



Live! Wire

December 2008



Saturday Morning Live!

*Toastmasters International
Club 9196, Rivers Division,
District 6*



A warm welcome back to LIVE! Wire

Do you feel sometimes that you don't have enough time in the world?
Or that no matter how hard you try, the results are not the same!

For past few months I have been feeling that. In fact I almost decided postpone this edition of the newsletter. But where there is a will there a way. On Saturday (Dec 13) I found that in our meeting. The encouragement that we share in SML! is so unique that it gives you to go that extra mile. With that in heart, I am finally here with another edition.

This is the time of holidays. With so many activities taking place around you, let us keep those people in our hearts & minds who will be away from families. Share the warmth of the season with people who have made a difference in your lives.

Have a wonderful holiday season. From my heart to yours..



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Dist 6 Fall Conference

By Ravi Rai, VP PR

The fall conference was held at Kahler Grand Hotel in downtown Rochester, MN. The conference was a wonderful display of toastmaster talents from all over the district.

Some of the highlights are:

1. **Roast of Pat Croal**, immediate past dist governor and our fellow SMLer. It was a fun filled session and she won a wonderful Hanna Montana alarm clock. Keith Hardy did a fine job working with a team of roasters.
2. **Orapat served as Parliamentarian** during the business session and was recognized for her efforts.
3. **Theo Black** who is **running for International director** gave a short speech about his candidacy for International Director. I enjoyed his speech and heard some very good feedback from few fellow toastmasters. He also received his 2nd DTM.
4. I almost failed to recognize **Mike Casey in his biker's dress** during Friday Fun Night. We are fortunate to have him as Rivers Division Governor and fellow SMLer.
5. **Don Ritter placed third in Tall Tales contest**. The best part about his speech was to see his wife enjoy his speech. We shared the same table right in the front row. He competed from Northern Division. The winner was Bill Broadgard from Western Division and the second place was taken by Mike Meager from central division.
6. **Ravi Rai came in second in Humorous speech contest** with my speech "I Love donuts". I represented Eastern Division. The first place was taken by Ken Morgan from Western and third place by Luke Cahill from Rivers Division.
7. **Jim Niswonger gave an educational presentation** on "Achieving your speaking goals". The educational seminar focused on how toastmaster resources can be used for maximum benefits for personal speaking goals.



"Friday Fun Night... is always fun.."



Pat Croal and Dan Grundtner on Friday Fun Night



*Roast of pat Croal
(Past District Governor)*



*Ravi Rai carries the banner for
SML!*



Batman on super secret mission



Question & Answer:



*SML! speeches on Internet
(Yahoo Video)*



*Stephen congratulates Theo on
earning his 2nd DTM*



*Jim giving his educational
presentation*

SML! Speeches on Internet

By Ravi Rai VP Public Relations

For months we were toying with the idea of making use of online video facilities to share our speeches over the internet. After months of research, we had to admit that the most important part of uploading videos to the internet is to have a video ☺ OK in the digital format.

On Nov 8, Keith Hardy accepted the challenge to be the first person to be filmed for uploading the video to Internet. We did a good job of not letting him know that he was our guinea pig ;) OK. That's not true. He gladly accepted to help us with our experiment.

Filming:

The most important part is to have a camcorder that could film speeches in the digital format. In other words, the output of the movie should eventually be saved in "MPEG4" or "AVI" format. For Keith's speech, I got my Sony Camcorder that can record speeches in digital format. Bob was also kind enough to allow us to record his speech.

Internet Ready

While a lot of camcorders directly produce mpeg4 or avi formats, I had to use a firewire cable and Windows Movie maker to capture the video and convert it into my computer. The same software was used to create clips.

Uploading to Internet:

There are two most popular internet sites where videos can be uploaded. They are YouTube and Yahoo Videos. It takes about 30 minutes to upload a 10 minute video to these sites. The internet site then uses its software to validate the format, content and other possible items that we as consumer do not know about.

Which one: Yahoo Video or YouTube:

Currently YouTube forbids a user to upload a video longer than 10 minutes in length. Yahoo does not have this restriction. Since Keith had a longer speech (15 minutes), I chose Yahoo. The second option was to split his whole speech into 2 segments, which I was able to avoid.

Linking to SML! Web Site

The neat thing about uploading video to Yahoo is that you can actually embed the frame into your web page while playing the video at a remote site. Both sites provide a code to include in SML! web page to play the videos as part of SML! web site.

Does it sound too complicated. Perhaps yes.. But once you play around with the videos, it is really cool.



SML! & Contests

Some of us joke that Toastmasters follows its own set of seasons. One of them is known as Contest season. During the months of Sep-October, toastmasters club all over the world hold contests at various levels.

SML! club held its Fall contest on September 13, 2008. The participants for the tall tales contest were Orapat, Bob Gausman, and Keith Hardy. Keith won the club tall tales contest with his title "SOS save our spam". The contestants for humorous speech contest were Bob Gausman and Keith Hardy. Keith won the humorous speech contest.

Keith represented SML! in Area 72 tall tales & humorous speech contests held on September 17. He won the Tall tales speech contest. He was placed 2nd in the humorous speech contest. SML! member, Ravi Rai, served as the toastmaster at the area contest. The contest was well run and was great success.

Keith moved on to represent Area 72 at Rivers division contest held on September 25, 2008. Keith placed third in the Tall Tales speech contest.



*SML! Club speech contest
Orapat, Caroline, Bob, Keith with
Fay (Area 72 Governor)*



*Winners of Humorous speech
contest: Ken Morgan(1),
Ravi Rai (2), Luke Cahill (3)*



*Winners of Tall Tales Speech
Contest: Bill Brodegard (1), Mike
Meagher (2), Don Ritter (3)*



*Mike (Div. Gov.) Dave, Keith,
Jonathan, Faye (Area Gov.)*

New Member: Jim Niswonger

In September, Jim Niswonger, visited SML! as a guest of Keith Hardy. The visit was followed by an important decision of joining the club. Personally I have known Jim before he became a full time member of our club. Jim is a motivational speaker, a coach and a very dynamic person who touches a lot of life in our world.

Jim is a certified practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic (NLP) and one of the few Psych-K practitioners in the state of Minnesota. According to his website: ".....My driving desire is to help as many people as possible to get what they want in ways that are ethical, sustainable, and enjoyable...."

Jim is married to And lives in



*Jim Niswonger
(SML! member)s*





What It Takes To Be Number 1

“The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.. ”
 Vincent Lombardi

SML! New Website

By Ravi Rai, VP Public Relations
 December 14, 2008.

Have you ever wondered what happens when you embark on a journey of changes? Well you realize that the journey has transformed into a journey of changes. SML! new website is a testimony of that journey.

The new template includes a picture of sunrise that is a symbol of a club that meets in the morning. The rising sun has a special meaning in our lives. As it inspires us to start the day with a new vigor, SML! on Saturday morning inspires us to look at the month with a new meaning.



- SML! Officers**
- President**
Caroline Baker
 - VP-Education**
Pat Croal
 - VP-Membership**
Keith Hardy
 - VP-Public Relations**
Ravi Rai
 - Secretary**
David Hutcheson
 - Treasurer**
Mary Torno
 - Sergeant at arms**
Nate Otto

As the sun rises in a distance over the ocean, the water signifies the importance of liveliness. Our members and guests are always rejuvenated by the meetings. True to its name, the quality of meetings charges us up.

Have you ever looked at the rising sun early in the morning and felt the calmness of the surroundings? Well like you admire the Mother Nature, you inadvertently have evaluated. And yes, SML! is an advanced toastmasters club of evaluations.

Please take a moment to browse around and enjoy the new website. This website is a hard work & feedback of a lot of people. I specially wish to thank Theo Black, Orapat Sivtanpisit, Pat Croal, Keith Hardy and Caroline Baker for their continued support & feedback.



SML! Meeting: Oct 11, 2008

Mary Torno served as the Toastmaster. The theme was "Fall Colors"

Jim Niswonger gave a speech "Achieving your speaking goals" from Advance manual. Nate gave a speech titled "August 8, 2009" from Public Relations Manual #3 Persuasive approach.

General Evaluator: Ravi Rai

Eval team 1: Ron, Caroline & Mike Eval team 2: Orapat, Theo, Jane

The role of a grammarian was performed by a SML! member. The timing was performed by Bob Gausman. Keith was our videographer.

Mary gave a unique Fall Color gift to every member at the meeting.



"Giving Thanks"

SML! Meeting: Nov 8, 2008

Caroline Baker served as the Toastmaster. The theme was "Giving Thanks"

Keith Hardy gave a speech "High Time for Intervention" from Speeches by Management manual. He conducted a question & answer session to get audience participation.

Bob Gausman's gave a speech "Communication is the key for difficult times" from Public Relations Manual. Bob had interesting props.

General Evaluator: Orapat Sivtanpisit

Eval team 1: Harvey, Jim & Nate Eval team 2: Jane, unlisted, Mary M.

Word of the day "gratitude" was contributed by Ah Gram Ravi Rai. The timing was performed by Ravi Rai.

Ravi also served as Videographer. The sunny award was presented to the Orapat Sivatanpisit. She also presented the Evaluator of the Day to <????>. Refreshments were provided by ?????.

Our guests for the meeting included Violet Schmitz.

Members present: Caroline, Ravi, Nate, Orapat, Keith, Bob, Harvey, Jim, Jane, Mary M, Mary T.

* Some members have requested there name not be printed in our electronic media.



*"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or taken them with gratitude."
GK Chesterton*



SML! Meeting: Dec 13, 2008

By Pat Croal, Secretary

Hello SMLers - we had a great holiday SML meeting yesterday, Saturday Dec. 13, 2009. Thanks to those who attended and we certainly missed those absent!

Mary McGrath served as the Toastmaster. The theme was "Family Traditions"

Ravi gave a great Sales Training Seminar "Are you Ready for Selling?" and Rick helped us handle the stresses of the season with his topic "Everyone Needs a Hobby" (Speaking to Inform manual).

General Evaluator: not listed*

Eval team 1: Pat, Bob & Keith Eval team 2: Theo, Dave, Mary T.

Our word of the day "revelry" was contributed by Ah Gram Nate Otto and was used throughout the meeting. The timing was performed by Ron Pecoraro. It is always nice to see Ron as he is not often able to attend due to limited travel to Mpls from Colorado.

Caroline served as Videographer and presented the Sunny Award to the entire club as she stated "you bring sunshine to all!". She also presented the Evaluator of the Day to all of the evaluators as every evaluator got votes for best evaluator. Refreshments were provided by Rick, Pat, Theo & Mary T.

Our guests for the meeting included Bonnie Amundson (past member) and Violet Schmitz. They were invited to become members by our VPM Keith.

Members presen: Nate, Caroline, Mary M, unlisted*, Ron, Ravi, Pat, Keith, Theo, Bob, Mary T., Dave

Mary McGrath's new book

"The Teacher's reflective Calendar and Planning Journal"

An invaluable addition to briefcase or book bag, this week-by-week calendar provides teachers with a wealth of opportunities to consider each day's successes and challenges and to set new goals for the next day, week, or year. This thoughtful planning and organizational resource includes:

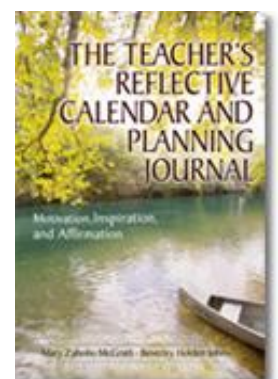
- A weekly planning calendar with writing space for every day of the year
- Monthly themes, professional tips, motivators, and affirmations
- Room to record your weekly goals and "To Do" lists

With room for daily and weekly reminders, memos, and reflections, this is an ideal planning tool for busy teachers-or the perfect gift for colleagues and friends!



"Family Traditions"

"Caroline enjoys the sunshine that SML! brings every 2nd Saturday of the month in her life."





Meeting Days:
Every 2nd Saturday

Time:
9.30 AM 

Place:
Coldwell Banker
Burnet Realty
7645 Curell Blvd
Woodbury,
MN 55125

Phone:
(651) 497-8924

E-mail:
khardy63@yahoo.com

*At
Saturday Morning Live!
Toastmasters,
we believe that
Every Toastmaster
receives real 'valu'
through
Quality Evaluations..*



Website!

Visit us at:

Sml.d6pages.com

SML! Holiday get together

By Ravi Rai, VP-Public Relations, Saturday Morning LIVE!

SML! holiday potluck is set to be held as follows:

Date: Jan 23, 2009 (Friday)

Time: ??

Address:

What to bring: a dish to share, a gift for white elephant

What to expect: Fun. Friendship, great time

Who is coordinating this: SML member

Contact Ravi for more information or to get in touch with the coordinator.



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.

Toastmasters Mission Statement

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.

LIVE! Wire is a quarterly publication for all SML! club members and future members.

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