

### **Mission of the RoadToasters' Club**

*The mission of the RoadToasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.*

## **Fear to Fun**

**By Jim Wilkinson, CTM**

*Have a vision not clouded by fear.  
--Cherokee Proverb*

I am having fun being a part of the RoadToasters Club, the Department of Roads Toastmasters club. It is fun to meet new people and listen to their ideas. At the same time, I can practice public speaking and leadership skills, and get the benefit of constructive advice to improve those skills.



It wasn't always that rosy. Public speaking was part of the job, but not sought after by any means! Public speaking was (and is) a skill that, for me, needed improvement with practice. RoadToasters gives opportunities to practice public speaking with a group dedicated to your success. At first, the usual fear, butterflies, nervousness and fear (of failure? Rejection?) were there - as evidenced by body language. At some point, however, you cross a threshold from fear to fun. There may still be moments of angst before speaking but you learn to control it, and even experience - fun!

### **MEETINGS**

**Monthly on  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays**

**12:00 - 1:00 PM**

(See schedule on  
next page for  
meeting location)

**VISITORS ARE  
WELCOME**

**COME AND  
GROW WITH  
US**

RoadToasters just finished providing a Speechcrafters course intended to help non-members calm their fear of public speaking. The nine sessions, which began January 8 and ended with a celebration ceremony on April 2, provided a supportive atmosphere for five Speechcrafters to practice and improve communication skills. Most gave four organized speeches. There were plenty of other opportunities to speak, including impromptu speaking ("table topics") and introducing and evaluating other speakers. At some point, it was obvious that (at least) some Speechcrafters crossed the threshold from fear to fun.

Thanks to all of this session's Speechcrafters for adding so much to our meetings. The RoadToasters Club thanks John Craig and the Department for their support. John awarded certificates to each Speechcrafter at the April 2 celebration ceremony. Patt Harper, Toastmasters District 24 Vice President of Education and Training, was our featured speaker, urging us to "Discover the Possibilities."

There was a discussion about how RoadToasters can assist other Department employees. Of course, regular meetings are open to anyone. Speechcrafters courses are offered frequently. RoadToasters can also be called upon to critique presentations, or emcee events, and may at some point provide services via videoconferencing. Look for our new pamphlet and an article in the RoadRunner in the near future.

RoadToasters provided the lunch and a great time was had by everyone. **Congratulations 2003 Speechcrafters!**

## Make your Presentation Sizzle!

By George Howard, ATM

Brenda Caine ATM-G (Advanced Toastmaster Gold Level) whose pseudonym is Miss Behavin, identified August 2002 Toastmaster Magazine Seven (7) ways to create interest in your presentation.

1. **Informal survey** (show of hands) gets the audience involved. It is an effective way to start your presentation. Prepare your audience for the exercise. "With a show of hands how many..."
2. **Rhetorical question** this is similar to the informal survey. It is a way to bring the audience back if you start to lose them. Even though no outward expression is exhibited each member of the audience is stimulated to silently ponder the question. "How can the over 15,000 bridges in Nebraska be safely maintained?"
3. **A Startling Fact** grabs your audience's attention so they become more attentive to what you have to tell them. Did you know there over 48,000 accidents on Nebraska roadways in 1999 (source NDOR 2001 Report)?
4. **Story/anecdote to support your point** A story of something that happened to you or someone you know that makes this topic important to you.

5. **Demonstration/props** Years ago an insurance company demonstrated a collision at 60 mph by pushing a car off of a ten-story building. The impact of the car hitting the street has the same impact as a 60 mph collision.
6. **Humor** appropriately timed can help your audience relax and relate to you better. And lastly.
7. **Quotations** are an excellent way to start or finish a presentation especially if it relates to your topic. Speaking in front of an audience is the number one fear. Many people fear they will strike out and be embarrassed. The strike out king of Professional Baseball for many years was quoted, as saying "Never let the fear of striking out get in your way". This strike out king also hit 714 homeruns during his career. The New York Yankees Babe Ruth. Take his advice don't let the fear of striking out get in the way of your success.

### Quotes of the Month

"Do the things you fear, and the death of fear is certain."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A life lived in fear is a life half lived."

- Spanish proverb

### The Roadtoasters' Schedule from April 9, 2003 to June 25, 2003

|  | 4/9/03                       | 4/23/03 | 5/14/03 | 5/28/03                                  | 6/11/03            | 6/25/03 | 7/9/03   | 7/23/03 |  |
|--|------------------------------|---------|---------|--|--------------------|---------|--|---------|--|
| Roadtoasters' Name and Phone Number                |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Konstantin Bogdanov (Secretary, 3681)              | S1                           | E1      | TT      |  | TM                 | G       | T<br>o<br>B<br>e<br>A<br>s<br>s<br>i<br>g<br>n<br>e<br>d |         |  |
| Larry Briggs, ATM (Member-at-Large), 4694          | TM                           | S1      | CE      | E1                                       | G                  |         |  |         |  |
| Roe Enchayan, CTM (Immediate Past President), 3681 |                              |         |         | S1                                       | E1                 | T       |  |         |  |
| Bob Foreman (President), 4429                      | TT                           | T       | TM      | S2                                       |                    | E1      |  |         |  |
| Wayne Foster, ATM (Member-at-Large), 476-1943      |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Sara Friedman, (Member-at-Large),                  | E1                           | TT      | S1      | G  | T                  | S1      |  |         |  |
| George Howard, ATM (VP Education), 4332            |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Janice Kollars (VP Membership), 4885               | G                            | E2      | S2      | CE                                       | E2                 | TM      |  |         |  |
| Marsha Munter, (Member-at-Large),                  |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Kyoko Okamuro, (Member-at-Large),                  | S2                           | G       | E2      | TT                                       | S1                 | TT      |  |         |  |
| Mike Owen, (Member-at-Large),                      | E2                           | S2      | G       | T  | TT                 | S2      |  |         |  |
| Dalyce Ronnau, ATM (Member-at-Large), 4544         |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Lorri Savidge, (Member-at-Large),                  |                              |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| Cindy Shockey (Member-at-Large), 3837              | T                            | TM      | T       | E2                                       | CE                 | E2      |  |         |  |
| Jim Wilkinson, CTM (Treasurer), 4421               |                              | CE      | E1      | TM                                       | S2                 | CE      |  |         |  |
| Meeting Room                                       | HCR                          | HCR     | HCR     | HCR                                      | HCR                | HCR     | HCR  | HCR     |  |
| <b>S</b> Speaker                                   | <b>TT</b> Table Topic Master |         |         |  | <b>E</b> Evaluator |         |  |         |  |
| <b>G</b> Grammarian                                | <b>TM</b> Toastmaster        |         |         |  | <b>T</b> Timer     |         |  |         |  |
| <b>CE</b> Chief Evaluator                          | <b>I</b> Introducer          |         |         |  |                    |         |  |         |  |
| <b>INT</b> Introducer                              | <b>HCR</b> Hwy Comm. Room    |         |         | <b>M&amp;R</b> Materials & Res. Conf. Rm |                    |         |  |         |  |