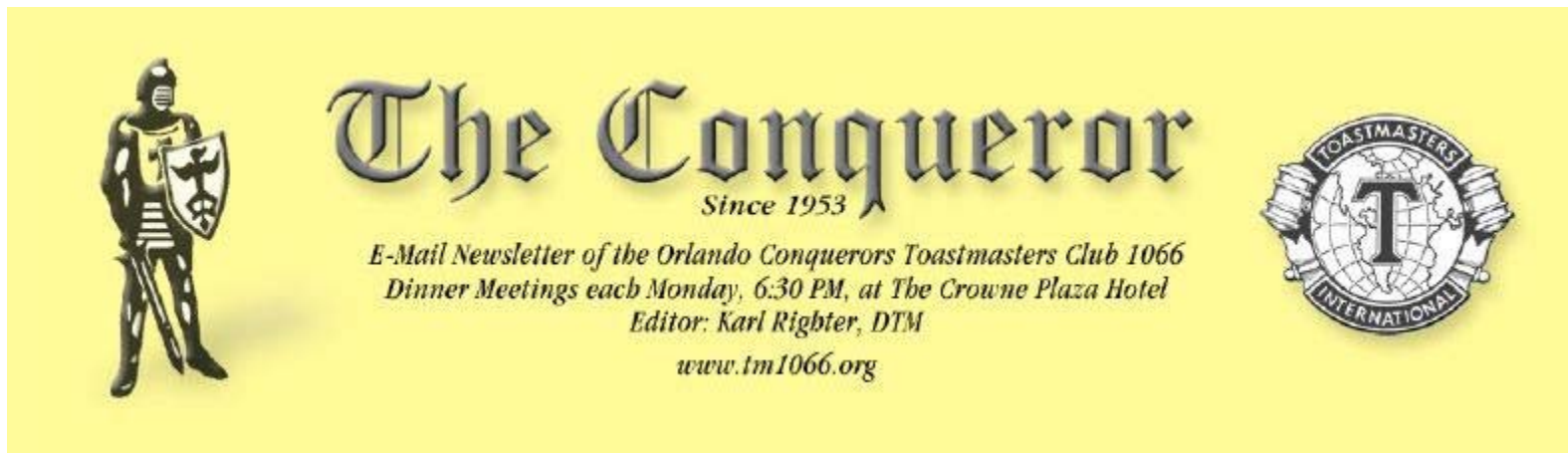


From: "Karl Richter" <karl@richter.com>
To: "Karl Richter" <karl@richter.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:14 PM
Subject: Conqueror Weekly - March 16, 2009



March 16, 2009

Karl Richter, DTM, Editor

Mastering Table Topics!

How to go on when you really want a time-out.

By Bob Lea, ACS, CL

If you have ever had the experience of someone picking you up and pitching you into a lake or pool to learn how to swim, you know the feeling of desperately grasping for something to hold on to. For new members, Table Topics is that event where you're thrown in the deep waters and expected to swim or sink. Fortunately, there are some techniques that you can use to make your one to two minutes of terrifying spontaneity enjoyable.

First, **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 "How would you body surf down the dew on a blade of grass" – 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 body surfing, the last time I was near the ocean was when I served aboard the US Navy support ship, the Minneapolis. Our mission was to re-supply the troops serving on the front lines. I'll never forget how proud I was to be supporting the war effort and keeping our country free of terrorism. That's why I endorse the spending plan that would ensure our forces have equipment that will protect them with the best technology possible. I don't think I could body surf down a blade of grass, but I would gladly vote for the best equipment of our men and women in uniform."

So did that answer the question? For a politician, yes! He fielded a difficult question, got his message out, and sounded professional doing it. Make this part of your strategy for Table Topics – you don't always need to answer the question asked...directly.

You can't ignore the question completely. So, notice above that the politician **repeated the question and tied it in again at the end.**



Meeting recap – March 16, 2009

Best Speaker: Jason Davis
Best Evaluator: Scott Hoehn, DTM
Best Table Topic: Jerome Kalisz, ATM-G
Most Improved: Jason Davis
Fireball Award: Bruce Gould, DTM
Bullseye: Jason Davis
Fun & Pun: Jason Davis

Attendance: 17
Guests: 1
Meals ordered: 8
Last Word: 9



Calendar of Events

- March 22 – **Officer's board meeting** – Sunday, 3:00 PM, at Crowne Plaza Hotel
- March 29 – **Area 32/34 International Speech and Table Topics contests**
Mayflower Retirement Community, 2:30 PM
- March 30 – **April Fool's Backward Meeting** – A fun-filled tradition! Don't miss it!
- April 18 – **Division C Contests** – Rollins College, Bush Auditorium
- April 20 – **Earl K. Wood Student Scholarship Contest** – Mayflower Retirement Center, 6:45 PM
- May 1 - 3 – **District 47 Spring Conference** – Tampa
- May 9 – **30th Annual Beach Party** – 1066 & Winter Park Toastmasters -
at Karl Righter's home on Lake Orienta
- May 15 - 17 – **District 84 Spring Conference** - Orlando area



"Notable Quotes" – March 16, 2009

"The St. John's. It's green all year!" - **Barbara Bergstrom, DTM**, answering Toastmaster **Mitesh Smart's** St. Patrick's Day Theme Meeting trivia question, "Name one of the two rivers in the US that turns green on St. Patty's Day."

"You finally earn your ALS after first earning your CL and your ALB!" - **Mitesh Smart**, during the Educational Moment, explaining some of Toastmaster's confusing acronyms.

"The CRA contributed to our economic situation!" - **Andrew Hebert**, continuing with the acronyms during his speech "What Happened?"

"Is she good looking? Where does she work? Does she have any kids?" - **Jason Davis**, from his speech, repeating the questions he immediately asked his friend who wanted to fix him up with a blind date.

"It's working!" - Ad lib from the audience after Toastmaster **Bruce Gould, DTM** announced "I'm just up here killing time while we wait for dinner."

"Fellow guests!" - Member **Scott Hoehn's** salutation upon commencing his evaluation of Jason Davis.



Toastmasters Chatter

• **Hat trick plus one** – New member **Jason Davis**, working in the Entertaining Speaker Manual, captured four awards Monday Night: Best Speaker, Bulls Eye, Most Improved, and the Fun & Pun. Hey, save some for us!

• **Dues are due** – You should have received a renewal notice from Treasurer **Nancy Humberson** regarding our semi-annual dues of \$45. Where else can you participate in such a great educational experience for the cost of a happy meal each week!



Ten great trick questions for Table Topics:

1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?

- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

All done? Check your answers below:

Answers to the trick Table Topics questions:

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? - 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? - Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut? - Sheep and Horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? - November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? - Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal? - Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? - Albert
- 8) What color is a purple finch? - Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? - New Zealand
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?
- Orange, of course.