

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of *Northwestern Toastmasters* Club 2946/37

We meet each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC

OFFICERS for 2013-2014

Jeff Walker, CC/CL	President
Don Barnett, ATM-B	VP-Education
John Clark, DTM	VP-Membership
Brian Davidson, DTM	VP-Public Relations
Craig Thrift, CC/ALB	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Rotation	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	www.NWTM.org

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Our Next Meeting will be on
June 3, 2014
Tuesday

For More Information, call
Marcia Barney (336) 712-8183



The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

The Way It Was – May 20, 2014

By Craig Thrift, AC-B/AL-B, Secretary



President Jeff Walker presided over the business session.

After a brief recess, Jeff announced the changes to the agenda then preceded with the introduced the Toastmaster-of-the-meeting, Joel Schanker. The topic of the evening was 'What's to gain?'. Joel talked about what you gain from the different roles within a Toastmasters' meeting.

Joel announced the Toastmasters who would be assisting him during the meeting:

- Word Master – Butch Barney provided us the word 'Cruz'
- Timer – Don Barnett
- Vote Counter – John Clark
- Grammarian – Marcia Barney

The Table Topic Master, Craig Thrift followed the theme of the meeting and asked questions to fellow Toastmasters about 'Toastmaster's Meeting Roles'.

1 – In response to the question, "Of meeting roles, which one is your favorite? Why?" Peter Gross stated the role of Toastmasters was his favorite, which he was at the last meeting.

2 – In response to the question, "Which role do you think has helped you the most?" Brian Davidson stated

that the role of Timer, he continues to improve on his time management ability.

3 – In response to the question, "What role would you like to see added?" John Clark stated he does not think there were any roles that needed to be added to our meeting agenda.

Our prepared speakers were as follows:

- John Conricode presented his Ice Breaker using project #1 from the Competent Communication Manual.
- Jenn Jarrett presented "Jury, the Media and Judgment" using project #2 from the Competent Communication Manual.
- Brian Gravely presented "Sales Training" using project #3 from the Professional Speaker's Manual.
- Jeff Walker presented "Homeowner's Insurance" using project #9 from the Competent Communication Manual.

Our General Evaluator for the meeting was Marcia Barney. She called on:

- Don Barnett to evaluate the speech given by John
- Brian Davidson to evaluate the speech given by Jenn

- Butch Barney to evaluate the speech given by Brian Gravely
- Peter Gross to evaluate the speech given by Jeff

Our Joke Master, John Clark ended the meeting for the evening.

Awards



Brian Davidson – Table Topics Contest

Butch Barney – Best Evaluator

Jeff Walker – Best Prepared Speaker

John Conridcode – Ice Breaker

Competent Leader Activity

Member	Project – Activity
Peter Gross	3 – Evaluator
Marcia Barney	5 – General Evaluator
Marcia Barney	4 – Grammarian

Speech Topics are Everywhere

By Tammy A. Miller, DTM, PID

Have you ever struggled with finding topics for your presentations? Maybe you are a new member, unsure of what you should talk about, or you are a seasoned Toastmaster who believes you have exhausted every topic out there. Take heart: Speech topics are everywhere; you just have to know how to look for them!

The best place to start looking for a speech topic is in the mirror. What information do you already know? What can you share about your life that others will find interesting?

Before we go further with generating topics, let's look at basic structures for presentations. You can use a variety of speech structures – for example, cause and effect, problem and solution, a timeline, compare and contrast, or step-by-step. All of these structures are the “body” of your presentation. In the simplest form, an effective presentation can consist of an introduction, three main points and a conclusion. In this article, I will address how to generate those three points.

Research shows that a person's brain can most comfortably retain three to five ideas at a time, so a great exercise for generating topics is to simply look around the room you are in right now and “think in threes.” If you are sitting in your office, what do you see?

Choose three of these items and think about at least three things you could talk about:

1. **Books** – Discuss why a particular book is on your shelf, the most valuable piece of information you gleaned from it and why you recommend it (or don't) to someone else.
2. **Computer** – Mention the history of computers (always a great place to start), how our lives are affected by them and how social networking can help or hinder communication skills.
3. **Telephone** – Explain the prevalence of cell phones in our society, the dangers of texting while driving and whether cell phones pose any danger to our health.

For the topics above, you could create an entire presentation from each point, or use the three points for one presentation.

More Speech Topics

Children can also provide a constant flow of speech material. Any parent understands how kids can provide the basis for a funny, poignant or serious presentation. Three possible topics:

- The joys of potty training (!)
- Life lessons my children have taught me
- Teaching your children how to respond in an emergency

Anyone who is around animals – including household pets – knows that they, too, can provide endless inspiration for presentations. Potential speech topics:

- Why do dogs have owners but cats have servants?
- How owning pets can lower your blood pressure
- Learning how to laugh and love from watching my pet

For each of the examples in this article, you can take that point and think of at least three other related points to build a presentation on. Are you seeing the value of thinking in threes?

Just Look Around You

Life is certainly speech material; we just have to look around and see the “points.” Some random life adventures have led to interesting presentations for me. For example, have you ever had “one of those days” when ...

- A pipe breaks in the garage and water is pouring in but only in a small area that just happens to be over your boxes of rare books and irreplaceable high school yearbooks? Or ...
- Your best friend goes a little crazy while furniture shopping and says, “Of course we can get this waterbed in the van”? When there is already a full couch, dresser and recliner in the van? Or ...
- You are only 42 years old and the doctor says, “Tammy, I am afraid it is cancer.”

I am sure you get the idea. From these examples have come speeches ranging from home safety to the value of friendship to using humor to deal with adversity.

You just never know where the inspiration for your next presentation will come from, or how your next life-changing moment can help others. Yes, my life is filled with speech material. But most importantly, so is yours.

This is a condensed version of Tammy Miller's article that appeared in the February 2011 issue of the Toastmaster magazine.

~~ Meeting Schedule ~~

Please Note. The Vice President of Education is continually adjusting the schedule to meet the requirements of our members. So, if you need to see the current schedule, contact our Vice President of Education.

	6/3/2014	6/17/2014	7/1/2014
Barnett, Don	General Evaluator	Timer	Speaker
Barney, Butch	Evaluator	Table Topics	Toastmaster
Barney, Marcia	Speaker	Speaker	Evaluator
Bjork, Scott	-	-	-
Christopher, Pam	Timer/ Word Master	Evaluator	Grammarian
Clark, John	Table Topics	General Evaluator	Evaluator
Conricode, John	Vote Counter	Word Master	Speaker
Davidson, Brian	Toastmaster	Speaker	Table Topics
Fesler, Rex	-	-	-
Gravelly, Brian	Evaluator	Evaluator	Timer/ Word Master
Gross, Peter	Joke Master	Speaker	General Evaluator
Jarrett, Jenn	Speaker	Grammarian	Speaker
McCormick, Patti	-	-	-
Schanke, Joel	Grammarian	Toastmaster	Evaluator
Thrift, Craig	Evaluator	Vote Counter/ Joke Master	Evaluator
Walker, Jeff	Speaker	Evaluator	Vote Counter/ Joke Master

Remember: All roles are important! If you cannot attend the meeting, PLEASE contact our VP of Education.