



Franklin 524 Toastmasters Gazette

NOVEMBER 19, 2007

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11

We Are:

The Franklin Club, #526
District 40, Eastern Division,
Area 25.

We meet:

Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 AM
The Vineyard Church of
Columbus, the address is:
6000 Cooper Road, Westerville
OH. See the map at
[http://maps.google.com/maps?oi=&q=6000 Cooper Road, Westerville OH, 43081](http://maps.google.com/maps?oi=&q=6000+Cooper+Road,+Westerville+OH,+43081)

We're on the Web at:

<http://www.franklin524toastmasters.com>

It's our birthday month!

Our club is sixty years old now! There aren't many clubs that have been around that long. Are you still an active member? Do you still participate and support the club?

Toastmasters on NPR

Check out the link to the recent National Public Radio (NPR) broadcast concerning Toastmasters. It's well done and a great testimonial for our wonderful organization. Click below to go to:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16005098>

Do you need ideas for Table Topics? Try looking here:

<http://www.letsgospeak.com/FREE/>

How to put more OOMPH into your speeches? Go to:

<http://www.public-speaking.org>

For Toastmasters News from around the world, try

http://news.google.com/news?as_q=Toastmasters&svnum=10&as_scoring=r&ie=UTF

Leadership...

The mission of any Toastmasters club is to benefit members by providing the means to develop communication and leadership skills. In the three years that I have been a Toastmaster I have listened to many that have stated their reason for joining, and I must say that the main stated purpose overwhelmingly been... public speaking. That is to say, the communication half of the pie, with the other half (learning leadership skills) being more or less ignored. To borrow a little from Socrates, let us ask and answer some questions.

Question: Is the purpose of joining a Toastmasters club to improve your public speaking abilities?

Answer: Yes, I need more confidence and poise to do better and be more likely to advance on the job.

Question: So, if by attending meetings and making many speeches you will gain experience and poise in speaking, and be better able to put your ideas across to others in your professional endeavors?

Answer: Yes, this will make me feel better and do better, and I will be able to excel at my job and be noticed by my employer. I hope it will lead to a pay raise and advancement in the company.

Question: So, all of this speaking experience will let you advance yourself, you will be able to stand in front of many people and present your ideas?

Answer: Yes, it will do that and I am eager to speak more and more in the club as time goes by.

Question: Assuming that joining and learning how to give speeches does help you shine in your position at work, and that it further helps you advance in positions in your company, then it could be assumed that at some time you would be in a position of responsibility where you need to make decisions and direct the efforts of others. You could very well find yourself responsible for the outcome of projects or tasks of some degree of importance. Is this not so?

Answer: Yes, that is very much hoped for.

Question: So, if I understand you correctly, your purpose in joining is to learn how to speak, and that you will direct all of your efforts to that end. Is that correct?

Answer: Yes, that is the case.



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Question: Carrying on, it could also be assumed that when you do arrive at that position where you are responsible for directing others, for motivating them to achieve, for guiding and mentoring them so that you will have a responsive and reliable team working under your direction?

Answer: Absolutely so.

Question: Then tell me that when you have arrived at that position of authority, what experience will you have had to prepare you for the more responsible role of directing the efforts of others?

Answer: I don't know.

Question: Are there not positions you could fill... tasks you could take on to learn such skills?

Answer: Yes, but I never have the time to do them.

Question: Does not the *Toastrmaster's Promise* that you agreed to when you joined say that you would serve the club as an officer when called upon to do so? Does it not also say that you shall willingly prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments?

Answer: Yes, but I am too busy. I cannot commit long-term to activities because I am too consumed by my job. Responsibilities that come up at the last minute make me have to cancel out.

Question: So you are too busy to be able to fulfill the obligations to which you agreed, and you have unable to perform those tasks which you agreed to and are depended upon by others to do?

Answer: Yes, but I told you that I have responsibilities. These other things that I must do, Toastrmaster activities are just a hobby that aren't really that important.

Question: So you joined to better yourself for the future, but your activities are too hectic to allow you to fulfill the promises you made... you are not able to commit to do things you thought would prepare you for a better future? You are so busy that you will **never** be able to take on any of those tasks? If that is so, how will you better yourself, and be ready for the tasks you will face when that future arrives?

Answer: (to be determined).

All right, so I'm no Socrates. However, speaking from experience I can tell you it's one thing to want to lead the way, and very much another to find yourself there and suddenly wonder "What do I do now?" Being able to shine in front of an audience is a wonderful feeling and very much a self-image builder, but there's much more to learn. Like... **how** to make things happen! What better way to do that than to serve as a club officer and take on those meeting roles (such as Evaluator, General Evaluator, Toastrmaster, Table Topics Master, or Grammarian) that require a bit more effort. To do it right you've got to do it consistently, over time. That way you get to do it with little effort. Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Will you step up and be counted when called?

Special Thanks...

go out to Lina Bozelli, Vanessa Bey, and Chris Johnson. Lina has stepped in to serve as club Secretary, Chris (temporarily) as Sergeant at Arms, and Vanessa as VP for Education. They found great answers to some of those questions above. When it comes to it, will you?

Welcome our newest member...

Chris Quinn cquinn_99@yahoo.com
Welcome Chris!

That's it for this edition folks, see you next time around. In the meantime... keep on Toastin' down the road!

