

# WHEN YOU ARE THE TOASTMASTER

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As Toastmaster of the Day you face the task of introducing the other members of the program. If the Toastmaster does not perform the duties well, an entire meeting can end in failure. Therefore, this task is not usually assigned to a member until he or she is quite familiar with the club and its procedures. The primary duty of the Toastmaster is to act as a genial host and conduct the entire program. Program participants should be introduced in such a manner as to prepare the audience to listen with excitement and rapt attention. It is the Toastmaster who creates an atmosphere of interest, expectation and receptivity.

## Prior to the meeting

- Check with the Educational Vice-President to find out if a special theme has been set for the meeting and if there are any program changes. If no theme has been set, you may decide the theme and notify participants.
- Call the Table Topics Master to discuss his or her duties. Also provide the Table Topics Master with a list of program participants to insure these people will not be called on for Topics responses.
- Call all speakers in advance to remind them that they are speaking. Interview them to find out their speech title, manual project number, purpose to be achieved, time requested, and something interesting about themselves which you can use when introducing them (job, family, hobbies, education, why this topic to this audience, etc.)
- Call the General Evaluator to confirm the assignment.
- <sup>ask toastmaster will</sup> ~~Ask the General Evaluator to~~ call the other members of the Evaluation Team (Speech Evaluators, Topics Master, Timer, Grammarian, Ah Counter, etc.) and remind them of their responsibilities.
- Prepare introductions for each speaker. A proper introduction is important to the success of the speaker's presentation. To prepare a good introduction, refer to "Introducing the Speaker," included in this packet.
- Prepare remarks which can be used to bridge the gaps between program segments. You may never use them, but you should be prepared to avoid possibly awkward periods of silence.
- Remember that performing as Toastmaster is one of the most valuable experiences in your club work. The assignment requires careful preparation in order to have a smoothly run meeting.

## At the meeting

- Arrive early in order to finish any last-minute details.
- Check with the speakers for any last-minute changes.
- Sit near the head of the table and have your speakers do likewise for quick and easy access to the lectern.

## During the meeting

- Preside with sincerity, energy and decisiveness. Take your audience on a pleasant journey and make them feel that all is going well.
- Always lead the applause before and after the Topics session, each prepared speaker, and the General Evaluator.
- Remain standing near the lectern after your introduction until the speaker has acknowledged you and assumed control of the meeting; then be seated.
- Introduce the General Evaluator as you would any speaker; the General Evaluator will then introduce the other members of the Evaluation Team.
- Introduce the Table Topics Master as you would any speaker. If the Table Topics Master forgets to call for the Timer's report and vote for Best Topics Speaker, you do it.
- Introduce each speaker in turn.
- At the conclusion of the speaking program, request the Timer's report and vote for Best Speaker.
- Briefly reintroduce the General Evaluator. If the General Evaluator forgets to call for the Timer's report and vote for Best Evaluator, you do it.
- While votes are being tallied, request comments from guests and announcements (such as verification of next week's program).
- Awards trophies. If appropriate in your club, request "impromptu" awards (sparkplug, boner, most improved speaker, etc.)
- Request the Thought for the Day (if appropriate).
- Adjourn the meeting, or if appropriate, return control to the Chairman.

## Resources

*Introducing the Speaker (Code 111)*  
*Chairman (202)*  
*Patterns In Programming (Code 1314)*