

The Lilac City Lowdown

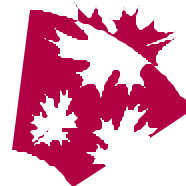
Lilac City Toastmasters Club # 687 April 1999 Vol 2, #1

A Club for All Seasons

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



How amazing to see the crocuses and daffodils in bloom once again! Our lawns, which wore thick blankets of snow just a month ago, are now carpeted in green. Those tulip bulbs planted last fall have also awakened from their long sleep and soon will beautify our landscape with their vivid colors.



While the spring brings forth new life and beauty, Lilac City Toastmasters Club continues to grow with the addition of several new members during this past year. We are happy to welcome Fred Muhleman, Casey Murphy, Bharat Sahay, Jim Colbert, and Meg Burt as new members, and Mary Ann Marchand as a reinstated member. Just as the different types of spring flowers make a unique contribution to our gardens, each new member brings to our group new talents, ideas, and interests that enrich us all.

If we want to keep our club growing, however, we must persevere in our efforts to spread the word about Toastmasters and to invite guests to our meetings. We need to continue looking for opportunities to talk to people about Toastmasters in everyday conversations and in situations we encounter. You might find yourself talking to the person standing next to you in the line at the supermarket, or perhaps to the man who comes to repair your dishwasher. Recently, one of our members, Art Drummond, had to make a trip to the hospital's emergency department and ended up inviting the attending doctor to one of our meetings! Even if all of the people you talk to don't positively respond at first to your invitations, you are making an effort that will eventually produce results.

Recently, our club was favorably featured in the Democrat and Chronicle, which was great publicity not only for our club, but for all Toastmasters clubs in the area. This article didn't just happen. Arnold Krueger made initial contact with the newspaper. After they agreed to do an article, I made a second call to the Democrat and Chronicle and was put in touch with Lisa Gutierrez, the person assigned to the article. Lisa then interviewed Arnold, Arleen Roth, and myself, and produced a well-written article that was circulated all over the Rochester area. This is just one example of what can be accomplished for our club when we all work together as a team. Arnold Krueger is presently arranging for another article to be done in Messenger-Wolfe publications. This time, other club members may be contacted and asked questions about Lilac City Toastmasters. There is much to do in our Toastmasters club, and it takes everyone getting involved like this to make it work.



As we continue to spread the word about Toastmasters and work together, our club will respond to our efforts and keep growing. We will soon be electing a new slate of officers for the 1999-2000 year. Please join them by using your individual abilities to help our club grow as they labor to lead our club into a new season of growth.





***Lilac City Toastmasters to Honor
"A Half Century of Communication"***

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

Present and former members of Lilac City Toastmasters are looking forward to celebrating our club's fiftieth anniversary May 8th at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon, New York. Beginning at noon, a social hour will provide a chance for those attending to renew old friendships and reminisce. The dinner and program to follow at 1:00 P.M. will culminate the efforts of the committee which has worked hard to locate former members and to put together a program commemorating this fifty year achievement.

Leo Pfeiffer, Arnold Krueger, and Erwin Nunlist spent many hours calling former members to verify addresses. Educational Vice President Bob Corbin, the originator of the program's theme, "A Half Century of Communication", further employed his creativity to design the flyers, invitations, and continues to work on the program format. Former member Loralie Kalweit used her computer skills to help President Betsy Kalweit address the invitations for mailing. Betsy, as person in charge of recording the replies and handling details with the restaurant, has reported several positive responses.

Don't miss this chance to hear from Lilac City Toastmasters past and present as we join together to recognize a "A Half Century of Communication"!



Lilac City Toastmasters, The World, & Bob Corbin

--Fifty Years of Comparison--

by Robert Corbin, CTM, Educational VP of Lilac City Toastmasters Club

In early 1949 a new Toastmasters club, Lilac City, was formed in Rochester, New York. It was the second in this area; in fact, it was one of the few clubs east of the Mississippi. Meanwhile, in early 1949 I was seven years old and had just moved with my family to Watertown New York from the New York City area. In our family I was the third born, but our family held the distinction of being the only family named Corbin in the Watertown area.

Toastmasters clubs were forming all over the country in 1949 as people saw the need to improve their communication skills. During this time my father, a forty-year-old engineer, probably was required to give presentations as part of his job. At the age of seven I knew very little about what he did and probably wouldn't have understood it if he had tried to explain it to me. I know today that my communication skills were very poor at that time, as I was a very introverted young boy.

When Lilac City Toastmasters was celebrating its tenth anniversary in 1959, the United States was leaving the era of total economic dominance in the world and entering the decade that would transform its views on race and on the role of women in society. Toastmasters membership then still consisted of men. It was felt that their communication skills were most vital in the business world. I graduated from Watertown High School that year not knowing what I wanted to do with my life but determined to follow my father's advice to be the best at whatever I did. I enjoyed talking with adults, and being well-read, felt that I could contribute to the conversation. My communication skills with the opposite sex still left much to be desired, though, as I remained an introverted young man.

In 1969 Lilac City was twenty years old. There were now many clubs throughout the United States and the rest of the world, but their membership was still limited to men. Our country had landed a man on the moon and had taken the first pictures of Mars. The United States was also

in turmoil, having seen leaders assassinated the year before. Generations were in conflict about the Vietnam War and the role of women and minorities in society. Much of this unrest existed due to the poor communication and listening skills of the participants. I would have liked to have heard the speeches and table topics given at our club during that time. These ten years had seen tremendous changes in my life as well. I had gone through the Cuban Missile Crisis as a member of the Air Force, finished college, and had just left St. Louis where I had worked for McDonnell Douglas on the F4 Phantom, one of the premiere aircraft used in the Vietnam War. 1969 was my first year at Xerox Corporation in Rochester New York.

During the seventies Lilac City celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, and some who were members then will also celebrate with us at our fiftieth anniversary dinner. The seventies brought change to our club since Toastmasters International finally allowed women into its membership. Thus, in 1979, when Lilac City turned thirty, women helped to celebrate this accomplishment. For the nation, we saw a major accident at a nuclear reactor on Three Mile Island near Middletown, Pennsylvania. Nuclear energy never recovered from this incident. The global warming we are seeing today is perhaps worse because of this. Internationally, sixty-three Americans were taken hostage at the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran, and the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In 1974, the year Lilac City celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, I got married. I remember memorizing my wedding vows, my first speech under pressure. By 1979 we were a family of four. Active in a small church, I tried my hand as a Sunday school teacher, member of the choir, and as an officer. All of these activities required communication skills, but I still knew nothing of Toastmasters International so I'm sure there were deficiencies in these skills.

1989- We had finally reached the modern era. Lilac City was forty years old, and many of

Lilac City Toastmasters, The World, and Bob Corbin (continued)

our present members were members then. They had much to talk about. The largest oil spill in U.S. history occurred after the Exxon Valdez struck a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound. There was a massive earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area minutes before the World Series between the Giants and A's, causing fifty-nine deaths. Perhaps most importantly, the Berlin Wall came down, symbolically ending the Cold War. In my own life, I had finally heard about Toastmasters. My sister-in-law and her husband, who both belonged to one of the Rochester clubs, told me how much they liked it. I did not consider joining at that time because it involved getting up in front of an audience and talking. This still terrified me even though, in reality, I was doing it all the time at work and with friends.

It has now been fifty years since Lilac City Toastmasters was formed. I finally joined six years ago and have come to realize what a great club it is. Improving my skills as both a speaker and a listener are only part of what I have learned. Of even more importance to me have been the

friendships and the knowledge gained from its members. This is also the year that I will celebrate my twenty-fifth year of marriage and my thirtieth year at Xerox. Neither of these things would have occurred without communications skills. I have picked up some of these skills through trial and error during my fifty-seven years, but Toastmasters has allowed me to refine and organize what I have learned during my lifetime.

1998 and 1999 have seen and will see great turmoil in this country and in the world; but I have a feeling that we will again survive all, including the Y2K bug. What is and always has been important are what we do as individuals to both improve ourselves and the world in which we live. Someday there will be a group of Toastmasters that will celebrate the seventy-fifth and hundredth anniversary of Lilac City. I hope when that happens they will look back with pride upon our generation and what we did to improve communication in our world.

Chicken Noodle Soup

*by Kashika Sahay,
daughter of member Bharat Sahay*

America is like chicken noodle soup. Let's see how it is prepared. We start with the broth; these are the people who came as immigrants from England. As the soup simmers, we add spices for flavor and folklore that were brought over from Africans during the painful time of slavery. Next we add vegetables; these are the people who were here first, the Native Americans. The soup must boil before we add the noodles of culture for the people of Asia.

America has been named the nation of diversity. Wherever you may happen to look, people from all over the world surround you. We are all pages of a never-ending book, from the moment we are first born, to the moment we die. This makes the goal of our life to accomplish as many dreams as possible- to greet Lady Liberty with our head held up high on our shoulders.

History will soon examine what new cultures we have added to our soup. In order to do so, we must first discover ourselves, to add to the pages in our book. So that history can proudly say that our soup is the most delicious soup in the world, not just because of technology, but the diverse culture in our blood that makes each American citizen a unique page of America's album of diversity.



Giving a Speech? Look Out For a Heart Attack!

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



Recent studies claim that giving a speech can lead to a heart attack. That is undoubtedly true since stress is involved. It is also likely that an untrained person would drown if someone threw him into deep waters. The similarities in these cases are based on the fact that the people involved are not trained.

Thousands of speeches are given each day and if they were as fatal as the experts suggest, we would soon run out of speakers. You have seen political candidates, lawyers and sales people present outstanding talks, yet there is scant evidence that a heart attack occurred because of them. That is because these people, just like hundreds of thousands of others, have trained themselves to address the public. They have learned to modify that stress into a force for effective talks. You can learn to control stress by joining a Toastmasters Club. Whatever fears you have will be quickly eliminated. You will be listened to by a sympathetic audience whose main aim is to help you. For, by listening to and assisting you, they are helping themselves.

The stress generated by the idea of speaking is usually based on the fear of "making a fool of oneself". "All those eyes upon me would cause me to be embarrassed", say some people. This is negative thinking. Who says that your ideas are not worthy of expression? Even if they are looking at you, and no one else, why should that bother you? You can look at any of them and what can they do about it? I have found that it helps to peer into the eyes of those I think are my critics. Invariably, they look away. When you are mastering speaking skills, you will realize that you are in control, so long as you appear to be. There are certain traits which can alert an audience that you are nervous or unsure of yourself. You will learn how to avoid these factors. Then, when you speak you will master the audience rather than be mastered by it.

You will never completely eliminate stress. Instead you will use it to make more forceful talks. You will be able to state your position with authority. As one wag has said, "Now the butterflies in my stomach are flying in formation". You have to be alert, and a degree of anxiety is essential. This is not the harmful stress which only grows when there is no confidence. It is a manageable condition that will keep you in touch with the audience's responses.

You and your acquaintances are always welcome to our club. You will be warmly welcomed and can observe how our members speak. We are in various stages of skill. There are spanking new members feeling their way, and graying elders who have been through it all. From all of us, you will see that people often find success just by being able to speak better. There are many successes among us.

Welcome!

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!

The next edition of the Lilac City Lowdown will be published in August. The deadline for submissions is August 1, 1999.

Lilac City Lowdown Staff

Shannine DiMora, CTM

Betsy Kalweit, CTM





***Lilac City Meets the Challenge at
Recent Contests***

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

Those who "cruised" to the Area 4 Tall Tales and International Speech Contest March 20, 1999, at the Beefsteak Mining Company's Gold Nugget room, enjoyed an evening of good food, fun, and inspiration. Lilac City Toastmasters Club was well represented with Arleen Roth and Shannine DiMora acting as judges, Lois Watkins serving as teller, Art Drummond assisting as chief timer, and Betsy Kalweit presenting both Opening and Closing Remarks. Also attending were several guests accompanying members. Lilac City's contestant in the International Speech Contest, Bob Corbin, aroused feelings of patriotism and national pride with his speech "GI Joe". Arnold Krueger, Lilac City's Tall Tales contestant, received many laughs with his speech, "The Night After Christmas". In fact, Lilac City's Arnold Krueger won first place at the Area for his tall tale and was selected to represent Area 4 at the Central Division Contest March 27th.

Lilac City made an impressive appearance at the Central Division, also, with several members and guests attending in support of Arnold. Arleen Roth acted as teller, and Art Drummond and Betsy Kalweit served as judges. Arnold won first place at this contest, too, and will take his tall tale to the District Conference May 1st in Syracuse. Many of our members are already planning to attend the District Conference, "Success Is More Than A Dream", which will be held at The Club Hotel by Doubletree (formerly a Holiday Inn) on Buckley Rd., North Syracuse, New York.

The Executive Committee

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Arthur Drummond, ATM-B

Secretary

Arthur Drummond, ATM-B

Treasurer

Arnold Krueger, DTM

Do's and Don'ts- Some Tips to Use When Giving a Speech

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

When speaking, don't:

- ☞ ☞ Say, "Wait! I forgot to tell you this---"
- ☞ ☞ Wave your papers around, especially when speaking from a lectern.
- ☞ ☞ Slouch, or relax by partially sitting on desk or leaning against a wall.
- ☞ ☞ Look up at the ceiling when you have forgotten your place.
- ☞ ☞ Leave the lectern unattended after speaking.
- ☞ ☞ Use big words only for their effect upon the audience.
- ☞ ☞ Forget to look at the whole audience.



Here's what to do if you have made the preceding mistakes:

- ☞ ☞ If you have forgotten a part of your talk, repeat a part you have already spoken, but use different wording. The delay may jar your memory.
- ☞ ☞ When speaking from a lectern, slide the papers to one side as you read them. Do not clip or staple them together. Mark the page number in large print. Keep them from being obvious to the audience. If you have no lectern, have the papers neatly stacked and as you finish a page, look directly at the audience while you shift that page to the bottom.
- ☞ ☞ Stand erect, but do not be stiff. You will then be able to use naturally occurring gestures. Don't practice gesturing.
- ☞ ☞ When you look at the ceiling this is the same as telling the audience that you don't know your material. It is a tip-off you can avoid by looking silently at the audience instead. They will think that it is an intentional pause.
- ☞ ☞ To have continuity during a meeting, someone should always be at the lectern or in front of the audience. The Master of Ceremonies welcomes the speaker, then departs. The speaker, his or her job done, waits for the MC to arrive. Long departures from the head of the meeting tend to get the audience speaking amongst themselves. This can disrupt a meeting and make it hard to start again.
- ☞ ☞ Some of the best writers and speakers use words leveled at an audience with a 14 year old comprehension level. Big, impressive words may confuse your audience and the whole idea of speaking is to be understood by all. Not that all your words will be of one syllable, but keep the message intelligible.
- ☞ ☞ By looking at the entire audience, one area at a time, you give the impression that you are speaking to individuals rather than to a group. Don't be bashful. You can look at anyone and what can they do about it? While you are before an audience, you are in charge, even if you don't feel that way.

