



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.

Speechcraft Graduation – A Learning Experience

By Cindy Shockey, CTM and Claude Denn, 2003-04 Speechcrafter

May 12th was an exceptional day for this spring's SpeechCraft class. Speechcraft is an introductory speech class sponsored by RoadToasters, the Department of Roads Toastmasters club. The class is offered annually. After eight sessions, RoadToasters members, with the help of many special guests and past RoadToasters, celebrated the success of this year's Speechcrafters. Honored guests were NDOR Director John Craig, Toastmasters International District 24 Governor Patt Harper, Area 23C Governor and RoadToaster Roe Enchayan, (who is also long-time RoadToasters member), Area 21C Governor and RoadToaster George Howard along with Division heads Lyman Freemon of Bridge Division, and Steve Maraman of Controller Division showing their support for RoadToasters. A pot luck lunch was served with many delicious entrées and desserts to choose from.



SpeechCraft graduates, shown in the photo are (Jeff Haase of Traffic Engineering could not attend the celebration): Elaine Monnier (second from left), Claude Denn- Roadway Design, Kitty Fynbu, and Paul Wisnieski- Government Affairs. They are flanked by Speechcraft Coordinator Roe Enchayan on the left, and Speechcraft Assistant Coordinator Konstantin Bogdanov on the right.

The Speechcrafter course offered a PowerPoint Presentation format for those who wanted the additional challenge of adding automated displays to assist in their presentations. After 16 speeches by the Participants in an 8 session course there was much to celebrate. Besides speechmaking, the course provided tips on improving skills in introductions, listening, team work and leadership. RoadToasters extended a welcome to all to join the club to continue working towards their own personal goals in speaking. John Craig talked about the importance of the challenges and rewards which RoadToasters offers and the added benefit to the Department. Sgt. at Arms Sara Friedman surprised recipients with gifts as Certificates were handed out by Director Craig.

RoadToasters Club awards, voted by members, were as follows, also presented by Director Craig:
Toastmaster of the Year – Jim Wilkinson, Vice President of Education
Officer of the Year – Cindy Shockey, President
Spirit Member (the most determined member) – Kyoko Okamuro, Member at Large.

RoadToasters meetings are open to anyone. Find out more about Toastmasters. You will find that, for one, it is painless to come to a meeting, and two, we will help you accomplish your communication and leadership goals.

Listen Up, Class!

By Jim Wilkinson, CTM

“My wife says I never listen to her. At least I think that’s what she said.” — Anonymous

Your formal education probably focused mostly on reading skills, followed by writing, then speaking. What about listening skills? There were occasional commands such as “pay attention” or “listen up, class.” Or if you attended Catholic school (as I did), you may have gotten struck (as I did) by the “board of education” and deservedly so (as I did). Yet, employers consistently rate listening as one of the top skills desired in an employee.

“Research studies confirm that people ignore, misunderstand, or simply forget at least 75% of what they hear. And the costs of poor listening can be staggering: loss of money, personality clashes, low morale - to name a few!” ---- Dr. Rick Bommelje

Toastmasters is about communication and leadership, both of which rely on listening skills. Our Department of Roads Toastmasters club, RoadToasters, typically provides a minimum of two speeches during a one-hour

meeting. Each speech is verbally evaluated; this really sharpens listening skills.

“Oh,” you might think, “what’s there to know about listening?!” It is one of those simple, but not easy tasks. It is simple in concept but takes a lot of mental energy to focus (“pay attention”) in a productive manner. Active listening involves empathy – trying to see things through the speaker’s eyes – and using your mind in an active, questioning way. Observe both words and gestures, and what the speaker is NOT saying. Don’t get stuck on one thought (write a note to yourself). We speak 125 to 250 words per minute, but think much faster than that; force your thought process to engage at the proper speed.

“It’s my job to talk and yours to listen, but please, let me know if you finish before I do.” — Anonymous

To improve listening skills there are formal courses, audiotapes, websites like the International Listening Association and books, such as "Thriving on Chaos: Handbook For a Management Revolution" By Tom Peters in the NDOR library. Most of all, practice, practice, practice which is exactly what Toastmasters offers.

RoadToasters Assignments May - Aug, 2004

	May 26	June 9	June 23	July 14	July 28	Aug 11	Aug 25
Konstantin Bogdanov		T	E1	TM	TT	S2	Q
Larry Briggs	TT	E1	Q	G		T	S2
Roe Enchayan		S1		CE	T	E1	
Kitty Fynbu		TT	T	S2	E2	Q	TM
Bob Foreman	G	S2	CE	T	E1		
Wayne Foster							
Sara Friedman	Q		E2	S1	G	CE	T
Janice Kollars	S1	TM			CE	E2	G
Kyoko Okamuro	T	E2	S1				
Mike Owen	CE	Assist	S2		Q	S1	E1
Dalyce Ronnau							
Brad Rourke	S2	Q	G	E1	TM		TT
Cindy Shockey	E2		TM		S2	TT	CE
Jim Wilkinson	TM	CE		E2		G	S1
Paul Wisnieski	E1	G	TT	Q	S1	TM	E2

TM=Toastmaster
 S1=Speaker #1
 S2=Speaker #2
 CE=Chief Evaluator
 E1=Evaluator #1
 E2=Evaluator #2
 G=Grammarian
 T=Timer
 TT=Table Topics Master
 Q=Quizmaster