



Live! Wire

June 2008



Saturday Morning Live!

Toastmasters International
Club 9196, Rivers Division,
District 6



From the Editor

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

It's great to be back with another edition of Live! Wire. When I took over the challenge of creating a newsletter, I had no idea what I was getting into. But thanks to all the support that I have received from so many of you, it goes to prove that where there is a will, there is a way.

As I write this editorial, I have so many wonderful thoughts that go through my mind. Those special moments at the club are specially the one that will remain with me in days to come. It takes a lot of team work to hold the monthly meetings. Getting the refreshments, greeting our guests, preparing our speakers and evaluation teams. all the work requires team effort. I love to observe the setting of the room by the first arrivals and then rearranging the desks before we leave.

Please also keep our fellow members and families in your prayers. While we may not be able to support them by our presence, our prayer is a small step that goes a long way.

Hope you enjoy this edition of Live! Wire. If you have any comments, suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me. This is your newsletter; feel free to share your views.

Have a wonderful summer.



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SML! at Convention

May 17, 2008

No convention is complete without SML. Members of Saturday Morning Live! had a table where literature from the club was shared with other advanced clubs. Mary Torno was at the convention very early to set up the display board. Keith Hardy was available during the afternoon session to explain to guests what SML! is all about. Now that's kudos to SML! team for PR efforts.



"Pat & Keith share the SML! information with President Chris Ford."



2008 Spring Convention

By Ravi Rai, ACG,ACB, VP-PR, SML!



What happens when you take small steps in the world...

Well you make a world of difference.....

Yes indeed. The organizers of 2008 Spring Convention had just that in mind, when then organized the whole convention at Four Point Sheraton in Minneapolis. What was really special was that Toastmasters International President Chris Ford and his partner Carol attended the spring convention. Chris had a great experience of Minnesota hospitality as District 6 hosted the event.



"District Trio Allan, Joan, Pat with Chris"

President Chris Ford, DTM. Mr. Ford, who resides in Casselman, Ontario Canada, was elected President of Toastmasters International August 17, 2007 at the 76th annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona. An active Toastmaster for over 25 years, Mr. Ford is a retired Canadian Forces brigadier-general.

Chris says most people underestimate their skills and potential for growth, but when armed with honesty and determination, there is no limit of the extent to which people can "shape" themselves. In Toastmasters, overcoming a fear of public speaking leads to increased self-confidence, which in turn spurs members on to face other challenges

Friday Fun night included Chris' keynote address "Toastmasters: Shaping Ourselves.. Shaping Our World". This was followed by Evaluation contest. SML! member Ravi Rai was the Toastmaster of the event. The target speaker was Bruce Trippet, past District Governor. He speech was titled "Open Adoption: A Love Story". Diane Windingland was judged the best evaluator while Vitalia Bryn-Pundik took the second place and Dan Grundtner took the third place.



"Pat along with Waheed and Toyin enjoying a Nigerian Dance on Friday Fun Night"

At Saturday's breakfast buffet we had the opportunity to hear President Chris talk on Dream Big. The attendees had few wonderful educational sessions to choose from. SML! member moderated a panel discussion titled "Making a difference in the world". The panelists were drawn from Toastmasters from various clubs who immigrated to United States. We shared how Toastmasters shaped our lives.

At the C&L luncheon, Jerry Seeman was awarded the Communication & Leadership award for District 6. Jerry shared his experience as a NFL official.

We had an opportunity to meet with candidates for district offices of 2008-2009. The forum was moderated by District Governor Pat Croal, DTM and also a SML! member.

The evening session included visit from a number of past district governors along with incoming and outgoing district officers. We were successful in making our current District Governor Pat Croal very emotional. Chris Ford gave a keynote Address titled "You're in better shape than you think". The evening witnessed a wonderful International Speech competition. Anurag Shukla placed first while Yolanda McIntosh and Mike Lust took 2nd & 3rd place respectively.

We took home some fine memories of the event. Hope you join us next year.



"SML! member Mary Torno with President Chris Ford and his partner Carol"



Even TI President needs evaluation..... 😊

By Ravi Rai, SML! member
May 19, 2008.

What a surprise? Chris Ford wondered if District 6 is good enough to evaluate a speech given by the President of Toastmasters International. Are we good enough? Sure we are....

Don Ritter got a wonderful opportunity to evaluate the keynote speech “*You are in better shape than you think!*”. Don may have done his best to blend in the crowd and secretively give evaluation, but inquisitive minds wanted to know.... If Chris likes to have evaluations for his speeches.... Sure enough... Catherine and Ed Sodergran asked Chris and he revealed the gentleman.

What an honor. Thanks to Don who stepped up to the plate to meticulously evaluate Chris’s speech. As a member of Saturday Morning Live! who believe in high quality evaluations, this evaluation was a great treat for both Chris and the club.....

Rivers Division Contest

By Ravi Rai, VP-Public Relations
April 11, 2008.

The Rivers Division Contest was held on April 11 at Dakota Hills Middle School.

The winner of Area 72 and SML! member Don Ritter represented Area 72 at the contest. In a tough international speech contest, he finished a prestigious 3rd position. Vitalia and Roger were judged 1st and 2nd.

New Member: Penny Pinkerton Gearing

Penny joined Saturday Morning Live! during a visit to our meeting in May. Penny has been in Toastmasters since January 2007. Penny is the outgoing Area 43 Governor for Metro Division. One of her current goals to complete my CL by the end of June but the major one is to earn her DTM within a year/year and a half, if possible.

She works as an insurance premium auditor in the area of workmen's compensation. According to her “...*I am the mother of three very active pre-teens - two boys and a girl - who constantly has me, put my Toastmaster negotiation and communication skills to the test...*”

Welcome aboard Penny.



Pat Croal recognizes Chris Ford by presenting a certificate.



SML! member Don Ritter tries hard to duck the photographer.. but the camera catches on



Dist Governor Pat Croal presenting a certificate of appreciation to SML! member Ravi Rai for serving as Toastmaster for Evaluation contest



Our newest member Penny (smiles for SML!)



Officer Elections

May 10, 2008

The SML! officers for 2008-2009 were elected during our May meeting.

President: Caroline Baker
 VP-Education: Tim Kelly (pending Acceptance)
 VP-Membership: Keith Hardy
 VP-Public Relations: Ravi Rai
 Secretary: Pat Croal
 Treasurer: Mary Torno
 SAA: <open>

Mary McGrath's co authors a new book

**Reaching Students with Diverse Disabilities:
 Cross Categorical Ideas and Activities**
Co Author: Beverly H Johns



Currently, special educators are being asked to address varied needs of children with disabilities placed together in cross categorical settings. This book gives educators a clear understanding of IDEA definitions for learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, mental retardation, and autism. From there, readers will learn the key strategies that work best for each grouping of students and how to enhance the curriculum or created lessons for cross categorical groups. This unique book offers teachers a means to be an effective special educator across the spectrum of their duties.

As Toastmasters, we value the use of our language. Though we are a club for speakers, Mary believes that this assists us with writing as well.

SML! Road Show at Thriftbuilders

By Ravi Rai, Keith Hardy, Orapat Sivatanpisit

On May 27, Thriftbuilders Toastmasters got a taste of the group evaluation, a signature of Saturday Morning Live!'s meetings. Jane Michelkamp who is a member of Thriftbuilders led a workshop on "How To Activate The Inactive Members." We witnessed a wonderful role playing, buzz sessions and some wonderful ideas shared by members. The SML! team invited the members of the club to experience SML's high quality evaluation atmosphere.

[Would you like a team of SML! evaluation team visit your club and conduct a group evaluation!! Please contact Ravi Rai VP – Public Relations. We would be glad to hold one such evaluation.](#)

*"Saturday Morning Live!
 celebrated its 15th year.."*



Analysis of Member Interest Survey

Shared By Bob Gausman, VP Membership, Saturday Morning Live!

What attributes make our club an enjoyable experience for you?

Discussion: Three attributes of the club are often mentioned – commitment to excellence, the group evaluations, and platform skills.

In addition, the club members describe a sense of community, of diverse individuals working toward common goals. The process includes the sharing, the learning, the challenge, the leadership, and the fun.

What inspired you to join Saturday Morning Live!?

A personal invitation is important. Other answers relate to the quality of the experience, and are comparable to answers provided for the first question.

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?

Several members show significant interest in a second meeting, both with SML! format and with a regular meeting format. Another option for additional speeches involves participation with other clubs. An extra meeting of SML! would help with points for the Distinguished Club Plan. Perhaps the club could explore this question in the future.

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

The members provided a wealth of ideas for attracting members, but the answers are almost all different. Ideas include evaluation teams, quality meetings, advertising, special events and speakers, refreshments, guest packs, mentors, confident mood, providing members with flyers, open houses, and the Elusive Gilded Gavel. One member questioned if we wanted to expand.

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

Answers include focusing efforts on members with that goal, world championship evaluations, tapes of world championship speeches, and making additional speeches. Please refer to the actual answers below.

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

Answers include more professionalism, more professional recruiting, more effective recruiting of younger Toastmasters, planning, opening membership to people outside Toastmasters, more involvement, and better time management. Please refer to the actual answers below.

Questionnaire Responses: Responses include slight editing for grammar, continuity, and preserving anonymity (little time was provided for answering the questions at the meeting).



*“...Do the ordinary...
the extraordinary way....”*

SML! Officers

President
Harvey Bernard

VP-Education
Caroline Baker

VP-Membership
Robert Gausman

VP-Public Relations
Ravi Rai

Secretary
Don Ritter

Treasurer
Mary Torno

Sergeant at arms
Tim Kelley





Meeting Days:
Every 2nd Saturday

Time:
9.30 AM 

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

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

Website!

Visit us at:

Sml.d6pages.com

Nate Otto: No longer lonely...

Nate shared with us that he is engaged. During the meeting warm up he shared with us the actual experience of proposing and the reaction. I wish I can recreate all the excitement he and his fiancée had. But then some things are better to think about. We wish Nate and his fiancée a very blissful journey ahead of them.

Craig's list of questions

Shared By Bob Gausman, VP Membership, Saturday Morning Live!

Sometimes the best way to get better at doing longer speeches is to analyze full-length speeches by other professionals. Ask questions such as...

- * What's the structure?
- * What kind of content is there (i.e. stories, analogies, activities, points, etc.)?
- * What delivery strategies were used?
- * How often did he include humor?
- * How many stories did he tell?
- * How did he sell the points?
- * Most importantly - how did he involve the audience?

Interesting note: I had surgery at 8:30am and gave this speech at 11:30am. The show must go on and your audience must never know you're hurting.

Craig Valentine

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 monthly publication for all SML! club members and future members.

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