



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

Tips

949.858.8255 • FAX 949.858.1207

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

What proposals passed in Toronto?

PROPOSAL A: Dues Increase – PASSED (77%)

The new dues structure becomes effective October 1, 2005. Here are the new fees:

Dues for districted clubs:	\$27 payable every six months, \$54 annually
Dues for undistricted clubs:	\$21 payable every six months, \$42 annually
New-member fee:	\$20
Charter fee:	\$125
Club reinstatement fee:	\$162

For more information, check under “News From Toastmasters” on the home page of the TI Web site.

PROPOSAL B: Electronic Technology – PASSED (Voice vote)

Toastmasters International will now be able to take advantage of a new corporate law that allows the use of e-mail and other modern technologies to give official notices and take official action at the Board of Directors level.

PROPOSAL C: Disciplinary Proceedings – PASSED (Voice vote)

California nonprofit corporate law – under which all Toastmasters clubs operate – requires that the disciplinary procedures either be spelled out in the TI bylaws or be provided to every club and delegate each year. Providing this information annually would be administratively burdensome and expensive. Delegates voted to comply with the law by adding the disciplinary procedures to the TI Bylaws.

E-mailing World Headquarters

When sending an e-mail to WHQ, please send it to only **ONE** recipient. If the staff member who receives it cannot answer your question, he or she will forward it to the staff member who can best help you.

Sending e-mails to several e-mail addresses will prevent you from getting a timely answer to your question. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Pay Your Dues Online Today!

October 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006, dues are due at WHQ by October 1. If your club hasn't started collecting dues, it's time to start.

The fastest and most convenient way to pay your dues is through the TI Web site.

- ▶ Access the Club Business section (available on the home page.)
- ▶ Enter the secure site to Log In.
- ▶ Enter your club's number and password. Passwords were sent to club presidents with the Dues Renewal Invoice. If your club doesn't have its password, you can request a new one from the Log In page.
- ▶ After you've logged in, you'll be taken to the Online Submission/Club Business page.
- ▶ Pay Membership Dues is the second choice. Just follow the prompts and soon you'll be done!
- ▶ Each online submission will receive a receipt confirmation via e-mail and the charge will be processed immediately.

Please Note: Even if all members haven't turned in their dues, you can start the online dues payment process as soon as you have six renewals. After that, you can return to the site at any time and pay for the others as their dues come in.

Clubs that are unable to pay online can still mail in their dues. Send in the corrected dues list and payment all at once. Sending this separately causes delays. Use only **ONE** method of payment. For example, if you pay online, **DO NOT** send anything to WHQ.

Get Ready For Club Elections

If your club elects officers semiannually, it's not too early to think about upcoming elections. Here's a helpful timetable:

- ▶ Before September 30: Appoint a Nominating Committee (see Club Bylaws). The committee is to be run by the immediate past president or the most recent past president available.
- ▶ Last Meeting in October: The Nominating Committee reports to the club.
- ▶ First Meeting in November: Call for the Nominating Committee Report. (If the Nominating Committee does not have a report at the last meeting in October, postpone the election until one week after the meeting at which the report is given.)
- ▶ Call for nominations from the floor: Nominations begin with the last president and proceed in descending order. Remember, a quorum is 51 percent of active members.
- ▶ Announce the results.

All clubs must be on a July 1 – June 30 annual term, or on July 1 – December 31 and January 1 – June 30 semiannual terms. (Please note: Clubs that meet weekly have the option of electing officers for either a semiannual term or an annual term. Clubs that meet less frequently must elect officers for annual terms.) Holding elections at any other time is in direct conflict with the Club Constitution. If your club elections are not in compliance with the timetable, now is the time to change and meet constitution standards.

Once the officers have been elected, go to the TI Web site, access the Club Business section and add your club's officers online! Remember to order club officer pins and plaques of appreciation for your officer installation ceremony. Check your 2005 Supply Catalog for a complete list of items and prices or place your order online at www.toastmasters.org.

Get Your Speech Contest Materials

International Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballots and other contest materials are available for purchase from WHQ. Rules and materials for evaluation, humorous, table topics, and tall tales contests are also available for purchase. To place your order, call the Member Services Department at WHQ or order online through the Web site.

Who's a CTM?

How many members in your club have completed the Communication and Leadership Program manual and received their CTM awards? One of your club's goals should be for every member to become a CTM. Then you will know your club is fulfilling its purpose of helping members learn to speak well. Review members' progress in the C&L manual and ensure they finish it so they will receive their CTM awards.

Are Your Contestants Eligible?

Speech contest season is here. If your club is participating in your district's speech contests in September, October and November, make sure contestants are eligible.

One eligibility requirement that causes confusion for clubs and districts is whether a contestant and club are in good standing. The following are considered to be in good standing:

- ▶ A continuing member whose dues for the April-September 2005 period was received at WHQ before the club contest was held.
- ▶ A new, dual or reinstated member who joined the club since the April-September dues period began and whose membership application and dues were received at WHQ before the club contest was held.
- ▶ A club whose dues for the April-September 2005 period were received at WHQ before the club contest was held.

Payment of October 2005-March 2006 dues is not required for participation in contests held in September, October and November. We encourage clubs and members to submit dues on or before October 1, but allow them to pay dues as late as November 30 before they lose their good standing.

For assistance in determining if your club's contestants are members in good standing, contact dyosha@toastmasters.org. Membership in good standing of a club in good standing is just one eligibility requirement. Please check TI's Speech Contest Rulebook for the additional eligibility requirements for a specific contest.

Build Stronger Clubs with TI Promotional Materials

The world is changing quickly, and so are the expectations of today's Toastmasters. These promotional materials have been designed to help your club attract the members you need to continue succeeding. All are available for a minimal charge from WHQ.

Find Your Voice. This full-color brochure targets potential members who work in various trades. Features testimonials from Toastmasters and celebrities. Each club can request 10 free copies every six months when placing a supply order. Additional copies are 20 cents each. *Catalog No. 99.*

Confidence, The Voice of Leadership. This full-color brochure targets potential members who work in the corporate environment, stressing the personal and career benefits of participation in Toastmasters. Features testimonials from Toastmasters and celebrities. Each club can request 10 free copies every six months when placing a supply order. Additional copies are 20 cents each. *Catalog No. 101.*

From Prospect to Guest to Member. This booklet could really be titled, "How to teach any member of your club to sell the Toastmasters program." It's a how-to journey through the new member recruitment process. Each club can request three free copies when placing a supply order. Additional copies are 25 cents each. *Catalog No. 108.*

You Can't Talk About That!

Members often tell us that other Toastmasters have told them that speeches concerning politics, religion and sex are forbidden by Toastmasters International because "such controversial subjects are not appropriate."

This is not true. Toastmasters International does not prohibit any speech topic, content or language.

Toastmasters International recognizes club members may learn much about the world around them from listening to others' speeches on a variety of subjects. This variety can add interest to club meetings and stimulate thoughts and ideas. For these reasons, Toastmasters International does not place restrictions on topics, content, or language of any speeches. It also recognizes that a club is a diverse group of people and recommends members be sensitive to this diversity and use good taste and responsibility when selecting speech topics, content, and language.

While Toastmasters International has no restrictions, a club may guide its members on how to observe good taste and sensitivity in the context of that particular club.

Club Coach

So you're ready to build your club's membership and make it distinguished? Uncertain about how to get started? Help is on the way!

Club coaches are assigned by district governors to assist clubs that want to be distinguished and are having difficulties building or maintaining membership. Assignments may be made at any time of the year. Contact your district governor now to request a club coach for your club.

If you'd like to get started building membership today go to www.toastmasters.org. Click Information for Members then Membership Building Ideas and Resources.

Smedley Award

The organization of the first Toastmasters club by Ralph C. Smedley in October 1924 did not make global – or even local – headlines. But your club can make Toastmasters' anniversary a newsworthy event.

Commemorate the start of the first Toastmasters club by adding five new members to your club during the months of August and September, and your club will receive the commemorative Smedley Award banner ribbon to celebrate its success.

Then promote the occasion. Send a photo of your meeting (action shot, not staged) along with 250-500 words about your club and its upcoming events to local newspapers. Most community and business park newspapers welcome local news. After the headlines, you'll be surprised – guests will walk into your next meeting and apply for membership.

Need additional help? See the Membership Building Ideas and Resources page at www.toastmasters.org.