

The CLARION

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The Official Newsletter of District 59P

Dear Fellow Toastmasters

The Toastmaster Year 2000-2001 has come to an end. My term as the District Governor for Continental Europe is over. Are there any results? Yes, there are two that I would like to mention.

The first thing is a personal insight, something that I learned about myself during this year. I discovered a factor that made being a district governor much harder for me than, say, being a club president. Of course, the workload is heavier, but there was something disproportionate about it. It took me the better part of the year to realize that the important factor is the remoteness.

As a club president, I saw most of the club members twice a month. I received almost immediate feedback, there was a direct and mutual exchange of ideas and feelings. Members of our district executive committee, however, have to rely mostly on email. This is certainly a very helpful invention and a geographically large district like ours can hardly be run without it. But I realized that after weeks or even months of a strict diet of only exchanging emails with the committee members, I became uneasy. I felt cut off and not connected to the pool of ideas, plans and ambitions present in our district. And then a telephone chat or, even better, a conversa-

tion face to face changed everything back to normal and enjoyable!

This is my insight. To work with people, I need to see and listen to them, at least from time to time. In this respect, the District Spring Conference in Copenhagen was again very helpful. I want to thank all of the participants for the encouraging feedback they gave me there. It is appreciated more than you could imagine.

I also would like to thank the members of the District Executive Committee 2000-2001 for their dedicated and excellent work. These joint efforts have been rewarded --- this is the second result I wanted to present --- our district, District 59p, has become a Distinguished District in its very first year of existence.



Congratulations to all and happy celebrating!

Dirk Husfeld, ATM-S, CL

A new star is born
chartering on June 11, 2001
Verbalzyme in the Netherlands
Club No.9821/ Area 10

Congratulations to all !!!

Sponsor: Mike Adubato
Sponsor: Gerard van Geleuken
Mentor: Gerard Poolman

Newly chartered!

The second Munich German-speaking club has just received its charter. Its name and number is Rhetorenschmiede, 5176 founded by Josef Killinger.

Congratulations Josef!

Subscribe now!

Would you like to receive the CLARION electronically? Then subscribe to Clarion egroups now. Just send an e-mail to Christoph@Stoppok.net There are already 387 Toastmasters subscribing to the CLARION egroup throughout Europe.

Next Clarion Deadline
September 15th.
Please send your contributions to:
knotts@interquest.de

For a sneak preview of the coming District 59P's Fall Conference go to:
www.toastmasters-wiesbaden.de/dcp2000-europe.html

"Different" Is Not "Wrong"

Alain Petillot, ATMG/CL
Lieutenant Governor
Education & Training 2000/01



Allow me to share with you three lessons regarding training I learned during this year as D59P Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, LGET.

Number one - Anyone in charge of training should listen to the audience before a session. Knowing the audience's expectations is a must. A training session is not something you can force on an audience. As a participant, I myself listen more carefully when sub-

jects of interest to me are broached. So an effective training session is an answer to more or less clearly expressed audience expectations.

This year it was my task to decipher these expectations. Asking questions, listening to people and their answers is a crucial first step of any successful training session.

Number two - Toastmasters is a very special educational organization, distinguishing itself from "official" ones such as high schools or universities. Our mission is NOT to have all members attain the same level of excellence. Toastmasters make progress at their own pace. Consequently, the speaking skills of two CTMs could be quite different. No one, at any level, has the right to decide if a mem-

ber is, or is not, good enough to be a CTM, ATM, or CL, or DTM. It is up to each of us to make that decision.

Number three - Toastmasters is a place for diversity. At Toastmasters, "different" is not "wrong". There are only three things required by T.I.:

- oral manual speeches
- oral evaluations of these speeches
- a business meeting at least once a month

As you can see, the door is wide open for a great variety of meetings and, as in genetics, variety is the key to survival. Thanks to all of you who helped me during my term as LGET. Your suggestions and comments, your attendance and participation in this year's training programs were a constant support when I needed them.

Friends Helping Friends Succeed!



Christoph Stoppok, ATM-B/AL, Lieutenant Governor Marketing 2000/01

We're growing! This has become even more of a reality in the last twelve months in Europe. New clubs have been founded in Spangdahlem, Cologne, Giessen, Hanover, Hamburg, and Munich. Each of these new clubs received tremendous support from Toastmasters from other clubs.

Once there is a need for a club in any area, helping hands are not far away. So we are well on the way to becoming a full district. To reach this goal, we'll need to have at least 60 clubs within the next two years. Currently we have 51 clubs in our provisional district.

If more people know about Toastmasters, reaching this goal should be no problem at all. Europe now has more than 1000 Toastmasters. That makes at least 2000 helping hands to support each new club. Just think of the tremendous resources we have at our disposal!

So what do we need to do now? What I have learnt during my term as Lieutenant Governor Marketing was to let the world i.e. Europe know all about Toastmasters. The lesson we've learnt is that wherever there is awareness about Toastmasters, there is interest. And if there is no club in the area, people are eager to start one. No doubt about it, there are people with a need for the Toastmasters program all over Europe.

So start spreading the news!

Fellow Toastmasters,

Nearly every experienced Toastmaster has heard the word GROWTH within the context of Toastmasters. Building new clubs to give more people the opportunity to participate in the Toastmasters program has been my personal goal as out-going Public Relations Officer and will continue to be in my role as Lieutenant Governor of Membership. The District 59P Board set new club goals in the District High Performance Plan last September.

In 2001-2002, European Toastmasters should build 15 new clubs. I feel we can reach this goal relatively easily by building new clubs in the local language. Take a look at Germany. In just one year, 6 clubs were chartered in Germany. Although Spangdahlem and Giessen are English-speaking clubs, Cologne, Hanover, Munich and Heimstetten have set up clubs in German. So the potential for growth in the local language is enormous.

Don't focus on building only English-language clubs. Yes, it is the business language at Toastmasters and post-war military clubs were originally set up to be held in English. However, if we want to attract new members, the future lies in building clubs in the local language.

Growth is the Magic Word



Andreas J. Schmidt ATM-S/CL
Public Relations Officer 2000/01

Spring 2001 Contest Winners

SPEECH CONTEST

1st Place
Matthias Senn, CTM/CL
Munich Prostmasters

Runner-up
Vince Schettini, ATM-B/CL
Stammtisch Wiesbaden

EVALUATION CONTEST

1st Place
Julie Matthews, TM
Gothenburg Toastmasters

Runner-up
Christopher Magyar, ATM-S/CL
Munich Prostmasters



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FRENCH

Speech

1st place
Bernadette Morineau
CTM, Agora 75

Evaluation

1st place
Bernadette Morineau
CTM, Agora 75

2nd place
Alain Petillot
ATMG/CL
Agora 75

GERMAN

Evaluation

1st place
Greg Palmer
ATMB/CL
Heidelberg

2nd place
Octavia Macklin, TM

J'en reprends pour un an

Odile Petillot, ATMS/CL
coordinatrice du secteur 3 pour 2000 - 2001



Il y aura bientôt une année pleine, je prenais mes fonctions de coordinatrice du secteur 3, le petit "camp retranché" francophone, six clubs "spécifiques" dans notre District 59, où l'on s'exerce à s'exprimer majoritairement en anglais.

Quelle expérience ! Incontestablement mes fonctions m'ont beaucoup apporté : j'ai découvert à travers elles des modes de fonctionnement différents, des personnalités avec lesquelles il fallait compter, des collaborateurs dévoués et enthousiastes, des leaders potentiels, des Toastmasters talentueux. J'ai parcouru des milliers de kilomètres, jonglé avec les horaires, organisé des journées de formation, visité tous les clubs, dans lesquels l'accueil fut partout chaleureux !

J'ai appris à déléguer, notamment lors de l'organisation des conférences d'automne à Valenciennes et de printemps à Orléans. Dans les deux cas, mes attentes ont été superbement comblées par des équipes efficaces, responsables et organisées : de l'avis général, et j'y souscris largement, ces deux manifestations furent de belle tenue et de grande qualité. J'en remercie Eloquence Hainaut et Calliope.

J'ai également trouvé des volontaires pour assurer des formations, que ce soit lors des conférences ou lors des sessions de formation bisannuelles des membres de bureaux. J'ai pu constater que ceux qui ont conduit des sessions éducatives y ont trouvé à la fois de l'intérêt et du plaisir. Ils ont pu ainsi trouver à l'occasion de remplir les conditions pour devenir Leaders Compétents, titre auquel devrait aspirer tout Toastmaster Compétent.

Côté ombre, j'ai aussi découvert que tous les clubs n'en étaient pas au même niveau d'organisation, certains ignorant semble-t-il totalement les normes de base de fonctionnement attendues par Toastmasters International. J'ai dû "ramer" dur (et pour l'un d'entre eux au moins l'Amérique est encore très loin !), cent fois sur le métier remettre mon ouvrage, conseiller, expliquer, demander, exiger enfin qu'une chose aussi simple que la cotisation soit payée (je ne dis pas dans les délais, non, simplement payée !). J'ai vu des réunions sans programme, des membres dont personne n'assurait le suivi, des bureaux qui ne savaient comment inscrire un nouveau membre. Je tombais de haut !

Mais je ne voudrais pas rester sur cette note amère : car même si les questions administratives n'emportent pas l'adhésion générale, la très haute qualité des concours du secteur m'a mis quelque baume au cœur ! Et puis, je suis du genre tenace, les Toastmasters du secteur 3 ont pu s'en rendre compte : alors, pour faire mieux l'an prochain - c'est-à-dire avoir davantage de Clubs remarquables - j'ai accepté : c'est dit, j'en reprends pour un an !

The Best Laid Plans . . .

Denise Anne Magyar, ATM-S/CL
a.k.a.
Denny Deadline, Clarion Editor



I'm a planner. However, I never planned to be Clarion Editor for two years. Yet, here I am working on my eighth and final issue. After two terms, it's time to move on to new challenges and make room for others. To tell the truth, one reason for my stepping forward as Clarion editor was because I believed the job would be easy and predictable, a piece of cake for this particular planner. However, a better description would have been "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry". Thank you Robert Burns or, in modern-day lingo, things never go according to plan. To a planner, where predictability is prized and change despised, that's a nightmare! Yet, if I hadn't had this opportunity, I never would have learned to deal with the goblins of change. I would have still been hiding under my proverbial bed covers. For that, I have Toastmasters and the Executive Committee to thank for giving me the encouragement not only to work on my strengths, but to strengthen my weaknesses as well. And let's face it, who's perfect? We all need to grow in some area or another and we all need a safe environment to do it in. At work is certainly not the place to start experimenting with communication and leadership techniques. There, it's a matter of sink or swim. Who wants to take that kind of a chance? Yet at Toastmasters, the motto has always been, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again". So what if a project doesn't go according to plan? Just learn from your mistakes and do it again. No Toastmaster will ever fault you for making an honest effort.

As I was saying, my term as Clarion editor is at a close and new challenges await me. I will be succeeding, as Public Relations Officer, Andreas J. Schmidt and Christoph Stoppok who came before him. Although it won't be easy to fill their shoes, I was nevertheless eager to make my mark and leave an equally credible pair of shoes for my successor to fill. Yet after speaking to Ted Corcoran, our 3rd vice president of Toastmasters International and once-District 71 Public Relations Officer, I learned that my job was not to reap the rewards of my work during my term, but rather to sow the seeds for my successors to harvest. Oh well, "The best laid plans, etc."



Before I close, I would like to introduce your new Clarion editor, John Knotts, CTM. John is a technical sergeant in the USAF working at Headquarters United States Air Forces at Ramstein. He is a native of Michigan and a member of both the Ramstein and Kaiserslautern Toastmasters Clubs. In fact, John has just completed an exceptional tour of duty as Vice President of Membership for Ramstein. Recently, he has been recognized as one of just 12 Kaiserslautern Military Community Volunteers of the Year.

John, now what words of wisdom could I offer before you take over as Clarion Editor? Well, keep in mind Robert Burn's words and expect the unexpected. Having said that, there has been one constant during my terms as Clarion editor and that has been the executive committee. My thanks go to both the CCET and District 59P executive officers, those who came to my rescue with resources and to my ever-vigilant, never tiring proof reader, Christopher Magyar. All of you have been infinitely more dependable than any PC, hardware or software on the market. Thank you one and all!

KNOW . . .

- ™ the Mission of your Club, the District and Toastmasters International (TMI).
- ™ the Toastmaster's Promise.
- ™ the essentials of performing every duty of other members on the Executive Council.
- ™ your club's current status in the TMI Distinguished Club Program.
- ™ no Toastmasters club runs itself.
- ™ how to perform every meeting duty in the club.
- ™ how to fill out a membership application.
- ™ how to fill out and order supplies from the TMI Catalog.
- ™ that the essence of a solid team is: Together, Everyone Achieves More.

READ . . .

- ™ the TMI guide, which pertains to your club officer position.
- ™ the Member Handbook of your club.

PARTICIPATE IN . . .

- ™ district-sponsored club officer training.
- ™ Club Success Plan.
- ™ every club and Club Executive Council Meeting if possible.

BE . . .

- ™ an ambassador and a recruiter for your club.

- ™ the best possible member of your club.
- ™ acquainted with the TMI, District, and Club WWW sites.
- ™ a Competent Leader before the end of your term.
- ™ Conscientious.

* If you cannot attend a club meeting, event, or activity, send regrets and make sure any club business is taken care of beforehand or by somebody else who will be in attendance.

* If you need help, ask for it.

* If you don't need help, ask if someone else does.

MAKE SURE YOUR SUCCESSOR HAS AN EASIER JOB!

SET . . .

- ™ the club up for success in the future.
- ™ and achieve at least one goal that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of your club.

HAVE . . .

- ™ a handoff/handshake session with your predecessor or successor before taking or leaving office.
- ™ a working knowledge of Parliamentary Procedures.
- ™ some semblance of a Continuity Book.

. . . and have FUN!

Ralph T. Jones, Jr. ATM-S/AL
Ramstein, Kaiserslautern, Eifel Toastmasters Clubs