

Friday March 21, 2008

Toastmasters Weekly Newsletter

Happy Easter...just returned from the Good Friday service, expecting my family this weekend, so wanted to get this out.... (Warning, get your coffee before you start reading, it ended up being a long one!!!)

Who was there?

Renfrew – We were a small but mighty group in Renfrew this week with Marg Solar, Jack Stekelenburg, Lynne Kobus, Becca Platthy and myself.

Pembroke - JoJo brought a guest with her, Chris Capranos, and Debra Lloyd and Ellen Vandersleen returned (and will be members as of next week), as well as Gerald Rollins, Bill Halkett, Angie Goudie and me.

What happened?

Our theme for the week in Renfrew was a combined one since our meeting was held on St. Patrick's Day – St. Patrick's Day and Easter, while in Pembroke it was simply Easter.

In **Renfrew** the Toast was offered by Marg Solar, the word – omphaloskepsis – by guess who (me), and the joke/story by me. Following this, Jack gave an excellent educational on how to use the chart in the back of the Competent Leader Manual and the reasons why he decided to tackle it. He reminded us that we need only complete 22 of the 40 tasks. Lynne presided as Toastmaster and had lots of information to share. Marg gave a great speech, her final speech for her Advanced Communicator Bronze, on the Sunshine Vitamin – Vitamin D. Her speech was “Sell A Product”, and sell us she did indeed! Jack was our Table Topics Master and he had some interesting topics for us.

In **Pembroke** our toast was offered by JoJo Burgess, our Word – Elixir – by Bill Halkett, followed by a joke/story and Educational Tip by me. Bill took on the role of Timer, Ellen Grammarian/Ah Counter and Debra did a great job as Quizmaster. JoJo did her Ice Breaker speech and Angie completed speech #8 of her Competent Communicator Manual. The Educational was on General Evaluations and so we did a group General Evaluation of the meeting with each person sharing what they had noticed. One of the things noted was that more people needed to be involved in more roles and the result of this discussion is evident in next week's agenda which is already filled.

What's next?

There will be no meeting in Renfrew on Monday night – Easter Monday – but we will be back on the 31st and will hopefully pick up some of the members who haven't been in attendance lately now that spring is returning (isn't it... hopefully...it's supposed to be spring!!!). The theme will be April Fool's

Renfrew – Sgt. At Arms – Marg, Table Topics – Marg Solar, Joke/Story – Jack, Timer – Marg, Grammarian – Jack, Speech #1 – Jack, Speech #2 - George, Speech #3 – Fran, General Evaluator

Roles still open: Toastmaster, Word, Educational, Ah Counter, Quizmaster, Evaluator #1, Evaluator #2, Evaluator #3

There will be a meeting in Pembroke on the 25th – the theme is Traditions.

Pembroke – Sgt. At Arms – Angie, Toastmaster, JoJo; Toast – Debra, Word - Fran, Joke/Story - Bill; Educational Tip – JoJo, Timer - Debra, Ah Counter – Fran, Grammarian – Debra, Quizmaster – JoJo, General Evaluator - Bill; Table Topics Master – Fran, Speaker #1 - Bill Halkett, Speaker #2 – Gerald Rollins, Evaluator #1 – Angie, Evaluator #2 - Fran

What's new?

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

Membership Dues – If you only paid for half a year, the second half is due for April 1st.

Special Event – Jack is putting together a plan to host a special event to teach people how to do toasts and specialty speeches for the wedding season. We will try to put this together in such a way that it can be presented in both Renfrew and Pembroke, or that members of both communities will be invited to attend. Jack will be looking for some helpers for this event.

PR/Membership - 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. Bill will be calling people who have attended in the past to encourage them to return.

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. The new number was in the paper this week.

Charter for Renfrew – I will be crunching numbers over this next week and making phone calls to get the required 20 members for our charter. I want to announce this at the Area Governors' meeting being held on March 30th.

Educational Awards - 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 gave an educational on March 17th** on how to set this up. He has developed a good plan. If you have some questions, please ask him. 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 still 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.

Webpage - 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. I try to get our newsletters posted soon after I send them 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 a little bit of 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. Fred Schuck and Lynne Zander will be competing at the Spring Conference in Pointe Claire Quebec. If you want to go there is still time to register, just go to the District 61 webpage and check it out.

<http://www.toastmastersdistrict61.org>

P.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.