



Wry Toastmaster

Volume1, Issue 2 2003/2004

October, 16th, 2003

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

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Special points of interest:

- * Tall Tales 
- * Deeper with the president
- * Humorous speech contest

Outlook for the next issue

- * Did you have fun with "Tall Tales"?
- * And so much more!

A word From the president—Tim O'Brien

I'd like to begin by thanking my predecessor Hideo Fujita for his contributions towards making Wry Toastmasters the strong and vibrant club it is today. As a club, we measure our success through meeting goals involving members who have worked to become better communicators and leaders in their time with us. In 2002-03, we were named President's Distinguished Club (the highest honor awarded any club within Toastmasters). This was due in part to the support of Board members who

went the extra mile to make Wry a great place to learn and grow as well as members who are actively committed to meeting their personal goals of excelling as communicators and leaders. So what do I see for Wry Toastmasters in the year ahead? I see us remaining a Presidents Distinguished Club, growing through sharing our knowledge and experience with each other and having lots of FUN in the process! I also see us expanding our skills and abilities over the course

of the year as well as continuing our special tradition of supporting each other as we strive to become better communicators and leaders. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to welcome you to each meeting. You are an amazing group of talented and gifted people. Thanks and best wishes for the coming year.

Tim O'Brien,
ATM-B & President,
Wry Toastmasters

And we go deeper with the president....

We had some further questions for Tim:
Susanne: Please share some of you experiences as a president.
Tim: It's truly a learning experience. If I for-

get to introduce the guests one more time, I am just gonna scream.
S: What do you think are your challenges?
T: The primary challenge is to maintain a

vital, healthy and fun club. The members are energetic and committed to their own personal growth. As each member goes about their own personal growth plan, we as a

Stephanie Ko—coming from around the world

Stephanie was born in Hong Kong. She came to California to attend college when she was 17. Her educational background was chemistry, environmental administration and law. In her earlier career path, she taught physics and Chemistry in a high school, developed an environmental science curriculum for 'Atenisi University' and was a diplomat working for the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific. As she highlighted in her 'icebreaker' she really enjoyed her time in Tonga.

She just moved her law office to Skyline Tower in the end of August 2003. Her practice is focused in three areas: immigration, business and estate planning. She loves working with

people which led her to leave corporate America.

She is delighted to be a member of Wry Toastmasters. She enjoys meeting new people and is looking forward to learn from all of WRY Toastmaster members. Her goal is to become as good as some of the distinguished members. She thinks WRY is the most diverse Toastmaster Club that she has seen. WRY is very special.

She will give further details about her life in Tonga in future speeches.

She enjoys Mahjong, ballroom dance, ice-skating and traveling. She has two sisters, one living in Ohio, the other one living in Honking. Due to the 1997 return of Hong Kong's : .

sovereignty to China, her family is distributed to lots of countries: New Zealand, US, Canada, Australia. And Stephanie is married to Hideo, our 'el presidente' from last year.

Welcome Stephanie!



Stuart Iritz - a lover of the world

Stuart has traveled all over the world and lived on both the East and West coasts. He brings lots of energy and setup to Wry Toastmasters.

He graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and has a background in counseling and recreation. He's worked in the counseling field since graduating from college in 1996. This field gives him the opportunity to meet new people and make a difference in people's

lives.

He uses his broad experience in theatre, politics, counseling and planning to allow others to have new and exciting opportunities presented to them. It has always been a passion of Stuart to make a difference in the lives of youths by working in youth-oriented programs and similar activities.

When he is not working, Stuart volunteers with Highline Community Hospital and the Seattle

Humane Society or travels the world.

Stuart joined Wry Toastmaster because he saw the difference it made in the lives of two people he holds very close to his heart, Maxine Levaren and Anita Myr-fors.

His goal is to be able to use his experience at Wry to embark on a speaking career.

Way to go, Stuart!

Experience report from the humorous speech contest

Having won our Wry Toastmasters club humorous speech contest is one thing. Winning on the next level is another. Unfortunately I found my master already in the first round. That is not what I wanted to do but it gives me more room to grow and areas to work on! Gregor did a wonderful job and won the area 64 table topics contest hands down! Way to go Gregor! Good luck for the next round!

Our Wry Toastmasters fan club was right there with us supporting us all the way! Screaming ecstatically after each of us gave our presentations! Thanks to everybody who came out to the area contest!

I like competitions as they bring out the best. High concentration, adrenaline rush, nervousness and showing the power to get nervousness under control! Standing in front of an audience with only a few people I recognized and a lot of people I had

never seen before. I felt I was pushing my envelope of public speaking by delivering a speech outside of our club!

Voting during the humorous speech contest is also different than in our club. Judges use a special form to measure different parts of a speech and weighting them to determine the ranking of the contestants. Below are the categories and weightings for the humorous speech contest:

Content category

- Speech development - max 15 points
- Effectiveness - max 15 points
- Speech value - max 15 points
- Audience response - max 15 points

Delivery category

- Physical - max 10 points
- Voice - max 10 points

- Manner - max 10 points

Language category

- Appropriateness - max 10 points
- Correctness - max 5 points

I find it exciting to deliver a speech in a new environment. Watching the best speakers from other clubs inspires me to continue working on content, delivery and language. I'll be back for the next contest and I sincerely hope that more and more club members take advantage of club contests as an excellent opportunity for personal growth!

Bert Huelmann



Hsiang-chun Sun

Hsiang-chun joined Wry Toastmaster because she was inspired by all of WRY Toastmasters members at the first meeting she attended. She loved the energy and the friendly environment of the group.

Hsiang-chun grew up in Taiwan. Today she is a Family Physician her own practice in Overlake

pital, Bellevue. She is married to Danny Sun who is a plastic surgeon. Both have two children: Michael Sun who is 15 years old and attends Bellevue High school and Natalie Sun, age 13, who attends Chinook Middle School.

Hsiang-chun loves cooking and gardening although it is very dif-

ficult for her to do any of those with her busy schedule. She looks towards retirement to find more time to cook and garden.

Thanks to WRY Toastmaster Hsiang-chun soon will feel much more confidence when speaking in front a group.

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

Still COOL!

EXTRA



Don't miss

THE "TALL TALE" Contest

When? Thursday, October 30th; 7am

Where? The usual location

Who? The usual suspects—WRY Toastmaster members.... At their best

Why? It's Halloween, isn't it....?

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

....and deeper

club win. The challenge for the Board and I is to work with the members to continue a stream of new members to replace those who move on. The new members provide vitality, new energy and fulfill a necessary role in the evolution of the membership.

S: Which areas are easy/fun for you?

T: Drinking coffee after the club meeting is always fun and usually quite easy to manage. I just plunk down some money and then drink the stuff.

S: What are your goals for your time as a president?

T: Maintain our history of excellence. Work with the Board to achieve the President's Distinguish Club award. Find new opportunities for members to speak. Share this rewarding experience with someone new. Help someone achieve their goals. Have fun. Learn something.

S: What do you think you can learn specifically from this experience?

T: My personal goal, and the primary reason I joined Wry, is to become relaxed and comfortable in front of audiences. Getting a chance to speak extemporane-

ously each week is daunting but, a wonderful opportunity to improve in this area. I will overcome that fear during this year.

S: Where will you go within TM after being president?

T: I'm not sure but, I do know one thing. If I see Hideo or Walter approaching towards the end of the fiscal year, I will become quite scarce.

S: We hope not!

