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## Happy New Year!

January is always one of the busiest months in Toastmasters. Everything is beginning anew. The energy is building. Club officers, area and division governors and the district leaders are continuing to learn their new roles. We are all making new connections, and planning our personal and Toastmasters goals for the second half of the toastmasters year. A lot of information is thrust on the new leaders at every level and it can be overwhelming at times.

The purpose of this newsletter is to clarify Toastmasters information, and keep the leadership of Area 53 informed on events in our area in a format that is easy to read, share, and store. This space can be used to plan our area events, share some best practices, and celebrate our achievements.

Submissions are happily accepted from officers and club members. Send in a Toastmasters story, a meeting theme that was effective (or not) or an inventive club meeting role. Send in photos of club events and achievements of club members.

Let's work together to build a Distinguished Area this year. Start by reviewing your Distinguished Club Program Report available on the Toastmasters International website:

<http://reports.toastmasters.org/reports/dcp.cfm>

**Goals are dreams with deadlines.**

Diana Scharf Hunt  
*Author of "Tao of Time"*

## Spring Contest Season Begins Soon

The International Speech and Evaluation Contest season will be starting soon. The normal schedule is club contests in February, Area contests in March, Division contests in April, and the District contests will be May 6/7.

I encourage all of the officers to begin planning their club contests. This is an important time in the life of the club. If you are in need of a contest chairman, please let me know. If you need help with promotion, please let me know as well, I can enlist help from the district.

Also, remember that there have been some recent changes with regard to the rules for contest, specifically with judge requirements at all levels. To be eligible, you must have completed **six manual projects**. For more information regarding new judging rules, please visit: <http://www.toastmasters.org/rulebook2011rev>

## Important Dates

### Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

Sunday, January 30: Holy Cross Hospital

Saturday, February 5: Verizon

### International Speech & Evaluation Contests

- **Montgomery Village Toastmasters**

Wednesday, February 09, 2011

- **Town Centers Toastmasters**

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

- **Business Oriented Toastmasters**

Wednesday, March 02, 2011

### Area 53 Council Meeting

Saturday, March 05, 2011

### Area 53 International Speech & Evaluation Contest

Saturday, March 26, 2011

### HumorCraft (Sponsored by Humorously Speaking)

Dates: Feb 13, 2011

Feb 20, 2011

Feb 27, 2011

Time: 1:30-3:30 PM

Location: Tikvat Israel

Synagogue, 2200

Baltimore Rd, Rockville



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## Meet the 2010 -2011 Area 53 Clubs and Officers

There are five (5) clubs in Area 53. I will continue to make regular visits over the next five months. After my March visit I will make a report to Toastmasters International. The purpose of the visit is to get to continue to assist your club and to have the opportunity to evaluate it by observing you in action. I can then promote cross-club communication and activities and lend my support to your goals.

### Business Oriented - Club number 2279

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 8 PM

Potomac Valley Nursing Home

1235 Potomac Valley Road

Rockville, MD

<http://botm.freetoasthost.com/>

**PRESIDENT: JACQUELINE LLOYD**

### Great Seneca Power Talkers - Club number 8879

Meets last Thursday of the month 7 PM

Mykonos Grill

121 Congressional Lane

Rockville, MD 20852

<http://gspt.freetoasthost.net/>

**PRESIDENT: NORMA WHETZEL**

### Montgomery Village Toastmasters - Club number 1212

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Asbury Village - Trott Building

Parker Hall

401 Russell Ave,

Gaithersburg, MD

<http://mvg.freetoasthost.org/>

**PRESIDENT: HOWARD GLASSMAN**

### Tally Ho Toastmasters - Club number 4889

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8PM

Potomac Community Center

11351 Falls Road

Potomac, Maryland, 20854

<http://tallyho.freetoasthost.com/>

**PRESIDENT: ALISA LIPKIND**

### Town Center Talkers - Club number 4153

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at noon

OBA Bank

20300 Seneca Meadows Parkway, Community Room

Germantown, Maryland, 20876

<http://towncenter.freetoasthost.info/>

**PRESIDENT: TONY FU**

## TOASTMASTER ROLE - IN DEPTH: Evaluator

(This area of the newsletter will be used to highlight a role in toastmasters. For the next issue, please submit your ideas as to which role should be discussed next.)

I have been talking a lot recently about the role of the **Evaluator**, and it comes as no surprise especially since contest season is around the corner and one of the contests being held is the Evaluation Contest.

Since joining Toastmasters in 2009, I have noticed that many clubs share the same problem and that is getting people to sign up as Evaluators and General Evaluators.

I've done both roles several times in different clubs and what I've observed is that sometimes people tend to take the evaluations personally. One of the things you should remember as the Speaker is that it is NOT YOU that is being evaluated, it's YOUR SPEECH. I know that it may be hard to see, but the evaluation is meant to help both you the speaker and the evaluator as well.

The other thing I've tried to remind members is that being in Toastmasters is about a development progression, so

in order to get better at the end, you will be given suggestions on how to improve your skills, whether those are how you present the information by way of content or your body language, facial expression or any such requirements.

In order to assist members even further, I designed a 2 hour training class titled, "Your Best Evaluation Yet!" which I taught at TLI January 8 of this year. An important piece of my class that I cover is the 3 R's of an Evaluation - **Review, Reward, Response**. First, reviewing the goals of the speaker. Then, rewarding them for the things they've done well. And finally, giving an analysis of what you experienced. I encourage you to attend my session on **January 30** to get more in depth information.

Other aspects of the evaluation to consider is if you are evaluating someone, how do you really prepare for that role. I encourage those taking on that role to really read and requirements before you attend the meeting so that you are adequately prepared. Also, find a good location in the meeting to sit so that you are not distracted. But most importantly, learn how to be an attentive listener and take notes. If you heard something you really liked, jot it down, it helps the speaker tremendously.

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## MY CLUB'S INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

(This area of the newsletter will be for you to share an interesting experience that may have occurred in your club. For the next issue, please submit your interesting experience to be included.)

I belong to the Project Management Institute Toastmasters Club which caters to those that are in Project Management or Program Management.

One of challenges we've had this year is location. Once while awaiting a room at Shady Grove Universities, we found out that we had to meet in the cafeteria. During the meeting (I was the Toastmaster of the Evening), there was a quite a bit of noise from students who were sitting and socializing just a couple of tables away from our group.

The meeting continued and we had a good time but everyone had to adjust to the noisy surroundings. Now we meet at La Madeleine Restaurant in Rockville - which can also be very noisy - but the members have now conquered that situation as well. It just goes to show, when you have a goal in mind, you have to drown out the things that can be considered obstacles.



### Toastmaster Magazine Tidbit

#### Help for Stutterers

As I was leafing through my magazine this month, I came upon a great article about stuttering, it's called "From Stuttering to Public Speaking." The article is written by Julie Bawden Davis and shares the stories of 5 people who had stuttering issues. See how they overcame their problems of stuttering on page 20 of your magazines.

If you have not been receiving these magazines, please talk to your VP, Membership.

Also, in the magazine this month, an ad for a service called "Speecheasy" - which helps those that stutter. For more on this, please visit, [www.speecheasy.com](http://www.speecheasy.com).

## CLUB RECOGNITION: Town Center Talkers

(This area of the newsletter will be used to highlight recognition of clubs in the area. For the next issue, please submit any such information to me to be included.)

Town Center Talkers Celebrated its 10 year anniversary. Congratulations to the club and especially its officers for all of their work.

Two new members join TCT towards the end of the year, Leila Rao and Andrew Logan, they gave there ice breaker speeches.

There are a number of members who are on the cusp of finishing up there CC manuals.



**A good listener tries to understand what the other person is saying. In the end he may disagree sharply, but because he disagrees, he wants to know exactly what it is he is disagreeing with.**

*Kenneth A. Wells  
American Author*

**Make Your Dreams Take Flight!**

## TOASTMASTER ROLE - IN DEPTH: Evaluator *(Continued)*

But the preparation does not end there with the Evaluator, the General Evaluator also has some preparation to do as well, because not only are they evaluating the Evaluators, they are also evaluating the entire meeting. It's not enough just to say, "we started on time and we'll end on time." There are specific things you can comment on such as the organization of the meeting, the location, the atmosphere - how members and guests talked to each other before the meeting creating a relaxed atmosphere. You can also assist a new Evaluator if he or she forget some important elements in their evaluation that you caught. It helps them become better as well.

One last note, the speaker should also consider looking at the requirements before even writing their speech to know that they are meeting the project goals. Practicing the speech helps tremendously as well.

The role of the Evaluator does not have to be scary - it can be a lot easier for you if you PREPARE. Finally, know that in the real world you are being evaluated every day, everywhere you go. The comfort that you should find in Toastmasters is that we are rooting for you and we want you to SUCCEED!

## SUDOKU GAME

1			4			6
	5		8			3
				2	5	
				6	4	
9	4		3			5 7
		1	9			
		8	6			
	7		1			6
3			7			4

[www.sudokuhints.com](http://www.sudokuhints.com)

### Game Ideas

Have a great idea for a game? Let me know what you would like to see or create it and submit it for a future issue.

## AREA GOVERNOR VISITS: January 2011 Dates

One of the most important parts of my role as Area Governor is visiting the clubs that are in my area.

I take this task quite seriously because I believe it is important to see how the clubs are doing firsthand, and it helps me to determine what areas a club may be having difficulty with.

For the remainder of the Toastmaster year, I will visit your clubs several more times before my term ends.

I've had to cancel some visits in January due to inclement weather. However, I am always available for assistance should any club need me in between those visits. My next set official visits will be in March.

Here are the remaining dates for my January visits. See you soon, and feel free to ask me questions before or after the meeting.

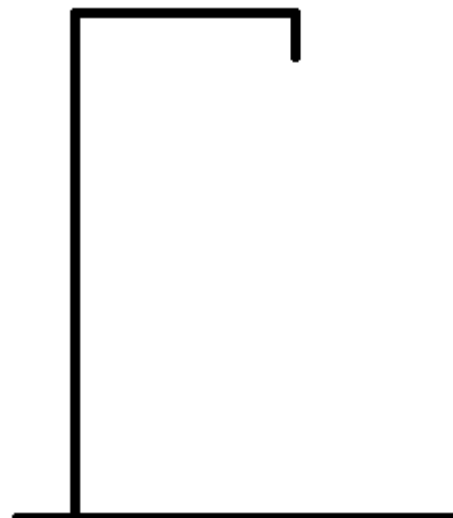
**January 19, 2011:** Business Oriented

**January 25, 2011:** Town Center Talkers

**January 27, 2011:** Great Seneca Power Talkers

## HANGMAN

Try playing the game with a Toastmaster's term. Have fun!





## A Toastmaster's Promise

As a member of Toastmasters International and my club, I promise...

- To attend club meetings regularly
- To prepare all of my speech and leadership projects to the best of my ability, basing them on projects in the *Competent Communication*, *Advanced Communication* or *Competent Leadership* manuals
- To prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments
- To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations
- To help the club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow
- To serve my club as an officer when called upon to do so
- To treat my fellow club members and our guests with respect and courtesy
- To bring guests to club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers
- To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters educational and recognition programs
- To maintain honest and highly ethical standards during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities



## Mission of Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

It is basic to this mission that Toastmasters International continually expand its worldwide network of clubs, thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its programs.



## The Mission of the District

The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of Clubs, thereby offering greater number of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District educational and membership goals;
- Insuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members; and
- Provide effective training and leadership development opportunities for Club and District officers.

**Shona Bramble, CC, CL**  
Area 53 Governor

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**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL®

