

# JLP Toastmasters

## President's Message

Happy Holidays! I hope you're enjoying this festive season. For many of us, the festivities included gathering for the JLP Toastmasters' inaugural Holiday Party, which was hosted by Jeanne Figueroa and her finance, Jim Hobbs, where we enjoyed delicious food, fun conversations, and a high-stakes game of Left Center Right. We know everyone is busy this time of year, so we're giving you a little break and will next meet after the new year, when we will gather again for our two regular meetings and our next Sip & Speak, which Alicia Jenkins will be graciously hosting. And, as the end of 2018 approaches, we get ever closer to selecting the JLP Toastmaster of the Year, so this is the time to take on new meeting roles and repeat roles to see how you can improve.



In the meantime, through this month's newsletter, please join us in welcoming our new members, learning a tip for Table Topics, celebrating our members' professional highlights, and picking up some tips to handle your next disagreeable conversation.

## November's New Members

Even the start of the holiday season didn't stop us from gaining two new members in November. Welcome to Toastmasters *Hannah Costa* and *Linda Nguyen*.

## Who will be Toastmaster of the Year?

Will it be you? Leadership Punch Cards will help us determine who will be this year's Toastmaster of the Year. Pick up a card at your next meeting. Have [Jenn Klocke](#), CC, or another officer punch it after you complete a role. And, don't stop at just one punch per role, because you improve your skills each time you take on a role. Credit can be given for any role completed since July 1, 2018. Finally, submit your card(s) at (or before) our April 6, 2019 meeting to be in the running for our Club's "Toastmaster of the Year Award," which is presented at the Junior League of Phoenix's May GMM.



## Member Highlights

Our members are taking their Toastmasters' training on the road. Check out some of their exciting speaking and leadership opportunities:

Cindy Brown, MS2, put her communication skills to work when she was interviewed for an article on interfaith marriage for [azcentral.com](#). If you missed the December 7<sup>th</sup> article, check it out [here](#). Thank you, Cindy, for sharing your story!

Are you speaking at a conference or giving a presentation in the next month? JLP Toastmasters would love to hear about it! Please send [Shelly Myers](#) a picture of you speaking/presenting and/or a brief description of the event and your topic.

## Table Topics Tip

Don't be thrown by the complexity of the question. It really doesn't make that much difference if the question is "Describe your favorite meal" or "What would you like said about you at your funeral?" – both can be equally challenging. The secret is that you don't need to answer the question directly. Use the technique that politicians use: shift or twist the question to an area that you do know something about. For example:

*"As for funerals, the last time I was at a funeral was two years ago when my great-aunt Sally passed away. She had many friends and family there and I was glad I could reconnect with them. It's been a long time since I've seen many of them. The funeral was in Tucson during the spring and the weather was perfect. Not too cold and not too warm. Tucson is really a pretty place to live and I know my great-aunt Sally was very happy there. She used to send us some magnificent pictures of Mount Lemon. At her funeral, the minister spoke about the long life my great-aunt Sally had and how many people she touched by her generous spirit. I don't think I could tell you what I want said about me at my funeral but I hope it's nice."*

Did that answer the question? Some of us would say yes...especially if you're a politician! The responder took the question and twisted the topic to relay their message. Make this part of your strategy for Table Topics – you don't need to answer the question asked...directly.

## How to Disagree Diplomatically

The holidays are a time when we get to spend time with family and friends we don't see the rest of the year. Sometimes those interactions include discussions on topics where you may have a dissenting opinion. Instead of getting embroiled in a heated debate at the dinner table, maybe use this as an opportunity to work on diplomatic disagreement. The [August 2018 issue](#) of Toastmasters International magazine had a great article with tips you can use when you disagree with someone that will ensure a productive and painless exchange.

1. Depersonalize. Disagreements can escalate quickly when emotions are involved.
2. Acknowledge and add. People listen best when they feel they have been heard.
3. Use "I agree" cautiously. When you start a sentence with "I agree," it doesn't matter what comes after it.

## Upcoming Sip & Speaks

The following are selected preliminary dates for future Sip & Speaks, but some dates need hostesses who will provide a free space (*e.g.*, home, community room, etc.) that can accommodate 15-20 attendees. The Social and Reception Committee (SRC) will help you throw the event and has a handy guide that answers many questions. Here are this year's dates (subject to change):

- a. January 23 - Wednesday Evening (Alicia Jenkins will be our hostess – 2150 W. Alameda Road, Unit 1325 Phoenix. Details will be posted on Facebook.)
- b. March 10 - Sunday Brunch (Jenice Hughes will be our hostess – details to be announced)
- c. May 1 - Wednesday Evening (Nelly Perumean will be our hostess – details to be announced)
- d. June 8 - Saturday Evening End of Year Celebration\*

*\* June Sip & Speak will be replaced with celebrations (fun only/no speeches).*

If you have a question for SRC or would like to host a Sip & Speak, email [Cindy Brown](mailto:Cindy.Brown@ms2.com), MS2. Remember, guests are always welcome at Sip & Speaks.

## Agenda Rules Reminder

1. *Are you getting close to finishing your Competent Leader Manual, Competent Communicator Manual, or a Pathways Level?* Once you have only one project or functionary role remaining to complete your manual or level, contact [Jenn Klocke](mailto:Jenn.Klocke@ms2.com), CC, *before* an agenda opens to find out if you can have priority for the needed role on that agenda.
2. *Does your next project include a speech that is longer than 10 minutes?* Let [Jenn Klocke](mailto:Jenn.Klocke@ms2.com), CC, know before you sign up, so she can remove one of the speaker slots to keep our meeting timely.
3. *Ever wonder if there's a preferred speaking order?* There is. The preferred order is to have members with less experience (*e.g.*, ice breaker) speak before members with more experience, based on the number of speeches they have given in Toastmasters. Please keep this desired order in mind when you sign up. The Toastmaster-of-the-Day or an officer may rearrange the agenda's speaking order if speakers sign up out of order.

## Have you paid your \$5?

When paying your dues, don't forget to send \$5 to Danielle Brown, IP1, for our petty cash fund. You can give Danielle \$5 directly or you send it to her via Venmo. Danielle's Venmo account is @Danielle-Brown-131.

## Who are Your Club Officers?

Katie Honecker Stephens, CL – President  
Jenn Klocke, CC – Vice President of Education  
Jill Kipnes, IP1 – Vice President of Membership  
Shelly Myers – Vice President of Public Relations  
Danielle Brown, IP1 – Treasurer  
Kim Ogletree – Secretary/Parliamentarian  
Michele Bichko, ACB, CL – Sergeant-at-Arms  
Jeanne Figueroa, IP1, ALB – Immediate Past President

The officers make up the Executive Committee and meet each month following the Saturday meeting. Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

## Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 5, 2019 @ 9 a.m. – JLP Toastmasters' Meeting + Officers Meeting  
Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 6:15 p.m. – JLP Toastmasters' Meeting  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 @ 6 p.m. – Sip & Speak at Alicia's house (details coming soon)

## Have a Question or Suggestion?

Email questions to [JLPtoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:JLPtoastmasters@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded to the appropriate officer to answer.



Junior League of Phoenix