



Monthly Newsletter November 2015

Dear visitors, fellow Toastmasters,

At any moment in the life of a toastmaster, one can take part in the club organization. Each toastmaster is welcome to become the life of the club by helping the leadership team (our Officers) in maintaining the club.

One of these roles for example is the VP of Public Relations. As VP PR my role is to promote the club and ensure that it is seen by as many people as possible. I also coordinate and write the club's newsletters as newsletter editor.

For this edition of our newsletter I announce with great pleasure that Nicolas Denis, one of our new members has volunteered to write a newsletter. He has found an interesting way of explain to us how a meeting is organized. I hope you to have as much pleasure as I did to read it.

Yours sincerely, Betty-Fleur VP-Public Relations:

Newsletter writer: Nicolas-Denis.

Hello, I'm Letty, a spirit who recently visited a new house: The British Council. I thought I would only find British people, but last Tuesday evening more than 15 non-British people gathered and began speaking English. Some very well and others with their various native accents.

I would have liked to scare them for my own entertainment however, their intriguing name "Toastmaster" made me wait and see.

Their president opened the meeting in perfect English (since he is British, it helps a bit). He then introduced a young man who was called the "Toastmaster Area Manager". He, a Frenchman, outlined the administrative divisions of the Toastmaster organization and also the four toastmaster values:

**Respect
Integrity
Service
Excellence**

I was very impressed by their will to sit and listen to the following fellows and enjoy their speeches. One of the rules I appreciated was the "word of the evening" a word each speaker was supposed to use. Under

pressure it is not so easy to remember. This time, the word was "VALUABLE". I found the use of one specific word a good way to enhance our vocabulary and very entertaining.

The Master of Ceremonies called the "Toastmaster of the Evening" explained how the meeting will be organized. She asked each member with a role to explain the purpose of that role. She then let the "Table Topics Master" run her part. The "Table Topics Master" has to pick out people and ask people to respond with an unprepared, improvised short speech. Here are the topics that Laura chose for us:

- Summer; is it the best and the worst of times, why?
- Talk about something that you are angry about? Our speaker for this topic was a math teacher who chose the recent education reforms. A hot topic of the moment.
- Is it important to know a second language? This speaker surprised us by talking about a very special language... the language of love... Very entertaining this one!
- If you could call someone from the past, who could be it? The speaker chose himself as a kid so he could explain life to himself.

After these unprepared speeches, the Master of ceremony or Toast master of the evening explained how the prepared speeches were to take place and their rules..

- Two "Ice breaker" speeches: These are apparently the first of the Competent Communicator speeches in which one chooses oneself. These were very interesting as one learns all sorts of surprising things.
- Get the Rules that spoke about some of the "British English" expressions used by Richard Templar in his fascinating books such as The Rules of Work and The Rules of Life.

It was very pleasant to follow these stressed members being evaluated by members attending a role of the Lyon English Toastmasters. Throughout the session members and guests voted for the speech they preferred, and winners received ribbons as awards.

At the end of the meeting, a toast was prepared and allowed members to chat in English. I said to myself: I would come back and ask how to be a member too!

This is the Beginning of my Toastmasters Journey....