

Toastmasters— Achieving Greatness, TOGETHER!

The Voice

A Monthly Publication for Akron Toastmasters, Club 151

Established in 1939. Proud to be the oldest club in Ohio!

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Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

A couple weeks ago I attended the Officers Training Session in Independence. They had one breakout session to teach us about Advanced Toastmasters Clubs. They did a mock meeting of an Advanced Club. Advanced Club meetings are a little different from 'regular club' meetings. They have a couple speakers and then get an evaluation and also a short evaluation (or feedback) from all of the attendees. At this meeting, they had two speakers - one of them was Tony Greene who told us a very dramatic story. He told us how one night, as he was driving home, he got a text message that said "600 Wickliffe Lanes - COME!!!!" It was a crude message! He didn't understand it! It sounded frightening! He knew the guy who had sent the message. It was a friend of his. Could this guy be in trouble?

Tony knew there is a bowling alley by the name of Wickliffe Lanes. He wasn't sure if that's where his friend needed him to come - or why his friend might be at a bowling alley. But, he went there. He cautiously went inside, expecting to see the usual setting - the place packed with people bowling on every lane. Instead, it was empty except for a crowd of people gathered over in one end of the place. Tony quickly worked his way through the crowd and found his friend, Greg Loo. Greg had just bowled two "perfect" games (with a strike in every frame - giving a score of 300). CLICK!!! That was the meaning of the 600 in the message! Greg was now bowling the third game and - so far, it was also a perfect game. He finished it and completed a THIRD, PERFECT GAME!!! Tony couldn't believe it. Neither could Greg!

Greg Loo is also a member of the Canton Hall of Fame Advanced Toastmasters Club. Tony e-mailed Toastmasters International asking if they knew of anything like this ever happening to another Toastmaster. They replied; they did not have any record or know of any other Toastmaster ever completing such an event.



Tony also informed us that, although Toastmasters International did not usually have any kind of award for such an event, he and his other friends from the District 10 region worked with Toastmasters International and had an award to present to Greg Loo. And, Greg was there Saturday helping to present this Advanced Toastmasters Training Session. Tony called Greg up to the lectern and presented him with a \$5000 watch! What a story! I quickly grabbed my digital camera and framed it!

After the speakers finished, the next session was a Table Topics and then the Evaluation portion of the 'Advanced Club meeting'. It just so happened that Greg Loo was the General Evaluator. The evaluators gave their evaluations of the speakers and then Greg asked for other comments from the rest of the group. As in the regular meetings, Greg gave his comments on the overall quality of the meeting at the end. That's when he informed us, in a 'Moment of Truth', that the highest game he ever bowled was something like 236. Tony's story was just that, A STORY! I had sure been suckered in! I couldn't believe it! This was a demo of how to captivate your audience!

We have several activities coming up in the next few months with the Akron Club 151, including:

- January 31st - Officers' Training Makeup Session hosted by Akron 151
- February 1st - March 31st - "Talk Up Toastmasters" Membership Program
- February 15th Club 151 Toastmasters Speech Contest

Please be active and participate in these activities. Let's achieve a 300 (perfect) score for Akron Club 151!

Rita Smith
President, Akron Club 151



Mike's Monthly Talking Tip

Written by Mike Curry, VP of Education



In the days before text messaging, in the time of the telegraph Mark Twain's publisher sent him this telegram:

NEED 2-PAGE SHORT STORY TWO DAYS

Mark Twain's concise, to the point reply:

NO CAN DO 2 PAGES TWO DAYS.

CAN DO 30 PAGES 2 DAYS.

NEED 30 DAYS TO DO 2 PAGES.

"Less is more."

~ Robert Browning

That is the position we find ourselves in when we go to compose our Toastmaster speeches. We have only 5 to 7 minutes to get across an idea with an Introduction, a body and a strong conclusion. Not an easy task, nor one that can be done quickly.

I have come up with my own term for this kind of editing, taking out the True But Worthless or TBW. Editing out the small lines and thoughts that while meaningful, are not meaningful enough to the focus, point or purpose of the speech to be allowed to stay. You do not have the time or words to waste.

After you have written your speech go back and immediately remove the TBW lines and phrases. If your chosen words do not help keep focus on the purpose of the speech they need to be removed. NOT REPLACED -REMOVED! Then forget about them, they are never to return to THIS speech again. This again, is not a process that can be done quickly. Like Mark Twain the shorter your speech the more time and thought it is going to take to eliminate the TBW words, lines and ideas.

When preparing to write your Toastmaster's speech remember:

It must have a point or purpose that you can articulate in 10 words OR LESS!

Limited to 700 to 800 words. If you are at 1200 you either need to remove more words or ask for more time. If the speech needs the benefit of more time ask for it! Be prepared to defend the request for additional time to the Toastmaster. He will want to insure that the additional use of your fellow Toastmasters time is warranted.

I had a lot more ideas but they were edited out as TBW.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you have material or suggestions you'd like to contribute to our monthly newsletters, please contact VP of Public Relations/Editor-in-Chief of *The Voice* -Melissa Arcuri at Melissa.Arcuri@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Mid-Year Makeup Officer Training



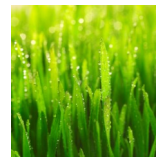
- January 31st – St. Thomas Hospital Akron Club 151 7:00 – 9:00 PM Sponsored by Central Division Governor
- February 5th – Maple Heights Library District Sponsored 12:00 – 2:30 PM
- February 16th - Evening Session at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Alliance, Ohio - (Times TBD)
- February 24th – Strongsville Branch Library 6:00 – 8:00 PM sponsored by the Western Division Governor NOTE : This date changed from the sheet passed out at the January 8th TLI.

6:00 to 6:20 - Registration and mingle
 6:20-6:30 - Welcome- Kim Hren
 6:30 to 7:30 - Leadership Track - Dave Wiley
 7:30 to 7:40 - Break 7:40 to 8:30 - Officer Role Training

****Pre-register by contacting Debora.Curtis@chanet.org by Wed, February 16th with: your name, club name and number, officer position and your phone number.**



The Spring 2011 Conference is scheduled for Saturday April 16th at the Quaker Square Inn, Akron, Ohio. Please mark your calendars. More details will follow soon!



“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.

~ Henry David Thoreau



Akron 151 Speech Contest

Our club will be holding our spring contest on February 15, 2011. To enter the contest, a person must be an active member of Toastmasters International and have completed at least six speeches from Toastmasters' *Competent Communication* manual, the first manual in the Toastmasters communication program. All participant speeches must be original, presented in English and last five to seven minutes. Judging criteria include originality, speech content, organization, voice quality, gestures and timing. The winner will proceed to the Area 12 Spring Contest.

Challenge yourself and join in the fun– consider participating! Contact Mike Curry at MCurry1@neo.rr.com with your speech details.



Sign up TODAY!!!

A Minute With Melissa



BE PRESENT

As you walk and eat and travel, be where you are. Otherwise you will miss most of your life.

~Buddha

Of all the lessons we learn from Toastmasters, I think one of the most valuable lessons is to “be present”. Life moves fast. Sometimes too fast. It’s only when we slow down that we are able to experience life fully.

By always looking ahead to the future we miss a lot of the present that will soon become the past that we’ll never get back. I challenge you throughout 2011 to slow down and take time for yourself. Find beauty in all things. Life moves fast. Enjoy the ride!



GOALS



Don't forget to let our VP of Education, Mike Curry, know your goals for 2011. Akron 151 promises to help you obtain all your goals... but we need to know them first!



TOASTMASTERS 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



Elvis' birthday is January 8th.

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