

# The Lilac City Lowdown

Lilac City Toastmasters Club # 687 December 1998 Vol

1, #2

## *Self Confidence For Sale*

*by Arthur Drummond, ATM-B, Secretary/ Treasurer of Lilac City Toastmasters Club*

Don't you believe it! Confidence cannot be bought. Self confidence has to be learned; self confidence has to be earned. Yet, it is easily obtained if you are willing to attempt it. For some, it may be traumatic, but under the program I suggest, it will be less so. It will even turn out to be fun and rewarding. You will risk nothing when you attempt it.

According to the experts, most people would rather do almost anything than speak in public. To stand up in plain sight and to speak is so unnerving for some, that many lose opportunities for promotion. Does it alarm you when I suggest that you learn to do just that- to join a club where public speaking is taught? It may make you nervous just to think about it, but we have helped hundreds of people, and at the same time, helped ourselves. For, many of us came to Toastmasters because we realized that we needed assistance, and we got it.

First, let us examine what public speaking is. Whenever you speak to anyone, that is public speaking. A telephone call, a mix of fellow employees, an impromptu report to one's supervisor- all are public speaking events. Not too many of us stand on a platform and address an audience of a hundred people or more. Yet, once through this training, you would be able to do that without feeling that you have made a fool of yourself. You will feel not only better about yourself, but more in command.

At our meetings, we welcome guests. We don't implore them to speak, although we might ask them what their impressions of the program were. That, of course, is after the meeting is over and there is no requirement that they do so.

The program begins with extemporaneous talks of 2 minutes. These are talks, the subject of which are given to the speaker just before speaking. The subjects may be on newsworthy items, behavioral problems, humorous in nature, or any number of interesting possibilities.

After a short break, scheduled talks begin. These are talks from a manual. The subject matter is the choice of the speaker, but the assignment dictates how it should be done. Most talks are for 5 to 7 minutes. You might wonder how you could speak that long, but we find that it is often time to sit down before we know it. There usually are three scheduled speakers on the program.

Now, here is the good part: each speaker has an evaluator assigned to him or her. It is the job of the evaluator to see if the speaker has met the requirements of that assignment. The main idea is not to belittle the speaker, but to guide, to suggest, and to compliment on those things which were done properly. We do not evaluate the subject matter, although a talk on a sensitive, controversial subject might be evaluated as improper for this occasion. The evaluator always attempts to leave the speaker with some closing advice to ponder over. For the record, his or her remarks are



*Self Confidence For Sale (continued)*

entered into the member's manual.

The evaluation portion of the program is handled by the General Evaluator. When that part of the program is completed, a vote is taken to see who has done the best job and who might be the most improved. The whole program is under the control of the Toastmaster of the Evening.

The rewards of Toastmaster training are that it costs you far less than a commercial speech course, you are helped by ordinary people who have an understanding of what you are going through, and by people who have overcome the sometimes debilitating fear of speaking. You will be among friendly, understanding people who know what your problems are.

After a few guest meetings we would welcome you into the club. For the modest fees and low annual membership, you will be on your way to personal success.

***District Conference Report***

Members Arleen Roth and Betsy Kalweit attended the Fall District 65 Toastmasters Conference in Canandaigua on November 21, 1998. They represented our club at the District Business Meeting, during which the district budget was adopted. At the meeting, District officers were confirmed and Division Governors gave reports. Several awards were also presented. As President of Lilac City Toastmasters, Betsy accepted, on behalf of the club, a ribbon of merit. This will be added to our banner.

A luncheon and Evaluation Contest was held, as well as various educational sessions during the morning and afternoon. Arleen Roth acted as timer during several of these educational sessions.

At the Humorous Speech Contest dinner later that evening, Harold Roth was announced as the recipient of the Toastmaster of the Year Award. Arleen accepted this award for her husband, Harold, who had passed away in June.

The date of the District 65 Spring Contest was announced. It will be held in Syracuse on April 30th and May 1st at the Doubletree Hotel on Buckley Road in North Syracuse, New York. Everyone is encouraged to plan to attend. For more information, you can contact Conference Chair Don Herres at herres@aol.com or call 315-637-4340.

*-Betsy Kalweit*

**ATTENTION  
ALL  
MEMBERS!**

Do you have an article you would like to see published in the next edition of the "Lilac City Lowdown"? If you do, be sure to bring it to a meeting and give it to one of the staff members listed below!

Lilac City Lowdown Staff  
Shannine DiMora, CTM  
Betsy Kalweit, CTM



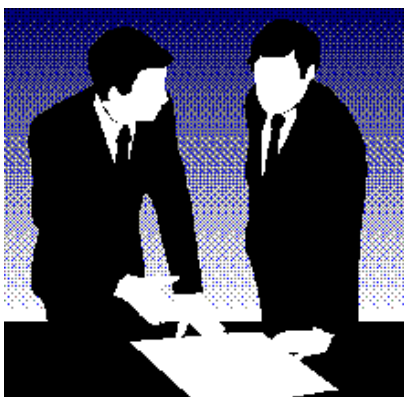
## *Toastmasters and Me A Personal Perspective*

*By Robert Corbin, CTM, Educational VP of Lilac City Toastmasters Club*

My involvement with Toastmasters began more than five years ago and it is a fair statement on my part to say that it has changed my life for the better. I have worked for Xerox Corp. for almost thirty years. During this time, I went from an Engineering Technician to Systems Engineer. There is no doubt in my mind that this transition was aided by what I have learned about communication skills from Lilac City Toastmasters.

All of us, no matter what age, gender, political persuasion, or religious belief will join various organizations in our lifetime. Some of these will end up being a waste of time, but others will affect us in ways that we never imagined. Toastmasters' International was started more than 75 years ago in California and is now a worldwide organization. It draws all sorts of people into its ranks, ranging from college students to professionals to homemakers and retirees. For me, it is this mix of people from all walks of life and ages that gives this organization its greatest appeal.

I learned about this club from an engineering friend of mine whom I admired for her ability to cut to the heart of an issue and communicate results in a clear and concise manner. She invited me to come as a guest to an organization I knew nothing about called Lilac City Toastmasters. I went with some trepidation, wondering what I might be getting myself into. I had never been comfortable with public speaking, especially with strangers. What I found was a group of about twenty people



ranging in age from early twenties to retirement age and beyond who made me feel welcome and put me so much at ease that I actually volunteered to give a short talk during the "Table Topics" part of the agenda. A few meetings later they had a new member and I have never been sorry for that decision.

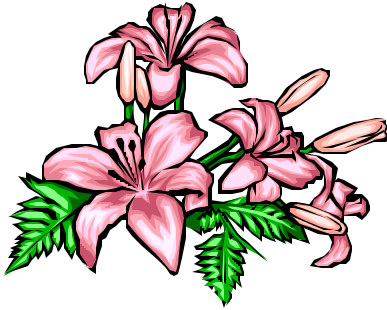
These five years saw me mature as both a speaker and a listener. I have learned the importance of not only presenting a topic in an interesting and logically sequenced manner but within a specific time frame. I have received two promotions during this same time period, partly because of my knowledge and experience, but also to a large extent because of the improvements in my communication skills. Here again let me emphasize the importance of listening, for one of the reasons I was promoted was due to my ability to listen to the needs of the people I was developing information for and present it in the format they wanted.

On a personal note, there is one more thing that is important to me. Lilac City Toastmasters may not be large in size but it is large in heart. I have developed friendships that will be treasured for the rest of my life. There is a grandfather, mother and daughter in our club, all from the same family and all with hearts of gold. There are others in the club whose life experiences would fill many books. All have great skills as communicators but more than that, they all have the willingness to share their knowledge with those of us that are still learning. They have enriched my life in ways I find hard to express. All are ready, willing and able to help each other to improve the way we communicate in this world of ours.

I invite those of you reading this newsletter to think long and hard about how your life has been helped or hurt by how well you have been able to communicate. Joining Toastmasters, and Lilac City Toastmasters in particular, will enhance a talent that is sorely needed in this world - - that of communication.

## *In Memoriam*

*By Arnold Krueger, DTM, Sergeant at Arms of Lilac City Toastmasters Club*



During the past year, Lilac City Toastmasters, in fact all of Toastmasters International, suffered a great loss when Harold B. Roth, DTM passed away. Harold represented everything that was good about Toastmasters. Harold and Arleen were always ready, willing, and more than able to fill a void when a need arose at any level. If a club needed someone to fill a vacancy, if the Area needed a contest timer, the Division a trainer, or the District a judge, they could always count on Harold being available, for he was always in attendance. A Toastmaster presenting a Youth Leadership program or a Speechcraft could count on Harold for assistance no matter where or when it was held.

Harold will also be remembered for his ready wit. He had jokes for every occasion. You could trace where he had been by following the trail of smiling faces he left behind.

Lilac City Toastmasters was blessed to have had the privilege of counting Harold among its members. He will be sorely missed.



### *Area 4 Contest a Success*

The Evaluation and Humorous Speech Contest, "Hula to Humor" was held October 23, 1998, with Lilac City Toastmasters being well represented. Arnold Krueger competed in the Evaluation Contest and Art Drummond in the Humorous Speech Contest. Bob Corbin acted as chief judge. Arleen Roth and Leo Pfeiffer also were judges. Betsy Kalweit presented opening remarks. In attendance to support these participants were guests Edna Krueger and Millie Drummond. Art Drummond was awarded second place for his humorous speech, "But Is It War", and went on to the Division Contest as an alternate. Since the first place winner, Steve Song, was able to fulfill his responsibility and give his speech, "America's Fastest Growing Sport", at the Division, Art acted as a judge at that contest. Betsy Kalweit again presented opening remarks at this contest, and guest Millie Drummond also attended.

*– Betsy Kalweit*

## *Toastmasters in the New Year*

*by Betsy Kalweit, CTM, President of Lilac City Toastmasters Club*

Before we know it the holiday season will be over and we will begin a new year. 1999 is sure to bring its own share of new challenges, opportunities, and surprises. As many of us already know, Toastmasters is an excellent resource in helping us to face these uncertainties in the new year with confidence. Unfortunately, though, there are others who could benefit from all Toastmasters has to offer who have never heard about this organization.

As we approach this new year and set personal goals, we might also consider making a resolution to introduce at least one new person to Toastmasters. This could be someone in your workplace, your neighborhood, your place of worship, your community, or someone you know from another activity or organization. It could even be the cashier at the local supermarket, the waitress at your favorite restaurant, your doctor or dentist! Everyone has a unique sphere of influence that can be used to spread the message about Toastmasters.

Probably the most effective method of communicating the word is by one on one conversations. Many people are looking for a personal connection since we live in a world that is growing increasingly impersonal. As we use the listening skills we develop in Toastmasters to learn their needs, we can tell them ways Toastmasters can help. Giving them a card containing information about our club and a designated member's phone number is an excellent way for them to keep in touch. If you don't already have some, be sure to pick up a few of the business cards that Leo Pfeiffer donated to the club, so you can use these as you talk to others about Toastmasters.

Sometimes a common skill, interest, or profession can serve as a way to open the dialogue. For example, Leo Pfeiffer, a retired dentist, has been visiting dentist offices and disseminating information about Toastmasters. As he talks to people in his profession and their staff, he can speak with knowledge and experience as to how Toastmasters can help them.

In addition to these individual connections, however, we need to continue posting information about our club in strategic places so the general public will know how to find us. Recently the new librarian from Sodus commented favorably to me about the Toastmasters materials I had distributed there last fall. At a recent community event, a friend mentioned that she had seen my name on a poster about Toastmasters in her church. Perhaps you can think of some other places where one of our posters might be effective. Although we may not receive immediate feedback, people will respond to them in time. At the beginning of a new year many people are making efforts toward self-improvement and may be looking for an organization such as Toastmasters which will help them grow.

We as Lilac City Toastmasters have an exciting year ahead of us. We are making plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Recently we've welcomed two new members into our club and hope that many more will join us in the future. Consider the impact upon our club if each of us could bring in one new member!

As Toastmasters we will continue our commitment to improving our communication skills and helping our fellow members with theirs. Ask someone you know to join us at Lilac City Toastmasters as we work together to make this year, the last year of the century, a truly memorable one.





***Agenda for January 14, 1999 meeting:***

<b><i>Presiding</i></b>	Betsy Kalweit
<b><i>Opener</i></b>	Shannine DiMora
<b><i>Invocation &amp; Pledge</i></b>	Art Drummond
<b><i>Toastmaster</i></b>	Art Drummond
<b><i>Table Topics</i></b>	Arnold Krueger
<b><i>Wordwatch</i></b>	Arnold Krueger
<b><i>AH Counter</i></b>	Edna Krueger
<b><i>General Evaluator</i></b>	Betsy Kalweit
<b><i>Timer</i></b>	Lois Watkins
<b><i>Speaker 1</i></b>	Robert Corbin
<b><i>Speaker 2</i></b>	Fred Muhleman
<b><i>Speaker 3</i></b>	Erwin Nunlist
<b><i>Evaluator 1</i></b>	Casey Murphy
<b><i>Evaluator 2</i></b>	Leo Pfeiffer
<b><i>Evaluator 3</i></b>	Arleen Roth
<b><i>Table Topics Evaluator</i></b>	Members

***The Executive Committee***

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President

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**Robert Corbin, CTM**

Vice-President, Education

**Arthur Drummond, ATM-B**

Secretary

**Leo Pfeiffer, CTM**

Vice-President, Membership

**Arthur Drummond, ATM-B**

Treasurer

**Shannine DiMora, CTM**

Vice-President, Public Relations

**Arnold Krueger, DTM**

Sergeant at Arms