



# SOUTH SHORE SOLILOQUY NEWSLETTER

District 31 - Club 5541

April/May 2002

We meet Tuesdays  
from 7:30 p.m. to  
9:30 p.m. in the  
Kingston Public  
Library located at 6  
Green Street,  
Kingston, MA

**GUESTS ARE  
WELCOME TO  
JOIN ANY OF OUR  
CLUB MEETINGS.**

Many thanks to the  
contributors of this  
volume; Rick Devine,  
Barbara Augello, George  
Boerger and John  
O'Leary

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## President's Forum

*By Rick Devine, CTM*

We are quickly approaching the close of the current Toastmaster season on June 25<sup>th</sup>. What a productive season it has been! I would like to reflect on the year so far, highlight our club's strengths and achievements, and offer an opinion on how we may become a stronger club. You might call this an evaluation!

Our Area Governor, Elizabeth Giordani, visited our club twice this year. After each visit Elizabeth prepared an "Area Governor Club Visit" report that is reviewed by both the District Governor and Toastmasters International. Listed below are just some of the strengths that Elizabeth noted about our club.

### (1) We are a club with many talented members.

I could not agree more. Evidence of this can be seen in the club's historical success in speech contests. But the easiest way to see the abundance of talent is to simply watch and listen each week. We are loaded with talent and it is apparent at every meeting. This is a *good thing for new members!* Yes, those skilled and seasoned communicators you see up there can be intimidating but what better environment for you to learn and thrive! Certainly your chances of reaching your goals are better when inspired by such talent.

### (2) We execute quality meetings.

We are a talented and enthusiastic group who execute great meetings. One specific example was our introductions. Members have done a great job, by and large, remembering to provide introductions and keeping them

original, creative, and up to date. Other components of our meetings include the "Success Story" feature, the fact that our Toastmasters often include a theme, and that the membership takes the time to write the evaluation briefs for each speaker.

### (3) Our meetings are very positive and that there is an atmosphere of safety and support.

There's more:

- We have a healthy membership -- currently 30 members.
- All new members are immediately given materials and assigned a mentor. This has fostered quick participation by our new members.
- Our revised induction ceremony has been met with a positive response.
- Our Toastmasters have consistently allowed proper meeting time to ensure that the Table Topics program is included each week. This indicates that all of our members are properly preparing for a smooth and efficient meeting.
- The quality of our evaluations is very good and continues to grow. It is encouraging to see and hear members continuously recognize the importance of evaluations.
- We are now a club with a bi-monthly newsletter and a Web site.
- We have consistently had three or four speakers at every meeting.
- Two of our members recently participated in speech contests at the division level.
- Many friendships have developed within the club.
- Members pay their dues on time.

*Continued on next page*

## President's Forum

*Continued from page 1*

My one wish for the club is that a greater spirit of cooperation accompany that dues check. To be sure, your membership and that payment are greatly appreciated. And there are unquestionably a good number of members who not only attend regularly but who also sign up in advance for roles and prepare for them. And certainly there are a few who consistently rise to the occasion by taking on multiple roles at meetings.

I'm not advocating that members should boost their attendance [although it would be great to see more members at each meeting]. Rather, I'm suggesting that members take a more active part in signing up for meeting roles. There are at least 15 roles per meeting and we almost always have 15 in attendance. Yet often one or two members take on multiple roles. This means someone is in attendance without a role. We're all here to participate, not to be spectators.

Our VP of Education has done a terrific job reaching out to members via email letting everyone know what's available even if they didn't make it to the last meeting. When you don't respond or don't sign up a lot of effort goes into filling holes and this usually occurs in the minutes before the meeting starts. I find it difficult to enjoy a meeting when I have multiple roles. Showing up uncommitted and then filling an empty role is helpful of course, but your club and the person donating her time to manage the roster deserve more than that.

The next time this newsletter is released there will be a new group of officers. Let's give them our full support! The first several weeks are quite challenging particularly for those who have never held an officer position before. Any help you can offer in the way of time, energy or experience would be greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, I hope everyone will be able to attend the last meeting of this Toastmaster year that is our annual banquet on June 25. Also do your best to make our two summer meetings on August 13 and 27. Please consider competing in the club's Humorous Speech Contest in the fall. And above all, **remember to set goals and strive for them!**

## Mark your calendar



### JUNE 25, 2002

The end of the current Toastmaster season is quickly winding down. We will be conducting our annual banquet on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Halifax Country Club – more details below.

### SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

**July:** No meetings

**August:** Meetings on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**September:** No meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Weekly meetings resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Annual banquet - June 25

We will close out the current Toastmaster year at our annual banquet to be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2002.

This year's banquet will be held at the **COUNTRY CLUB OF HALIFAX** from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. The facility is located at **100 Country Club Drive, Halifax, MA 02338**.

The cost is **\$25 per person**. Please make your checks payable to **SOUTH SHORE SOLILOQUY**. Payments are due to Becky Freer\* by June 14, 2002.

Please mark your calendar and join us for an exciting evening!

You may select one of the following menu choices.

- 1) Baked stuffed boneless breast of chicken
- 2) Baked fillet of schrod

*All meals are served with rolls, butter, garden salad, oven roasted potatoes, green beans, strawberry shortcake and coffee/tea. Cash bar available.*

Sign-up sheets and driving directions will be circulated at club meetings beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>.

\* Becky Freer \*\* D-2-2 Lydon Lane, Halifax, MA 02338 \*\* 781.294.9258 \*\* [freer\\_rebecca@hotmail.com](mailto:freer_rebecca@hotmail.com)

# Speech Contests ... a testimonial

By Barbara Augello, ATM-S, CL

When I heard my name as the runner up and received my trophy at the International Speech Contest, Division level, I had mixed emotions. Disappointment: I hadn't won! Relief: I don't have to do this again! Pride: I had done a great job! Above all, I felt a great sense of accomplishment that I had put a lot of effort into this one speech and it had paid off. In winning the area level, I had achieved a new personal level of contest success, a level that few Toastmasters rise to. This was indeed something to be proud of.

It was a wonderful experience. I urge everyone to enter speech contests. They are challenging, they are fun and they give you recognition. But the bottom line is: they make you a better speaker. When you compete, you reach down and give your best performance. You take the time to rehearse. You ask for suggestions. All of this contributes to your growth and improvement as a speaker. Looking back, I see that each time I have entered a contest I have learned something about myself. Having your Toastmaster friends encouraging you and offering their tips is a very gratifying experience as well. It shows you the extent of the love and friendship that abounds in our club.

This speech was a lot of fun for me, because it enabled me to relive an exciting event: my first completed marathon. The first time I gave the speech, many club members offered suggestions. I considered every one, and used many. In the end, I had to decide what approaches fit me best. These are decisions that only the speaker can know. This leads me to a wonderful result of speaking in contests: you get to know yourself better and develop your own personal style. Each decision you make leads to a heightened sense of who you are as a speaker. For example, one suggestion I received was to add music to the presentation. I gave this some considerable thought. Using music wasn't something I had ever done. Yet, I could see that there were some very dramatic moments in my speech that the right music might enhance. I knew it had to be a selection that would help interpret how I was feeling. I wanted it to be almost an extension of my words, of me. Yet, the volume, the timing had to be perfect. Used incorrectly, the music could ruin the speech. In the end, I believed it added something that I just could not have put into words.

Whether you come in first or last in a speech contest, you are a winner. Each time you set foot on that contest stage at any level, you show that you have the courage to take risks and step out of your comfort zone. And isn't that what Toastmasters is all about?

Good luck, fellow Toastmasters. See you at the next contest!



## Spotlight recognition!

### Ice Breaker speeches (CTM)

Rhonda Dravenstadt (3/5/02)  
Anne Cresswell (4/23/02)

### Competent Toastmaster

Michael Rogers (3/5/02)

### Evaluation contest

Robin Storesund  
Club winner (3/26/02)  
Area F-3 runner-up (4/2/02)

### International Speech contest

Barbara Augello  
Club winner (3/26/02)  
Area F-3 winner (4/2/02)  
Division F runner-up (4/20/02)

### Welcome New Members

Anne Cresswell and Bob Symes

**"A healthy attitude is contagious but  
don't wait to catch it from others.  
Be a carrier."**

~Author Unknown~

## Creating the Best Club Climate

By George Boerger, ATM-B

The "climate" of any organization is directly related to the way its members interact. The following article is based upon the Toastmasters International "Successful Club Series". It identifies some of the most important things that we should be doing to make sure that our great club maintains its strength and continues to grow.

Toastmasters International (TI) suggests three main criteria essential in creating the best club climate. At the South Shore Soliloquy we do a lot of positive things. In fact, we are doing most, if not all, of the items suggested by TI. A review of these items is important to make sure that every member knows what these important elements are that make our club one of the best in Massachusetts.

### "Set a Good Example for Others"

We should all strive to arrive prepared and on time to our meetings. If at all possible we should even try to arrive to the meeting 10 minutes early! We should offer to help when we see that our assistance is needed such as volunteering for committees and offices. Above all, we need to be supportive of each other.

### "Roll Out the Welcome Mat to Guests"

To maintain our strength it is imperative that we continue to bring in new members. When we have a visitor we should greet them in a friendly fashion. Please make a point of visiting with guests during the break and don't forget to invite them to join. Even if you cannot talk with a guest for a long time please be sure to introduce yourself and just say hello. Most of us thought about joining a Toastmasters' club for months if not years before we joined. Let's not forget to give the encouragement to a guest that **NOW** is a great time to join.

### "Show Members that We Care"

What better way to say that we care about another member than to volunteer to serve as a mentor? We also should remember to pay attention to continuing members and not forget that there are other goals out there besides the CTM. We should all be considerate – follow that very simple age old rule -- treat each other as we would want to be treated. Evaluations are important to individual development and we should strive to give excellent formal oral evaluations as well as trying to fill out those individual written evaluation "slips" whenever possible. When someone does a good job don't forget to recognize their achievement – send a note or drop them an e-mail. Finally, we should continue to foster camaraderie that exists among our members. We really are a very nice group of people!

South Shore Soliloquy has an excellent club climate and we should do two things. Enjoy the great club that we have and continue to do all of the things listed above to make sure that South Shore Soliloquy remains a great, supportive and fun place to learn.

### SOUTH SHORE SOLILOQUY

A non-profit Toastmasters International organization

For more information please contact:

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## Distinguished Club Program Achieving Club Success

Toastmasters International recognizes club achievement through a series of requirements known as the Distinguished Club Program. The following 10 criteria are judged for each club during the period of July 1 through June 30.

- 1) 2 CTMs: **Mike & Maureen**
- 2) 2 more CTMs: **Mary & Donna by June 30<sup>th</sup>!!**
- 3) 1 ATM-B or ATM-S or ATM-G: **George**
- 4) 1 more ATM-B, ATM-S, ATM-G: **John**
- 5) 1 CL or AL or DTM: **George**
- 6) 1 more CL or AL or DTM:
- 7) 4 new members: **Nuccio, Emily, Art, Mercedes**
- 8) 4 more new members: **Rhonda, Pat, Anne, Bob**
- 9) 4 officers trained during each of the two training periods
- 10) 1 semi-annual report & 1 officer list submitted to Toastmasters International headquarters on time: **Mary, Marie**

If a club achieves the following points then they will have achieved the following designations:

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 5 of 10 points | = Distinguished            |
| 7 of 10 points | = Select Distinguished     |
| 9 of 10 points | = Presidents Distinguished |

⇒ **By June 30, 2002, South Shore Soliloquy is**