

TOASTMASTERS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SOUTH BAY TOASTMASTERS - CLUB 280

Mentoring is the cornerstone of a successful Toastmasters club. The Mentor Program helps the new members overcome their fears and anxieties of public speaking. The quickest and most effective process to becoming an accomplished speaker is to learn from others. The veterans' past experiences can help the new member visualize their future as a confident and competent speaker.

South Bay Toastmasters Club 280 did not have a mentor Program when I joined in 1994.

I struggled though my initial speeches and my delivery was ineffective. Fortunately, my desire to succeed overcame my fear of failure. Eventually, I honed my presentation process to remembering just three words. I credit Tim Bohlen with the idea of having the three words handy. The day came when my mind went blank despite extensive preparation. I looked down and the words brought me back to where I needed to be. I never missed a beat. I would be happy to help anyone perfect this successful style where the speech comes from your heart rather than your head. It takes more practice but the results are remarkable.

Kilja Suh, another esteemed member, implemented the Mentor Program during her Presidency. Her dedication to sustaining its existence and the Club 280 veterans continuing desire to improve the lives of the newest members has made it successful.

Please become a Club mentor and commit to improving the lives of those people who are willing to focus on self improvement. The memories will be endless and satisfaction is guaranteed!

By
Kevin Johnson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



When I was a child, all our family vacations entailed loading up the station wagon and heading off to some distance place. My dad controlled the radio, my mom was co-pilot and the 5 kids were left to entertain themselves. But my greatest pleasure was to watch the world go by. I watched as deserts turn into mountains that then transformed into endless plains and then back again. It was the journey that I remember most when I look back.

Every week at Toastmaster I envision myself seated in that station wagon watching everyone of my fellow Toastmasters speak, lead and grow and realize again that it is the journey and not the destination that define our lives.

Now, during contest season and the contest yet to come, I would like to encourage everyone to discover the journey of the next state of Toastmaster, the world of Toastmaster beyond our club. If not part of the contest then just go to see a broader world.

Enjoy the ride....and do not forget to roll the window up when it starts to rain.

By Cary Kellems
South Bay Toastmasters
Club 280 President

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PRESENT IT!!

As a leader you are going to be placed in a situation where you will be presenting an award or some other form of recognition to someone. Toastmasters provides the opportunity to learn and to practice the proper way, the correct way of conducting that task, "Presenting an Award."

Firstly we should never, ever, ever "give out" an award. If it's to be a recognition event the recognition should be "presented".

A South bay Club 280 Toastmaster should never call upon a guest to "give out" an award. A guest has no idea as to how an award is presented or often even what the award is, what achievement it represents. The meeting leader, the Toastmaster or President has at times called upon a guest to give out an award with all good intentions but as with most good intentions that pathway leads to hell. The guest knows not what to do. Secondly the opportunity for a member to practice the ceremony is lost; a member is prevented from practicing how to properly conduct the recognition ceremony.

Every Club 280 member should have an Extemporaneous "Canned Award Presentation Speech" ready for delivery at a moment's notice. A presentation speech should be brief and include a description of the award, what is required to win, how it is decided, why the presenter is honored to present the award and then the name of the recipient. As an example, "This award, the Table topics Speaker award is determined by popular vote from the audience including guests/visitors. The winner has demonstrated skill in delivering an impromptu speech. I am (proud/delighted/honored) to be presenting this award to the winner for tonight and

ask that you all join me in giving a warm round of applause to the winner as she comes up to the lectern to receive this award, Ms Jane Doe."

Awards should be presented with enthusiasm, warmth, and a sense of group appreciation. The presentation should be sincere and serious but need not be solemn. Here again is an opportunity we all have to practice delivery with grace and poise and ease.

Club 280 Policy and Practice is to provide every guest the opportunity to speak; 3 times at every meeting. First the President shall call upon the guest at the start of the meeting to do a self introduction; second, the Topicmaster of the Meeting is to give the guest an opportunity to an impromptu talk during table topics; Third, the President calls on the guests to give some assessment or feedback at the end of the meeting. There is something magic about getting the guest to stand up and speak at the meeting. It often ends up being the way a new member decides to join. So let the guests speak, no encourage them to do so, but, let our members get the practice in Presenting Awards.



South Bay Toastmasters - Club 280

Meets 7-9 PM Every Wednesday

at Marie Callender's

21211 Hawthorne Blvd

Torrance, CA 90503

Please contact Bernie Steenson at (310) 326-4631 or e-mail president@southbaytoastmasters.org with questions.