

District 35 Conference and Convention Survey – November 2015

The purpose of the District-wide survey was to determine the interests and preferences of membership regarding conferences and conventions.

This survey was sent as link in an email the Tuesday after the 2015 Fall Conference (November 6/7). The survey was open for two weeks (November 10-24). Surveymonkey.com was the tool used to send the survey and collect response. A reminder email was sent four days prior to the closing of the survey.

This survey was sent to all (2,292) active and graced members with an email address in District 35 as of November 10, 2015. In addition, 61 members without email addresses on record were given the opportunity to complete a written survey through contact with the applicable club president. No written surveys were received. Forty (40) emails, or 1.7%, bounced

We received 408 responses, or 17.8% of the active and graced membership at the time.

A copy of the survey is included in Addendum 1.

Officer Status

130 responses, or almost 1/3 of the responses, were from members who have never served in a club or district officer role. 58 responses (or 14.2%) are past, but not current club officers. 9 responses (or 2.2%) are past, but not current district officers. 23 responses are from current district officers (which means 13 current district officers did not respond). 206 responses (or about half) are from current club officers. A disproportionate number of responses are from club officers, which shouldn't be surprising since club officers would be expected to have a greater level of interest in Toastmasters in general.

Years in Toastmasters

Years in TM	Responses	% Responses	Membership	% Membership
Less than 1 year	109	26.7%	828	34.5%
1 – 2 years	97	23.8%	576	24.0%
2 – 3 years	46	11.3%	254	10.6%
3 – 5 years	57	14.0%	266	11.1%
5 – 10 years	38	9.3%	249	10.4%
More than 10 years	59	14.5 %	225	9.4%

The responses are skewed a little more toward the members who have been in Toastmasters longer relative to the overall district membership (which should not be surprising), but not significantly. This means, that in general, the responses from this survey reflect a good cross sampling of membership experience.

Number of Conferences and Conventions attended and reasons for not attending

As we review the responses, it is important to know that 183 (or almost half) have never attended a conference or convention. 71 (17.4%) have attended one conference or convention, 32 (7.8%) have attended two conferences or conventions, 48 (11.8%) have attended three to five conferences or conventions and 71 (17.4%) have attended six or more conferences or conventions.

For those who have never attended, almost 60% indicate they are too busy, 18.5% because they are too far away, 13.0% because they have been too far away, 12.0% didn't know they existed, 10.3% because they didn't know anyone else attending and 7.6% because they didn't seem interesting. Over 26% had other reasons. Note that totals are more than 100% since multiple responses were allowed.

My summary of this is that at least 30% of our membership will not attend for reasons beyond our control.

Home City and Willingness to Travel

Over half the responses (53%) were from southeast Wisconsin (Southeast and Metro Divisions), which the same percentage of our district membership. Since one of the reasons for the survey was determine the viability of holding the Spring 2017 convention in Eau Claire, particular attention was paid to responses from this part of the state. 8% of the responses (and 8% of district membership) is from areas W2/W3 (northwestern Wisconsin).

44% of the responses would be willing to travel 3 hours or more to a conference or convention (consistent responses from Western Division and the district as a whole). 39% of the responses indicate they would only attend if the event was within an hour of their home. This is a significant as we plan locations.

Hotel Stay and Hotel value

172 (42.5%) indicate they have, or will, stay in the host hotel if the event is out of town. 38 (9.3%) will always stay at the hotel, about 5% will stay at the hotel, but only one night. About 2% stay overnight, but somewhere else. Almost ¼ will never stay at the host hotel.

151 (37.0%) want a hotel room for \$ 100 or less, 133 (32.6%) will pay \$ 100 - \$ 130 while only 3 (less than 1%) would like a pricier hotel room ... more than \$ 130). 62 (15.2%) indicate the hotel room cost is not a factor in their attendance. 59 (14.5 %) gave no response. Some of the comments were interesting ... one person would like to pay \$50 for a hotel room.

Single room event, no breakouts

The question was posed

“One of our challenges in finding a suitable conference/convention location is identifying facilities with both a large banquet hall (for meals and general sessions) as well as several rooms for breakout sessions. How would you feel about a conference/convention held in a single room with no breakout sessions?

The responses were mixed. 37% indicated “no, please don't change, I like the breakout sessions”, while 43.4% showed a willingness to try something different. 2.7% said ‘yes, let's try’ it. Almost 17% expressed no opinion.

Of those who have attended 3 or more events, over 50% preferred not to lose the breakout sessions.

Club and Individual Registration

Almost 1/3 of the responses indicated that their club always pays the club registration fee allowing all members to attend. Another 16.2% indicated that they usually do, while 6.1% say that they sometimes

do. Less than 6% state that their club never pays club registration. 40% either did not respond or did not know. This is likely consistent with the fact that almost half of the responses have never attended a conference or convention.

Some contradictory responses resulted when asked about the impact of the individual registration cost. Only 18.1% indicate that the individual registration cost had a small impact on their attendance decision and almost 1/3 say that it has some impact. Over 17% mention that individual registration cost factors large in their decision (while only 12% would be impacted by this cost, since their club never or occasionally pays club registration).

Single price vs. a la carte

The question was posed

“For several years, the District has offered a la carte pricing for the conference/convention (i.e. individual prices for lunch, dinner and both club and individual registration prices). Many Districts have an all-inclusive price for their conferences/conventions. At a target price of \$ 100 per person (meals and registration), what would be the impact on your attendance if we went to this model?”

From these results, 44.3% would still attend, 27.5% would still attend, but would prefer our current pricing model and 12.5% would not attend.

18.1%	74	Cost is not a factor
12.5%	51	I would not attend
26.2%	107	No change
27.5%	112	No change, but I would prefer ala carte
15.7%	64	No response

See the addendum 2 for comments. Some of them are quite interesting. Some people seem to think these are money-making events, while others believe that the costs to put on an event are included in their membership dues. Some are very concerned about cost and are looking to save money by not taking meal options

Meal options

40.2% prefer both meals, 11.5% take neither meal, 12.7% take lunch only, 8.6% take dinner only. 27.0% no response.

More meal choice options are not a factor for almost 50% of responses, 20% indicated that more meal choices (at a cost) are not needed while 17% indicated they would pay more for more variety.

One Day Option

Over 35% indicate that they would be more likely to attend a one-day event, in addition to another 10% that would attend either, but would prefer a one-day event. 5% would prefer a two-day event, in addition to 16% that would attend either, but prefer the current two-day event. 13% were indifferent and 20% gave no response. So, by a 2-to-1 margin, a one-day event would be preferred.

It appears a one-day event should be investigated further.

Ranked Priorities

The number 1 priority for attendees are the Educational Sessions by a 2 to 1 margin over the next highest priority (Speech contest). Networking was the next highest priority for almost 10% of the responses, followed by the keynote speaker. Getaway weekend, Award Ceremony and Business Meeting each got less than 2% of the highest responses.

Lunchtime award ceremony

In the past, we have held award ceremonies during the Saturday lunch session. Would you be more or less likely to attend lunch if we held awards at a different time?

246 or over 60% indicated it didn't matter when the award ceremonies were held. 39 (9.6%) indicated they would be more likely to attend lunch under these conditions. 35 (8.6%) less likely. 88 no response (21.6%)

From these results, it appears people generally don't care when we have the awards ceremony.

Credentials Desk

Almost 78% either had no opinion or didn't know what the credentials desk was. Of those with an opinion, 6% felt it should be open longer and 15% felt there should be a greater variety of times that the desk is open.

Should be open longer	6%
Should be open with more variety of times available	15%
What is the Credentials Desk?	42%
No response	35%

Gift bags (aka Goodie bags)

About 65% either had no opinion or indicated that the bags were of no interest to them. Bags were important to 4% of the survey takers and 31% found something interesting or value in the bags.

Are important to me	4%
I usually find something interesting or of value to me	31%
Are of no interest to me	39%
No response	26%

Marketplace

This was the first year we tried a marketplace. See Addendum 3 for a list of comments. Many people who did attend the conference this year were not aware we had a marketplace. In general, the comments were positive, but felt that we could do a better job promoting it and locating it in a more accessible location. Almost ½ of all responses commented on the marketplace.

Communication and Leadership Topics and Potential Speakers

Suggestions on topics for future educational sessions are included in Addendum 4. In addition, 52 people indicated that they *might* be interested in leading a session, while another 45 said they *are* interested. The cost and effort to conduct this survey is worth that information alone.

Education Level of Responders

CC – 64

CTM - 1

ACB – 27

ACS – 12

ACG – 5

ATM – 2

CL – 28

ALB – 34

ALS – 4

DTM – 42 (out of 85 in the District)

Keith Cumiskey, DTM
Club Growth Director
January 18, 2016

Addendum 1 – Survey Questions

Addendum 2 – Pricing option comments

A la carte is nice if you do not like the menu choices

Charging individual price will reduce attendance. I know if it hadn't been for the club registration umbrella, 2 of my members wouldn't have attended.

For me it is more about time than cost. I'm not interested in an overnight event. Have you considered one longer day? Have you looked at the Riverwalk Hotel, DT Neenah? Several large meeting rooms and the food is exceptional. Make it a buffet lunch--build your own baked potato or taco and salad and allow people time to take a walk along the river at lunchtime and you'll be a hero! Liberty Hall in Kimberly would be another option as it is right across the parking lot from the Hilton Garden Inn. But, I think it may be more expensive; awesome buffets there. Consider Cambria Suites on Ballard as well; hear they have meeting rooms and they are next door to Beefeaters, or Raddison in DePere which is across from Austin Straubel airport.

Having a cost breakdown allows for individual schedule building

Having the club pay registration fee is a nice reward for working hard as an officer. Might be more likely that we get other members to come.

Hm. I don't know. The room is a significant cost, and meals are significant -- since I don't normally spend that much in real life. Cost is a huge concern.

I chose not to take part in the meals as they were really expensive. Even out of town I would probably go offsite for meals.

I don't buy the meals. They're too expensive for me.

I have not been to one to have an opinion.

I think one of the reasons we have so many walk-ins is that people see that there is only a charge for the meals on Saturday if their club is paying the registration fee, so they think they don't have to register for any other portion. I support a separate ticket price for the contests if we stay with a la carte pricing.

I would be interested in a single price that included lunch only. I don't want to be committed to the dinners

I would either quit paying for my guests to attend or only attend locally to avoid hotel costs

I would have a much harder time attending. Probably couldn't attend every one like I do now.

I would not attend the conference/convention at \$100. That is too expensive. I cannot afford that fee.

I would still attend, but I might not stay overnight both nights. \$300-350 is a lot of money altogether.

If I am only attending a portion of the conference and not the entire conference, then an a la carte option would need to be available. Nobody would want to pay \$100 for meals that they would not be eating.

I'm not really sure on this one

It would actually be easier to budget and I might be more likely to go.

It would be incredibly difficult to encourage members to go who are usually too busy but at least I can say it is free except for the meals-and there is time to eat somewhere cheaper

It's a value proposition. Whatever you offer needs to be worth \$100

Like the options

May not bring spouse

My guest chooses to only attend one meal

My husband attends the evening banquet only, so I'd hate to pay full registration for him.

Not sure

Not sure, I like the way it is with the club paying the fee.

Other (please specify)

Some people like to bring their spouse to the dinner. \$100 for dinner is a pretty steep price to pay

Sounds like a good idea.

Special diet requirements, so most meals served would not be eaten

That is just too much.

The a la carte method ensures people receive what they pay for. It is fair.

The conference/convention is a way for membership retention, thus District funding should be used to offset some of the cost. You must be careful not to over-price the event and discourage attendance

To keep within my budget, I often do lunch outside of the event. When I order dinner, the price needs to be within my budget (usually under \$30)

Addendum 3 – Marketplace Comments

Have to commit to it for a while to see if it catches on.

A good addition.

A most commendable idea

Acceptable

Adds variety and learning experiences.

Ads in the program are a good idea.

Anything that offsets costs is good - especially if they bring good swag (free stuff)

As long as the vendors are not obnoxious it should be fine.

Attended and staffed a table in the MarketPlace. Few people came; many "open" hours were during times when attendees were busy elsewhere (ed session, keynote, etc). Trying something new in our District always seems to take years before concept is accepted widely.

Belong to severally professional associations. Vendors can takeover a conference. It would be terrible if vendors dictated educational content and participation in contests. One of the virtues of Toastmasters is that it encourages everyone to participate.

Books please

Cool

Did not attend, but it sounds interesting.

Didn't know where it was or what it was for. Needs to be promoted from the lecturn

Didn't like that some tables were told to staff it during certain hours (during morning ceremonies, keynote) and other tables were not told that. Be consistent in the message you are giving those trying to staff the tables.

Didn't notice.

Didn't see it, where was it?

Don't care

Don't know

Don't see a problem with it, let's see a trinket shop, or some swag for sale, without a huge markup.

Explain "making a marketplace available to vendors" and how does "generates income to offset conference costs, but allows Toastmasters to promote their businesses" affect me or how has this helped other attendees

Fine

Fine with it. To help offset costs.

Fine, especially if it offsets cost of conference. As long as the vendors are not pushy in your face & you can look leisurely.

Go for it (3)

Go for it. Vendors can add to an event if they are not too pushy

Good idea (13)

Good idea for books, videos, etc. with tips for improving speaking and leadership for individuals and clubs

Good Idea, as long as some discretion is exercised regarding products made available.

Good idea, but find a more centrally located place.

Good idea, but I apparently missed seeing it.

Good idea, I think. Also promotes networking.

Good to try

Great Idea (8)

Great idea to raise funds!

Great idea. I can attend or not.

Great idea. Please continue it

Had no interest in this.

Hard to find the Marketplace area -- would suggest it in a more open, hallway-type area -- needs better signage -- needs more promotion

Have never heard about it prior to getting to the conference and seeing advertisements in the brochure. I wish I knew earlier. Might have used it for promoting my business.

Have not experienced this

Haven't seen what it is like, so have no opinion yet

Heard about the marketplace but never saw it. What is the marketplace?

I am okay with trying this.

I did not attend the Fall Conference so am not sure what it was like, but I think it is a good idea to take advantage of all the people who are present in order to bring in business

I did not feel that participation was high...I think the more it is done then more might join in.

I did not find it of value.

I did not get a chance to attend the Marketplace, and was not even sure where it was.

I did not see any business promoted. I do like the idea.

I did not see any marketplace vendors at the conference. Also - Hold the contests on Saturdays BEFORE dinner so attendees not spending the night can get home at a decent time!

I did not understand the marketplace - its purpose or value. I didn't have/make time to fully check it out, though.

I didn't attend but I can say if it isn't a lot of work, I'd like to go to vendor tables.

I didn't know there was a market place, or are you referring to the advertising spots within the program pamphlet?

I didn't see anyone that was representing a private business. If so I might take advantage of it for my own business in the future.

I didn't see the Marketplace

I didn't take advantage of Marketplace. Suggest better marketing...

I didn't take time to check it out. I normally don't by things at any other conventions I go to.

I do like to shop so please do have a variety.

I don't know bc I didn't attend this year.

I don't know why you wouldn't.

I don't like being in a captive audience.

I have no comment.

I have no issue with this idea. If it would help offset costs and keep the conference affordable for the members. I would just make it optional as to whether an attendee needs to visit the marketplace. Those that are not interested could do something else if they don't want to see it.

I know this was the first time and it could be beneficial. It just needs more.

I learned some new things from the marketplace.

I like it. I would actually want to sponsor next time.

I like the idea and think this should continue.

I like the idea, I was too slow to do it myself this year!

I like the idea. It gives us a chance to learn about the vendors and them a chance to learn about us.

I like the idea. More opportunities to network and build connections.

I like the idea. Offsetting the cost of the conference is great and vendors provide valuable info for attendees.

I like this idea (4)

I like this idea and have a business I'd like to promote

I liked the idea of business cards in the program

I liked the idea. Keep doing it.

I liked this a lot. I think there's a challenge in that people manning the tables are unable to participate in other parts of the conference. I would also recommend moving it to a more central location so people pass by regularly.

I may purchase Manuel's, etc if there was a marketplace.

I missed advertising for marketplace or maybe I was just unsure what and where it was.

I missed market place

I never got an opportunity to see it. Where was it?

I think good idea for vendors that embody Toastmaster standards.

I think it a good idea....

I think it can be a worthwhile element in addition to offsetting conference costs.

I think it's a great idea.

I think it's a great way for members to show off their other interests and practice their speaking skills.

I think that's fine

I thinks it's a great idea. Businesses can reach people that are good prospective customers, if it's the appropriate business.

I used the REP educational table extensively and examined the guest packets for the contest, if the rest works for other people and you made money, it sounds like a win, win.

I was confused by it and felt pressure when i did walk past a table. Didn't like it. Too cramped. Might have been better in the hallway.

I was not aware that this was open.

I would support having a marketplace available to vendors. How were the vendors selected for the marketplace? Where was the marketplace?

I'm ok with having a marketplace.

I'm unsure what is being referred to.

I'm used to seeing vendors at conferences and they help offset costs

In theory I thought this was a great idea. However, I was disappointed that all of the booths/tables were Toastmasters related. If this continues to be the case, I would not continue with the Marketplace.

Income is good.

It could be a good idea....but not stuck in a back room, where you need a scavenger hunt to find! :-)

It doesn't seem harmful

It helps.

It is my understanding that the convention is supposed to be a learning opportunity for local Toastmasters, too, not a business opportunity.

It was a nice change.

It was a small showing at this conference. Need to see how it goes in the future.

It was energized and provided value. Interesting topics.

It was interesting but a bit random. It was hard to tell what each booth was there for. Also, most people who wandered in seemed to be looking to turn in their bingo cards and couldn't since no one was at the table.

It was not publicized well and it was out of the normal traffic flow. It was a great concept though.

It's an interesting idea, but the marketplace at the Fall Conference seemed to be promoting opportunities for Toastmasters & info on the REP. I don't remember seeing any vendors.

It's useful way to learn more about other programs/businesses and find it valuable in terms of networking with other professionals

Keep doing it. It will take time for the idea to settle in, but could become a much higher percentage of the revenue.

Keep it.

Keep them. Good idea to lower the cost of the conference

keeps it interesting

Let's give a try

Liked it

Missed the November event this year, but I generally enjoy vendor exhibits and might consider being a vendor.

N/A (4)

Need of annoying but I do see why people do it. The food coupons were useful.

Nice

No comment (4)

No preferences - if it helps reduce the cost, let's do it.

Not sure what this is, but information sharing is always good

O didnt attend last cinference. Sorry my bad

Offsetting the conference costs would be beneficial.

OK (4)

OK with this approach

ok, just don't sell my contact data to them

Our club thought the Marketplace was going to sell Toastmasters items. If you continue with this I think it needs to be explained/promoted better.

People were allowed to sell things in the market place? I thought it was all TM related. Sure, why not?

Perhaps a necessary evil, but I don't see a big value in it. Toastmasters merchandise would be of interest.

Possibly interesting depending on the cost

Seems like a good idea

Seems like a good idea to me. Most conferences I attend have something similar.

Set up should be zero cost to the member

Should continue with this.

So long as the marketplace doesn't become overly prominent, I think it's fine and a good idea.

Sorry didn't notice vendors in the room...or really go there....I probably should have checked it out....

Sounds good

Sounds like a good idea to me.

Sounds like an opportunity to learn even more

Sounds like it would make it more fun too.

Sure it can be beneficial

Sure!

Sure, give it a try.

The marketplace is a great idea but has to be in an area close to "the action". I think alot of members missed the event this year because it was at the end of the hall.

These vendors should have an opportunity for a 15 minute presentation if their paying for a spot

This could help members make a connection between the business world and Toastmasters

This is a great networking opportunity. I believe this is a great ideal.

This is good.

This makes sense

This was a great idea.

This was a nice feature this conference!

This would be a good venue for a Marketplace

Toastmasters used the space well. if a standing feature, I think it will work. Needs to be open during down times, like lunch, after/between sessions, etc.

Try it. The vendors will determine if it is successful or not

Trying different things to see how they work is a good idea.

Very valuable for the revenue - keep it up!

Was not there

Where was this? I did not see this area.

Why not? Registration should get you in but optional to walk through.

With the exception of the manned display for the new education and leadership program, there was nothing of interest to me in the marketplace.

Wonderful idea. Please continue to offer.

Addendum 4 – Communication and Leadership Topic Ideas

"Negotiating" topics (i.e. salary, refunding of a bank fee); maybe a list of TED talks that are recommended to watch/listen; mock job interviews for every level, from entry to executive to applying for a grant or research money

1. Contest judging/training of potential judges 2. Area/Division Director - requirements & benefits 3, Communication differences between different cultures

A discussion of speech crafting from members that do a great job organizing their presentations. A planning session for when and how to use peripherals.

A mix of both communication and leadership. Maybe different approaches to developing speeches for the CC manual.

a variety of both.

Active networking

Additional sessions regarding social networking. Focusing on webpage maintenance, etc.

Always interested in speech coaching and strategy style sessions

Any

Any and all

Any and all. Definitely should have a technical topic every time, maybe two

Any are interesting.

Anything but diversity. Feels like we've gotten into a rut.

Anything, everything.

appropriate political speech and comment

Best practices in using videos to enhance learning Stairways beyond Toastmasters (knowing when and when not to contact the Wisconsin Speakers Association, the American Society for Training and Development) .

Beyond Powerpoint...(other tools) Data visualization

Business leadership topics

Business management

Capture the audience in a seminar

Career coaching, business speaking skills

Case study in club success / turnaround and perhaps a lessons learned from missteps in club management. Another topic...technology and TM. How agendas can be generated, clubs information share and best practices

Certification for leadership.

Club Building//Rebuilding

coaching, motivation, leading change

comedy

Communication to solve problems! Table Topics! Evaluating a speech!

Communication without butterflies

Conflict resolution Crucial Conversations

Continued focus on how to apply skills learned in Toastmasters

dealing with club difficulties, networking, the etiquette session was awesome

Dealing with diversity; dealing with time management

Discussion of the DCP and why the goals are what they are. Better written communication in planning and coordinating Toastmasters meetings, events, etc. Workshop on running special events (including contests and other events beyond club level), and ideas for multi-club events.

Educational sessions on how to deliver a particularly difficult speech type.

Effective evaluations Talk about the different officer roles and provide examples of how different clubs/people have structured the role to achieve the desired outcome, e.g. VP of education - what are the duties (outcomes) and what tools/strategies have one or two clubs done to ensure that educational needs of members are met.

Effective goal setting Connecting with new members

Effects of social media

Evaluating speeches

Evaluation mini learning session, table topics learning session, A breakout to be a toastmaster meeting to give a chance to sign up for roles, try something new and mix with other club members. Request to mix up clubs and don't attend with fellow club member. This is a great opportunity to see new styles and network easier.

examples and testimonials of people and how they improved - step by step.

Finer details of mentoring / sponsoring clubs.

Fitting Toastmasters into a busy life

Focus more on speaking varieties

Focus on specific leadership training.

Gestures

-Goal Setting -Interviewing Tips

Guidance geared to new members who are not sure what they want to do

handling difficult conversations, dealing with someone who has a vastly different communication style

have the option to those without don't have computer to get information by mail

Help getting paid speaking engagements.

High Performance Leadership project how-to. Maybe a general how toastmasters program works for newer people.

How an introvert can be a leader...what is the different between introversion and extroversion?

How to address non-profit board meetings

How to be effective in officer roles. Give examples of how clubs can do it differently but achieve the same success for their members as well as their club. The biggest inconsistency I see is lack of explanation and expectations of officer roles when you get to your own club. Many clubs are good at doing this but we still have clubs with numbers problems. All clubs can find something to improve. I hope moments of truth becomes a requirement. I found that training this Fall to be extremely beneficial. It is not to point fingers at anyone and say you didn't do your job. Sometimes we forget about tasks we could be doing. It is just a reminder of how we can keep improving and achieve more success for our members and club. District officer training is phenomenal. I find it very confusing to read the officer manual and then see people not performing duties. I understand that we are a volunteer organization. I know people have jobs, I've heard that many times. The communication piece of Toastmasters has to come into play. And 1 person in 2 roles affects the success of a club. Each role doesn't get the time and effort they deserve. We have to encourage, teach and empower new members to get involved show them the benefits and how they can contribute to the clubs success. Speaking to the 1 person 2 roles issue. Incorporate how we can have assistants to help. Utilize this idea as a training for the upcoming officers in future calendar year. Not so scary for next officer. Commitment level increases. People get intimidated by the time it might take therefore are afraid to make the commitment. I've always enjoyed all the break out sessions I've attended in the 5 convention/ conferences I've attended since I joined my 1st club Sept 2013. Thank You for that learning opportunity!

How to connect with people How to be an example of a desirable product of Toastmaster training

How to create a loud and more powerful voice

How to create a Toast Host

How to develop the skill of creativity

How to do spectacular evaluations; Is your club on top of Mentoring; How to be a great mentor; Are we mentoring our leaders?; Is your club welcoming? How not to become a "clique" club"; Choose your rooms carefully for great communication, etc...

-How to get club members interested in Table Topics -Revised Education Program -Interviewing Skills

How to help members increase their participation, best practices of successful clubs (we're a newer club and always looking for opportunities)

How to manage gestures. How to get more involvement in members. The best process for writing to practicing to giving a speech.

How to Manage, Communication with Younger Generation, Social Networking: Linked In, Facebook, Leadership Skills

How to mentor someone. Building quality relationships. Building greatness into an organization. Embracing constant change.

How to motivate as the leader Diversity and Inclusion

How to motivate people in Nonprofits. Ways to increase social networking skills. Ways to improve confidence and self discipline.

How to promote Toastmasters in the community, and how to find suitable places to hold meetings.

How to use FreeToastHost - I get a LOT of requests for this in my division. SpeechCraft, mentor program and HPL - newer members don't start these because they've never seen one in action.

How to... grow club membership How to... conduct Speechcraft How to... "sell" (promote) the leadership aspects of Toastmasters

How toastmasters can help you succeed in your life and in your business

How to's of good speech delivery. How to use voice, gestures and stage effectively. How to create a compelling and engaging speech. How to get speaking engagements. How to actively involve your club members. How to raise community awareness and interest in your club.

I really do like the workshops. I always learn in them.

I think you absolutely should move one of the educational sessions that was at the same time as the other to a time spot opposite the Newcomers social hour. I think this allows more people the opportunity to catch a session that is impossible when there are two at once. Even the Newcomers couldn't see both so keep one they would be the most interested in learning about at the early time for them and put the other one at a time more people can attend-not everyone cares to network-it is a waste of a useful time slot this way. A whole session that would make it more valuable for me to attend.

I would like to see more topics relative to how Toastmaster leadership and communication skills can be applied to everyday life - home, work, volunteer organizations, etc. The sessions on how to be a better Toastmaster or how to run a Toastmaster club more effectively are of less interest to me. Those types of sessions seem like they could be handled as part of the semi-annual officer training that each division offers its members.

Ideas for speakers, evaluation, and drawing more members.

Ideas on how to complete the CL manual (other than filling the club roles).

Info about the new process or track of speeches and leadership programs.

Infusing TM skills into your community/volunteer organizations, Interviewing skills, optimize your networking skills

Inspiration

Interviewing skills, constructive feedback skills. communicating with difficult people.

Leadership: Time Management / Communication: Projecting (Vocal Techniques)

Listening

mentoring

More about the importance of social media -- more about how clubs can interconnect to assist each other

More about what make some a good leader and public speaker. What people wish they could they their younger selves.

More formal internal club to club benchmarking

More help with social media web sites

More information on how Toastmasters is being used in other countries. We need to better understand our global environment, as we are a global world, now. Maybe even some skype sessions with someone from overseas or a session in which someone was available on skype to answer questions from the audience, etc. Just random thoughts.

More of the same general speaking and leadership tips

More on why Toastmasters works, how to write a speech, where to get ideas, how to keep from panicking...things more specific to relatively new people. The etiquette breakout this time was FANTASTIC.

More workshop/hands-on sessions; sessions to help struggling clubs (seems like there are a lot with low membership); sessions about what district leadership involves (seems like an increasing struggle to find area/div directors - at least in some divs)

Networking Etiquette - I know we just had this but it was exceptional. Website Development. Public Relations for the Club. Humor. Making Ideas and Presentations Memorable. Membership Building. Club Management.

Parliamentary Procedure--Don Broderick expert from Sentry TM Club, #4596, Stevens Point, WI Like the etiquette in networking, table manner suggestions. How to write more humor into speeches. The presenter at Spring Convention with photos woven into his message--wow speaker! Like the strength finder and delegation poker presented by Cindy Laatsch. We came away empowered and armed with new tactics to build: ourselves and membership!

Parliamentary Rules (it's been quite a few years since this was offered). Networking and the benefits of networking. Dealing with Change.

Passing the baton of club leadership from year to year to maintain consistency of policies and practices.

Personal Development.

Personal goal setting

Personal Power and Motivation.

Please, please, please have more topics that are not specific to TM. I wanted to use this as a means to recruit prospects, but the list of breakout sessions was too TM focused and they chose not to attend.

Positive psychology

PowerPoint - how to use, does & don'ts with handouts

Preparation for a speech contest.

Productivity, Networking

Professionalism, impressions

Recruiting people to the club, aligning TM with your career (great job this year), how to apply TM skills outside of TM, panel discussion of top speakers and what they work on/why they are good/etc

REP is most important since the changes are a year away. Professional development topics, e.g., resume writing, interview skills

Round table best practices sessions

Running a Speechcraft; how to keep current members engaged; goal setting (without doing SMART goals again)

Sales word smithing

Secrets to women advancing in business. What are successful people doing that I am not? How to get doors to open for me to advance in business?

Selling Toastmasters

Something for the club itself

Something that has nothing to do with TMI. I love TMI but I joined to grow as an individual, not a toastmaster. This is why I no longer attend anything

Speaking about unpopular topics

Speaking at partys.

Speaking with confidence, dealing with stress

Speechcraft , How to use stories in speeches, Mentoring, how to retain members, how to use humor in speeches and avoid vulgar humor , What to do diplomatically about members with foreign accents hard to understand, How to put photos in press releases, how to use a mic correctly, how to put some variety and pizzazz into club programs, how to get more members to attend District conferences

Staying positive in down times

Strengthsfinders, MBTI or DISC

Techniques used by better speakers.

Technology club central guest events social media new education format

The effects of miscommunication

The importance of face to face communication over social media.

The importance of professionalism with roles and responsibilities and the correct way to be as outlined by International.

The Platinum Rule or How to influence (and communicate with) people of different personality types. Personal stories of COUPLES, both toastmasters - and how it affects their life :)

The responsibilities and ills of leadership. That is, pros and cons. The underlying and hidden rewards of contests.

The session by Chad Lawson - was the best session I have ever attended at a conference. Things like that are great!

Tips and Tricks for Speeches and Voice Coaching

Toastmasters in business

Too new to Toastmasters to provide input

Unsure.

Using TM in everyday life/ office/ business/ etc. You're already doing a great job with speakers. Just keep going!

Using toastmaster skills in real life What does Toastmasters do for Leadership?

Voice and body language

Ways to keep Toastmaster meetings fun. If people aren't having fun they aren't as likely to keep coming back.

Ways Toastmasters can help introverts

Web Sites, Facebook, how to navigate the TM web site. I know they have been covered before but they are important enough to cover again. Not all of them each time but cycled through the presentations.

What is required to become a leader and then develop into a better leader over time

What makes clubs grow Open house ideas The importance of storytelling Examples of vivid language

What Social media will do for onsite/offsite "club meetings"

When I talk with members, many ask for sessions aimed at helping the member's presentation skills, becoming a paid speaker, leadership / empowerment, etc. Most ed sessions focus more on the club or needs of the District . . . we seldom address the needs/interests of the members. Would like to see a day

filled with 6-8 ed sessions, perhaps some run in both am and pm to give more people an opportunity to attend.

Working with people from different generations, cultures or personalities.

Writing, composition, structure, ideas