



Toastmasters International
and
Town & Country Toastmasters Club 2488
Our History and What to Expect

History Toastmasters International:

Toastmasters was started by Ralph C. Smedley. Mr. Smedley graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois in 1903. He soon found work at the Y.M.C.A., where he frequently had occasions to make speeches and conduct meetings. As Educational Director of the Y in Bloomington, he saw a need for training in these areas, speeches and meetings. Since the need was there, it seemed proper to Mr. Smedley to try and meet it.

The first meeting of a Toastmasters Club for boys from the Y, was March 24, 1905. As far as he knew, it was the first club of its kind, organized around a simple plan – where members rotate roles, deliver short speeches, and receive constructive feedback from others.

In 1922 Mr. Smedley moved to Santa Ana, California. His task was to see about building a home for the city recently organized Y.M.C.A. That building was completed April 1924. The first Toastmasters Club meeting at the new Y building was held October 22, 1924.

By 1932 there were 19 Toastmasters Clubs, according to the October 8 council meeting in Long Beach. At that council meeting, it was decided that they should look into incorporating as a nonprofit educational corporation under Toastmasters International. On December 19, 1932 the Secretary of State officially approved and signed papers on behalf of the state. Today, there are 357,000 Toastmasters members, 16,600 clubs in 143 countries!

History Town & Country Toastmasters Club:

The Town & Country Toastmasters club was organized April 22, 1957 and chartered October 9, 1957. The meetings were at McFarlan's Towers in San Bernardino. The club was part of Founder's District in Santa Ana where Toastmasters began. Founder's District area covered from Santa Ana, east to the Colorado River, which included Riverside and San Bernardino County.

Town and Country separated from Founder's District in 1990 and became District 12. District 12 area covers from Pomona and La Verne, east to the Colorado river.

The club has met in a variety of places and cities; San Bernardino, Rialto, Colton, Fontana. The club now meets on Zoom and will continue to meet virtually after the pandemic. Club members recognize the importance of developing online presentation skills as businesses shift more and more to the virtual environment.

What to Expect at Your First Town & Country Club Meeting:

You will be welcomed by friendly people who are there trying to achieve the same goals as you - - - to be a better speaker at: *Business meetings, Presentations, Interviews and Social gatherings*

When you visit a Toastmaster club you will have the opportunity to speak, if you want to! You will be invited to participate during the meeting, you can say "yes" or "no" or you can say, "I'm just here to visit, to see how Toastmasters can help me."

A typical meeting offers the following features:

- ◇ **A brief business meeting** – addressing the club's administrative matters.
- ◇ **Table Topics** – an opportunity for members to give impromptu talks, lasting one to two minutes.
- ◇ **Prepared speeches** – lasting five to seven minutes on various topics, with specific communication objectives.

Meeting roles are rotated among the club members so that each individual has the opportunity to develop different skills. Outlined below are the key responsibilities for each meeting role assigned to members:

Toastmaster

1. Acts as a host or master of ceremonies
2. Sets the tone of the meeting, introduces speakers and creates an atmosphere of interest, expectation and receptivity.

Topic Master

1. Provide topics for discussion and spontaneous thinking.
2. Plans a presentation to involve all those members not scheduled to participate in other parts of the program.

Speakers

1. Organizes and prepares a speech from the Paths in Pathways.
2. Knows the speech and subject matter, delivers it confidently,

General Evaluator

1. Introduces the speech evaluators.
2. Observes club and member performance.
3. Reports on the conduct of the meeting.

Individual Speech Evaluator

1. Evaluates the speaker's performance and gives constructive criticism.
2. Observes the finer aspect of the speech in terms of how the speaker complied with the project requirements.

Timer

1. Helps each Toastmaster keep within the allotted time limits.
2. Observes, records and reports on the time of Table Topics speakers, prepared speakers and individual evaluators.

Grammarian / Word

1. Pays close attention to all speakers, listening to their language usage
2. Takes note of any improper language.
3. Listens for any outstanding quotes, sayings, or thoughts.
4. Introduces the Word of the Day.

Ah Counter

1. Makes each member aware of vocalized pauses.
2. Assists members in the improvement of speaking ability by reminding them of verbal crutches and other weaknesses.

Town & Country Toastmasters meets on Zoom the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (PST) [Zoom meeting ID: 853 4114 9133]. If you would like an agenda before you attend a meeting, contact us and one will be sent to you. For more information, questions or if you would like to attend one of our meetings on Zoom, contact Ed Baumgartner edritab4u@gmail.com or (909) 252 – 7115

Club Website: <http://2488.toastmastersclubs.org>



"Let Toastmasters help you be a better you!"