



Lyon English Toastmasters

Monthly NewsLETter

Toastmasters, From the Beginning

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Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that operates clubs worldwide for the purpose of helping members improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills. Through its thousands of member clubs, Toastmasters International offers a program of communication and leadership projects designed to help people learn the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking.

The organization grew out of a single club, Smedley Chapter One Club, which would become the first Toastmasters club. It was founded by Ralph C. Smedley on October 22, 1924, at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, United States. Toastmasters International was incorporated under California law on December 19, 1932. Throughout its history, Toastmasters has served over four million people, and today the organization serves over 292,000 members in 122 countries, through its over 14,350 member clubs. (source: wikipedia 2014)

In the year 2010, two Toastmasters Clubs were created in Lyon. Toastmasters Grand Lyon is a Francophone Club and Lyon Toastmasters Unlimited is a Bilingual (French-English) Club. Both Clubs continue

to exist today as part of the Toastmasters Family.

Two former Toastmasters Presidents, Stephen-Victor Lars and Robert Kennedy, saw the need to create an "Only English" Speaking Toastmasters Club in Lyon. They found a centralized meeting place at the America House, 5 rue Pizay, 69001 Lyon. In October 2013, Lyon English Toastmasters opened our doors to the English Speaking Community. In five short months, our membership has grown and with a strong participation by our members, our club will be Chartered by Toastmasters International. To be Chartered means that we are officially accepted into the Toastmasters Worldwide Network, which allows our members to compete in speech contests at all levels.

Our members come from many walks of life, different countries, various cultures and are from 18 to 69 years of age. They all come for two common objectives, to improve their speaking and communication skills in addition to becoming leaders in the community.

Success is for those who come and make an effort, So **LET** it happen for You!

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Thank you