



WRY Toastmaster

Volume 1, Issue 1 2003/2004

July, 17th, 2003

NEW! NEW! Club Officers: President - Tim O'Brien, VP Education-Heidi Gregory, VP Membership-Bert Huelmann, VP Public Relations-Susanne Baessler, Secretary-Greta Gillette, Treasurer-Colleen Keranen, Sgt.-at-Arms-Stuart Iritz

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Commitment | 1,3 |
| On a successful journey | 1,4 |
| Fazi Arian | 2 |
| Steve Merwick | 2 |
| Adios but not Good-bye | 3 |
| Summer picnic | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- * Summer picnic
- * Coollist

What is MY Commitment?

Each of us joined Toastmasters to fulfill one or more of our own personal goals. The most obvious goal, becoming a better speaker is in the forefront of our minds. There are often butterflies of excitement in our first few weeks. We are eager to learn and spend hours preparing for our speeches. We become a part of the group through participation in various roles and endeavor to submerge ourselves in the process.

After a while, the newness wears off. Family and job responsibilities require more attention and we devote less energy to our Toastmaster activities. Sometimes we allow fear to hold us back and aren't we all adept at finding excuses to mask whatever gremlin is preventing us from moving forward. When this happens, we need to stop and think about why we joined Toastmasters and what we hope to learn. Like anything else, the benefit of Toastmasters is a direct result of the effort

we put into it. While paying dues every six months is a prerequisite, it will not in itself improve our speaking ability.

When we joined the Club, we signed an oath that included regular attendance and participation at meetings. The core of the program is giving speeches built around manual assignments. Toastmasters is an educational program and each manual is designed to build speaking skills through graduated assignments.

On a successful journey

Outlook for the next issue

- * New officers
- * Report from the summer picnic
- * And so much more!

Just the other day I was driving down the road to go shopping when I realized that I have been with Toastmasters already for 9 months.....

I remembered going to the first meeting, not knowing what to expect.

I found people who were very friendly and greeted me with open

arms. They even made me speak during my first meeting! I was frightened, had a trembling voice, and was not able to form whole sentences.

Fazi Arian—on the road to CTM

Fazi joined Toastmasters to overcome the biggest fear of all, the fear of public speaking.

While Fazi has roots in Iran, he told us in his Ice Breaker speech about being raised in America and feeling completely foreign when he and his family visited Iran. Fazi has an Irish wife, Colleen, a seventeen-year-old son, Ali, and a ten-year-old daughter, Taylor.

Fazi enjoys weekly practice at the driving range, going for a steam sauna, and exercise 4 times a week. His intention is to have fun as he completes his goal to finish the basic manual by year-end to earn his CTM.

We will celebrate with him then!!

“Golf is a good walk spoiled.”

—Mark Twain

Well, not for Fazi!



Steve Merwick—hunting for confidence in public speaking

Steve joined Toastmasters to learn how to speaking in front of an audience. He would like to speak with confidence at family functions, the kids' school functions, and possibly business gatherings.

Steve was born in Seattle and grew up in Silverdale, Washington. He went to school at Washington State University and graduated with a degree in Construction Management. He is married to Patti, and they live in Bothell with their two children Kelsey 19, and Sophie 16.

Patti is a Dental Hygienist and has worked for Daryl Habich, DDS in Monroe, Washington for 25 years. He runs his own company, Western Cities, Inc. Western Cities specializes in helping

the retailers with real estate acquisition, the real estate development process and construction management.

Both spend most of their free time with their daughters who

are active in a many school and church activities.

Steve loves to hunt and fish. Look out for a speech about his hunting and fishing adventures in the future.



Adios but not Good-bye....

Fellow Toastmasters,

I am honored to have served as el presidenté for WRY Toastmasters (TM) this past year. To witness the growth and maturity of WRY TM is a heart warming experience. The infusion of the many new, creative, enthusiastic members has pumped up the energy in our club. Thank you!

WRY Toastmasters achieving the President's Distinguished Club recognition award from Toastmasters International (we, WRY TM, accomplished ten out of ten possible TM acknowledgment points) is tantamount to being one of the best TM clubs in District 2. We should all take solace in this success. Please thank WRY's Board of Directors for this past year, Judy Johns-

ton, Tim O'Brien, Colleen Keranen, Kristine Nelson, Gerald Fey, Greta Gillette, Susanne Baessler and Stuart Iritz for their dedication, efforts and for modeling the spirit of service in guiding, building and reaching the extraordinary accomplishment.

Serving as a club officer is an experiential process of personal growth and development. I encourage new members to set a goal for yourself to serve as a club officer in the future. I especially encourage long-term members to do the same. Members who have been with WRY for 5, 10, 15+ years have a large reservoir of knowledge. Your call to action is to serve as a WRY Club officer next year to share your wisdom, strength and experience.

My last words, as el presidenté, are actually words from Darin LaCroix, the 2001 TM International World Speaking Champion, "...never turn down stage time"! Volunteer to do a 5-7 minute 'impromptu' speech when we have a no-show or when the agenda for a meeting is light. Don't hesitate to participate in Table Topics. The quality of your public speaking skills and the rate of your development is directly proportional to the frequency you speak in public settings. Embolden yourself by never turning down stage time opportunities!



el presidenté
hideo fujita

What's MY Commitment? - continued

Interacting with others is an integral part of the process that helps us achieve our goals and also enhances our enjoyment of the experience. Members of the Club are relying on you to make your contribution, so don't let them down. Most importantly, don't let yourself down. Think about why you joined Toastmasters and commit yourself to actions that will move you toward those goals.

Judy Johnston

**Unless commitment
is made, there are
only promises and
hopes... but no plans.**

Peter Drucker

WRY Toastmaster

Charter Date: September, 1981

District 2; Division: F

Area: 62, Club 4723

Thursday morning meetings

@ 7am

Skyline Tower Building

10900 NE 4th (Floor 9, Conference Room)

Learn More About Us!

Visit

www.wrytoastmasters.org

Or email

info@WryToastmasters

Got something to tell? Want to contribute an article for the next newsletter?

Just contact Susanne Baessler @ susanbaessler@msn.com

Simply COOL!

EXTRA

Don't miss the **SUMMER PICNIC**

Saturday, August 2nd; 4-7pm (or later)

34225 (no street # to not confuse), 425 869 5244

Kids welcome

Potluck. Wry will provide the burgers, hotdogs, chips, pop and beer.

Take the challenge.... Of finding Heidi Gregory's home!
< just kidding >

Take I-90 East

Exit Preston Fall City, turn left over freeway, at end yield to right follow this road until road ends, you are in Fall City,

turn right at stop sign over bridge

turn left immediately after bridge (SR203)

continue to follow through Carnation

turn right at Stillwater Hill RD (Chevron on your left)

Stillwater Rd turns into Kelley Rd, turn right on Stossel Creek Way

go to end of paved Rd, turn left on 348th

follow and go past mailboxes (50!) and go onto dirt road take next left (no, no street signs at this point)

go all the way to the end to the last driveway on the left If you've gone too far you'll hit a "T" so just backup

#34225

Questions while on the way? Call 425 869 5244

Make sure you've signed up for the WRY Toastmaster email alias by confirming the email you have received from wrytoastmasters@coolist.com

On a successful journey—continued

It's been just 9 months since the humble beginnings. Now I've given 10 speeches and earned my certified Toastmaster (CTM). It was a fast paced journey that held many surprises for me!

My first surprise was that I discovered I liked to write speeches!! Since 3rd grade when my teacher gave me a bad grade for a story in writing class I never wrote a story again. Not one single story, article or letter... hmm, that might be the reason why I didn't like to write postcards when on vacations?

My second surprise was that I now actually have fun standing

in front of an audience. I wouldn't have thought that 9 months ago but today it is this adrenalin rush that makes me excited and that I'm looking forward to! I can keep my nerves under control and remember all parts of my speech. I've learned that it's not the hardest part to finish a speech but to make it to the front of the room and find the courage to start the speech.

Once you are in the front of the room there is no way back. That's where preparation, repetition and experience pays off. This experience comes from

watching other speakers, giving evaluations and working on style, mannerism and structuring content. And there is the opportunity of maybe being the best speaker of the day!

I encourage you to go for the thrill. Find that excitement and try to attend Toastmaster meetings regularly and take every chance you can to give a speech. The rewards are tremendous and it doesn't take too long to see extraordinary results.

And it's fun!

Bert Huelmann