



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

Tips

949.858.8255 • FAX 949.858.1207

*A bimonthly
publication to club,
area and
district officers
for circulation
to members*

Proposals for the Annual Business Meeting in August 2005

Clubs will vote on three important proposals to amend the Bylaws of Toastmasters International at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting on August 26, 2005. Following are descriptions of the proposals. If approved, the changes will become effective October 1, 2005:

Proposal A: Dues Increase

This proposal increases membership dues from \$36 a year to \$54 a year (U.S.), payable \$27 per person each dues renewal period.

When discussing the need for a dues increase, the Board of Directors carefully considered a number of factors and analyzed five different possibilities for the amount of the increase. Based on multiple factors, the Board agreed that this amount is appropriate.

Toastmasters International hasn't had a dues increase since 1992. Using the consumer price index as a measure of inflation, something that cost U.S. \$36 in 1992 would now typically cost more than \$50. If educational programs and services to members are to continue, at least at present levels, a dues increase is essential.

The dues are set by Toastmasters' Bylaws. Changing the bylaws is expensive and time-consuming. Organizational history shows that it takes at least three years for a change in procedure to filter down to clubs. Moreover, changing dues frequently is confusing to members. The Board believes that by increasing dues now to this amount (\$4.50 per month), the organization would be able to sustain its activities for a number of years before needing to consider another increase.

If this proposal is approved, the Board will change the following fees and dues set in policies:

- ▶ Increase new-member fee from \$16 to \$20
- ▶ Increase club-reinstatement fee from \$108 to \$162
- ▶ Increase new club charter fee from \$95 to \$125
- ▶ Increase dues for undistricted clubs from \$27 to \$42, payable \$21 per person each dues renewal period. (All figures are in U.S. funds.)

The Board of Directors asks that you support the dues increase. The Toastmasters program continues to be the best value in the self-development field. The organization is committed to improving and enhancing the program so that members will continue to learn, grow and achieve.

Cast Your Club's Vote

On March 31, proxies for the Regional Conferences and the Annual Business Meeting were sent to club presidents of record. Be sure to review the memorandum that accompanied the proxies.

You are encouraged you to send a representative to the regional conference and the Annual Business Meeting to cast your club's vote. If your club is sending a delegate, complete the proper proxy and send it to the meeting with him or her. If you aren't sending a representative, complete the proper proxy and mail it to your district governor, whose name and address appears on the reverse side of the proxy.

If your proxy has been misplaced, contact WHQ to request a duplicate. You can e-mail your request to cperez@toastmasters.org.

Please remember: **Only one duplicate proxy will be provided for each club.**

Duplicates will be mailed to the club president of record. When requesting a duplicate, be sure to confirm your club president's name and address.

Your vote is important! It is your club's right and duty to cast its votes.

continued on page 3

Deadline: June 30

An important deadline is fast approaching. June 30 marks the end of the Toastmasters year and the 2004-05 Distinguished District, Division, Area and Club programs.

Items pertaining to club charters, dues renewals, membership applications and education-award applications must be postmarked on or before **June 30, 2005**, and received at WHQ no later than July 7, 2005. Items submitted online or by e-mail must be received at WHQ on June 30, 2005. Faxed documents must be received at WHQ by 5 p.m. PT Wednesday, June 30.

WHQ accepts dues renewals, new-member applications and education award applications through the Toastmasters International Web site, www.toastmasters.org.

Although WHQ can receive information via fax and e-mail, it is the sender's responsibility to make sure the submission is successfully transmitted.

Do not send duplicate copies of documents to WHQ. Choose only one method of transmission.

Check Those Reports

Remind your clubs to review their Distinguished Club Program progress reports, paying close attention to the December–February club officer training section. If a club discovers errors in the December–February information, it should contact the district. Your district has until May 31 to submit corrections to WHQ. Corrections submitted after May 31 will not be accepted. WHQ will accept training reports only from the district.

Reports appear on the Toastmasters International Web site, www.toastmasters.org. Click "District Performance" under Member Quicklinks.

Save Time – Go Online!

You can:

- ▶ Register for the 2005 International Convention in Toronto.
- ▶ Pay dues renewals
- ▶ Add new members
- ▶ Submit award application
- ▶ Find a club near you
- ▶ Add/Update club officers and update club information
- ▶ Submit Report of Club Visit forms
- ▶ Check your club's progress in the DCP
- ▶ Order gifts and supplies through the store

Toronto: A World Within a City!

Don't miss the 74th Annual Toastmasters International Convention, August 24-27, at The Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- ▶ Enjoy a varied educational program presented in four tracks covering: *Communication, Skill Building, Leadership and Club and District Success*. Mix, match and explore any of these tracks tailored to satisfy your educational interests.
- ▶ Attend the Golden Gavel Luncheon where this year's recipient is well-known leadership expert, speaker and author Marcus Buckingham.
- ▶ Witness the excitement of the World Championship of Public Speaking on Saturday, August 27.

Beginning in April, you may visit our Web site at www.toastmasters.org and register online for the International Convention. Or, if old habits are hard to break, mail your convention registration form to WHQ. Registration forms can be found in the April and May issues of *The Toastmaster* magazine. Either way, you're guaranteed an experience of a lifetime in Toronto!

Is Your Club Violating TI Copyrights and Trademarks?

Toastmasters International's principal asset is the distinction between itself and other communication and training organizations. This distinction is maintained through copyrights and the trademark protection of our name and emblem.

To preserve our organization's copyright and trademarks, please be aware of the following:

- ▶ Toastmasters manuals, programs and other materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced in any form without advance written permission from World Headquarters. Items currently posted on the TI Web site, www.toastmasters.org, such as promotional brochures and forms, may be reproduced without written permission and may be posted on club Web sites (however, we recommend that you link to the TI web site so that the club has the most current document).

However, any other items, such as the Communication and Leadership Program manual, advanced manuals, speech contest judges' guides and ballots, and other contest forms and materials, in part or in their entirety, may not be photocopied or posted on Web sites, nor may they be reprinted or excerpted in newsletters and handouts.

- ▶ The names "Toastmasters" and "Toastmasters International" as well as the emblem are trademarks and cannot be printed, engraved or placed on any other items (e.g. badges, trophies, plaques, certificates, coffee mugs or clothing) without advance written approval from WHQ. Any such use is a violation of trademark law and TI policy. For example, Club 9999 may not purchase trophies from a local shop and have "Toastmasters International" engraved on them. Similarly, an emblem removed from a name badge purchased from WHQ cannot be placed on a trophy or other item purchased locally, as this use of the emblem is not licensed. Permission to use our trademarks has not been granted to any outside vendors, so please notify WHQ of any unauthorized uses.

- ▶ To keep its trademark protection in effect, TI must maintain direct control over the products bearing its trademarks. Permission is sometimes granted for use of the TI name or emblem for special club occasions. However, this permission is granted on a one-time basis and must be secured in writing in advance from WHQ.

Your support in protecting Toastmasters International is greatly appreciated.

Build Membership and Beat the Clock

Need a way to get your club's members focused on membership building? The Beat the Clock! program is just what you're looking for.

Add five new, dual or reinstated members to your club between May 1 and June 30, and your club can choose one item from either *The Better Speakers Series*, *The Successful Club Series* and *The Leadership Excellence Series*. These seven-to-15-minute modules focus on speaking and club success, with topics such as: "Take the Terror Out of Talk"; "Evaluate to Motivate"; and "Impromptu Speaking." See your club's copy of the membership program flier for complete details.

Time is running out! We encourage you to Beat the Clock!

PROPOSALS *continued from page 1*

For additional information on the dues increase, visit the TI Web site and read the document "FAQs About TI's Proposal to Increase Dues."

A special e-mail box has been set up for dues increase questions. The e-mail box is: duesincrease@toastmasters.org.

Proposal B: Electronic Technology

This proposal is presented in conjunction with changes in corporate law that allow electronic transmission to be used in conducting corporate business. This law went into effect January 1, 2005. This proposal allows Toastmasters International to take advantage of the new law and use e-mail and other modern technologies to give official notices and take official action at the Board of Directors level.

Proposal C: Disciplinary Proceedings

This proposal protects the organization's disciplinary proceedings from legal challenge. To be accepted as "fair and reasonable without question," the California nonprofit corporate law, under which all Toastmasters clubs operate, requires that TI disciplinary procedures either be spelled out in the bylaws or be provided to every club and delegate-at-large each year. Providing this information annually would be administratively burdensome. The most efficient way to comply with the law is to describe the procedures in the bylaws. These amendments make no significant changes to the organization's disciplinary procedures, which have been in place since 1993.