

Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue of the Moderator Club Quarterly Update

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- Le mot du président,
Charles Brassard
- Les nouvelles du Club:
nouveaux membres,
réalisations...
- "Pick a topic"
by James Wagner
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- ...and more!



Announcements and Upcoming Events

- **Last call for semi-annual dues!**
If you have not paid for the full year, please bring your cash or cheque to the next meeting. You can also pay your membership dues by Credit Card with [PayPal](#).
- **Division F International Speech and Table Topics Contest** at the Ericsson Toastmasters Club, 8400 boulevard Décarie, Mont-Royal, Friday, April 9, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
- **Theme meeting – "Comedy"** on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 6:30 P.M.
- **Executive Committee elections:** Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Une belle occasion

Chers collègues modérateurs,

Mon mandat tire à sa fin (le 30 juin prochain) et dans moins de deux mois, soit le 4 mai 2010, vous aurez l'occasion de voter pour un nouveau comité de direction. J'encourage chacun d'entre vous à vous présenter à ces élections. C'est une belle occasion de vous impliquer, de développer votre leadership et d'apporter des améliorations au club. Cette année, j'ai eu la chance d'avoir une équipe dynamique et dévouée pour mener à bien plusieurs projets. Je souhaite souligner particulièrement le travail impeccable de notre V-P formation sortant, James Wagner, qui nous quittera à la fin du mois pour un stage de trois mois au Japon et qui, je l'espère, maintiendra son adhésion par la suite.

Voici certaines des améliorations apportées par notre comité :

- **Achat d'un projecteur :** Nous ne pouvions laisser passer cette aubaine (réduction de 70%)! Nous pensons que cet outil faisait défaut puisque bien souvent, lors de présentation technique par exemple, l'auditoire s'attend à un support visuel. En mettant cet outil à la disposition des membres, nous pensons qu'ils pourront apprendre à en éviter les pièges et les mauvaises utilisations.
- **Traduction du manuel des fonctions officielles :** Nous nous targuons d'être un club bilingue et pourtant nous n'avons qu'un manuel en anglais à offrir aux nouveaux membres. Pour vous impliquer, veuillez vous adresser à la responsable du comité de traduction, Ruth Fenelon.
- **Ordre dans la boîte de document :** Afin de faciliter la tâche du huissier à chaque réunion, nous avons fait un peu de ménage dans la boîte de documents et articles. Nous prions chaque huissier de s'assurer que les objets sont remis à leur place respective après la réunion.
- **Boîte de manuel CL :** nous encourageons chaque membre à progresser dans leur CL et pour leur facilité la tâche, nous avons mis à la disposition des membres une boîte (bleu ciel) dans laquelle ils peuvent laisser leur manuel. Vous ne pourrez plus vous plaindre que vous avez oublié votre manuel à la maison!
- **Nouveau trophée Brian Saykaly :** Les gagnant des improvisations n'ayant pu modérer leurs étirements et la fatigue de la fonte aidant, la figurine a récemment perdu irrémédiablement la tête. Un nouveau trophée sera inauguré prochainement.

Je souhaite à tous du succès et du plaisir dans vos entreprises.

The club is looking for a laptop!

We would like to get a laptop to go with the Club's projector so that members who wish to use it only need to bring a USB key or a DVD. Should you have an old laptop gathering dust because you bought a new one to replace it or because the battery doesn't charge anymore, please consider donating it (or selling it at a reasonable price) to the Club.

**Le mot du président
Charles Brassard**

**...et le p.s.
du président**

Achievements

Congratulations to the Mods who achieved these important milestones:



Competent Communicator:

James Burdick, Louyse Doucet, Dominique Boivin and Ruth Fenelon.

Advanced Communicator Bronze:

Saeed Shobeiri.

Competent Leader:

James Wagner.

New members

The "Mod Squad" continues to grow!

Isabella Gasselsdorfer
Alexa LeBlanc
Eric Otema
Thomas Okeke
Julie Mortreux
Karim Saliba
Jonathan Parent
Amilcar Perez
Williams Cattin
Joël Touchette
Amelia Jane Fink
Louise Barry
Vito Nardi
Mohamad Maalbaki

**Bienvenue
à bord!**

Icebreakers

Bravo à ceux et celles qui ont brisé la glace!

Ru Yun Pei,
Rober Le Van Mao,
Paulo Springmann,
Dominique Boivin,
Isabella Gasselsdorfer,
Alexa LeBlanc,
Eric Otema,
Thomas Okeke,
Julie Mortreux,
Karim Saliba,
Amilcar Perez,
Williams Cattin,
Joël Touchette.
Louise Barry
Vito Nardi



Contests, and more contests!

As always members of the Moderator Club were enthusiastic – and successful – participants in various competitions, as Saeed Shobeiri, Francine Dubé, Ruth Fenelon, Sebastien Wanadi and Louyse Doucet all took part in Contests, representing both the Moderator Club and other clubs.

In the Fall Humorous Speech and Evaluation contests, Saeed Shobeiri won the English Evaluation contest, while Ruth Fenelon came in second in the English Humorous speech category, and Francine Dubé came in second in both the French Evaluation and French Humorous speech contests.

Other Mods, participating for other clubs, also did extremely well in the Division F contest, with Louyse Doucet taking second in the French Humorous speech contest, while Sébastien Wanadi won first place in both the French Humorous speech and the Evaluation contests, after which he went on to win the French Humorous speech contests at the District level.



*Martin Liu et
Francine Dubé*



*Sébastien Wanadi
et Saeed Shobeiri*



Ruth Fenelon



*Louyse Doucet et
Francine Dubé*

The Area 54 Spring International Speech and Table Topics Contests were held on March 10, and once again results were impressive for the Moderator Club: Louyse Doucet won the French Speech contest, while Sébastien Wanadi won for English Table Topics, and Saeed Shobeiri came in 2nd in the English International Speech contest. Sébastien also won for French Table Topics, representing another club.

Louyse and Sébastien will go on to compete in the Division F International Speech and Table Topics Contest at the Ericsson Toastmasters Club on Friday, April 9.

Congratulations to all, and thank you for doing us proud!

Getting Started on Your Next speech: Pick a Topic

**Inspiration
James Wagner**

When going through the Competent Communicator (CC) manual, I constantly found myself delaying, delaying, and further delaying the date of my next speech. The number one reason for these delays was not nervousness about delivering a speech, or a lack of time when it came to preparation or research, but rather the seemingly simple act of choosing a speech topic. Right now at the Moderator Club it seems there are many members who do not have this problem, as most weeks there are 3 or 4 speakers booked in advance, but there are still members who fall into the same pattern of putting off their next speech. I may not be able to do anything about your busy schedule, but hopefully I can help make the choice of your next speech topic a little bit easier.

Too many choices.

With anything in life, being presented with too many choices can lead to paralysis when it comes time to actually accomplish something. Researchers in psychology conducted an interesting experiment where college students were given the task of writing an extra-credit paper. One group was given 6 choices for the subject, the other group 30 choices. Significantly more students turned in the paper, and turned in higher quality papers on average, from among the group given only 6 choices. For the CC projects as well as many advanced manual projects, the objectives spell out very clearly what one must do in terms of public speaking skills (organize your speech, research your topic, etc.), but leave it up to the speaker to find a topic that works well with the objectives. Clearly the choice of topics is even broader than the college students given a list of thirty topics to choose from were faced with. Toastmasters has very good reasons for giving speakers this freedom to choose a topic, but the speaker who is working on the manual then needs to realize it is his/her responsibility to narrow down the topic from an infinitude of choices to a single, well-defined topic.



While there may not be anybody standing over your head giving you a list of 6 speech topics to choose from, there are still effective ways of limiting your choices. One effective role model in our club is Louyse Doucet. She was preparing for an upcoming conference and all of her speeches incorporated material and ideas that she planned to present at the conference.

It is also worth noting that she completed her Competent Communicator in less than a year. If you don't have this sort of external motivation for limiting your choices, try to imagine one. Have you been to 10 countries or 10 cities? Read 10 books? Seen 10 movies? It might depend a bit on the topics of these books/movies, but you could potentially have 10 speech topics. If you need some help with coming up with these lists, numerous books, websites, and magazine articles are organized around a list of some sort (eg. The 50 Greatest Self-Help Books of All Time, 10 books to read before you die, 17 things to do to keep your spouse happy). Picking one of these lists may help to reduce your set of choices from an infinite number to a manageable number.

One of the best resources: your fellow club members.

Who better to help you choose the topic for your next speech than your fellow Toastmasters? Especially in the context of the weekly meetings, there are many ideas. Have you ever sat down after giving a Table Topics speech and said to yourself 5 minutes later « Aha! I should have said X! That would have been the perfect answer! » Well why not fill out the details a little bit from 1-2 minutes into 5-7 minutes and use this for your next manual speech? Likewise when someone else gives a not-so-great response to a table topics question, and you only wish you had had the opportunity to answer it. You can have that opportunity for your next prepared speech!



(Continued on next page)

For prepared speeches, while I would never suggest directly copying specific ideas from the speeches of other members in the club without acknowledging them, the diversity of ideas we find in speeches at our weekly meetings is incredible, and generally there are some aspects that can be regarded as pretty universal. Have you been stuck on your CC2, « Organize Your Speech », trying to come up with an informative speech with three main points? Maybe you will hear a fellow member at a meeting telling a story for his CC2 where his method of organizing is chronology. As long as the story itself is not the same, using the same technique for your CC2 would certainly not be copying that fellow member!

A third way in which a club member can help with speech topics is more direct, and it involves mentorship. This is primarily something that happens with newer members of our club but experienced members can also benefit from having a mentor, and discussing possible speech topics is certainly an important part of mentorship. If you would like a mentor, do not hesitate to approach a fellow member whom you would like to have as a mentor. Or speak to your VP of Education, Sydney Roc, who will be happy to help you find a one.

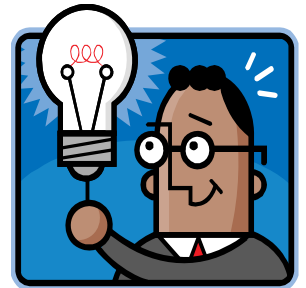


Take a look ahead and familiarize yourself with all of the projects in your manual and their objectives. If you come across an interesting idea that could potentially fulfil one of the projects, whether this idea comes through a newspaper article, conversation with a friend, or a table topics speech at the club, write this idea down.

This may require having to carry a little notebook or organizer with you, or if your work requires long hours in front of a computer as mine does or you can organize yourself better with the help of a computer, send yourself an e-mail with Subject Line « Toastmasters Speech Idea » listing the topic, so that later on you can do a search in your email for this idea.

If you're the type of person who enjoys interesting books, conversations, and experiences – and I assume you are – and if you carry out this idea diligently, I think you will very soon have a list of great topics for your next speech, and speeches to come after that.

If any of these ideas, particularly the last one seem a little bit geeky, I can only quote from our fellow member Robert Le Van Mao's Ice-Breaker, which is itself a quote from U.S. Counterterrorism official Richard Clarke, « geeks get it done ». So as long as your Toastmasters goals are accomplished and you become a better communicator through more frequent presentations, let them call you a geek all they want!



Be a Toastmasters geek. Pocket Protector and Bad Haircut Optional.

Unlike other forms of "geekhood", being a Toastmasters geek does not have to substantially alter your wardrobe, interests or social life; it rather means just taking a keen, active approach to getting your manual projects done.

Do you have an idea?

Would you like to submit an article for the next issue of the newsletter? Contact:
sonia.apraxine@sympatico.ca

« Merci! »

L'été dernier, Francine Dubé a atteint un sommet, soit le titre de DTM ("Distinguished Toastmaster"). Au souper des fêtes, comme le veut la tradition, Francine fut l'objet d'une mise en boîte – un « roast » – en son honneur.



Le 15 décembre fut une réunion dont je garderai un souvenir inoubliable... Un gros merci à Charles et à son équipe de cuistots qui ont su préparer un bien cuit rôti à point. Merci aux cinq grands chefs cuisiniers, Leila, Lise, Alain, Brian et Nick, qui ont concocté des petits plats cuits à point sous l'orchestration de James.... Merci.

Le 15 décembre 2009 restera pour moi un moment mémorable. Il m'a permis de réaliser le cheminement que j'avais réalisé. Cette réalisation, je le dois à des membres exceptionnels appartenant à un club exceptionnel. Un club, dont je suis fière d'appartenir, qui a su me donner de multiples opportunités de développer mes habiletés en communication et en leadership. Merci à vous qui m'avez donné la main, un coup de pouce ou une tape dans le dos lorsque j'en avais besoin...
Merci !

Francine Dubé

President's Distinguished Club Update

**3200 - Club Modérateur/Moderator Club,
Montreal, QC, Area 54 Division F District 61**

At March 2010:

Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

Eighty percent of success is showing up.

Woody Allen

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
[1] CCs	2	2	*
[2] Additional CCs	2	1	
[3] ACs	1	1	*
[4] Additional ACs	1	0	
[5] CL, AL, or DTM	1	1	*
[6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	0	
[7] New Members	4	4	*
[8] Additional New Members	4	11	*
[9] Officers Trained (both required)			
June-August	4	6	
and December-February	4	4	*
[10] Submitted on time (both required)			
October or April Renewal	1	1	
and Officer List	1	1	*

Total Goals Achieved To-Date: 7