Now More Than Ever

You need Toastmasters now more than ever. The world’s economy was on the brink of a recession prior to September 11, 2001. Since that date, some experts say we have entered a recession. Sales are down, profits are down, automobile manufacturers are offering 0 percent financing to attract customers, and thousands of people have lost jobs—many Toastmasters among them.

At a time like this, your first inclination might be to withdraw from Toastmasters. If you have a job, you may feel the need to put in extra hours to keep it. If you’ve lost your job, you may feel awkward about attending meetings or feel as though you cannot afford to stay active. But don’t act on these inclinations because now more than ever, you need to remain active in Toastmasters.

Employers are looking for great communicators. Active participation in your Toastmasters club will keep you sharp and improve your communication skills. The skills you build as a Toastmaster can make you more valuable to a corporation because of your ability to clearly communicate with coworkers, management and customers.

If you are looking for a new job, you likely will be interviewing. During interviews you will have to respond to questions—on the spot. And your club provides an excellent opportunity for you to handle impromptu questions—Table Topics! Staying in practice with Table Topics will give you a tremendous advantage over other candidates interviewing for the position.

As a Toastmasters leader you have developed skills in motivating and influencing volunteers. You have learned to work in a team and run productive meetings. You have learned planning and time management, delegation and follow-up skills. All of these skills are in demand in today’s work place.

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Your Toastmasters club also is a support network. Your fellow members are your extended family. If you’re having difficulties, it’s wonderful to know that your club members will be there for you. Active participation in your club will keep you in contact with your Toastmasters family. Attending meetings will help keep your spirits high. I always leave my club meetings feeling recharged and ready to tackle the world.

While destiny may throw you some curves and you may feel some pressure, stay active in your club nevertheless and Take Control of Your Destiny!

As we head into the holidays, Margie, Adam and I wish you and your family:

Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Alfred B. Heizling
International President