

Speakers' Corner



Volume 63, June 8th, 2009

Toastmasters of Basel

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Quotes

A man is little use, when his wife's a widow – Scottish Proverb

All happy families are alike. But each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way – Leo Tolstoy

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards – Søren Kierkegaard

Alibi (L., alibi, elsewhere, orig. Locative – alius, other); the plea in a criminal charge of having been elsewhere at the material time – Oxford English Dictionary



Calendar 2009

17 June	Regular meeting
07 July	Regular meeting
22 July	Regular meeting
04 August	Regular meeting
19 August	Regular meeting
01 September	Regular meeting
16 September	Regular meeting
06 October	Regular meeting
21 October	Regular meeting
03 November	Regular meeting
18 November	Regular meeting
20-22 Nov	District Fall Conference in Hamburg
01 December	Regular meeting
16 December	Regular meeting



Editorial

This is my swan song. As I am stepping down as VP Public Relations this will definitely be my last newsletter.

The Club's Annual General Meeting took place on June 2nd and was attended by 20 members. A new committee was duly elected and will begin its duties on July 1st. You will find a write-up of the meeting on pages 2 and 3.

In Nuts and Bolts news you will find the Club's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2009 on your left.

This year's District Fall Conference will take place in Hamburg on November 20th - 22nd. This should again be an excellent opportunity to listen to great speeches and network with everyone else.

Finally I want to thank all the people who have contributed to the newsletters. Without you they would not have been possible.

Thomas



Toastmasters of Basel
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July 2008 – June 2009

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Toastmasters of Basel

Club No. 5813 / District 59

Annual General Meeting minutes

2nd June, 2009

Attendees**Name****Role 2008-2009**

1. Makiko Ashida	Member	11. Juan Oldani	Treasurer
2. Theo Bucher	Sergeant-at-Arms	12. Cindy Piccolo	VP Education
3. Catherina Cantina	Member	13. Lorraine Rytz-Thériault	Member
4. Chako Aby	Member	14. Ellen Spinnler	Member
5. Girish Dave	Member	15. Amy Stapelton	Member
6. Mieke Derkx	Member	16. Doris Täschner	Member
7. Francesca Gentile	Member	17. Sandra Van de Cauter	Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms
8. Anna Handel	Member	18. Sander van Staveren	Member
9. Stewart Jensen	President	19. Zuma Vidal	Member
10. Thomas Koetzsch	VP Public Relations	20. Dawn Voice	Member

Main points from President's address

- 43 registered members, similar level to last year. Of these 25 are active and 20 of these attended the Annual General Meeting. Thus a quorum is given.
- Received the "Talk up Toastmasters" award for having 5 new members.
- The Club must endeavour to involve more of its non-active members in the Club's activities.

**Treasurer's report main points:**

- Financial report sent by e-mail.
- More transparency was achieved by providing monthly account statements of income and expenses.
- Membership fee income remained strong on the back of continuing high level of membership.
- Total spending was largely in line with that of 2007/08.
- We are a non-profit organisation, however, it is prudent to keep a reserve cover of one-year's expenses in the bank, which we again achieved.
- It is important to keep up the membership level to ensure continuity of income.

Annual Financial Statements 2008/09

Balance Sheet 2008-09

Assets	30-04-2008	30-04-2009	Liabilities	30-04-2008	30-04-2009
Bank account	<u>7,920.16</u>	<u>8,092.71</u>	Equity	7,705.51	7,920.16
			Earnings carried forward	<u>214.45</u>	<u>172.55</u>
Total assets	7,920.16	8,092.71	Total Liabilities	7,920.16	8,092.71

Profit & Loss account 2008-09

Expenses	30-04-2008	30-04-2009	Revenue	30-04-2008	30-04-2009
TMI-Fees	2,707.00	3,001.20	Active Members	7,035.00	7,270.00
Rent Club Location	1,080.00	1,630.00	Inactive Members	80.00	-----
Marketing & Promotion*	883.00	960.40	Transfer from District	-----	-----
Webpage	20.00	17.00	Other Income (2008****)	<u>4,050.00</u>	<u>3.35</u>
Stamps, envelopes, ink	72.40	125.40			
Contest/Travel Expenses	135.00	-----			
Other Expenses**	1,651.15	1,366.80			
Extra-Club Activities***	<u>4,402.00</u>	-----			
Total Expenses	10,950.55	7,100.80	Total Revenue	11,165.00	7,273.35
Net Profit/Loss	214.45	172.55			
Sum	11,165.00	7,273.35	Sum	11,165.00	7,273.35

*Refreshments, prizes and apéro.

**Post Finance account expenses (CHF 31.20), committee dinner 2008 (CHF 216), TM Material order (CHF 216.60), beamer (CHF754), Zimmermann (club contest speaker (CHF 149).

Spring workshop 2008 expenses. *Spring workshop 2008 income.

Motion to accept the financial statements accepted.

Accepted = 18	Rejected = 0	Abstained = 2
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Motion to amend the Club's rules regarding reimbursements for expenses for speech contests

Accepted = 20	Rejected = 0	Abstained = 0
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Motion to release the old committee accepted

Accepted = 20	Rejected = 0	Abstained = 0
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A vote was taken on the day regarding a TMI proposal regarding a wider European representation. As this is not part of the club's AGM it is not officially recorded here.

All positions for the committee were elected unanimously.

The positions for the new committee for the year 2009/2010 are:

Name	Position
Stewart Jensen	President
Cindy Piccolo	VP Education
Ciaran O'Muire	VP Membership
Amy Stapelton	VP Public Relations
Sander van Staveren	Treasurer
Ellen Spinnler	Secretary
Mieke Derkx	Sergeant-at-Arms

Club Policy for Speech Contests

Information for Members

The Toastmasters' calendar provides for speech contests to be held at the different organization levels (Club, Area, Division, District etc.). The contest rounds are:

- **Spring:** International Speech Contest (always held) plus Evaluation Contest
- **Autumn:** Humorous Speech Contest plus Table Topics Contest
- Tall Tales Contest.

1. Contest Organization

The TMI Contest Rulebook for the current year is accessible at www.toastmasters.org as a PDF.

Contest functionaries (especially: Contest Master and Chief Judge) and Officers affected should read the contest rules in good time before the contest. A Club Officer, usually the VP Education, oversees contests and assures that the rulebook is brought to the attention of members involved in organizing the contest. The Contest Master (CM) chairs the contest, and may manage the contest, guided by a Club officer, usually the VPED. Contestants are recommended to search the web for tips and to talk to other members with experience.

2. Travel Expenses (TMI) for

TMI will reimburse travel expenses (but not accommodation or meals) of contestants who participate in the contest rounds above the District level (i.e. the Regional, Interdistrict and International levels) of the International Speech Contest, as described in the Contest Rule Book (status 2009).

The Conditions are:

- Application by a contestant for reimbursement must be received by TMI in good time from the date of the contest [application form]. Applications must include:
 - Certification of contest participation by the District Governor,
 - Receipts for tickets (or statement of distance for car).

3. Travel Subsidy for Toastmasters of Basel (TMB)

- TMB will endeavour to subsidise travel expenses for winners of the TMB club level speech contest who proceed to higher levels (Area, Division, District) by, where justified.
- The subsidy of travel expenses by TMB is limited (similarly as by TMI; above), as follows:
 1. Extent: Travel costs only, does not include accommodation or meals.
 2. Types of travel: air, train, bus, car, other: cheapest fare available.
 3. The Executive Committee of TMB shall fix a rate for travel by car from time to time that covers but does not exceed true distance cost. This is currently set at CHF -.40 per km (2009).
 4. The amount of subsidy can be capped: the limit is set initially to CHF 100.- per return journey.
 5. Charge of travel subsidy to the Club funds of TMB shall be conditional on availability of healthy reserves of the order of magnitude generally deemed adequate.
 6. At its discretion, the Executive Committee can initiate a voluntary fund-raising effort for subsidising travel for contestants.
- There is no right of members to receive any subsidy from the Club. Financially well-situated members are requested to exercise discretion, but there will be not be a requirement to show neediness.
- The Executive Committee shall consider applications for re-imbusement. The decision of the Executive Committee on applications is final.
- Applicants' obligations:
 - Apply to the Treasurer for subsidy in good time before attending Area contest or higher level contest, with statement or reliable estimate of expected costs,
 - Endeavour to minimize the costs incurred (e.g. car sharing),
 - Submit written request for reimbursement with receipts/tickets etc. no later than 2 months following the event, but in any case so that it is received by the Treasurer no later than 31st May.

These provisions for Toastmasters of Basel were carried by a majority vote of the active members at the Club's AGM on the 2nd of June 2009.