



TOASTMASTERS

NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue IV - 3/2/2012

City of Columbus Club, #1423343

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STATISTICS

Distinguished Club Program Goals Already Met For The 2011-12 Year: **4** (of 10)

Members who are halfway through the CC manual, or better: **5** (of 18)

New Members Needed for the DCP Minimum of 20 Total: **2**

Members who are on track to get a CL before June 30th, 2012: **2** (of 18)

Members who have an active, public profile on the Club website: **4** (of 18)

Visits to the Club website since February 12: **144**

Unique Pages on the Club Website: **14**

Twitter Followers (@CBusTM): **328**

Constructive Criticism

The Evaluation Contest was held yesterday at our Citywide Training Center location, and it was a terrific event!

We had a rather challenging time finding a Target Speaker (a Toastmaster from an outside club, who comes in and speaks to give the evaluators something to evaluate,) and at the very last minute, with only two days notice, Jung Jing of the Sawmill Toastmasters Club volunteered! We are TREMENDOUSLY grateful for his help! Thank you, Jung Jing!

His speech was called "Valid Vision, Valid Life," and was all about our future and past and who we really are. The evaluation contestants were Scott Garver, Laura Hausman, and Kathryn Madden, each of

up this week,) were Aurokiam Anthuvan and Lori LeClair. Lori made an unusual noon-meeting appearance just because she was so needed - thank you, Lori! The Sergeant-at-Arms for the meeting was Joel Gunn, who doubled as ballot counter. The Chief Judge was Liz Reed, and the Contest Chair was Sarah Parker-Allen.

The judges had a really tough time narrowing it down, but in the end, they awarded Laura first place, and Scott second place. This means



Laura will be representing the club, along with Liz (who won the speech contest in February), at the Area contest. Come cheer them on!

whom gave a standard 2-3 minute evaluation of Jung Jing's speech. They all did very well.

Our timers (who both *also* served as judges - everyone really stepped

Saturday, March 10th

9:30am - 12:30pm

Westland Library

4740 W. Broad St.

Columbus, 43228

Meeting Report: 3/1/2012

Scott Garver and Liz Reed both gave speeches: "What Were you Thinking!" (CC4,) and "A Retirement Tribute" (Entertaining Speaker 5.)

Achievements

People have been making a LOT of progress towards their educational goals - check out the "Achievements" page on the club's website, in the members section, or the back page of our most recent agenda.

Of special note, Liz has completed five projects (50%) toward her Advanced Communicator Bronze award. And, Andy Kish completed his Advanced Leadership Silver award in February, and is almost a Distinguished Toastmaster!

Please email Laura Hausman if you have recently completed a role in a meeting, so we can keep track of your progress, and cheer you on.

(New) Member Profile

Aurokiam Anthuvan is a new member who joined Toastmasters after our January Open House. Aurokiam has achieved a Masters Degree in Computer Science from St. Joseph's College in Tiruchy, India. He has been with the City of Columbus for 10 years, where he works as a Software Engineer for

the Department of Public Utilities, managing customer billing software for the Water, Sewer, and Electric divisions. Aurokiam joined Toastmasters to improve his public speaking ability and help him convey beneficial information to listeners. He is also looking forward to volunteering and participating in various activities and roles to support the goals of our club. Aurokiam is an avid Chess player, so attendees of the noon Toastmasters meetings may be hearing about his love of the game via his upcoming speeches.

Office Profile - President

The club's President is responsible for leading the club, and usually has experience in another officer role before taking it on.

The most obvious role of the club president is to preside over club meetings and executive officer meetings. Of course, the president also stays current on all news in the community, area, district, etc., and keeps the club informed.

However, the core duty of the club's President is to ensure the success of the club. The president works with all of the club's leaders to achieve success by encouraging educational achievements, building and maintaining the membership, attending club officer training, and submitting dues, officer lists, and

other documents on time. The club's President is like a CEO - chief managing director, cheerleader, and coach, all rolled into one. The President sets the tone for the club and provides helpful, supportive leadership for all of the club's activities.

It is important to note that a club President can only serve a one-year term. After that, he or she serves in the role of Immediate Past President, and helps the successor President get their job done.

Role Profile - Speaker

You might not think of "speaker" as a meeting role, but it absolutely is one! And a very important one, too - not only do the speakers provide the "meat" for the audience in terms of original content, they also provide valuable experience for all the evaluators, the Toastmaster, the Ah-Counter/Grammarians, and the Timer. None of those people would have much to do if there were no speakers!

And, while it's technically possible to have a Toastmasters meeting without any prepared speeches (some clubs do marathon Table Topics events, for instance,) it wouldn't really be Toastmasters if that happened very often. Prepared speeches are a huge part of why we meet at all.

The speakers at a typical meeting will each talk for about five to seven minutes. Some speeches are shorter, some are longer, but it's a safe guess. Each speaker is expected to fulfill the requirements for one of the projects in either the Competent Communication or advanced manuals; there are also some special long-form presentations (find out more about those in the next issue!)

Serving as the Speaker at a meeting fulfills requirements for CL projects 4 and 5. Be sure to get a written evaluation *in the CL manual* to receive credit for this project. You can get credit for the same speech in both the CL and CC manuals, IF you get written evaluations in both AND an oral evaluation as well.

Grammar Tip

"To be," or not? Chances are, the answer should be, well, "not."

Using constructions that contain a version of the verb "to be" almost always results in "too much" - that is, more words than you needed to use. This can make your speech sound stilted, over-rehearsed, and boring. It also has the tendency of making people think you're trying too hard to impress them - probably the exact opposite of what you want them to think!

What do we mean when we say "the verb 'to be'?" "To be" takes many different forms. For instance:

"There were[...]" or "there is [...]" followed by "that" or "who." For example, "There were seventeen clowns who found themselves in the very tiny car." Change this to "Seventeen clowns found themselves in the very tiny car," and shave three totally pointless words.

Other "to be" verbs include:

- "it is [...]", "this is [...]", and "that is [...]" followed by "that" ("*It was apparent that she was a moron*" becomes "she was a moron" without a loss of meaning.)
- "the reason that [...]" followed much later with "is because" ("*The reason that we went to the supermarket is because we were out of feta cheese*" becomes "We went to the supermarket because we were out of feta cheese.")
- "is able to," "are able to" ("*We are able to juggle thirteen balls at once*" becomes "We can juggle thirteen balls at once")

Simplicity in the way you write your speeches will result in a stronger impression on the audience. So nix those useless "to bes" whenever you can!

My Catalyst Toastmasters

The My Catalyst Toastmasters Club (#1293737) meets at the Union County YMCA in Marysville, about 20 minutes away from the US 33 and I-270 interchange, every Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The My Catalyst Club is relatively new, and is in the middle of rebuilding after many of its members lost their jobs and left the state. Right now they have 13 members - a new one was just voted in last week. In 2010, they were a Select Distinguished Club, in part because they recruited 13 new members in a year. The club is a mix of newer Toastmasters just starting out on their journey, and seasoned Toastmasters from the surrounding area, who are committed to seeing the club enter a new era of achievement

Visiting the My Catalyst Club is a great experience: the club members are welcoming and enthusiastic and eager both to share what they know and learn from outsiders. The evaluations, based on a sample of one meeting, are very strong and focused on helping everyone become better at their roles.

It's definitely worth the drive to check them out - and they welcome guest speakers, which is very much appreciated!

Using LinkedIn For Fun and (Professional) Profit

In our last issue we talked a little bit about social networking at large. Now let's talk about networking on a particular website: LinkedIn.

You might have a LinkedIn profile right now - maybe someone invited you and you clicked on a link at some point? But chances are, you haven't gotten much out of it.

That's because LinkedIn isn't quite like Twitter or Facebook - it's a professional social network. It's a little bit like a living resume, in a way: instead of filling out an application or mailing in a two-page briefing on your life, people can see a snapshot of who you are, what kinds of skills and (professional) interests you have,



and so on, without you having to go out of your way to contact them.

LinkedIn is also a bit like a networking event - except you have to imagine that instead of a room with a few hundred people who are all mostly alike and mostly need jobs right now, you're in a building with hundreds of thousands of very different people, at all career stages and in every kind of employment circumstance imaginable.

Unlike Facebook, LinkedIn is designed to take advantage of what are called "weak ties." Facebook calls your contacts "friends," but LinkedIn sees them as more like cards in a Rolodex: you have some kind of connection, but it might just be that you're both Toastmasters. It's also very easy to talk to people who aren't officially

your "contacts" - for example, our club's VP of Public Relations has had several enlightening conversations with a former member of the Toastmasters Executive Board about things our club could do better!

LinkedIn is also great for connecting on a more "business" level with people you know from church, hobby groups, etc.: you can throw out a comment about a work problem, and all your contacts can see it and respond, even if normally you wouldn't bring up the conversation with them in particular. Sort of like how Facebook lets your boss see weekend party photos - only this is actually good for your career!

Another advantage to LinkedIn is that you can visit it on your lunch break from City computers - it's our only message board where you can do that. Find out more on the "Social Networking" page on the club's website - there's even a "get started" guide there.

City of Columbus Toastmasters Club

Website: <http://cbus.toastmastersclubs.org>

Twitter: [@CBusTM](https://twitter.com/CBusTM)

Newsletter Contact: smarkerallen@gmail.com

Vice President, Membership: SMGarver@columbus.gov

Meetings held on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of each month:

1st Thursday: Noon, CTDCE (750 Piedmont Road), Room C

3rd Thursday: 6pm, Public Health (240 Parsons Avenue), Room 119C

Visitors are **ALWAYS** welcome - you don't need to have a speech ready or be a member!
