



Wry Toastmasters

dedicated to the mastery of public speaking

Volume 2 Issue 4 2004

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Club Officers: President – Bert Huelmann, VP Education-Heidi Gregory, VP Membership-Charles Moore Jr, VP Public Relations-Susanne Baessler, Secretary-Sandra Jones, Treasurer-Steven Merwick, Sgt.-at-Arms-Pierce Keating, Past President—Tim O'Brien

Inside this issue:

Humorous speech contest—look back	1
New members	2, 3
Christmas Party	4
New Year	4

Special points of interest:

- * Humorous Speech Contest
- * New members

Outlook for the next issue

- * All the best wishes for the New Year..... We will check on your New Year's resolutions in January.

Having fun yet....?

The humorous speech contest..... It kept us excited this year. The winners of our club contest both, Steve for the speeches and Eric for the table topics, went on to two further rounds. There they met the competition of the region. But confident and fearless as they are they took the bull by the horn. Here is Steve's report of his experience.

As I stepped out in front of the audience to give my first speech away from the Wry Toastmasters Club I experienced a new found feeling about public speaking Confidence!

I took my place in the front of the room, made eye contact with many in the audience, waited for a few seconds for it to grow quite, took a step forward and belted out ... "I have a confession to make. I can't hear worth a darn!" ... and never missed a beat. For those who witnessed my ice-breaker you know what a difference a year has made. It took three speeches before I stopped blanking out in the middle of a speech because I was so nervous.

Since joining Wry Toastmasters I have given 10 speeches. Each speech I do my best to follow the lessons in the manual; learning to speak with sincerity, vocal variety, body language, organization and being prepared. The lessons have helped me focus on different aspects of speaking.

There is more to learning how to speak in front of an audience than going through a manual. To me is being a member of club like Wry where there is an environment of camaraderie, friendly, unselfish people who will go out their way to encourage you and help in any way. It is a place to receive honest, positive feedback as to how various members of the audience perceived your presentation.

Thanks to Hideo for reminding me to "turn the volume up", to Caron for teaching me how to "settle yourself in front of the audience and take control", to Walter for using great body language and to all the others for their constructive comments, en-

couragement and for teaching by example. Thanks to everyone at Wry for helping me become a confident speaker.



Steve Merwick

And Eric adds:

The best thing for me about going to speech contests is seeing and learning from some very talented speakers. Its funny how competitive I do feel in that environment. At wry, I really do want everyone to do well. At the next level of competition I want to win! Thanks to everyone at wry for your support. This is a great group of people.

Gayle — Bringing Humor Into Her Speeches

Gayle is a returning member of Toastmasters. So, she is ready to rock'n'roll with her ATM Bronze. She still hangs on to her dream of being a public speaker..... In this life, not her next one.

Gayle is a native of Washington who graduated from Mercer Island High School and Stanford University in California. After living in California and Utah she can not imagine living anywhere else than Seattle.

Gayle works as a family therapist and as a clinical supervisor. So besides seeing clients herself she also supervises 10 other counselors. Be aware her work will spill over into her speeches.

Gayle is single and has 3 children who are all adults. Lesley lives in the Bay Area with her chef Brent, Michael hunts down sales and lives in a small town in Utah and Christopher pursues his acting career in LA. Who knows soon we'll see Gayle with Christopher in a great movie. But for now she is working on one of them to move to Seattle.

Gayle loves to read, to decorate her condo and spend time with friends. She volunteers in the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and

Calls it 'sad but satisfying' work.

Gayle loves humor and uses it every day. It's harder for her to bring it into her speeches. So, if anybody wants to volunteer as a humor mentor, please get in touch with Gayle.



Kathy Woodford — On The Data Autobahn

Kathy is on her way to becoming a famous photographer. She joined Wry because she wanted to prepare for a November presentation for professional photographers. Already after a few weeks she has improved her speaking style—now that she knows what to pay attention to. Good job all Wry!

Kathy grew up in California and studied and taught in the graduate program in English at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. She moved to Seattle in 1989 and worked as a technical writer at Aldus and Microsoft. When her first daughter was born nine years ago she left work to raise her kids.

Her two daughters now go to a

Spanish immersion elementary school in Bellevue. Kathy and her husband do not speak any second language but wanted their children to grow up bilingual.

For the last two years she has been running a wedding photography business out of her home. Kathy also loves to work with wood and makes miniature models from scratch when the family is not out camping in their trailer.

After she prepared her icebreaker speech she shared it with her parents who were delighted by the good things she had to say about her childhood and growing up.

And then there was the Wry audi-

ence which found it amusing that Kathy when Kathy moved into her new house three years ago, the feature she was most excited about was the high-speed internet connection.



Learning with a view....

Ayumi came all the way from Japan.... To join Wry Toastmasters. The first time she attended our meeting she enjoyed the view from the skyline tower. And oh, by the way, she also thought Wry Toastmasters is “very cool and smart”. (Now, don’t get that too much into your heads).

Ayumi was born and grew up in Chiba prefecture close to Tokyo. For two years—from 5-7 years—she moved to the rural Fukushima prefecture and learned to love the natural environment. Forests, rivers and clear skies are still her favorites. She also loves to climb mountains and has learned climbing in a mountaineering club in high school.

Ayumi is a student in the USA like she was at home. She also tutors junior high school students and you can find her part time as a clerk in a convenience store.

Ayumi has two older sisters. And she actually liked inheriting their clothes because she thinks her sisters are way more fashionable than her. We’ll have to watch her fashion style over the next few months.



Being in the USA triggered her interest in Native American’s culture. She is planning to visit museums and reservations to learn more about that culture.

Returning to learn more....

Kevin is back with toastmasters. And with Wry Toastmasters, which struck him as “vibrant and enthusiastic” (wow, more praise for Wry).

He has 13 years of international experience In helping people plan and achieve their financial goals. He enjoys his work because he can help people fulfill their dreams.

Kevin joined Toastmasters originally to practice public speaking with the goal to be more confident in conducting seminars.

Toastmasters gave him a great venue to practice for his professional life.

He jumped right into it with a power point presentation on a computer Which did not cooperate. Time ran..... With a racing heart and knees shaking he launched into his speech. His computer did not get better ... so no power points. The situation became ironic when he mentioned technology as the key driver for the economy.... And the audience laughed. Nowadays he does not use power points anymore and is ‘fluent’ in his presentations.

Kevin was born in Panama but ‘growing up’ took him to exotic places like Ecuador, Ireland, the Bahamas, USA, Canada and now back to the USA. He just moved to Seattle from Vancouver with his wife, Traci, and his son,Padraig who is five years old.

When he is not planning finances Kevin and his wife enjoy running and cycling, sailing and cruising in the San Juans.



WRY Toastmaster

Charter Date: September, 1981

District 2; Division: F

Area: 64, Club 4723

Thursday morning meetings

@ 7am

Skyline Tower Building

10900 NE 4th (Floor 9, Conference Room)

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Visit
www.wrytoastmasters.org
Or email
info@WryToastmasters.org

Got something to tell? Want to contribute an article for the next newsletter?

Just contact Susanne Baessler at susanbaessler@msn.com

EXTRA

Happy Holidays!

Wry Toastmasters wishes all members and their families and friends 'Happy Holidays' and a great start into the New Year!



We will not meet on 12/23 and 12/30 but reconvene on 1/6/2005. Yes, it will be already the year 2005.

Wry Toastmasters Christmas Party

Small and comfortable....

This year's Wry Christmas Party happened on the 12. December at Susanne's house. People arrived fashionable, bringing joys of food along. The 'Gluehwein' was ready and hot, warming everybody. After enjoying the snacks like a marvelous bean dip, a wonderful rice salad and delightful conversation (yes, and some commenting on Toastmasters....) we moved on to the 'white elephant gift exchange'. As every year, we started with discussing the rules. Expectations were high and even moved higher after the first one

collected his beautiful gift of an ornament. It was very clear that this would be contested. And great gifts kept coming....

A tiny mouse, a lotion and douche set.... Surprises, sur-

prises.

In the end most people went home happy with their gifts. Ohh, well not all.... One left his gift at Susanne's house but as she knew he wouldn't want to



live without it there is a way to return it. So, look out for the 'white elephant exchange' next year. And Tabatha will be the rule queen next year.