

Newsletter



Hong Kong Toastmasters Club

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6 October 2004

Dinner Meeting at Xiao Nan Guo Imperial House - October 4th by John Liang

If you missed this dinner, you missed out! Not only was the food incredible, but the workshop by Past President Hameed Jahal was invaluable. "Reinventing Leadership" was the subject of the night in what ended up to be packed house of members and many guests.

The workshop encouraged all to think about what leadership is and the many assumptions that people have about it. Questions each table was asked to discuss, "can a leader ever be wrong?", "leadership means being consistent". These are just a few of the questions that members and guests were asked to become immersed in the intense 1 hour workshop.

The sensational night of laughter and smiles kicked off with Asta Lee as the TME. A flawless night for her as she demonstrated her style and grace of introductions and comments. Daniel Chan gave his ice-breaker project 1 speech that helped us all get familiar with him and his background. Lap Wong delivered his project 6 speech by proclaiming his aspirations to become a portable presentation projector salesman.

More entertainment as usual in the table topics session conducted by Alice Tsang. Her questions on leadership and management were well delivered by the table topics volunteers of the night.

It was a night to remember filled with great people, great presentations, great laughs, and again, great food!

EVENTS!! As a second reminder and in case you missed Arthur's email updating events in the coming few weeks, here they are again.

1) This Saturday, Oct 9th from 2:30pm-6:00pm is a workshop titled "Marketing Myself"

The workshop will be conducted by Malcolm Brocklebank. A professional management consultant and trainer who has worked with over 300 companies during more than 20 years in Asia. His work includes programs for the Chinese University and the HK TDC. He provides effective executive development at all levels and specializes in marketing, management, and communications across a variety of industries!

If you're interested in attending this meeting, please contact Alex Chong at alexchong_99@yahoo.com or by phone at 9268-9535 ASAP!!

2) Oct 31 (Sunday) 5:30-7:30PM "Ancient Tram Ride on Halloween Night"

Let's have a relaxing ride in one of the only two ancient trams in HK.
Enjoy the drinks, the fellowship and the atmosphere of Hooloooweeeee.
Please contact Lap Wai Wong at lapwai008@yahoo.com. Only 25 seats!!!

3) Nov 6th (Sat evening) The 50th Anniversary Celebration of HK Toastmasters Club

The biggest event we have all been waiting for. Many other clubs in HK had formed a table to celebrate this event with us. Macau TMC is forming a table and they are coming all the way from Macau. As a member of the hosting Club, there is no reason you would not be there!



Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests – Sept 6 & 25, 2004 by Lap Wong

A big thank you to our contest chair Ms. Selina Ho for her hard work in organizing the long-awaited In-House Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests which was finally conducted on Sept 6, 2004. We had 4 contestants for the Humorous Speech contest. The contestants were Christine Lau, Elsa Law, Patrick Chau and Peter Shum, who successfully joined as one of finalists at the last minute. The 7 contestants for the Evaluation contest were Edwin Lui, Elsa Law, Asta Lee, Patrick Chau, Lawrence Wan, Christine Lau and Lap Wong.

The night would not have been successful without the judges and helpers. Thank you to the members from the Centraler and MDC clubs. Soon after our Project Chair Ms. Alice Tseng announced the contest rules and regulations, the entire atmosphere become tense and silent. Elsa's charming speech "Don't be misled by Assumptions", ended with a huge round of applause from the audience. Peter's humorous health talk revealed his usual self that followed with laughter from the audience. Patrick's "Think Big" speech portraying an expert consultant was the high point of the evening. Finally, Christine's "Recipe for Slimming" created further excitement from the audience. The evaluation contest as usual was a great learning experience for the audience for their future evaluations. All of the 7 contestants displayed their own technique and style for their speech evaluation.

After the preliminary qualifying race, the semi-finalists were selected. The contest ended on time with chief judge announcing the final winners. And the results were:

For Humorous speech contest: 1st prize went to Elsa Law, the second runner up was Patrick Chau and the 3rd runner up was Christine Lau.

For the Evaluation contest: 1st prize went to Patrick Chau, the second runner up was Christine Lau. We had 2 winners for the third place and they were Asta Lee and Lap Wong. Unfortunately, one contestant was disqualified due to over time.

Congratulate to all our winners! The winners represented our club in the Area H2 Humorous speech and evaluation contests, which took place on Sept 25 at the City University of Hong Kong. Christina Lau won second in the speech contest with Asta Lee and Elsa Law taking the second and third place prize respectively in the evaluation contest.

Well done and a big round of applause to Christina, Asta, and Elsa!

Grammar Section: Parallel Structure – Grammatically correct sentences must be structurally consistent. In particular, common elements (items in a list, for instance) must be in a similar grammatical form.

Incorrect Phrase: "Frustrated by management's excessive demands, the staff members determined that they would neither stay late nor were they willing to work during the weekend."

Rule: Whenever a sentence sets up a parallel structure, check to make sure that parallel elements are in the same grammatical form. If they are, the structure is parallel; if not, the structure is flawed and needs to be fixed.

Hint: This sentence uses inconsistent verb forms, even though the use of "neither...nor" suggests that parallel forms must be used. To correct the sentence, we need to make the verbs consistent. Since "stay...work" is far more concise than "were neither willing to stay...nor were they willing to work", we can rephrase the sentence as follows:

Corrected Phrase: "Frustrated by management's excessive demands, the staff members determined that they would neither stay late nor work during the weekend."

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