



The Pride Moments

A Newsletter of the Toastmaster Indiranagar Pride | Chartered Club of Toastmasters International USA
Club No. 3078424 | Area C5 | Division C | District 92

The Club Officers January – May 2015

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Editor:
Ashutosh Srivastava

The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Toastmasters Indiranagar Pride newsletter!

The newsletter brings together all the events that have occurred over the past few months – Installation Ceremony, Club Contest and most importantly the growth of our club. This edition of the newsletter is a voice to the stories, ideas, opinions and the experiences of members.

Happy reading!

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL®

Toastmasters Indiranagar Pride meets every Sunday at Rotary Club, Indiranagar from 4:45PM to 6:30PM.

The Editor's Desk

At Toastmasters, we come to achieve finesse in the art of communication and public speaking skill. Most of have started our Toastmasters journey with the aim to become better a communicator and leader, but inadvertently we end up discovering something new about ourselves. Likewise, the newsletter is another platform for members to showcase their penmanship.

The wait for the newsletter is over. This edition of the newsletter brings to you glorious stories and excellent articles from fellow Toastmasters, inspiring us to experience what they explored, ideated and changed. Many of our new members had a phenomenal journey over the last few months enabling them to take part in the club contest and this edition will bring out their experience of taking part in the club contest.

This edition of the newsletter captures the best moments of the Installation ceremony, club contest and gives you a glimpse of the upcoming events this term. As an editor for this newsletter I would like to take an opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the members for their articles and making this a grand success.

Happy reading and stay tuned for the next edition of the club newsletter!



TM Ashutosh Srivastava
Vice President Public Relations
Toastmasters Indiranagar Pride

The President's Desk

The New Year started with a bang with the new club officers' team. Fresh minds brought new perspectives. There were interesting changes in the way things were done starting with the engaging Minutes of Meeting pioneered by Ranjani, the point system invented by Abilash, I could go on.

It was apparent that each member of the team was vital to the functioning of the team as a whole. We were a unit and by expansion, each club member is a valuable part of the Pride family. We have our own WhatsApp group and camaraderie is at a premium. Members help and support each other fostering the family feeling.

To give our members an edge in the upcoming competition, we had educational sessions on 'How to Decode Table Topics' by Chimmu Kutty and 'How to prepare for the International Prepared Speech Contest' by Kausthubh. We had 6 contestants for the International Speech Contest and a whopping 11 participants for the Table Topics contest. I was so proud to see several new members take part in Table Topics Contest. It takes courage to make an impromptu speech in front of an unfamiliar audience. But the club contest would not have been possible without the volunteers or the Contest Chair – Jitesh. Well done Pride!

The first club meeting of the Pride was held on January 6th 2013, with about 10 people in the room. Six months later, in June 2013, the club was chartered. This is a remarkable achievement in such a short frame of time. Back then, our club had plenty of guests who attended the meetings and I'm proud to say that today we still have several guests who attend each meeting. We encourage people to attend a couple of meetings first before making a commitment to the Toastmasters movement and joining the Pride.

“Man often becomes what he believes himself to be” - Mahatma Gandhi. Each of us believed we could, and we did. We became good speakers and better communicators. In becoming so, we forged a club where enthusiasm and energy enthralled. We have reached a century of meetings now. This was done one meeting at a time. It is only fitting that we honor and remember those members who worked so hard that we could enjoy success today. A big **Thank You** to each and every one of you.

After 100 meetings, we are still evolving, still improving, and still innovating. Five of our members completed their Competent Communication manual by June 2014. The next wave of achievers is at the cusp with six projects under their belt. This season, we will be filing leadership awards too with our members actively volunteering in the Toastmasters community.

We rock! Even after 100 meetings old, we're yet young at heart! Our best is yet to come!



TM Chimmu Kutty
President
Toastmasters Indiranagar Pride

Toastmasters Worldwide:

Visit Toastmaster International website – <http://toastmasters.org>
Register your self - <http://members.toastmasters.org>

Toastmasters Indiranagar Pride:

Visit the Toastmaster Indiranagar Pride website - <http://indiranagarpride.in>
Club Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ToastmastersIndiranagarPride/>
Invite a friend to the club - <http://www.meetup.com/Toastmasters-Indiranagar-Pride/>

Installation Ceremony

The installation ceremony was held on January 25th 2015 at Rotary Club, Indiranagar. We were honored to have the Area C5 Governor – TM Chandramouli as the installation officer. TM Chandramouli formally installed the new club officer during this session.



The Immediate Past President, TM Jitesh Dattani handed over the responsibilities and club duties to the new team led by TM Chimmu Kutty. The new club officers for the term are Abilash Gunta, Nishanth PK, Ashutosh Srivastava, Ranajini Ranganath, Srinivas Vadepalli and Ravi Rathore.

The Buzz Word

I am in love with Toastmasters since the first day I joined. It has helped me immensely to improve my communication & presentation skills that were imperative to make presentations in my MBA class. Once I started making decent presentations at the college, I could see that there are many students who can make better presentations. Similarly, at the office, I could see that a lot of people have good views on various topics and interesting ideas but somehow they aren't able to put them in words and deliver to a wider audience. Basically, there was a need to articulate thoughts. I and two colleagues of mine gave some thoughts on what can we do to improve this and we planned to start a hobby club called "Articulate."

Our location head supported us in this initiative, and we

sent out mail to the full Bangalore office, which has nearly 100 employees. We officially started the club in April-2014. The modus-operandi was similar to a Toastmasters meeting. We began to have prepared and impromptu speeches in our sessions. We also had the luxury to use projectors and laptops, so we could come with exciting activities like "Tell a story based on picture", "Watch a video and have a group discussion", etc. We also included a lot of games in our sessions. The core objective was to help everyone to improve their public speaking and business communication skills.

Initially, we were apprehensive whether even five people will join our club but to our utter surprise we had house full right from the 1st week. We completed 20 meetings day before yesterday, and all the sessions were full. Our members enjoy all the meetings and acknowledge that they have been benefited in some way. We were privileged to get a slot in the "All hands meet" in which our Geo lead came to Bangalore, and we could tell about our club to the wider audience. We have bigger offices in Pune and Hyderabad, and they also thought of starting a public speaking platform. Our company has launched the Toastmasters Club in Hyderabad this week and our management team wants to start a chapter of Toastmasters in Bangalore as well. There are certain constraints on doing this, but we are making progress. Toastmasters is the buzz word in our company now!

My love for Toastmasters will continue, and I hope I will continue to improve in my public speaking and leadership journey. But, above all, I hope I can live the true spirit of Toastmasters, which is to help as many people as possible to improve their public speaking and communication skills!

TM Shubodeep



Toastmasters: A Peregrination

An ordinary summer evening in 2014 brought something extraordinary into my life. My father had just heard about a Toastmaster's Club that was present a pleasant five minute walk from my house. After enlightening me about what this club with a strange name was about, he asked me whether I would like to give it a try. My instincts told me to 'Go for it' and I did. I attended my first session as a guest with my brother.

I have studied in an English medium school and a National Law University, so I was no stranger to fluent speakers, but when I attended the TM session, it brought a whole new dimension to speaking. My perception about communication totally changed. Words like eye-contact, modulation of pitch and volume, hand gestures were just some of the new terms that I learnt that day. I was amazed at the content of the speeches and more amazed by the humility and friendly nature of everybody at the club.

It seemed like a truly encouraging environment where one could stumble, fall and be picked right up by our friends, only to stand taller. It appeared to be a place where we could forget our inhibitions and take the stage. I signed up the very next week and it was one of the best things I have done.

I gave my first table topics speech and received good feedback for it especially regarding the content. People said that due to your 'lawyering' skills you have an advantage and I thought that I must capitalize on it so I can travel the long road that I have in front of me.

Fast forward to the ice-breaker speech. I remember not making eye contact with a single person. My body moved from side to side and my voice was a monotone. My evaluator Jitesh, nevertheless gave me positive feedback and said I have potential. During my few months at Toastmaster's I have been slowly learning the ropes as regards public speaking. It has been an enlightening and enriching experience for me and has made me realize that what you think and what others think might not tally, and to reach out to others you have to tune yourself to their wavelength. It has made me appreciate the greatness of people like Swami Vivekananda who enthralled millions, with their oratory skills.

Toastmaster's is becoming more than a weekend club to me. It is becoming a way of life.

To quote Jim Rohn, "Take advantage of every opportunity to practice your communication skills so that when important occasions arise, you will have the gift, the style, the sharpness, the clarity, and the emotions to affect other people."

TM Atul Atre



Let It Remain That Way

The path was beset with memories. I was taking my children to my school- the school where I studied and graduated. I was overwhelmed, so were my children.

School was quite far from home- about five miles away. Although the road was made better, the plants, the pebbles and the atmosphere were all the same. Standing near the school gate, I thought of my father. He often used to come to school. His impeccable mastery over chess was well known to all, even to my teachers. His passion for life and his resilience against life's challenges were incomparable.

We saw the building that stood the test of time. The stone edifice bared its bosom to the vagaries of nature and withstood all. The school bell was there at the same place, positioned a little higher than before. During hours of boredom, how my friends and I used to wait for its toll! We went in; the school hadn't changed much. A few workers were repairing a part of the stage. We sat on the stage; time just shrunk. I used to be on stage for all the music competitions. My father would be there among the

audience, as sure as the sun. Sitting there, I visualized the old scene.

On the way back, we were all caught in myriad memories. We were juxtaposing the past and the present. Even in a different city, school is still the same. The human mind has not evolved; the laughter, the apprehension, the boredom, and the expectations—nothing has changed. We have witnessed large scale evolution in the field of science and technology: we have become trendy in our dealings with one another; but the minutiae of our mind remain the same. What the epic heroes and philosophers of old would have felt, we feel. The mind is constant as the Northern Star.

Let it remain that way!

TM Geetha P.N

Club Contest

The recently concluded Club Contest saw members battled it out for a coveted spot in the Area contest. The International Prepared Speech Contest saw 6 members fight it out for the top spot and 11 members participated in the Table Topic Contest.

International Prepared Speech Contest:

First Place – TM Nishanth P K

Second Place – TM Ranajini Ranganath

Third Place – TM Abilash Gunta

Table Topic Contest:

First Place – TM Nishanth P K

Second Place – TM Chimmu Kutty

Third Place – TM Atul Atre

The contest chair, TM Jitesh Dattani, along with his team conducted a marvelous club contest which was a full house!

The winners and first runner up will represent the club at the Area C5 contest on March 15th, 2015.



TM Abilash, Second Runners up – International Prepared Speech Contest



TM Ranjani and TM Nishanth (Runners Up and Winner of International Prepared Speech Contest)



TM Chimmu and TM Nishanth (Runners Up and Winner of Table Topic Contest)

Toastmaster of the Month

With a new point system in place, the club recognizes a member every month based on the number of points accumulated every month. The points are given to members for attending the meeting, taking up various roles during the meeting! Since its inception, the club has seen has 2 winners so far.

January – TM Ranjini Ranganath
February – TM Abilash Gunta

Sunday Siesta

It was the day that kept all of us waiting with a bated breath; a few had even started counting down the days ever since the World Cup had started. Being an Argentina Fan, I was one of those who counted and the D-day had finally come. It was the World Cup Final. It was on a Sunday evening. Could it get any better? There were 8 hours to go for the proceedings to begin and I had an evening to kill. Usually my Sundays are spent lazing around, but this time it was going to be different. I was in no mood for a Sunday siesta.

I chanced upon this strange club and started being really curious and nervous at the same time. But I wanted to go out to acquaint myself with new people. As I started ascending the stairs that led to the club, my nervousness had crept way to curiosity because I wanted to find out what it was all about. As I was eyeing everyone in the room, I was greeted by this person with a thick beard. He seemed to be giving directions to everyone else in the room. He was oozing class from his beard to toe and he looked like a leader in true sense of the word. He welcomed me politely and asked me to sit down amidst the guests. There are some people who have that aura around them, the swagger, and the presence. This person seemed to have that aura around him.

As the meeting started, there was this person who reveled at keeping the audience in splits. He was the Master of Ceremonies for that meeting and his job was to

entertain the audience and he did that job to the T. There were prepared speeches lined up and what impressed me the most as a guest was the hushed silence when a speaker starts speaking. The second phase of the meeting was when guests get an opportunity to speak on an impromptu topic and I spoke on a random topic. This was the moment for all first time speakers where your throat starts getting dry and your brain ceases to work. I went ahead, cleared my throat and started speaking. Looking back, I realized that I hardly made any sense at all. But then again Hindsight is always a great thing.

As the meeting proceeded towards the last phase, the bearded man was at his elements. He gave me precise feedback about the meeting and I was awestruck by this speech. After the meeting had concluded, I met this other person who complimented me on my speech. He was short in stature, but huge when it comes to giving compliments to someone. Compliments such as these will go a long way for a first time speaker. I went back home feeling happy that I had spent a couple hours on attending something worthwhile and I wanted to attend next week's meeting as well. In the end, I ended up missing the World Cup Final that I had so wanted to see because I had missed my Sunday siesta.

Every meeting after that one meeting betters the previous meeting in some way and I am yet to find to a club other than Toastmasters that breeds so much positivity and where members genuinely want other members to become better public speakers. Little did I know then, that by missing my usual Sunday siesta I had done myself a great favour!



TM Anirudh

Updates from Area C5 (Division C)

The International Prepared Speech and Table Topic Contest will be held on March 15th 2015 from 11AM to 1PM. Please contact contest chair Abilash Gunta for more information. (8884609888)
Venue: Cegedim, 11/1 & 12/1 Maruthi InfoTech Centre, Inner Ring Road, Domulur

The Imitation Game

How do you find out what kind of a speaker you are? Too vague a question? Let me break it down. There are inspirational speakers, there are funny speakers. There are calm speakers, there are speakers who come on to the stage with all good nervous energy. There are prepared speakers, there are go-off-the-dome-piece speakers.

It is a tough question to find the answer to. There are a few phases that all speakers go through before figuring “it” out.

Phase 1 – The Imitation – In this phase we try to emulate the speakers that we see and hear. I saw the funniest speakers at the club and tried to make similar jokes in my speeches. It works. You get a laugh and you just love it. You think, this is it! I am always going to be like this. You never realized it would be so quick. And then it changes...

Phase 2 – The Jack – You hear that the best speakers get their material from everyday events. Why? Because everyday events are never ending. You will become a jack of all trades. You think, why I can't talk about that time when I bought a packet of milk. Yes, that seems exciting. You think everything can be turned into a speech. You try. Some work, some fall flat. You learn that not all topics make for good speeches. And then...

Phase 3 – The Slacker – You start telling yourself, some speeches work on some days and don't work on other days. The audience is different from meeting to meeting. There is a lot of truth to that, but we are also in the danger zone where we attribute our lack of preparation to the speech failing. With this dilemma, we just go through the motions of giving average and rarely good speeches. And finally...

Phase 4 – The Toastmaster – You realize that along the way, you did become a good speaker. How? You learnt the basic skills – how to greet the audience, how to control anxiety before a speech, how to turn a bad speech into an average speech and importantly how to smile on stage and win the audience. It just takes one great speech and one wonderful moment for you to truly

believe you learnt it all. You are home. Once you have that moment, no one can take that away from you.

After that, you will truly know what kind of a speaker you are. The **imitation game** is over. Did you give that speech yet? Did you have that moment yet? Have you stopped imitating?

TM Abilash Gunta



Upcoming Events

March 8, 2015 – 100th Meeting

March 15, 2015 – Area C5 Contest

April 19, 2015 – Division Conference

May 30 – 31, 2015 – Division Conference



“When presenting a speech don't think about how the audience will look at you. Think about what value you can give to them”

Radha Tailor

