



President's Message

2010-11 for Parker Toastmasters has been an exciting year! Our club has exceeded everyone's expectations and here are some highlights:

- We held Club Contests in the Fall and Spring and competed in the Area competitions.
- We are likely to attain President's Distinguished status by the end of the year.
- We had unprecedented Officer participation and enthusiasm which created great meetings and helped carry the club forward
- We updated our website to WordPress to allow for more collaboration and flexibility to reach our local and online community
- We had four members achieve the Competent Communicator award
- We had two members achieve one of Advanced Communicator awards
- We had social gatherings in the fall and the winter, which were also used to help donate food and gifts to the needy in our community

Thank you all for bringing your energy, spirit and enthusiasm to each and every meeting! It was a privilege to serve as your President this year.

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Spring Contests



By Paul Johnson

On March 17, the club held its semi-annual contest night. Members were competing in the International Speech and Table Topics contests. Our club selected Joanna Knott and Bill Morgan as winners and they went on to attend the Area Contest on April 1.

While neither advanced, they both still represented the club at an event in which we had not participated the year before.

The club will have contests again in the fall for Evaluation and Humorous

2011/2012 Club Officer Selection

New officers will be selected at the June 23 meeting. The following people have been nominated:

VP of Education – Eric Dunham
VP of Membership – Sandy Marthaler
VP of Public Relations – Bruce Ekins
Secretary – Caroline Nguyen
Treasurer – Open
Sergeant-at-Arms – Open

If you are interested in one of the positions, please plan on attending the meeting on the twenty-third.

One other note, last year's VP of Education, Joanna Knott, was voted in as the 2011/2012 Club President. We are all looking forward to the coming year under her quite capable leadership!

What is a Competent Leader?



By Bill Morgan

What is a **Competent Leader**? How does Toastmasters help you to become one?

These are good questions, and the basis of these may be answered by your active participation in a club.

Most everyone has a pretty good understanding that Toastmasters is a proven program which helps you become a better public speaker; it's not well known that Toastmasters can also be instrumental in developing your leadership skills.

The **Competent Leader Manual** is your structured guide, and by following its form, you will find yourself filling every required role at your club's meetings, sometimes several times over. Your Competent Leader Manual requires that another club member give you a critique on how you fulfilled your role, and it allows him or her to offer constructive criticism for your next attempt. Newer members find that they are a little hesitant at first to ask someone to help fill out the manual, but soon they become accustomed to asking for assistance. This is a positive thing as this helps the club members get to know one another and to bond.

You should start out like most new members and take on a role as a **Timer** or **Grammarian** within the first couple of meetings. After that you can step out and try **Speech Evaluator**, which is a good exercise in active listening and in impromptu speaking. At nearly the same time you may find yourself more assertive and find yourself volunteering to be a **Table Topics Speaker** – another great opportunity for impromptu speaking.

While you begin to get comfortable with the meetings, you are becoming an active, par-

becoming a better speaker you are getting more immersed in active listening and in structured communication.

The next roles you can try are **Topicsmaster**, **General Evaluator** and finally **Toastmaster**, which provide extensive and valuable experience. It is in these roles that you will get to lead the club through larger and larger parts of the meeting, and which help you to understand how to guide your club with less and less structure. It is here where you find you will find your greatest challenges and rewards as a speaker. You may not feel that you are a leader, but you have already made great strides in your confidence and in taking on more important roles for the club. In fact by example you are a Leader.

What's next? As a club member (being an Officer for your club is not a prerequisite) there are a variety of activities where you get to become more involved, and contribute to the club as a whole. These include:

Assist the Club's Webmaster

Befriend a Guest

Club Newsletter Editor

Club PR Campaign Chair

Club Special Event Chair

Club Speech Contest Chair

Help Produce a Club Newsletter

High-Performance Leadership (HPL) Guidance Committee Member

Mentor for an Existing Member

Organize a Club Membership Campaign or Contest

Organize a Club PR Campaign

Organize a Club Special Event

Organize a Club Speech Contest

PR Campaign Chair

These more advanced activities or projects never happen in a vacuum. You should work with your club officers to get involved with your advanced projects, and they can provide you the benefit of their guidance and experience to help the projects bring success to your club and to yourself. Your creativity, people skills and project skills will come together as you work hard to bring each project to fruition.

As you get to know your club officers better, you may imagine yourself in their role, and wonder how you can help your club. They can guide you on your journey and they can help you to consider a formal leadership role in the club.

Within a year of active membership, you can very well complete most if not all of the 22/23 required steps in your Competent Leader manual. Upon reflection, you will see that you are changed, with more confidence, poise and assertiveness. Others begin see you as a leader who is a good example for others to follow.

Your next move? **Competent Leader** is one of the important milestones which help you to on your journey to achieve the pinnacle of Toastmasters achievement, **Distin-guished Toastmaster**. Only your commitment will tell you. But being a **Competent Leader** is an important and life-changing first step.

Toastmasters had an impact on me by:

Members share the benefits of being involved with Toastmasters

...forcing me out of my comfort zones. Because of Toastmasters I am more knowledgeable in how I can positively influence people, as well as find expression in my speaking and writing. Toastmasters has made me a more aware, mindful, expressive and positive person.

At one time I thought I'd put in a year, and then I'd have everything I'd want out of Toastmasters. It's now the end of my third year, and I am looking forward to the continuing challenges that Toastmasters offers in the advanced manuals and leadership program.

Bill Morgan

...in many ways. First, it has allowed me to make some great, new friends that have been my advocates in all parts of my life in and out of Toastmasters. Secondly, it has enhanced my speaking skills after several speeches and allowed me to feel confident walking into a roomful of strangers and talking in front of them.

And lastly, it has helped me understand how important public speaking is so that you feel comfortable in any situation- be it a conversation of two- or in front of your colleagues.

I highly recommend Toastmasters to anyone who is looking to polish public speaking skills, or for impressing your boss!

Nina Minary

...making me a better communicator. Much of the focus in Toastmasters is on making speeches, but the primary goal of the organization is communication. Hence the first distinction one earns is the Competent Communicator.

When I interviewed for my current job, I had been with Toastmasters for about a year. While I had to go out and do everything that made me qualified, being a Toastmaster helped me to more effectively communicate my qualifications and accomplishments. I have no doubt that was a factor in getting the job.

Paul Johnson

Toastmasters has had an impact on me by improving my creative thinking skills. My experience with Toastmasters has helped me take my thoughts, ideas and stories and construct a speech or story that is meaningful and entertaining to others. Toastmasters has opened a new way of thinking and presenting ideas.

Eric Dunham