



PENINSULA TOASTMASTERS NEWSLETTER

Club News And Events

Peninsula Toastmasters
Club #174

www.pv174.org

Follow us on Facebook at
Peninsula Toastmaster's
Club 174

We meet every Monday at
Coco's Restaurant on 28300
Western Avenue, Rancho
Palos Verdes, California
90275.



Issue 02/2013

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What's New

The 1+1 Campaign is a new membership-building program designed to help grow and strengthen our organization. When you refer a friend who becomes a Toastmasters member, you can fill out the 1+1 form so that your efforts can be recognized. The 1+1 membership-building campaign is valid December 1st, 2012 through June 30th, 2013.

www.toastmasters.org/1plus1

Club Priorities

Membership Retention

Membership retention and increasing the number of members of our club is an area that members of Peninsula Toastmasters see as important to club success. Membership growth and retention is only possible when club members are invested and involved in the process.

Member and Competent Communicator Raúl López recently led a successful problem-solving discussion about our club's membership retention challenge. Raúl used tools already available through the Toastmasters International education program by using an Advanced Communicator Manual. Not only did the club benefit greatly, but Raúl was able to continue advancing his communication skills. This session was an interactive and proactive opportunity for the club to come up with ways to improve membership retention. The solutions will help guide the officers of the club as they lead members to work together and improve membership retention.

Members identified the major **causes** of the club's membership retention challenges, which were:

- Knowing what individual members need.
- Keeping interest in our meetings and educational program.
- Motivating members to progress in their speaking and the Toastmasters educational program.
- Having a strong belief in the value proposition of the Toastmasters program and club.
- Having a selflessness attitude; and
- Ensuring members guests and return to our meetings.

The club came up with **potential solutions** that could help improve membership retention.

- Follow-up with guests and members.
- Invite and encourage attendance.
- Ensure every member and guests are speaking at every meeting.
- Survey members regularly about their club experience.
- Improve the club mentoring program.
- Promote an atmosphere where members and guests feel welcomed.
- Create a sense of community.
- Enhance our new member orientation program.

Mark Your Calendar

Area Speech Contest is coming up!

The **Area Speech Contest** will be held March 2nd, 2013 at **Torrance Airport** 3301 Airport Drive Torrance, CA 90505 from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Early Bird Registration by February 27th: \$10 (Movie ticket raffle for pre-registered attendees).

At the door: \$12

Online registration at:
<http://conta.cc/Utw8LW>

June 2013

#174 Club Peninsula Toastmasters will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Would you like to volunteer? Please contact Julia Burge, DTM.

To our guests

Thomas, Bethany, Margaret, Eva, Mavera, Kiyana, Tito and Nick,

Thank you for sharing some time with us. We were glad to have you in our Monday's meeting. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

New members

Let's welcome Mavera Mir as new member of our club!

Club's Achievements

Our club is **SELECT DISTINGUISHED CLUB** for having achieved 8 out of 10 goals at year-end. Congratulations!

With Raúl López' leadership, the club prioritized **that follow-up with guests and members, the improvement of mentoring system, and the good use of the evaluation process as the most relevant ones to improve membership retention.**

The club officers are very thankful that a member has stepped up to help the club improve its membership retention and growth. The information and feedback gathered from this discussion will be acted upon by club leadership. Club leadership will implement an action plan that will include all members of the club to create ownership and encourage full member participation.

By Grace Weltman, DTM

Testimonial

My Leadership Experience: What I Learned From Toastmasters

My experience in Toastmasters has been exceptionally valuable. Developing good communication skills is a reason why I joined. I wanted to develop skills for impromptu speaking and be able to speak 'off the cuff.' I've always been a thinker and a writer but when it comes to speaking my thoughts, it doesn't always come out as I would like it to. I was a smart student with a 3.6 GPA, but I wanted that to shine when I spoke to people. I wanted my speaking skills to be organized, structured, and professional.

I knew I wanted to improve my communication abilities, so I joined Toastmasters. First I joined BeachMasters at Cal State Long Beach and when I graduated I joined Peninsula Toastmasters in Rancho Palos Verdes. I went as a guest and knew that day I wanted to join. The people I met were welcoming, the diversity of the group was so important to me, the different careers people were a part of, and I knew this would be a great place for me to practice and hone my skills. I love being a member of Peninsula Toastmasters.

In Toastmasters we have the opportunity to develop leadership skills; therefore, I decided to volunteer for club officer positions to serve each member effectively, and enhance meeting quality.

At first I started as the Sargent At Arms (SAA). I was required to set up the room and greet our members and guests as they walked in. I spoke with members at the beginning of every meeting and made sure our room was free from distractions. I felt this role made me familiar with the rest of the group.

After the Sargent At Arms, I became the Vice President of Education (VPE). I learned a great deal about different personalities and diversities when I was the VPE. I was in charge of planning and scheduling meetings, keeping track of members' goals, and educating members about our communication and leadership tracks. It was a lot to take in at first but I enjoyed being challenged. Some challenges I faced were listening to different opinions and having the proper communication amongst our members. At times it was hard. Not everything goes as planned, but these were things I got to experience as a leader. Organization was a key skill for this role.

After being the VPE I went on to try the Vice President of Public Relations (VPPR). I was in charge of communicating our club's progress to the community and our members. I discovered that I was much more happier with the VPE role. I enjoy helping others and talking to different people. I enjoyed planning, scheduling, and informing people. Without me taking part in the leadership roles, I wouldn't have known what suits me best. I've had more experience with planning and leading than I did with Public Relations. The Leadership roles Toastmaster's offers us, helps us discover our preferences in leading others.

FLASH TIPS

Are You The Grammarian Of The Meeting?

Then remember: if you pick up a Word of the Day somehow related to the theme of the meeting, speakers may use it with ease.

Theme: Resolutions

Word of the Day: Return (*noun*)

Theme: Pets

Word of the Day: Soar (*verb*)

Theme: A World of Opportunities

Word of the Day: Efficacy (*noun*)

Theme: Facing the Future

Word of the Day: Portend (*verb*)

WORD CHOICE

This glossary includes words commonly confused, misused, and nonstandard.

Ante- and anti-

The prefix *ante-* means “earlier” or “in front of”; the prefix *anti-* means “against” or “opposed to.”

William Lloyd Garrison was a leader of the antislavery movement during the antebellum period.

Anti- should be used with a hyphen when it is followed by a capital letter or a word beginning with *i*.

Criteria

Criteria is the plural of *criterion*, which means “a standard or rule or test on which a judgment or decision can be based.”

The only criterion for the scholarship is ability.

Data

Data is a plural noun technically meaning “facts or propositions.” But *data* is increasingly being accepted as a singular noun.

The new data suggests (or suggests) that our theory is correct. (The singular *datum* is rarely used.)

I am now the VP of Education, once again, and I couldn't be happier. I'm familiar with it and I already know what to expect this term. I think I do a pretty good job and I try to keep track of all our members, and keep them conscious about their goals.

Toastmaster's has helped me personally and professionally. I met some great friends that I know will be my friends for years to come. We are all interested in public speaking and becoming better communicators. There is so much more to learn and much more room for improvement. Cheers to a place we can make a mistake and not be fired for it. Cheers to improving ourselves. To Peninsula Toastmasters!

By Shelly Lipanovich, CC

Contest Season

Club Evaluation And International Speech Contest

Peninsula Toastmasters Club 174—in continuing to promote personal and professional development—recently conducted its Annual Evaluation Contest and the International Speech Contest on February 4th and 11th, respectively.

Evaluation is at the heart of the Toastmasters educational program: it is the constructive honest reaction to the speaker's presentation. Evaluation Contests encourage development of evaluation skills and provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient evaluators. Five contestants ran the Evaluation Contest at Peninsula Toastmasters Club 174—delivering each a two to three minute evaluation on a speaker. Raising above the other strong participants, Philip W.Lundeen won the Evaluation Contest. Lundeen delivered an excellent feedback highlighting the speaker's strengths and weakness in an encouraging way, and offering specific suggestions for improvement.

The International Speech Contest is the world's largest speech competition. This year over 30,000 contestants in 116 countries practice and give their substantially original presentations in local clubs—and they polish their skills as they advance to further levels of the competition. Three contestants competed in the Annual International Speech Contest at Peninsula Toastmasters Club 174. Larry Savell, DTM, won the Contest for best prepared speech entitled “Pay Gratitude”.

The winners will advance through the Area Spring Contest, to be held March 2nd, 2013 in Torrance, CA. See details on *Mark Your Calendar* section of this Newsletter.

By Karina Gaete Llanos

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Club #174, Peninsula Toastmasters
Website: <http://www.pv174.org/blog/>
Meetings on Mondays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
at Coco's Restaurant, 28300 S. Western Ave, Rancho Palos Verdes,
California 90275