

Toastmasters Weekly Newsletter – May 15, 2008

Last week at the Pembroke Club our theme was membership and we had a chance to break into two groups to discuss ways that we can increase and/or retain our membership. We didn't get a chance to summarize the process as we ran out of time, but we will be doing so at the next meeting. I thought that this would be a good process for the Renfrew Club to do as well, so I am putting the list here at the front of the newsletter so that everyone can read it and be thinking about what 1 or 2 items will you choose from this list to complete in the next two weeks. Also, what items do you feel would create the most interest in the local community to draw people in?

Here is the combined list:

1. contact past Toastmasters to be guest speakers and advertise to the general public
2. ask the district for help – ask them for speakers, Roberts Rules of Order – open to the public and send out invitations to all other organizations (clubs, churches)
3. add variety to meetings
4. practice “selling Toastmasters” at meetings
5. put advertising on Cogeco – scrolling ad and talk about a TM show (ok, this is two things)
6. advertise in church bulletins
7. “Do It” posters (advertising)
8. put bookmarks in libraries
9. have handouts (pamphlets) – put your own name on them for contact
10. introduce guests at meetings. If you bring a guest, you introduce them, if they arrive unaccompanied, someone sits with them, gets some information and introduces them
11. follow up on guests – call them the next day or within the next two days to ask them about the meeting, what they liked, did it meet their expectations
12. attend shows – home show, bridal show, business expo – offer to give 10 minute presentations
13. club webpage
14. club newsletter
15. make/keep meetings friendly
16. publicize club successes

Some of these items are very doable with very little cost or effort, others will take both time and effort on the part of many club members, however if each of us will commit to taking on one or two items, we may be able to achieve all of the above over the next few months.

Who was there and what happened?

In **Pembroke** this week, the following people were in attendance: Nigel, Bill, Debra, Jane, Angie, JoJo, Fran and a guest Donna. The word was “camaraderie” and it was used several times (5) by Nigel. Angie was kept busy as Sgt At Arms, Ah Counter, General Evaluator and Toast giver. She came through with flying colours. Nigel was our Toastmaster and he directed us in our discussion on ways to enhance our membership. JoJo took on the role of Timer as well as Table Topics Master and had us

"blowing our own horns". Debra was our Quizmaster and she brought our guest. Fran did an Educational from the Successful Club Series on Finding New Members for your Club.

Renfrew's theme was Moving and Lynne Kobus was our Toastmaster. She kept us right on time as she introduced all our participants. John Munkittrick, one of our club sponsors, was able to be there and he gave the Educational Tip on being prepared to give a speech. Our Word for this week was "palindrome" and it was presented by Ryan who also was our Quizmaster and our Table Topics Master. Marg did the Toast and the General Evaluation. Val continued with the role of Ah Counter, skilfully counting all the ahs and sos to increase our coffers. George took on the role of Timer and also gave a speech while Jack took on the role of Grammarian and presented a 12-15 minute speech.

Special Events:

We held our pre-wedding session on Saturday morning and listened to some great presentations by Toastmasters from Renfrew and Arnprior. Everyone seemed to think it was a good thing to repeat (now that we are all practiced), and we talked about checking out some bridal shows where we could offer 10 minute presentations throughout the day on the various topics.

April was the MC for the event and she also gave a presentation on Pre-marketing for the June 27th Business Expo. There was some great information presented, and there were a couple of Toastmasters from Arnprior as well. Fran did a presentation to a group of "new business" people in Renfrew on Thursday. The presentation was about Trade Show Communication and how Toastmasters could help people feel more comfortable. (Ask JoJo or April how I did?)

Saturday, May 24th is the Charter Party for Above and Beyond. You can still get tickets from Lynne Zander or Fred Schuck. The cost is \$25 for a meal and a party.

I think that pretty much wraps it up for this week. Oh yes, there will be articles in the Pembroke paper over the next few weeks, if you see them, please cut them out and save a copy. There will also be some articles and pictures in the Renfrew paper.

SPECIAL NOTE: Pembroke Executive, we will take pictures or have someone come in from the paper on May 26th, so please dress accordingly.

See you all next week

Fran

PS. WEBPAGES:

www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersRenfrew.html and

www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersPembroke.html

www.toastmastersdistrict61.org

www.toastmasters.org