



As a Toastmasters International chapter, we are committed to empowering people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams. By participating in Toastmasters, you can improve your communication and leadership skills and find the courage to change. They have more than 250,000 members in more than 12,500 clubs in 106 countries.

Achieving the Toastmasters mission:

- Build your speaking, listening, thinking and leadership skills with time-tested methods
- Receive encouragement to discover hidden abilities and bring latent talents to use in the self-paced curriculum and constructive evaluations
- Demonstrate and expanded vision of the role of communication
- Through your active participation and personal development increase your self confidence

How does it work?

The environment is friendly and supportive. The self-paced program allows you to build confidence with each speaking assignment. You will love the applause! Constructive evaluation is the heart of the program. Each time you give a prepared speech, an evaluator will identify your strengths and suggest improvements.

- A Toastmasters meeting is a learn-by-doing workshop in which participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a no-pressure atmosphere. A typical meeting lasts 60 minutes.
- There is no instructor in a Toastmasters meeting. Instead, members evaluate one another's presentations. This feedback process is a key part of the program's success. Meeting participants also give impromptu talks on assigned topics, conduct meetings and develop skills related to timekeeping, grammar and parliamentary procedure.
- Members learn communication skills by working in the Competent Communication manual, a series of 10 self-paced speaking assignments designed to instill a basic foundation in public speaking.
- Members also learn leadership skills by taking on various meeting roles and working in the Competent Leadership manual. In our learn-by-doing approach, we don't lecture members about leadership skills; we give them responsibilities and mentoring to help. Then we ask them to lead.

What's in it for you?

Toastmasters will give you the skills and confidence to effectively express yourself in any situation. It is the most efficient, enjoyable and affordable way of gaining great communication skills. By learning to effectively formulate and express your ideas,

you open a new world of possibilities. You will be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations and will improve your one-on-one dealings with others.

How much does it cost?

There is no cost to be a guest! To join and receive the two manuals and magazine the dues are \$40 semi-annually, plus \$20 new member fee. Semi-annual dues are assessed April 1 and October 1.

How do I join?

Start by attending a meeting as our guest. **Then, complete the application for membership (checks can be made payable to MDWA Toastmasters).**

For more information on Toastmasters International, check out their website at www.toastmasters.org