

*I'm looking to gauge your interest in establishing a Toastmasters club. I know that most people have not heard of Toastmasters. Here's how Toastmasters defines itself on its website:*

From a humble beginning in 1924 at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, Toastmasters International has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. The nonprofit organization now has nearly 220,000 members in 11,300 clubs in 90 countries, offering a proven – and enjoyable! – way to practice and hone communication and leadership skills.

Most Toastmasters meetings are comprised of approximately 20 people who meet weekly for an hour or two. Participants practice and learn skills by filling a meeting role, ranging from giving a prepared speech or an impromptu one to serving as timer, evaluator or grammarian.

There is no instructor; instead, each speech and meeting is critiqued by a member in a positive manner, focusing on what was done right and what could be improved.

Good communicators tend to be good leaders. Some well-known Toastmasters alumni include:

- **Peter Coors** of Coors Brewing Company
- **Debbi Fields**, founder of Mrs. Fields Cookies
- **Tom Peters**, management expert and author
- **Linda Lingle**, Governor of Hawaii

*This is why you should join (also lifted from Toastmasters website):*

## Why Join?

Survey after survey shows that presentation skills are crucial to success in the workplace. Many people pay high fees for seminars to gain the skill and confidence necessary to face an audience. Toastmasters provides an option that is less expensive and held in high regard in business circles. This organization has been around for more than 80 years and offers a proven – and enjoyable – way to practice and hone communication and leadership skills.

**You will...**

- Learn to communicate more effectively
- Become a better listener.
- Improve your presentation skills

- Increase your leadership potential
- Become more successful in your career
- Build your ability to motivate and persuade
- Reach your professional and personal goals
- Increase your self confidence.

#### How you do it . . .

- Build speaking and leadership skills with **time-tested methods**
- Focus on areas of interest in our **self-paced curriculum**
- Receive suggestions for improvement through **constructive evaluations**

#### Toastmasters programs are . . .

- Inexpensive
- Interactive
- Convenient
- Friendly
- Supportive

More than four million people have discovered the benefits of this proven learning formula.

The website for Toastmasters is [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

*If you are interested in becoming a founding member of our own club, please send an e-mail to me letting me know that you are interested. We will also be looking for officers (seven total). If you are interested in becoming an officer, also let me know this.*

*We need to know quickly if there is enough interest to start a club. If you are interested, please e-mail responses to me no later than 10-25-07.*

***Before you commit:***

- *We need at least 20 members in order to start a club*
- *Fees are:*
  - *\$125 to charter an organization – This is not paid by the company and the founding members will need to absorb it. If we get 20 takers (this is minimum), it will cost each of the founders \$6.25. Obviously, if we get more founders, the cost goes down.*
  - *\$20 one-time fee – this gets you in and pays for the first two workbooks. Future workbooks are nominally priced (est. \$5)*
  - *\$27 pays for 6-months of dues (\$54 per year) – includes subscription to monthly magazine 'Toastmaster'*
- *Meetings will be held once a week, probably during lunch time and in a training room*
  - *Because of shift differences, we may operate 2 sessions per week to ensure all may attend*

*Now is the time to do something for you. A representative from Toastmasters said to me, "Toastmasters don't join a Toastmasters Club to be better Toastmasters; they join to be better people." As you move through your career, you must learn and grow. Leadership behaviors and communication skills can be learned and improved. This is an excellent forum to practice and achieve your goals.*

### ***Next Steps:***

*If we have enough interest to charter an organization, a representative from Toastmasters will run a Toastmasters demonstration meeting. This will last about an hour and will close with a Q & A session. If we still have enough interest, we can begin to form the club.*

*Let us know if you're interested. Thanks.*