

Saturday March 8, 2008

Toastmasters Weekly Newsletter

Writing to you as the snow is coming down, AGAIN....enough already!! For me anyway, but perhaps not for those who love to ski or snowboard or skidoo, or those who sell skis or snowboards or skidoos, or those who cater to those snow-loving people.....I guess it's all a matter of perspective! (Hmmm...wasn't that a theme a few weeks ago....*laughing*)

Ok, here we go, let's start with....

Who was there?

In Renfrew Marg Solar, Jack Stekelenburg, Becca Platthy, Angie Goudie, Chris Hopewell, George Hooper, and Fran.

In Pembroke Bill Halkett, Angie Goudie, Debra Lloyd, Ellen Vandersleen, Gerald Rollins and Fran

What happened?

Our theme for the week was Spring (well, it was looking like spring for a few days and we did find out that the worst storms are in the spring!).

In Renfrew Jack introduced the Word in an interesting way by telling us the synonyms first and having us guess the word. Very thought provoking. Jack also provided the joke/story and Fran did the toast and the educational tip on Meeting Roles. There were 3 speakers (those of you who were away missed some great ones). Marg has one more to complete for her Bronze!! George started working on his Silver and Jack is working on his Bronze. Evaluations were done by Fran, Marg and George. Jack took on the role of Timer, Becca Grammarian/Ah Counter, Angie Quizmaster and Chris did an excellent job of summing up our meeting, pointing out some points to improve upon! The Table Topics were Impromptu Speaking where everyone had an opportunity to simply speak on the topic of spring or anything else for 1-2 minutes. Everyone did a great job!!!

In Pembroke Debra jumped in with the Word – Verdant – very spring like and Angie provided the joke/story as she talked about another type of spring – the one that fell off her bus! Fran offered the toast and educational tip on Meeting Roles. Our guest Ellen took on the role of Grammarian/Ah Counter, Angie was the timer, Gerald the Quizmaster and Bill did an excellent job summing up the meeting as General Evaluator. Table topics were Impromptu as in Renfrew and we had two speeches – Gerald and Angie. Angie has now completed 6

speeches and is well on her way to having her Competent Communicator by the end of June.

What's new?

There will be **no meeting in Pembroke** next week due to the March break, so all Pembroke members have been invited to Renfrew. We will take the opportunity to officially welcome our new members, so I would encourage everyone to come out to this meeting. Let's fill the room – maximum 34 people!

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.

Next week's theme is Synchronicity. In Renfrew there will be at least 2 speeches – Marg Solar and Bill Halkett. Lynne will be giving the Word and a Story, Jack will be the Grammarian and General Evaluator, but we still have all the other roles available, so let me know what you would like to do.

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!

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 mid March.