



Club Officers

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Be an Officer and See a New Perspective of the Club!

It is time again for officer's elections. Every member of the club can be an officer, no minimum time required. You can check the SOS website for responsibilities and roles of each of the officers: <http://sostoastmasters.wordpress.com/officers/>. Also, you may talk with any current or past officer for advice on the different roles.

Don't be afraid and give it a try! What you get is many times much more than what you need to give. We need fresh ideas and enthusiasm every 6 month term. And remember, at the end is team work that makes this club as great as it is.

Sebastian and Marta have been officers for the first time this last six months:

How was your experience being a SOS officer? Did you find it rewarding?

Sebastian: *'Being a SOS officer is a great experience since you can train how to work in a team on organizational solutions (for example, running special events) and on moving the club forward. Within this team, you have certain tasks which you are responsible for, but other officers or club members can always help out, for example during times when you are too busy in the lab.'*

To summarize, the experience you gain as an officer is highly rewarding since you are training the soft skills which you will need and which will bring you forward in any job later, whether it is in academia or industry.'

Marta: *'To decide being VPE in the club is one of these decisions I am so happy I took. It has given me an opportunity to rediscover skills I forgot I had, or realize how useful they can be in certain situations. Of course being VPE takes some time and organization, but it was never tiring or boring, and gave me the opportunity to work with an excellent team of people always ready to help and make things easy. It has been absolutely rewarding.'*

What words of advice would you give to new members considering becoming an officer?

Sebastian: *'Try it out - it does not require as much time as you may think, but you will benefit from it more than you may think. And you'll never be alone with your tasks, the others can always help out and give advice.'*

Marta: *'Go for it! It is worth to try and see a new dimension of the club and a new dimension of your own skills. You may think that this is nothing for you, or someone else will do it, or that you don't really know how it works so let's leave it... But these are the moments when daring is worthy, and it is good to take this opportunity to train yourself on skills you most likely will need in the future in any professional responsibility. And most important, it is a lot of fun! And the environment of the club is always positive and constructive, so: what better place can you find to train this kind of skills?'*

Officer elections will be held **December 7th**. All positions are open. Please consider lending your voice to serving the club and directing our path for the next 6 months.

Congratulations Yen-Ru for earning both CC and CL awards, which earned you the District Governor's Pin!

Remember! Each of us can also earn this pin by finishing both manuals before 30 June 2012.



Welcome to four new members in SOS toastmasters club!

Chung, Chi-Yu, Lyra, and Saumya. They joined the club during the last 5 months. **And thanks for helping the club to accomplish an extra goal (goal number 6) of the Distinguished Club program.**

District 5 Fall Conference

On November 11th and 12th, club members attended the District 5 Fall conference. They enjoyed the excellent speeches of guest speakers Manuel Urrizola and Dana LaMon (pictures below), the Humorous Speech and Evaluation contest finals, the experience of meeting with many other toastmasters from other clubs, and the pleasure of winning the prize for the best gift basket with tasty food products from all countries represented by our multicultural club.



Sebastian, together with Joann and Marta, experienced, their first district conference:

Why did you attend the conference?

'I attended the Western Division contest as a contestant and wanted to experience the amazing level of speeches and evaluations on the District level. Furthermore, I wanted to get some insight how the organization works.'

How would you describe your experience?

'It was a great mixture of having fun and getting lots of new ideas by listening to stunning speeches and talking to many interesting and experienced people.'

What did you like the most?

'During the contests, you never got an impression that the people are "battling" against each other since it is such a friendly and supportive atmosphere. It does not matter that much who gets the first place - in fact, it is about improving yourself and sharing your experience with the others so that they also can improve.'

Why would you encourage others to go?

'By meeting so many other people and getting plenty of new ideas, you will walk out of the conference stuffed with exciting new experiences. Being able to listen to the keynote speakers alone, which are among the best on the planet, is already worth the visit!'

Kathy Sterling and Kathy Spencer are experienced toastmasters in our club. They have attended many conferences already, including this one too:

How did you enjoy the conference?

Kathy Sterling: *'I enjoyed the conference immensely! In fact, this was probably one of my favorite conferences to attend because it was wonderful having 4 other club members join me – Marta, Joann, Sebastian, and Kathy Spencer, to experience together how far-reaching Toastmasters is. At the District Conference, we experienced together how organized, professional and inspirational the Toastmasters organization is. This was witnessed by watching the District officers at the business meeting, learning valuable speaking skills from our guest speakers Manuel Urrizola and Dana LaMon, and watching the District level speech contests. These contestants are everyday people just like us who have grown from Toastmasters to deliver high quality and smoothly delivered humorous speeches in front of a huge room full of people! I'll bet these contestants never guessed before joining Toastmasters that they would have this opportunity.'*

Why would you encourage new members to attend such a event?

Kathy Spencer: *'I would encourage every Toastmasters member to attend, to discover and understand the behind-the-scenes workings of District 5, and to see how these workings impact you personally, and the club in general. Everyone leaves the conference feeling energized and inspired to push their own personal goals even further. Toastmasters International always puts the member first; therefore TI relies on each member's input more than most organizations. The District thrives on each member's achievements, both speaking and leadership. It's in the District's best interest to serve you the best way they can. By attending the District conferences, you can see what the big picture is about, how you fit in, and how you impact it.'*

The Spring Conference is May 18th and 19th. Hope each of you can attend.'

Thank you to Marta for preparing this newsletter. She gets credit for CL project #6 for doing this. Well done!