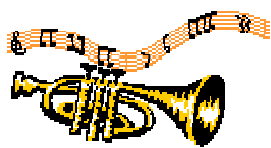


# The Clarion



## Toastmasters International District 59

November 2004

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## Be A Mentor!

What keeps me in Toastmasters? First of all the relationships and friendships I have developed through all those years!

Toastmasters friendships have indeed very special qualities: they provide support and empathy from people who *want* you to succeed, who give you valuable feedback and whom you know you can rely on.

Well, if your Toastmasters friends have helped you succeed, wouldn't you like to return the favor?

There is one very simple way to do so, by mentoring one or several new members. What can be more rewarding than giving them advice, supporting them actively in their struggle against their fear to stand up and speak, and witnessing how quickly they grow and improve?

Be there when they need you, be it when they prepare and rehearse their presentation, when they deliver their speech – and feel your smiling and encouraging presence – or after delivery – to congratulate them or (it happens!) to help them get over their frustration - and give

them the gentle push that will get them going.

Our Toastmasters clubs have no teachers, no gurus; our method is totally based on interactivity and solidarity: we are here for each other, and seasoned Toastmasters should all volunteer to mentor new comers: believe me, it is a satisfying experience and you won't regret it!

So, next time you see your vice-president for membership, do me a favor: propose to be a mentor. You've been helped by your fellow Toastmasters when you needed them: now it's your turn. Make a commitment to continue building Toastmasters friendships!

Let's aim high all together, not only for our own sake but first of all for all those who could greatly benefit from our help!

*Your District Governor,  
Odile Petillot, DTM*



## Voting At District Council Meetings

The District conferences give the District Council the opportunity to meet and discuss important issues concerning the District. A District Council meeting includes reports of the District Executive officers, announcements of future conferences, and in spring, election of the new committee and report of the audit committee.

Voting members of the District Council are the District Executive Committee and the Club President and Vice President Education of each Club. Each is entitled to one vote in the District Council. The Club President or the Vice President Education may designate any member of the Club to act as proxy. No other proxies are allowed. In the event a member carries both proxies from the Club ( from the

President or Vice President Education), he or she is entitled to two votes. If he or she is also a District officer, he or she is entitled to a maximum of three votes. Even if a member belongs to more than one Club, he or she is entitled to a maximum of two votes, or three votes if the member is also District officer.

Committee Chairmen and others whose participation the Council requires may attend.

Toastmasters attending the District Conferences and who are not voting members of the Council or their proxies may attend but not participate in Council deliberations.

*Ileana Christodorescu, Public Relations  
Officer and Nancy Jans, Secretary*

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### New On The Web!



- District Objectives and Budget for 2004/2005
- Agenda of the District Council meeting in Berlin, November 20th
- European Toastmasters in the Media
- Guidelines for Financial Assistance for Officer Training, Contests, Conferences

# Lessons Learnt



Looking back on my term as District Governor, I realize how much this unique opportunity has helped me to grow as a communicator and a leader. Whether you're a Toastmaster just starting out, or a veteran, there is always a bounty of insight and knowledge to be harvested from the experience of other Toastmasters. Below are just a few things I've learnt along the way.

**Don't Put Murphy's Law To The Ultimate Test** - If things can go wrong under normal circumstances, just imagine what could happen by waiting until the last minute. Whether serving the member's needs or scheduling your next speech, you will still need to coordinate with other Toastmasters. By putting it off, you will be inviting Murphy to come between you and your success.

**Show You Care** - Life often has a habit of coming between us and our best intentions. So if Toastmasters business or goals go unattended, the distracted officer or member might think nobody will notice or worse, nobody will care. However, by showing an interest, by asking how your club is doing in its goals, or how a fellow member is coming along, your answer to who cares will be: I do!

**Mentor, Don't Meddle** - I'm sure you've heard the Frank Sinatra hit *I Did It My Way*. However when mentoring a budding communicator or future leader, take care not to make your motto: You'll do it MY way! As mentors, we are meant to guide rather than control. So when our protégées finally achieve their goals, they'll be able to sing: I did it my way!

**Return Messages** - This one's from our Public Relations Officer, Ileana Christodorescu. When receiving a message on your answering machine or e-mail from a fellow Toastmaster, do take a minute to reply, even if it is just to say you have no time but will get back with an answer later. But please don't leave the Toastmaster on the other end hanging.

**Never Underestimate the Power of Recognition** - It can turn weary Toastmasters into dynamos of enthusiasm. I learnt that first hand at the Golden Gavel Luncheon in Reno, Nevada, as I, along with my fellow President's Distinguished District Governors, sat on stage before an applauding audience of 2,000. I left so energized that I felt I could have out lasted the DURACELL® bunny.

**Measure Success** - Although Toastmasters is not a pass/fail organization, we still need to somehow measure personal progress. One way is to ask the following questions. If we can say yes to the questions below by the end of each Toastmaster year, we're doing just fine.

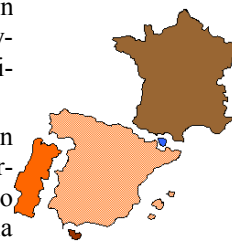
1. Have I given it my best?
2. Have I moved out of my comfort zone?
3. Is there a change in the me when I started and the me today?
4. Have I contributed in some way to the success of my fellow Toastmaster?

*Aim high and full steam ahead! Denise Anne Magyar, DTM, IPDG*

## Division A (France & Spain) Aiming High - We Are Achievers!

My fellow Toastmasters. Division "A" is "Aiming High!". Ray Kroc, the founder of the largest and greatest fast food chain in the world - McDonalds - spoke endlessly about the individual's contribution to the company. He argued - "A well-run restaurant is like a winning Sports team, it makes the most of every member's talent". The same holds for us in Toastmasters to take this enormous pool of talent lying within our individual Clubs, our Area and our Division. Together we are Achievers.

Division "A" consists of France and Spain. Division "A" consists of 4 Areas. 2 Areas in France and 2 Areas in Spain. Our immediate goal and focus is to build Division Gaul (France) and Division Iberia (Spain) by July 2005. This will require building 1 new area in each country. Building new clubs in both countries is and will be a challenge. And Division "A" is up to the task. Here in Division "A" we are not looking for Club builders, but Area builders. And we have succeeded.



As a Toastmaster member these past 20 years, I have learned as a leader from my Toastmaster peers here in Europe that we should encourage, not discourage. We should motivate, not castigate. To not be a wet blanket, be a candle lighter. To be anxious to improve rather than disapprove. Be more interested in getting action rather than fixing the blame for inaction. Building successful teams together and bringing out the best in our membership. All new members bring a positive contribution to the table.

Toastmasters International has the finest communication and leadership program in the world today. This is our organization - made exciting, dynamic, enriching and rewarding. We in Division "A" are Achievers for we are Aiming High - Division Gaul / Division Iberia July 2005! Wish us continued success.

**Mike Monroy, DTM**  
**Division A Governor 2004-2005**  
**Rota (Cadiz) Spain**

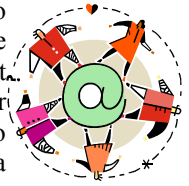
## Online Toastmasters

The Toastmaster's weekly meeting is about to begin and we have members and guests from the UK, Thailand, Russia, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Singapore, France and Spain joining the meeting from the comfort of their own computer!

What was once a science fiction or just an idea is quickly becoming a reality. The first, fully interactive, Online Toastmasters Club is being launched by the Founder and Chartering President of the "Achievers" club in Marbella, Spain, as well as Ass. Area Governor and Ass. Division A Governor, Barbara Hofmeister in collaboration with the ICON Online Training Company ([www.iconfs.com](http://www.iconfs.com)), who have a multimillion dollar online voice platform through which they deliver their training.

Founders of the new Club believe it will be a perfect solution

for those who travel a lot and don't want to miss their meetings; for those who might be stuck at home for whatever reasons or just prefer to attend from the comfort of their own computer, and, of course, for those who would like the opportunity to interact with a worldwide community.



If you are interested in joining the Online Toastmasters, please contact Barbara at [barbara@iconfs.com](mailto:barbara@iconfs.com)

We hope to have you as a guest in our virtual meeting room!

**Masha Malka**

*Costa Del Sol Achievers Club, Marbella, Spain*

## The Origins Of The Word “Quiz”

The origins of the word *quiz* are as difficult to pin down as the answers to some quizzes. We can say that its first recorded sense has to do with people, not tests. The term, first recorded in 1782, meant “an odd or eccentric person”. From the noun in this sense came a verb meaning “to make sport or fun of” and “to regard mockingly”. In English dialects and probably in American English the verb *quiz* acquired senses relating to interrogation and questioning. This presumably occurred because *quiz* was associated with *question*, *inquisitive*, or perhaps the English dialect verb *quiset*, “to question” (probably itself short for obsolete *inquisite*, “to investigate”). From this new area of meaning came the noun and verb senses all too familiar to students. The second recorded instance of the noun sense occurs in the writings of no less an educator than William James, who in a December 26, 1867, letter proffers the hope that “perhaps giving ‘quizzes’ in anatomy and physiology . . . may help along.” (From **The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language**)

The story goes that a Dublin theatre proprietor by the name of Richard Daly made a bet that he could, within forty-eight

hours, make a nonsense word known throughout the city, and that the public would give a meaning to it. After the performance one evening, he gave his staff cards with the word 'quiz' written on them, and told them to write the word on walls around the city. The next day the strange word was the talk of the town, and within a short time it had become part of the language. This picturesque tale appeared as an anecdote in 1836, but the most detailed account (in F. T. Porter's *Gleanings and Reminiscences*, 1875) gives the date of the exploit as 1791. The word, however, was already in use by then, meaning 'an odd or eccentric person', and had been used in this sense by Fanny Burney in her diary on 24 June 1782. 'Quiz' was also used as a name for a curious toy, something like a yo-yo and also called a *bandalore*, which was popular around 1790. The word is nevertheless hard to account for, and so is its later meaning of 'to question, to interrogate', which emerged in the mid-19th century and gave rise to the most common use of the term today, for an entertainment based on questions and answers. (From **AskOxford.com**)

## Aim For Berlin November 19-21!

Just a couple more short weeks to go before the Fall District Conference takes place November 19-21 in the exciting cosmopolitan German capital, Berlin! Have YOU registered? Even if you missed the Early Bird Special and didn't send in your payment by November 8<sup>th</sup>, you can still register. Yes, you can! Join the other 150 people coming to Berlin and be part of the excitement.

Register at <http://conference.district59.org/>.

So why to come to Berlin? **Experience** the compelling and motivational keynote speaker, Christine Harvey as she uncovers for us ways to motivate difficult people in life, including ourselves.

**Activate** your audience in your presentations with Paul van Vliet, **Learn** how to build Corporate Clubs with Alain Petillot, and **Breathe** better in your speeches with John Styffe.

And of course, share with us the highlight of every Fall Conference: the Table Topics and Humorous Speech contests! Watch



the best of the European best match wit, wisdom, and battle wills for the top trophies District 59 bestows upon its Toastmasters.

After all that learning, listening and enlightenment, refresh and relax at the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday in the venerable Logenhaus. The Berlin crew has taken advantage of the low cost of living here and is able to offer all drinks, including wine and beer, in the Registration package! And after the dinner, who will party and dance better than we Toastmasters?!

So there is no reason NOT to join us in Berlin. Schifra Wittkopp and her team are putting on a great conference: Aim High and aim for Berlin November 19-21!

**Amy Amann, Area C4 Governor**



## Toastmasters International District 59

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## THE MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of Clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- ◆ Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District educational and membership goals.
- ◆ Insuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- ◆ Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for Club and District officers.

## Tips For Demonstration Meetings

We have two corporate clubs in Gothenburg, one was started by a bunch of ladies from the same bank, but it is now a community club. We are also on our way to starting another corporate club.

The "model" that we have been using in this area recently is the "give them something" model. I am a strong believer that you have to "give people something" for them to come along to a meeting. Most people can be motivated to attend a meeting by receiving instant, free (or very cheap) tips on speaking.

So last year I had my Club board organize an add dazzle to our presentation skills seminar. We told our members to bring guests and we put out flyers all round at "Volvo Cars".

Half the meeting was a seminar given by one of our most experienced Toastmasters who talked through, eye contact, voice and gestures. She had a helper who did a brilliant role play of a very poor speaker, taking on board all of her tips and developing each time he got up (three times to tell a long joke)? People really SAW what she was talking about. For the second half of the meeting we did a "demo" of how we learn

and practice all the suggestions talked about in the seminar.

We had a short table topics session, a CTM level speech, an ATM level speech, and evaluations.

We had 30 guests attend that seminar, and 15 of them became members of our already existing club! OK, it was my idea, so I'm biased, but I think that was a brilliant way to get two DCP goals in one evening.

The Area has since used this method a few times. The last time was in attempt to get a club started in a locality of town with lots of Volvo people. We had something like 30 guests turn up for that. Only a few said they will join the new lunch time club when it starts. But quite a few more were interested in joining one of the other evening time clubs.

So my suggestion for you is to get people to attend a "Speech Tips Seminar". Then, get them interested in Toastmasters by showing them how they can learn and practice in the great Toastmasters environment.

*Julie Matthews, Area C2 Governor*

## Quiz n° 2 – answers

1. A club meeting twice a month can comfortably achieve 6 CTMs/ATMs in one year.
2. There is no written limit, however if we use the two North American nations as examples there could well be over 6,000 clubs and 40 Districts in the area now comprising D59. Why Not?
3. The European Union was created in 1957 by the Treaties of Rome and its name then was the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market).
4. The oldest European brewery is in Freising, Germany.
5. The French National Day is 14 July and celebrates the fall of the Bastille in 1789.

**Answers provided by Ileana Christodorescu and Robert Cockburn**

## Quiz n° 3

1. How many countries are in District 59? Name them.
2. In order to become a World champion of public speaking, what steps must a contestant go through?
3. The Danube river crosses 8 countries and 3 capitals. Which are these?
4. Name 3 countries in the world where there are no Toastmasters Clubs.
5. When did the Roman empire cease to exist?



**Questions provided by Ileana Christodorescu.**