

Live Wire



Saturday Morning Live - Toastmasters International

Club 9196 Rivers Division District 6

November 2007



Welcome Saturday Morning Live, Guests, Members, Toastmasters, and Leaders.

We look forward to sharing some exciting happenings here at Saturday Morning Live.



*From the Desk of Mary Z. McGrath, Ph. D.
SML Member*

Come In for a Toastmaster's Tune-up

What would be the difference if you did not attend a Toastmaster's meeting for a few months? Ah...um....now...well...uh.....let me think. Would your speech flow as easily or would you revert to fillers?

How about the opportunity to "think on your feet" when given an opening to express yourself. Even if your job is a simple one such as grammarian, you have the chance at a meeting to make observations of other speakers and to express your thoughts in a clear and concise way. You will make a verbal summary of what you have heard. In addition, you highlight both the examples of excellent speech and points for growth.

Is there more to coming to a Toastmaster's meeting than assessing and reporting? Certainly, if you come prepared with a speech you have done a major tune-up on your speaking skills and offered others new perspectives and ideas for consideration.

What if you did not come to Toastmasters on a regular basis? Well, I kinda think you're gonna experience some kinda deterioration of yer expressive language. So..well..um....ya....better come, ok?

After all, you are a growing speaker and leader. This is the place to ensure that the growth continues.



A few months back a club survey sent out to our members. Our very own Bob Gausman steered the survey. Not only did he take the responsibility of

Thanks Bob for pursuing this survey. This will definitely help as we take steps into new paradigms of our club meetings.

The feedback from members was noteworthy.



What attributes make our club an enjoyable experience for you?

Professionalism and fun.

I never thought I would enjoy the winter party and the picnic but I do . . . The professional environment . . . The variety of people in the club. . . Great leaders from District 6, quality evaluations, warm and relaxed Saturday morning hospitality. . . Multiple evaluations, experienced members, honest and constructive feedback . . . The professionalism, the different perspectives, the camaraderie, and the intrigue of analyzing verbal communication . . . This answer applies to the first two questions: I was attracted to SML! because of the professionalism of the members. Generally, everyone gives their best and extra effort is expended to have quality club meetings . . . The club sets a high standard with an emphasis on continuing to improve . . . Polished, detailed approach to evaluations. . . Professional, prepared members, time and effort goes into roles, high quality evaluations and General Evaluator.

What inspired you to join Saturday Morning Live?

Evaluations; the panel. . . Hospitality. The club made me feel I was going to be part of a quality group . . . My former club time and location did not work. Bonnie Amundson told me that she, Pat Croal, and Keith Hardy were in this club. I knew them so I joined . . . The leadership qualities of the club . . . I'll be honest: flattery. I joined after my first speech contest, and People remembered the speech and said friendly, flattering things . . . Keith Hardy! Also the fact that this is an advanced club . . . The opportunity to enhance my speaking skills and to have advanced evaluations . . . I was invited to join after attending Breakfast of champions over ten years ago . . . This answer applies to the first two questions: I was attracted to SML! because of the professionalism of the members. Generally, everyone gives their best and extra effort is

expended to have quality club meetings. The club sets a high standard with an emphasis on continuing to improve.

Interest in giving speeches to the club significantly exceeds available speaking slots. Would you support a second club meeting every month? If so, would you prefer a regular club meeting format, or a SML format?

I will support a second club meeting. Regular club meeting may be easier to assign roles because it does not require as many members but it can be confusing for guests to visit . . . One time a month (year?) is fine. I would like a meeting with Table Topics! . . . No . . . Probably not at this time as I belong to a home club to fill this need . . . SML! is a second club for all of us so I prefer the SML! format . . . Note that I was not able to attend three recent meetings. Perhaps my vote should have less weight than those who are regulars . . . Yes I am in favor of second meeting with a regular club meeting format . . . Yes. SML format . . . The one meeting per month format works well for me. I could not commit to a second Saturday per month at this time.

What was the most effective campaign you have seen a Toastmaster club use to attract new members? What made it work so well?

The evaluation team, and the politeness of the club . . . Advertise. Quality run meeting. When a guest feels that he/she can get value out of it, they will join . . . The company clubs, because they have natural members built in . . . Special event, special speaker, all members invite people & f/u to make sure they attend, refreshments, top quality meeting, nice guest packet, prompt invitation to join, mentor assigned & application sent in promptly . . . The more successful clubs use a less aggressive approach. The clubs that act as if they are happy with their membership levels are the ones who attract members. Second, we need to ask ourselves if we even want to expand . . . A flyer in the library (not a poster) Calls were made as long as the flyers were distributed. Have a flyer for current SML! members to hand out to prospective members . . . Speechcraft conducted as part of the regular meeting. It added about 5 new members in one of my former clubs. But I don't see that as a good tool for SML because of our being an advanced club. The closest thing we could do is an evaluation workshop for Toastmaster members, perhaps on a separate Saturday. It could be planned well in advance and marketed to all District Toastmaster members to build their evaluation skills. Follow-up those attendees to encourage joining SML . . . I think the idea with the EGG is good. The next thing is to promote, encourage and motivate SML! club members to bring their home club members to participate in the EGG game. At this time this is not happening . . . An open house several years ago. The

meeting was geared towards only table Topics, but those were handled clearly and in a very professional manner.

What additional things can SML! do in order to place a contestant in the World Championship of Public Speaking?

We need to recognize past members. Perhaps we can send them occasional updates on SML! events in order to encourage them to rejoin . . . I believe we can realize that once the club set it as a goal. I believe there is camaraderie in SML! that everyone will function at that challenging level to support the club winner to keep moving on . . . I really miss Table Topics. What would happen if we had another ten minutes and if others would watch their time? As a recent timer, I noticed that some speakers and other participants did not glance at the lights . . . A little more time to fill out forms . . . Encourage quality speakers with evaluations that are needed to be a world champion. We all must evaluate other world champions. A discussion or series of discussions may be a valuable step . . . First, identify someone who has that goal. Ideally, that person would be a SML! member, or would join. Commit some meeting time or extra time after the meeting to team evaluate. Get commitments from members to help that speaker. Perhaps a separate time would be established as that person is preparing to give in-depth team evaluations and help with the speech - probably done in an informal manner rather than in a formal meeting setting . . . Encourage all members to speak often, at other clubs if more speaking slots are needed and enter the contest . . . Have special Speechcraft meetings for potential contestants to discuss technique and strategy.

Please recommend your ideas for club improvement. Areas to consider include general atmosphere, relationships, fun, and programming.

We need to bring back the level of professionalism appearances, preparedness and properness to meetings . . . I know the club officers work hard and I appreciate it . . . The club operates well already. Anything that increases the professionalism and the standards of excellence would help, but specific suggestions do not occur at present. . . If only we could get more twenty-something in the club . . . I had been a member for some time before I was put on the official schedule. Not recognized as a member . . . Continue assigning mentors & helping our current members do effective pre-meeting planning . . . Meetings that run on time. Members attend meetings regularly and an active engaged leadership team with other members helping to fill planning roles for special meetings . . . The desperate recruiting among some SML members puts people off. This is in terms of new recruits and hard-

handed urging of volunteer work. It gets people to say "yes" at first, but then burns them out. Look at what happened with Sherman . . . We should have some sort of regular speeches and other regular stuff such as table topics . . . It seems if you are not an evaluator, your time is pretty much wasted . . . Also we should open up more room for people who are not toastmasters but maybe quality speakers. I am for once against the rule that in order to be a member of SML, you have to belong to another club and have your CC. It limits the capabilities of expanding the club. Thank you.

Fellow Toastmasters this says it all. Lets all strive to make this club the Talk of the Town. A club that keeps on target the basic foundation of its focus statement.

Something Exciting

Saturday Morning Live club captured the Elusive Gilded Gavel (EGG) from the Maximizers club November 6.

The purpose of the "**Elusive Gilded Gavel**" is to encourage clubs to visit one another! Each of our District's clubs is unique. By visiting another club, we meet new Toastmasters, discover different ways of running meetings, and participate and have fun in a new environment.

The SML Holiday Party
In January (Will confirm the exact date later)
We all look forward to it. It will be nice if all of us can get together and celebrate this age old tradition of SML Annual party

Breakfast of Champions

February – 10th , 2008

We look forward to all of you attending this meeting. Perhaps this is the best meeting as it also full of some mouth watering culinary delights , (Yummy) in addition to wonderful Speeches and quality Evaluations.

Toastmaster Education and Leadership Institute Opportunity

It was suggested at one of the SML officers meeting that our club come up with a module or two for the Spring TELL. Benefits:

The presenters, develops speaking skills and leadership

The club, visibility and potential membership from other clubs

The organization, brings D6TMs together to learn, grow, and fellowship

If you would like help; if you know what you'd like to present; if you just want to provide encouragement and support --- please Caroline know in order for her to send an outline to the D6TM leadership to get approval.

On Personal Fronts

Congratulations to Keith Hardy who won his election to the St. Paul School Board!!

As Pat Croal shared with all of us

"Keith put his heart & soul into this campaign and he won!! He was tireless in listening to the voters of St. Paul and worked alongside his group of volunteers meeting voters & students in St. Paul. We are lucky to have Keith as a school board member for young people of St. Paul and setting a standard for school boards everywhere. I know he will do everything in his power to make sure that all children have a the tools to succeed in life."

Way to go Keith. Our wishes are always with you in this new endeavor you undertake.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you one a story by one of SML past members who is currently also a District Leader. This story is also posted on the district6 web site i.e. www.d6tm.org. An inspirational story

How Toastmasters Changes Lives

Joan Watson, DTM Lt. Governor of Education and Training

Joining Toastmasters five short years ago, it was impossible to imagine the opportunities available as a result of that one decision.

My journey began by saying YES to being an Area Governor even though I had no idea what it was. It was amazing to learn there was a whole world of clubs besides my own and the experiences opened my eyes to many possibilities. Getting a chance to do more came quickly by saying YES to serving as a Division Governor. Stretching my comfort zone again by delegating and relying on the expertise of others helped me to expand my newly found leadership skills.

Feeling pretty confident that I had learned enough, I was asked to co-chair the Fall Conference. Again saying YES, I discovered there was still more to learn. Working with a committee and learning how to engage people to volunteer and deliver without trying to tell

them what to do taught me to recognize and appreciate others.

A short year ago the biggest question was asked. Will you run for Lt. Governor of Marketing? Could I really do this? I didn't know enough people. Who could I get to volunteer? I can't do it by myself. Once I took the " I " out of the questions, there was a belief that it could be done and Toastmasters would be there to help.

Last year was one of the most demanding, scary and rewarding years that I have ever experienced. The support, the people, the rewards and the sense of accomplishment are too BIG to fully describe. It wasn't about me; it was about everyone who said YES when asked and YES when asked again. And saying YES each time with a smile and enthusiasm that was endless. It was the greatest opportunity one person could be given to grow in the company of wonderful people and reach inside yourself to do more than you ever thought possible.

These experiences have made a difference in my work, at home and in my other volunteer positions. Gaining confidence and seeing a positive approach to life in general has reaped rewards at work through several promotions and being recognized for my presentation skills. Most importantly, I have been blessed with many new friends while enjoying the benefits of Toastmasters.

I encourage all of you fellow Toastmasters, to send in stories, inspirational readings & thoughts that you would like to see appear in the SML Live Wire News Letter .

Thanks and Enjoy

SML! Focus Statement

The focus of the Saturday Morning LIVE! Toastmasters Club is to provide an environment in which experienced Toastmasters can achieve a degree of excellence made possible in an advanced club setting, with emphasis on the ability to provide and receive skillful evaluations of advanced-level speeches.

The mission of a Toastmasters 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.

Saturday Morning LIVE!

President	Harvey Bernard
VP-Education	Caroline Baker
VP-Membership	Robert Gausman,
VP-Public Relations	Muniesh Khandelwal
Secretary	Don Ritter
Treasurer	Mary Torno
Sergeant at arms	Tim Kelley

Saturday Morning Live Club #9196 District 6
Meets every second Saturday at 9AM noon at:
Coldwel Banker
Burnet Realty
Woodbury, MN 55125

District website: <http://www.d6tm.org>

International website: <http://www.toastmasters.org>

Saturday Morning Live is a monthly publication for all club members and future members.

Club President:

Harvey Bernard

4101 West Old Shakopee Road

Bloomington MN 55437

Phone:- 952-888-0074

Email:- harvey@harveybernard.com

=====

Newsletter Editor:

Muniesh Khandelwal

VP of Public Relations

2143 Hemlock Blvd

Woodbury MN 55125

Phone:- 651-714-8927

ST.Paul, MN 55130

E-mail: muniesh@yahoo.com