



PARRA NATTA

Parramatta Toastmasters Club No 2274, Area 13, Western Div, Dist.90

MEETING No : 1305

DECEMBER 3 2015

International Speech Contest

In the last meeting aptly themed '*Put on your game face*' we had the first round of the International speech contest. Club Winners compete at the Area, District and Division contests finally competing internationally with champions from around the world. We had a strong array of contenders with some really powerful speeches and they were all winners in their own rights..

First speaker *Ron Marriott* with his speech "*There is no time like the present*" was all about living in the moment, right here right now and not wasting a moment. Michael Fong with his speech "A helping hand" spoke about helping a friend even if the signs aren't obvious and they do not want your help. *Pamela Mc Donald* gave out a strong message in her speech "*The price of being Right*" that the desire to be right all the time has the consequence to isolate, separate, hurt and even destroy friendships.. *Rob Tibbertsma* reminded us that every now and then its a good idea for all of us look back to see how far and from where we have come from; to trace our ancestry back as far as we can with his speech "*Go back to where you have come from*" *Monique Tonna* gave the winning speech of the night "*Step up, stand out*". which highlighted the fact that if you want to make a difference in your life/ work/ etc you need to step up and do the things that other's won't, this in turn helps you to stand out. *David Griffiths* in his hilarious speech "*Be THE*" spoke about wanting to be better versions of ourselves, like David comparing himself to Michelangelo's DAVID.

Andrew Iverson gave a true message with his speech "*No Guarantee*" that in life/ love/ war there are never any guarantees, no guarantees that we will be alive tomorrow or the next week. We have one life to live so we need to make the most of it while we can. Final speaker of the night was *Alicia Dennis* with a beautiful speech "*It's a lot easier than you think*". She said that in a world where political correctness has gone mad, we could all be excused for feeling like we are walking on egg shells in trying to make sure we don't offend someone in some way sometime. But we don't have to take ourselves so seriously, it's not that hard to be nice and get along. Just be there, don't get caught in what's different and if you put your foot in your mouth it's no biggie, speak kindly and if someone else does the wrong thing to another don't stand in silence. Monique came first followed by Michael Fong and Andrew Iverson

- Compiled by

Karl Pereira



Monique Tonna



Michael Fong



Andrew Iverson

Meet the Member : Ian Chick



Ian Chick is a distinguished member of the club. He has held various roles within the Toastmasters organisation and also has received awards of excellence in Marketing, Excellence in Education and training and also Excellence in Leadership. He has a strong personality and to quote Michael Said “ This man can sell ice to Eskimos ”

Q: When and why did you join Toastmasters ?

A : I did speech craft in Sept 2000. and joined in Oct 2000. I had attended a few meeting before joining and understood how the club could improve my presentation and leadership skills. So I joined.

Q: What are some of the roles you held in the organisation.?

A: My first role was as the treasurer at the club which was in 2001. I was the District Governor in 2009-10. . I spent seven years as a District Office

Q: What is your fondest memory from your years in the club ?

A: Presenting Colin Wright with his DTM badge in 2010. He had been a member of Able Spirited Toastmasters club for 20 years. Being confined to a wheelchair with cerebral palsy Colin was having difficulty taking up the role of Area Governor to complete his DTM requirements. I helped to find a solution and put together a team to help him with his role as the Area 4 Governor. Presenting him with that badge in front of the district at the Annual Conference was one of my proudest moments

Q: What were some of the marketing and leadership strategies you used that won you your excellence awards?

A: Commitment and working with nearly 115 staff officers. I was working with over five thousand members from all over the district. We used all the mediums for marketing. I would write articles about success stories of toastmasters and interviews for the newspapers and pester them until they got published.

In 2007 we had the 2UE radio station to talk about Toastmasters. In 3 months there were 80 discussions and we saw a huge surge in the memberships after that campaign.

In 2008 we built a team of 40 to 50 members to put together a district training program. That year the district was awarded the Excellence in Training, resulting from Team work and commitment from a lot of people.

Q: What is your message to newer members ?

A: Take on all leadership roles, especially ones you least like taking up. Extend your boundaries. Join contests, stretch yourselves. Most importantly be commitment and believe in what you are doing. There is a marvellous support mechanism in place to support you, it is the mentors and experienced members of Toastmasters.

10 Tips towards a Better Speech Evaluation

A Toastmasters Speech Evaluation Contest is where there is a test speaker who gives a speech, and those entered in the contest all do an evaluation based on that speech.

Here are the essential elements of the evaluation speech:



- **Introduction**—Acknowledge, but no thanks

You should greet those in the audience by saying, “Mr. or Madam Contestmaster, Fellow Toastmasters, and guests”. You don’t need to say “thank you” as many people do.

- **Objective**—What do you think the speaker was trying to convey?

In a manual speech, the objectives are stated, usually by the Toastmaster before the speech begins. In the contest speech, they are not explicitly stated by the Contestmaster. Sometimes people will state their intentions at the beginning of the speech, but they may not. If they don’t, try to discern what the message of the speech was and start your speech with this objective.

- **Praise—be specific**

You should give praise or encouragement to the speaker for how effectively they conveyed the message of the objective. But praise should not be open-ended: “you gave a great speech” doesn’t give any information on the speaker about what it was that caused you to come to that conclusion. “I really think you accomplished this objective because of what you did ...”, and then explain specifically what it was that caused you think this way.

- **Constructive criticism—be specific**

No matter how experienced the speaker, there is always room to improve, and even the most seasoned Distinguished Toastmaster will welcome criticism if it is specific because it is therefore helpful. “The ending was weak” is not specific: weak compared to what? What made it weak? More importantly, how could it be made stronger?

- **Conclusion—tie things up**

So many evaluations end when the person sees the red card and then decides to hurriedly dash off something generic like “I think it was a great speech”. The conclusion should start when the person sees the yellow card, if not before. That means you have 30 seconds left. Then you can summarise, and say, “The speaker met the objectives because of [specific actions], but would have been even more effective if [specific actions]. Then add some praise at the end that puts a positive cast on the evaluation. This last one can be more general. Then you can say “Mr. or Madam Contest master” to signal that you are concluded with your evaluation.

- **Avoid the stock phrases**

Of course, saying “thank you” in your introduction is one thing that beginners do, but at the end of the speech, “and I look forward to your future speeches” is something that you may have heard many times before. Why not deliver the same message, that you are encouraging the speaker, in a way that is heartfelt and not pulled off the shelf? Also, there may be a significant element of the speech delivery that is overlooked by others. Why not try to be original and find something which the other evaluators may have missed?

- **Objective criteria, subjective delivery**

You make sure that you have some sort of an objective against which you are measuring the speech. However, in delivering your opinion, you should make sure to let the speaker know that this is your opinion, particularly when it comes to criticism. If the person did not state an objective, and you say what you think the opinion is, make sure to preface your remarks by saying that “I think that ...” or “in

my opinion”, because it could be that what you think as the objective may not be at all what the speaker intended. This goes as well for the praise and criticism. The praise needs to be personal because it shows that the speech made a human connection with the evaluator. The criticism needs to be stated as being your own personal opinion so that you are not making the presumption that your criticism is a FACT, but an opinion. It is easier for people to take criticism if the person prefaces it as being something that is his or her opinion.

- **Your speech evaluation is also a speech**

You should have an opening which states the objective, a body which gives both praise and criticism, and then a conclusion which summaries, what you have said. These show that you are not just speaking off a list of talking points but have crafted your message in a way that commands the attention of the audience, and you have made it memorable by tying it with a bow at the end in your conclusion.

- **Your speech is for the benefit of the audience, not just the speaker**

Many evaluators look at the speaker the entire time, thinking the speech is for them. Well it is, but it is for the benefit of the audience as well. Looking at the speaker when you start your speech is fine, but include the audience in your gaze when you are explaining what it was that made the speech effective and what you thought could be improved. Everybody in the audience can learn from the pointers you give, and you should include them in your attention when you give the speech.



DECEMBER BABIES

Cheryl Piper

Pamela McDonald

Ron Marriott

Monique Tonna

Mark your Calanders

Parramatta Club Christmas meeting- 17th Dec 2015 ***RSVP essential***
@ Parramatta RSL Club, Linden room