

Sunday March 16, 2008

Toastmasters Weekly Newsletter

Well, so much for good intentions. I was going to have this done last Tuesday night so you would all have the info in advance, but here I am at 9:25 pm writing up my notes after having spent several hours working on the church newsletter and then trying to find all my Income Tax stuff. Ok, here we go, let's start with....

Who was there?

This past week we had a combined meeting with members from Pembroke and Renfrew in attendance as well as Fred Schuck from Arnprior. Members attending: Lynne Kobus, Jack Stekelenburg, Becca Platthy, Angie Goudie, Bill Halkett, Debra Lloyd, Gerald Rollins, and Fran.

What happened?

Our theme for the week was Synchronicity – a very interesting theme enhanced by Lynne Kobus' word "Serendipity" and her serendipitous story of her weekend.

Angie took on the Toast and Gerald took on the Educational Tip which had been prepared by Fran. There were 2 speakers – Bill Halkett and Fred Schuck with Jack doing Bill's evaluation and a round table of Fred's speech which he was taking to the Division Contest. *(For those of you who didn't attend the Division Contest, he did a great job, incorporating some of the comments made and ended up winning at Division. He will be going on to the District Contest in April.)* (those of you who were away missed some great ones). Debra jumped in and did an Impromptu Table Topics which had everyone trying on a new career. She also took on the role of Quizmaster. Bill took on the role of Grammarian/Ah Counter and Fran got to just relax. Everyone did a great job!!!

What's next?

This week's theme in Renfrew is St. Patrick's Day/Easter and in Pembroke it is Easter. Many of the roles have been filled:

Renfrew – Toastmaster Lynne; Table Topics, Acting President and Educational Tip, Jack; Table Topics Master Chris Hopewell; 2 speeches – Marg Solar, Chris Hopewell; General Evaluator, Fran

Roles still open: Toast, Word, Joke/Story, Timer, Grammarian, Ah Counter, Quizmaster, Evaluator #1, Evaluator #2

Pembroke – Toast, JoJo; Word, Bill; Timer, Bill; Quizmaster, Debra; Speaker #1 with her Ice Breaker, JoJo, Speaker #2, Angie;

Roles still open: Toastmaster, Joke/Story, Educational Tip, Grammarian, Ah Counter, Table Topics Master, Evaluator #1, Evaluator #2

What's new?

Themes: Do you have an idea for a theme? If so, let me or one of the other Executive members know.

Help Needed: I would like to be able to work on my speeches and I need some help. I need more people to take on the role of Toastmaster/Table Topics Master and also Acting President. Please let me know which week you would like to take on so that I can begin to plan my speeches.

Bill and Angie have offered to take on some of the PR/Membership duties in Pembroke to try to increase the numbers of participants at the meetings. Angie contacted the paper to let them know that they were including a wrong phone number and asked them to change it before the next Community News column.

March 17th: How are you doing with your Competent Leadership Manual? If you have a role in the meeting, check your manual to see if it can be evaluated, then ask someone to do so. **Jack will be giving an educational on March 17th** on how to set this up. He has developed a good plan. All of us should be able to complete our Competent Leader manual (including me – remind me to give someone my manual when I do a role!!!) by the end of June. Please feel free to call me or to set a time before or after a regular meeting if you have any questions.

Educational Tips: We need people to present the educational programs provided by Toastmasters International. These are already scripted and you can simply read them as is or you can paraphrase them or rewrite them in your own words – your choice.

Some of the topics are: Finding New Members for Your Club, Evaluate to Motivate, Closing the Sale, Creating the Best Club Climate, Meeting Roles and Responsibilities, Mentoring, Keeping the Commitment, Going Beyond Our Club, How to be a Distinguished Club, The TI Education Program (all from the Successful Club Series). From the Better Speaker Series we have: Beginning Your Speech, Concluding Your Speech, Take the Terror Out of a Talk, Impromptu Speaking, Selecting Your Topic, Know Your Audience, Organizing Your Speech, Creating an Introduction, Preparation and Practice. There are also a number of other modules in the Success Communication and Leadership Modules.

Please let me know which topic you would like to present and when you would like to present it. I would like to see one of these presented every week, or every

other week. They are available for you to take home and prepare. I have copies of all of them.

Remember to check out our webpages and to refer people who are interested in Toastmasters to them. Perhaps after they read a few newsletters they may decide to check us out.

WEBPAGES: www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersRenfrew.html and www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersPembroke.html

See you soon!!

Fran Watson, ATM-S, CL
President

P.S. You still have time to register new members for the "Talk Up Toastmasters" Awards program which runs from Feb 1 to March 31. If you bring in 5 new members you will receive a special pin from Toastmasters International as well as an award from the district. Remember to invite your friends and family, and even your enemies - it will make for an exciting evening!

P.P. S. The Time Is Now - If you are a member of another group (or if your spouse or partner is) see if there is an opportunity for someone from Toastmasters to come and speak to their group. Perhaps we will be able to increase our numbers in that way. The more members we have the better club we have as we all learn from each other. Please continue to spread the word to your friends and neighbours and invite them to come to a meeting.

Our goal is to charter the Renfrew Club by March 27th, 2008.