



TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Club #4685166
Toastmasters at Purdue

Executive Committee

President

Ethan Vaughn

VP Education

Taylor Stayback

VP Membership

Parag Vasekar

VP Public Relations

Hanae Sakata

Secretary

Yangyang Zhu

Treasurer

Komal Hingu

Sergeant-at-Arms

Alwin Yen

Visit our website and Facebook page:

Toastmasters at Purdue Website
<http://4685166.toastmastersclubs.org>

Toastmasters at Purdue Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/toastmastersatpurdue/>

A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT BRIAN DINEEN

If there's one thing I've learned over the years from Toastmasters, it's that involvement yields so much more than speech practice. Yes, speeches are important – many would say the foundation of any Toastmasters experience. I originally joined Toastmasters knowing I was to be Best Man in my brother's wedding, with its accompanying toast. But I have grown to love Toastmasters for many reasons that extend beyond the speeches, this past year in my role as club president. Do any of these resonate with your Toastmasters experience? Or, perhaps you will challenge yourself in the coming months to engage even more in these "bonus" Toastmasters benefits:

Leadership. Opportunities abound, whether shorter- or longer-term. In the shorter term, chairing a speech contest or volunteering for a role at the district conference are just two examples. In the longer term, working in an executive team role is an excellent and low risk way to expand your professional profile (think: great response to that interview question about "ways you've challenged yourself to lead others!").

Extemporaneous speaking opportunities. We find ourselves in these situations every day. The possibilities in Toastmasters are endless, and extend far beyond traditional table topics questions. A few weeks ago, I posed a table topic challenging a member to come up with a question of their own on the spot (Shawn W. handled it superbly!). You might challenge yourself to introduce your role without preparing notes. Recently, we've re-introduced the art of accepting an unexpected award on the spot.

Evaluating others. There is little that can either motivate or de-motivate others than a good or poorly delivered evaluation. We practice this skill weekly and opportunities once again extend well beyond formal speech evaluations.

Learning from others. I learn something new from fellow members every week. Where else can you hear about topics as wide ranging as the Spanish-American War, Donkey Basketball in Antarctica (you had to be there!), or Indy 500 traditions?

Networking. In Toastmasters, you are in a safe environment among friends. But you are also among potential collaborators, business partners, or contacts who can put you in touch with others on campus and beyond. Then, there are area, district, and international networking opportunities – many valuable colleagues out there to meet!

I am sure you can add to this list from your own personal Toastmasters journey. I only hope that you will continue to challenge yourself to explore all that Toastmasters has to offer. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president. I look forward to continuing to learn from you in the years ahead – whether you are preparing for that big wedding toast or telling us during table topics about the latest greatest place to visit in Indiana!



President Brian Dineen

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TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Congratulations to our newly elected officers!



President: Ethan Vaughn



VP Education: Taylor Stayback



VP Membership: Parag Vasekar



VP Public Relations: Hanae Sakata

Treasurer: Komal Hingu



Secretary: Yangyang Zhu



Sergeant at Arms: Alwin Yen

The Toastmasters International Club Mission

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE ON TOASTMASTER OF THE DAY?

When you serve in this meeting role, four different leadership qualities will emerge.

By Megan Preston Meyer

Article: Toastmasters Magazine, Sept. 2020

The [Toastmaster of the Day](#) keeps everything running smoothly. They manage the meeting, adhering to the agenda and ensuring that transitions between speakers are seamless and the session stays on time.

We often think of the role as a master of ceremonies, but it is much more than that. To be successful in the role you'll need to pull from four different personas: the Event Planner (master organizer), the Tour Guide (gracious host), the Engaging Emcee (keeping the audience interested), and the Efficient Administrator (punctuality is pivotal). When you serve in this meeting role, you can draw on qualities from all four of these personas. You will benefit immensely from practicing and honing these diverse leadership skills.

The Toastmaster of the Day is a multifaceted and demanding role. Because you get to use several different skill sets as you prepare and lead the session, it's an incredible opportunity to improve leadership skills across multiple dimensions.

Read on to learn more about these four leadership types.

The Event Planner

You may know the type—these people are ruthlessly organized, dogged on details, and utterly in control. They have lists of lists ([like this one](#)) and leave no box unchecked. That's the Toastmaster as they prepare for the meeting, making sure the agenda is planned down to the minute and the meeting runs accordingly.

In this role, you may want to check with a club officer, such as Vice President Education, to make sure all the meeting roles are filled well in advance, or reach out to the meeting evaluators to see how the speakers would like to be introduced.

If structured and detailed is not your natural style, even better! It's an opportunity to stretch yourself. Check all the details—especially those you might be tempted to gloss over. Are you familiar with all segments of the meeting agenda? Can you pronounce everyone's name correctly? And how about speech titles—is Chasing the Bass about fishing or hip-hop? Touch base with the speaker so you're 100% sure.

When the big day comes and the spotlight is on, it's easy to forget the details. You'll be glad your inner event planner left you so well prepared. Follow your agenda closely—and leave no box unchecked.

The Tour Guide

Toastmasters meetings—and clubs—each have their own culture. This can be intimidating, especially for guests who are not yet familiar with the jargon, norms, and unwritten rules. One of your main tasks as Toastmaster of the meeting is to guide everyone comfortably and happily through the session. Public speaking is nerve-racking enough; no one should worry about doing the wrong thing at the wrong time and feeling silly.

Lay out exactly how the meeting is structured, and let guests know what is expected of them. Of course, they are encouraged to take part in Table Topics®, but are they allowed to vote for Best Speaker? Should they give individual feedback to speakers when club members are asked to provide that? Anticipate their questions.

It's not just guests who need answers, though. For instance, when our club started meeting in person again after the COVID-19 lockdown, we knew that some people would be worried about hygiene. The Toastmaster of the Day announced up front that it was a “contactless” meeting and he would forego the traditional handshake when welcoming a speaker to the stage. It was a graceful way to make sure that no one was put in a potentially uncomfortable situation.

Explain things clearly, set expectations, and eliminate ambiguity. Ease the way for members and guests to enjoy the journey.

The Engaging Emcee

Eager to practice connecting with an audience? Giving club speeches isn't the only way—the Toastmaster of the Day does a lot of speaking, and a good one engages all listeners.

Once the Club President hands the meeting over to you, the stage is yours for a mini monologue. Depending on your personality type, this may be energizing or terrifying (or both), but use the opportunity to go outside of your comfort zone. Don't be afraid to seize the spotlight as the emcee (also known as master of ceremonies) and put your personal stamp on the role.

The opening is not your only chance to engage the audience though. As Toastmaster of the Day, you speak more than anyone else at the meeting, and every utterance is an opportunity. Come up with a subtle theme for the meeting and sprinkle it throughout the session, whether you're thanking the speakers after they've finished or transitioning to the next phase of the meeting. Anyone can read from a printout of the agenda; your job is to add some pizzazz!

As Toastmaster, you will be the most visible representative of the club, so don't be surprised if guests approach you after the meeting with questions. They might be asking for an autograph, but more likely, they're wondering about the club. Brush up on the membership process so you can answer basic questions, and make sure you know who the Vice President Membership is in case you need to defer to the expert.

The Efficient Administrator

From the time the meeting starts, the Toastmaster is a taskmaster (albeit a friendly one), keeping everyone on track and moving forward. Meetings are scheduled down to the minute, and your job is to make sure you end on time.

That doesn't mean it will be easy. No matter how scrupulously you've prepared, something will always go wrong. When the unexpected occurs, assess the situation and determine the best course of action. Is the second evaluator stuck in traffic? Shuffle her speaker to the end to buy a little time. Has the red timing signal been showing for more than a minute? Cut in and point out that Table Topics are short impromptu speeches and that all attendees would like a chance to participate.

For the duration of the meeting, you are the ultimate authority. This may be daunting, depending on how much experience you have, but that's what Toastmasters is all about—putting yourself in tough situations and proving to yourself that you can soldier through them.

Act decisively, lead with authority, and—above all—stick to the agenda.

Putting It All Together

Because the duties are so varied, serving as Toastmaster of the Day is one of the most valuable ways to level up your leadership. You get to organize, guide, engage, and command, all in the space of one session.

Some of these leadership styles may come naturally, but others will not—providing a great excuse to get out of your comfort zone. If you're more of an Event Planner, plan to pull from the Engaging Emcee. If you're more of an Efficient Administrator, decide to guide your group graciously.

Determine which of these personas you want to work on, and use this opportunity to improve your skills. When the gavel drops at the end of the meeting, you'll have mastered more than just the ceremony.

UPCOMING TOASTMASTERS OFFICER TRAINING

For D11 Club Officers



In response to popular demand, additional officer training opportunities have been added to the training schedule for August 2022.

Officer training must be complete before September 1, 2022 to count for Distinguished Club credit.

Registration link:

<https://bit.ly/CorporateClubMakeUpTLI>

Date/Time Options:

Tuesday, 8/23/22 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, 8/24/22 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Welcome!

TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members joining Toastmasters at Purdue since July 2022

Shambhavi Borde • Yiyun Wang • Zhenhua Zeng



JOIN US!

Toastmasters at Purdue is open to Purdue staff, students, faculty, retirees, alumni, and family members of these groups.

We are currently meeting virtually and in-person in WANG 2501 at 12:00 noon every Friday.

Visit our club website

<http://4685166.toastmastersclubs.org> for more information and be sure to click on "Contact Us" to request the meeting link!

CONNECT WITH US!

Like Toastmasters at Purdue and join the Toastmasters District 11 group on Facebook to stay connected and learn helpful tips!

Toastmasters at Purdue: <https://www.facebook.com/toastmastersatpurdue>

Toastmasters District 11: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ToastmastersD11/>