



Dear Toastmasters!

The 485th meeting took place in the middle of the first month of the summer and, as always, the second meeting of June is the time, when the old Executive Committee turns over to the new one. If you missed the opportunity to thank (or scold) the team, which worked for you last Toastmasters year, you still have this opportunity by means of the end of year questionnaire, which was handed out previously and sent to you by email. Don't miss such an opportunity!

1. Normally composed and business-like **Dmitry Chebotarevsky**, the **Invocation Master** told in an emotional way about the summer and the changes it brings: people need less sleep, feel better and are more likely to fall in love. Dmitry encouraged us to be active and use the opportunities the summer offer. A good piece of advice, Dmitry!

2. Did you know that there were at least two dates to celebrate the beginning of summer: according to the calendar and according to the astronomical event – the



day of summer solstice. This is one of several interesting facts **Ekaterina Sidorenko**, the **Toastmaster** told us about. A very hospitable hostess, Ekaterina introduced each participant, as he was taking the floor and found special compliments for each, after he had finished. Not only that, but Ekaterina missing nothing managed to fit the first part of the meeting into 30 minutes. Great job!

485th meeting, June 17th, 2010

Quote of this issue:

"Personally, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."

— *Winston Churchill*

3. There are a number of newcomers coming to our club now and then. Some people branch off from that group as very active, quickly becoming members of the club. These people tend to concentrate not just on one or two activities, but rather branch out. **Alexey Kravtsun**, the **Word Master**, is just exactly this type of guy.

Displaying root and branch confidence, Alexey presented us his Word of the day – “**branch**”. The traditional winner of the contest was Henry Norman, AC-S. Will there appear a challenger for Henry's throne any time soon? 😊

4. The summer has come. Have you already started planning your vacation? This is likely what many of us have on our minds. **Ilya Volin**, the **Joke Master** wasn't an exception telling us about it in his Joke of the Day. You can find different ways Ilya offered to negotiate the possibility of your vacation with your boss at the end of the newsletter.

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5. Do you have a family? Do you like spending time with it? Do you have a job? Do you spend rather substantial amount of time working? Are you interested in balance between the two fields?



Nadine Voronich answered “yes” to the questions above and told us about both her private and professional life in her **Ice-Breaker**. On the one hand we learned that she was a young mother of a 3-year-old daughter and loved spending time with her and her husband. On the other hand we found out that Nadine was a successful engineer working for an international company and dividing her time between Australia and Russia. She didn't dot all “i's” on how she manages to keep the balance between the two spheres, though. Congratulations with a nice Ice-Breaker, Nadine, welcome to the club! And we are waiting for you to unveil your secrets!

6. What are your associations with the word “ice-breaker”? Having spent some time in our club, most likely your first association is going to be “the first speech in the club members-to-be have to deliver”, right?



Our second speaker, **Alexandra Borissova**, delivering her **Ice-Breaker**, said that when she hears this word, she thinks about powerful ships, some with nuclear engines, breaking ice in polar waters, creating passages for other ships to use.

One can metaphorically think of him or herself as an ice-breaker, when he or she has to overcome very difficult and unusual situations, sometimes not just out of necessity, but for the love of challenges. Alexandra is just that type of person. She told us about some challenges she met: participating in an Internet project with no idea whatsoever where to start and becoming a journalist despite her education as a chemist. True to her spirit Alexandra's first project was a challenge in itself, as she agreed to deliver it in the evening prior the meeting. And the speech was good and curious to listen to.

We are glad to have you as a part of our club, Alexandra! Keep up the good work!

7. Have you ever thought of retirement? What will be the way you'll support yourself financially then? Do you save money, do you count on the government to support you with a pension, do you invest money? There are different ways to consider.



Tatyana Gladychева decided to devote her **2nd project** to different choices available to the people in the USA for planning their retirement. In a very informative speech Tatyana told us about three options in detail: the government fund; 401K and IRA, which might be soon adopted by the Russian government. By a lucky chance, we had an American professor to comment on the subject!

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8. The **General Evaluator's** role was taken on by our very active member **Denis Shevchuk**. He started with a neat evaluation of all the roles that were played in the first hour. He pointed out that the Word of the Day was very energetic and very confident, the Joke of the Day was spontaneous and interactive and the Invocation was very good and on spot.



Evaluations:

9. The **Personal Evaluator** of Nadine Voronich was **Valentin Novikov**, the President Elect and VP Education of the old Executive Committee. He pointed out the following:

- + *natural word flow;*
- + *emotional speech;*
- + *appropriate visuals.*

He recommended to Nadine to dedicate some attention to the structure of the speech, especially the conclusion.



11. The **Personal Evaluator** of Alexandra Borissova was our guest, an Area Governor from Switzerland **Natalya Filchakova, CC, CL**. We heard that:

- + *quality of preparation was really high;*
- + *the natural posture was very sturdy and confident*

What needs some improvement is the usage of body language, working with the voice and using shorter sentences.



12. **Ivan Vlasyuk**, another guest Toastmaster, from Prague, continued the evaluation part by reviewing Tatyana's Gladysheva second project. Ivan mentioned that:

- + *the project had a very good structure;*
- + *appropriate voice was used;*
- + *it was easy to follow Tatyana's speech.*

He pointed out that what needed some attention was the message. Ivan suggested answering to the question: Who is my audience and how the message is connected to the audience?



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13. This time **Henry Norman, AC-S** organized the **Table topics discussion**. Henry chose the theme of the contents of our projects. We discussed for example, if the speakers were responsible for the contents of the projects and if our projects had any educational meaning. Henry involved in the discussion as many people as possible, so as to know the opinion of the majority. We had very different points of view.

For example, **Alla Oganova, CC** pointed out that the problem of contents is essential and that the speakers should think less of the manner of presentation and more about contents.

Igor Vinogradov had an opposite point of view. He said the way you present your project is very important and that the majority of the people come to the club to learn how to present in a better way.

However, the winner of the discussion was **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B** who underlined the necessity to balance the contents of the speeches with the delivery and the beauty of language. Indeed, a worthy goal to pursue!

Our next meeting is on July, 1st!

We are going to hear 2 projects from the basic manual by Valeria Kulnevskaya and Evgeniya Maseeva. As well, we'll hear a project from the *Better Speaker Series Program* by Margarita Ryndina, AC-B in pursuit for AC-S!

See you soon!

Points:

Ekaterina Sidorenko <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	8.5
Nadine Voronich <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	9.0
Alexandra Borissova <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	8.7
Tatyana Gladychева <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	8.5
Valentin Novikov <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	8.8
Natalya Filchakova, CC, CL <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	9.7
Ivan Vlasjuk <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	9.4
Denis Shevchuk <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	8.8
Henry Norman, AC-S <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	8.4
Meeting as a whole	9.1

Our Birthdays!

**Our Warmest Congratulations
to Our Dear Fellows:**



Nadine Voronich (June 25th)

Igor Vinogradov (June 25th)



Joke of the meeting:

As I heard the summer started 17 days ago. Maybe not today, but frequently the sun is shining, the weather is hot and nice. Why don't we have a vacation? Why? My boss told me why. We have a lot of work! You should work, work and work.

Even you have never had the situation like that and you are not going to have it. I'm telling you how you could try to go to vacation and save your job.

1. One of the popular ways in Russia is to come back to work after being on sick-leave sunburnt and happy. It works, but it's illegal.

2. The 2nd option is to tell your boss about your strong desire and absolute necessity to have a vacation. But does it work when the business demands hard working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Maybe your attempt to get a vacation and a safe job would be as hopeless and insufficient as strong and absolute your desire and necessity were. You know, my brother who lives in Philadelphia described me the shortest way to become unemployed. His employer called and asked him to finish his vacation. My brother said: 'guys, how about 2 more weeks?' His employer: 'Guy, how about trying something else?'

3. In Russia you have 14 additional days before you are unemployed and 2 months payable after that, but maybe you don't want to have such a permanent vacation?

The 3rd option you have is to link to the labour law while you are telling your boss about vacation. Definitely, your employer should provide you at least 28 day payable vacation yearly or even more if it's provided by labour or collective agreement. Imagine, 28 days! It's approximately a month of hot summer June or July, or August on the beach with your family or friends. But here is a probability to lose your job in the end if you insist on your legal vacation, but anyway it's very useful to know your rights.

4. The best option is to find the 'win-win' solution and do that in respective and positive way. Maybe you would accept working hard these days and after that go on vacation.

Appropriate solution for you and your boss does exist. Let's just find it!

by Ilya Volin

News!

Dear fellows,

The biggest news is, of course, that on July 1st the new **Executive Committee** takes up its duties of the Club's management. Let's look forward to a more interesting, promising and effective year 2010-2011!

And another goof news is that we finally invite you to watch and enjoy the **latest videos** from the **Speech Contest** on youtube here -

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MoscowFreeSpeakers>