

2009-2010



Mansion Report



Editor: Lee Z.

Fall/Winter 2009 Issue

Mansion Toastmasters Club

From the President's Desk...

"When you're finished changing, you're finished" - Benjamin Franklin

Dear Mansion Toastmasters,

Fall is here and nature's colours are quickly changing to Bright Red, Delicious Orange & Confident Gold. Here at the Mansion we are blessed with a beautiful venue of Lush Gardens & Spectacular Lakefront Views. Soon Mother Nature's "Blanket of White" will cover our Gardens as they blissfully sleep through our long Canadian Winter.

As President this year I feel it is important like in nature, to welcome positive, colourful change to our club.

To help do so I have introduced four new President's Committees to Compliment the roles of our Executive Team while adding critical mass to our Club Programmes:

These New Committees are:

The President's Speech Contest Committee:	Chair Mike W. & Co-Chair Paul T.
The President's Educational Committee:	Chairs Shelley O. & Paul T.
The President's Social Committee:	Chair Cheryl C. & Diane C. / Co-Chair Kelly H.
The President's New Member/Guest Committee:	Chair Jeanne A. / Co-Chair Dale S

Things are changing Like the Seasons at the Mansion so here are some Updates:

The President's Social Committee:

Our first annual Mansion "Homecoming BBQ" on September 26th was a big success with over 20 friends enjoying great food & hot drinks at Cheryl & Howard's Beautiful Home & Garden Retreat.

Thank you Cheryl and Howard for being such great hosts!



The Upcoming Mansion Social Events are:

Our Annual Mansion Christmastide/Holiday Party

Date: Saturday December 12th 2009

Location: The Enchanting & Historic Cork House location compliments of Sonny and Michelle.



Our "Annual Mansion Charter Gala"

Date: Friday April 9th 2010

Location: The Prestigious Burlington Golf & Country Club

The President's Speech Contest Committee:

Club Level contest:

Our Club Level Humorous & Table Topics contest was held on September 30.

First Place Winners were: Diane Table Topics & Michael S. Humorous.

We are so proud!



Area 56 Contest:

At the Area 56 Contest on October 8, both Diane & Michael S. competed with some of the finest speakers in area and both were in the winner's circle each placing 2nd!

Division L Contest:

Our Mansion winners were invited to be present at the Divisional Contest held October 16th in case first place winners from our Area did a no show.

In my opinion we were very close to producing the Divisional winner that I talked about early on this year!

Way to go Mike W. & his Speech Contest Team!

Upcoming Club Level Contests:

The First Annual Mansion "Debate Contest" will be held in January.

The "Evaluation & International Speech Contest" will be held in February.

And the Mary Heary "Tall Tales Contest" will be held in May.

More Details to follow.

Get your names in now for these great Mansion Events!



The President's Education Committee:

Beginning in October through December our Education Committee Chairs Paul T. & Shelley are planning to organize Educational Sessions and Workshops to encourage the club to achieve the goals of the Presidents Distinguished Club.

This Educational Drive will have Two Main Tracks.

1. To help & encourage members to achieve their individual speaking and leadership goals.
2. To help the Club meet its goal of achieving the President's Distinguished Club Designation.

As of our October 28, Meeting we had One of Two DCP Programme presentations with our Special Guest Avis Brodie, Lieutenant Governor Marketing District 86, taking the Lectern at our Club to explain the DCP Programme. It was a super presentation & it made the DCP programme a lot easier to understand.

We also had our Area 56 Club Audit the same evening with our Honoured Area 56 Governor Guest Helene Trotier Tate visiting. One of the purposes of the Governors visit was for the club to "put in writing" our collective commitment towards our DCP Programme. I will circulate a copy shortly for all to view.

Our upcoming Educational Presentations are:

- > Parliamentary Procedure for the Everyday Toastmaster
- > The Living Meeting Agenda
- > What Is A Mentor?
- > Leadership in the 21 Century – Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way!
- > Why Enter a Speech Contest?
- > DCP Plan Review & Update



Membership Update:

As of our meeting of October 28, we have appointed and voted in a new VP of Membership Dale S. Dale will be replacing James S. who has agreed to step down in this role due to family and work related requirements. Dale brings a history of executive experience and personal commitment to this very important role. James will be missed by all.

New Members:

We have added 5 new members and 1 re-instatement since September 2009 and more to come as our goal is 40 members by the end of our term.

Good going Membership Team!

President's New Member/Guest Committee:

It has been noted that new members and guests are a very important part of the ongoing Health of our club, so important in fact that we are currently setting up a 'New Member & Guest Team' This team will be fully committed to work closely with the VP Membership & VP Education to look after the specialized & immediate needs of new members & guests as our club continues to grow.

Club Newsletter Editor:

As of our meeting of October 28 Lee Z is appointed Mansion Club Newsletter Editor. Lee brings her excellent editing and formatting experience to the table and will work closely with our VP Public Relations Paul V to help create an informative, dynamic Club Newsletter for our members to enjoy.

Note to Our Members:

"Although Changing Economic Times present new challenges to all, after 20 years as a Toastmaster member, I strongly believe the Mansion Toastmaster Programme continues to offer the most cost effective & ideal personal growth venue."

"Remember, you are responsible to motivate yourself. I recommend you get involved in our time tested club meetings. Most personal change & improvement will come as a commitment from you; it cannot be forced upon you."

Let's continue to "Learn in Moments of Enjoyment".

Peter V., Club President 2009-2010

From your VP Public Relations...

HELLO EVERYONE,

We have had a great start to the year, with some excellent competition results from our members. In the coming months we hope this success will continue. It's also a pleasure to welcome several new members to our club, whom I know will add further quality and achievements as our club progresses and grows.

AND YOU CAN ALL HELP THIS CLUB GROW - HOW?

In the last two months I have contacted 30 managers of department stores and large grocery stores. 85% of them thought TM was a great idea, and would put a flyer up on their staff notice board. As club members you all can help introduce fresh ideas by telling or bringing along your friends to our meetings!

I challenge you ALL to bring one guest each month to Mansion.

Your executive can provide you with a business card to help you.

In this Report, you will find examples of great advice from our executives and club members.

Paul V., VP Public Relations



MARVALOUS MENTORS!

Would the Stanley Cup winners be there if they did not have a mentor or coach? Would Tiger Woods be the amazing golf champion he is, had he not a mentor or coach? What about our club contest winners? You can bet they have mentors to help them out! Winners use their mentors to put them on top of the pack.

Simply put... it is virtually impossible to succeed at your goals unless you have someone that had been there and done it, to help you reach your true potential. A mentor is in your corner, cheering you on to reaching all of your goals. They want you to take the easy path in reaching your club goals! They have the experience and know how to help propel you along the way.

Some of you joined Toastmasters to become better, more confident speakers. Some of you joined toastmasters to become better leaders. Some want both of these things. If you are serious about using Toastmasters as your sounding board to success, then you must get yourself a mentor!

Do you remember your first few months in joining our wonderful club? A bit scary and intimidating wasn't it? Well, we have a number of newer members that are in need of your help. I'm challenging all experienced Toastmasters in our club to take a newer member under their wing and mentor them to success. It really doesn't take much more effort than being there for support and guidance. By supporting each other in the club, we will rise as a strong club and reach not only our personal goals, but the goals of the club as well. New members... don't be afraid. We are here to help you. Come talk to me, and I will be sure to match you up with someone that will help you reach all of your club goals!

Paul T., VP Education

BE PREPARED!

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE THAT ALL BOY SCOUTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EMULATE-"BE PREPARED-" IT'S ALSO SOMETHING THAT ALL SERIOUS TOASTMASTERS SHOULD COPY :

I recently submitted my name to enter a speech contest being held in Toronto by the Gold Speakers Association. While nerve racking to say the least I am glad that I entered and in hind sight glad that I didn't win. For you see, I didn't prepare as well as I could have. I got so nervous about competing I couldn't get a speech together and ended up finally writing one 2 nights before the competition. Need I say more?

Preparation and mental preparedness are always the keys! I will throw my hat in the ring next year, but with the following story about being prepared in mind!

Enjoy!

This is adapted from (apparently) a true story.

An elderly couple retired to the countryside - to a small isolated cottage overlooking some rugged and rocky heathland.

One early morning the woman saw from her window a young man dressed in working clothes walking on the heath, about a hundred yards away. He was carrying a spade and a small case, and he disappeared from view behind a copse of trees.

The woman thought no more about it but around the same time the next day she saw the man again, carrying his spade and a small case, and again he disappeared behind the copse.

The woman mentioned this to her husband, who said he was probably a farmer or gamekeeper setting traps, or performing some other country practice that would be perfectly normal, and so not to worry.

However after several more sightings of the young man with the spade over the next two weeks the woman persuaded her husband to take a stroll - early, before the man tended to arrive - to the copse of trees to investigate what he was doing.

There they found a surprisingly long and deep trench, rough and uneven at one end, becoming much neater and tidier towards the other end.

"How strange," the old lady said, "Why dig a trench here - and in such difficult rocky ground?" and her husband agreed.

Just then the young man appeared - earlier than his usual time.

"You're early," said the old woman, making light of their obvious curiosity, "We wondered what you were doing - and we also wondered what was in the case."

"I'm digging a trench," said the man, who continued, realising a bigger explanation was appropriate, "I'm actually learning how to dig a good trench, because the job I'm being interviewed for later today says that experience is essential - so I'm getting the experience. And the case - it's got my lunch in it."

He got the job.

Jeanne A-C.



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

DO WHAT YOU KNOW

I recently heard someone say that in these difficult economic times if you need to increase your income, you should do what you know. If you are in your second or third career, like I am, and you have a teaching certificate, then you could teach or tutor. If you know and have owned dogs, you could walk, bathe or exercise them for shut-in owners or people with disabilities. If you were a server or waitressed your way through school, you could take that work up again. If you LOVE to garden, well, you get the message.

It's the same thing in public speaking. The same rules apply. If you choose as your topic something you know then you are an authority. You are a credible speaker on that subject. And chances are you have a little passion in there somewhere that can translate into energy and fire in a speech. Any subject that lights you up will spark a response in your audience. We've all heard that after hearing a speech, as time passes, the exact words are forgotten, the name of the speaker is difficult to recall and the entire message may even be lost. NEVER forgotten, though, is the way the speaker made you FEEL.

Let your passion show. Don't hide any emotional attachment. Share your expertise. State the facts as you know them. Recount your own experiences. Mix in a little humour and logically get to the point of your message and you have made magic. You've gifted your audience and they will LOVE you for it.

You can do it.

You know.

Shelley O., Club Secretary