



Santa Must Join Toastmasters By Lynne Kobus

Santa Claus would benefit greatly by attending Renfrew Toastmasters meetings. Let me explain.

At every Toastmasters meeting, one person is the “Ah Counter”. The “Ah Counter’s” job is to keep track of sounds and words used as “fillers” by anyone who speaks at the meeting. “Fillers” interfere with smooth speech, make your message less likely to be heard or taken seriously, and can drive a listener crazy.

Examples of “fillers” are: ah, um, er. Words, such as and, but, so, like, and you know, can also, at times, become “fillers” when used to fill pauses. Pauses can heighten the interest in your speech and increase the impact of your message. They don’t need to be filled.

Now, back to Santa Claus. It has come to the attention of Renfrew Toastmasters that Santa uses “fillers”. He can hardly say a sentence without using “ho”. Not only does Santa constantly use “ho” when he speaks, he usually strings together three “ho”s in a row, for example, “Ho, ho, ho. Merry Christmas”. I’m sure you can appreciate that Santa has a problem. He must join Toastmasters as soon as possible.

Perhaps you would like to enhance your speaking skills. Maybe “filler” words sneak into your speech. Why not join us at Renfrew Toastmasters for an enjoyable, confidence-boosting evening of communication skills and speaking improvement?

Renfrew Toastmasters is a fun group. We welcome you to attend three free meetings Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the common room at 236 Hall Avenue. Come join us. You may even meet Santa Claus.

Our next meeting will be Monday January 8, 2007. For more information, call 649-2950 or 432-7557.