
VP, Public Relations:	Wanda David	Contacts:	Any officer or the WWW at: http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM
Treasurer:	Mike Heney		
Secretary:	Mike Rilee		
SGT at Arms:	Don Moore		

