



# Beacon Banner

Communication and Leadership in Beaver Creek since 1957

Volume 47, Issue 1

July 2010

### Word for the Day

June 1, 2010

**Absent** – not present; the Secretary was absent.

June 15, 2010

**Picnic** – eating outdoors with a group of friends, and sharing food with the ants.

### Thought for the Month

“When you develop yourself to the point where your belief in yourself is so strong that you know you can accomplish anything you put your mind to, your future will be unlimited.”

*Brian Tracy*

### 2010-2011

#### Executive Committee

#### President

**Kevin Barry**

#### VP Education

**Bruke Sullivan**

#### VP Membership

**Amy Schmitt**

#### VP Public Relations

**Raymond Hsia**

#### Secretary

**Rick Powell**

#### Treasurer

**Julie Barhorst**

#### Sgt.-At-Arms

**Al Gunderson**

## Educational Moment: A Presentation Craving?

*by Darren LaCroix*

If you've ever seen me speak live, you know that one of my questions to my audience is, "What is the most important part of a presentation?" Typically I hear: "The opening," "The closing," "The preparation." Sometimes I'll hear, "The audience!" But, when I ask people to expand on that answer, usually they can't.

In my humble opinion, it is much deeper than *just* the audience. It is actually their **thought process**. Think about it. Our goal is to change their perspective based on our personal experience. Unless we know and understand how *what we say*, and *how we say it* impacts our listeners' thoughts, we're simply **not** serious about our message.

Have you ever prejudged a presenter in the first minute of their speech? Guess what, people are doing the same to you! Fair or unfair... it's human nature. Until we can find a way to change human nature, we have to learn to work with it. Make sense?

I know what I *mean* to say. (I bet you do, too.) The secret is making sure that the audience "gets it" the same way we "intended it." The only way to find out is through feedback. No speaker wants to hear that their message missed the mark, because it means we need to make some adjustments. That's work! Who wants extra work? But, isn't it *more* of a waste to be giving presentations that nobody "gets?"

When I plunged into being a serious student of speaking, I started to "crave feedback." Having an audience member tell me how great I am may boost my ego... but it does *absolutely nothing* for my next audience.

When people tell me, "That was great!" I stop them, look them straight in the eyes and ask, "What part was great?" We all need to be aware of which things we say are giving our audience members those "Ah-Ha" moments. This allows us to use those techniques again in future presentations.

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## Attendance Log

June 1, 2010

Beacon Members	9
TM Guests	1
Non-TM Guests	2
Total Attendance	12

June 15, 2010

Beacon Members	14
TM Guests	1
Non-TM Guests	2
Total Attendance	17

## Beacon Club Meeting Notes: June 1, 2010

**CLUB MEETING:** Pat Hawkins opened the meeting. Forrest Anderson was Toastmaster of the Evening. Walt Gradowski conducted a Table Topics session.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** The following slate of 2010-2011 club officers was presented: President, Kevin Barry; VP Education, Bruke Sullivan; VP Membership, Joanne Hawkins; VP Public Relations, Amy Schmitt & Joyce Rickels; Secretary, Rick Powell; Treasurer, Julie Barhorst; Sergeant at Arms, Al Gunderson.

## Executive Committee Meeting Note: June 8, 2010

Al Gunderson said Takuya Watanabe needed a name tent. Forrest Anderson said he had the template, and would forward it to Rick Powell who would make the tent.

Forrest said Ray Hsia would like to serve as a club officer or assist one of the officers.

**Awards:** Toastmaster of the Year will be Kevin Barry. Julie Barhorst will order the plaque.

**Distinguished Club Program:** Beacon club qualified as a Distinguished Club.

**Picnic:** The club picnic will be at 6:30 on June 15, 2010. Bruke Sullivan will be Toastmaster of the Evening, Jeff Blumer will conduct Table Topics, Ray Hsia will be the speaker. Rick will invite Michael Salyer, Gary Mull, and Shelia Mick. Jeff will prepare the meat, and members will bring side dishes and desserts.

**Treasurer:** Julie Barhorst sent an email reporting \$984.61 in the treasury.

**VP Education:** *Motion by Billy Thomas, seconded by Julie Barhorst, to buy the club President's first and last meal at Executive Committee meetings. Motion carried.*

## Beacon Club Meeting Notes: June 15, 2010

**CLUB PICNIC:** Pat Hawkins opened the meeting. Billy Thomas gave the invocation. Bruke Sullivan was Toastmaster of the Evening. The meeting theme was Food. Joyce Rickels conducted a Table Topics session in which contestants gave their thoughts about vacations. Ray Hsia presented his speech entitled "Ellis Island" about Ellis Island. Ray's speech was evaluated by everyone in a round robin session. Michael Salyer installed the 2010-2011 club officers.

**BEACON CLUB MEMBER PROFILE:**

**Name: Our Next Member**

Address:

Phones: Home: Cell: Work: e-mail:

What I do and Where I do it:

Toastmaster award(s) earned:

Toastmaster award goals:

Why I joined Toastmasters:

What being a Toastmaster has done for me:

Other items of interest:

**DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM AS OF: July 2, 2010**

**Membership Base: 19**

**Membership to Date: 20**

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED?
[1] CCs	2	2	<b>Yes</b>
[2] Additional CCs	2	0	
[3] ACs	1	1	<b>Yes</b>
[4] Additional ACs	1	1	<b>Yes</b>
[5] CL, AL, or DTM	1	0	
[6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	0	
[7] New Members	4	2	
[8] Additional New Members	4	0	
[9] Officers Trained (both required)			<b>Yes</b>
June-August	4	6	
and December-February	4	4	
[10] Submitted on time (both required)			<b>Yes</b>
October or April Renewal	1	2	
and Officer List	1	1	

**Total Goals Achieved To-Date: 5**

**Beacon Trophy Case**

	Table Topics	Evaluator	Speaker
<b>June 1, 2010</b>	?	?	?
<b>June 15, 2010</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Raymond Hsia</b>

## BEACON CLUB OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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See us on the web at  
[beacontostmasters.org](http://beacontostmasters.org)

Also visit the District 40 website at  
[www.d40toastmasters.org](http://www.d40toastmasters.org)

## A Presentation Craving?

Here's an example:

I've just finished creating a brand new program called "*Own The Stage*" with Craig Valentine. It took us a full year to get it done. A crucial part of the creation process of this video was craving that feedback. Sometimes it's tough to listen to other people's opinions after you've put so much hard work into a project (especially if they don't agree with you!) But, one of the most powerful things we can do is ask for feedback... and then shut up!

At times, it's hard to not get defensive. I know from experience -- I used to feel it. Lately, I've realized, that this feedback I'm receiving is essential to creating a more improved version of my program (or speech). Without that honest, valuable feedback, I'll never improve. That's not what I'm there for -- how about you?

Take a "real life" look at my feedback cravings by [clicking on this link](#). I sat down with people from my Toastmasters club, right after a meeting, to get their candid opinions of the ***Own The Stage*** program. Many of my focus group members didn't like the opening of the program. (Personally, I loved it and thought it was sooo creative!) As you'll see, because of this feedback, I took out that opening segment of the video. Just because you love it, doesn't mean the audience will.

If you want to ***Own The Stage***, you must have a *presentation craving*. I believe that craving should be feedback. It's the best way to fully understand how your presentation influences the thought process in the minds of your listeners.

## Upcoming Events

July 6, 2010 - Beacon Club Meeting

July 13, 2010 - Executive Committee Meeting

July 20, 2010 - Beacon Club Meeting

August 3, 2010 - Beacon Club Meeting

August 10, 2010 - Executive Committee Meeting

## Special Notes