



Dear Toastmasters!

1. The spring has officially taken over the winter; however, hardly anyone has noticed that change. It is no surprise: according to the climate, the spring in Moscow, on average, comes on the 21st of March, the day when the mean temperature becomes positive. Nevertheless, this fact should not disappoint you, for the spring comes every year, sooner or later, but now you have an extra couple of weeks to take part in winter sports activities and enjoy the crystal white snow, which still lies outside the megalopolis.

2. And, curiously enough, it is just the right time to do summer holiday planning. As they say, get the things you may need ready in good time. If you, a member or a Toastmaster-to-be, haven't composed your plans yet, examine an opportunity to visit another Toastmasters club somewhere in the world. **Alla Oganova, CC**, knows it not by hearsay: she was happy to be warmly accepted in Seattle Toastmasters, USA. At this visit, she sensed the feeling of belonging to a broader community, the feeling of unity with like-minded people. Alla, the **Invocation Master**, appealed not to miss any opportunity to visit Toastmasters club anywhere abroad, as it pays thousand-fold to emotions and feelings.

505th meeting, March, 3rd, 2011

Quote of this issue:

"Accept challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory".

- George S. Patton

3. What do you think about the importance of leadership



skills in our life? It is noticeable that the first spring meeting was opened by our Mr. President **Valentin Novikov**. This time he acted as a **Toastmaster** and gave us one more splendid

performance. Everyone who attended this meeting can now admit that professional meeting management and inspiration of the audience are not the incompatible things. Moreover, this role has allowed Valentin to complete the Competent Leadership track (CL), which is evaded by the majority of club members. Valentin, however, does not agree with the majority and believes that CL is extremely useful for the wide range of activities outside the club. Why? Ask Valentin!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



4. Our life in the 21st century becomes faster and busier, thus preventing you from being **sluggish** if you are aimed at the progress in any area of life. This **word** was suggested by our active and perspective newcomer **Angelina Zinovieva** and repeated by many members and guests throughout the meeting, mostly with the negative particles. It means that hardly anyone wants to be sluggish, at least while developing in our club!

5. Our ever-inspiring member **Alexey Eraskin** told us a nice old **joke** with a deeper inherent meaning than it seems. The joke teaches us that we are often anxious about some dangers or inconveniences, not being aware of a real threat that is much more severe than anything we were previously afraid of.

6. Do you like challenges? Toastmasters can provide you



with a number of them. No, they will not offer to climb the highest peak or dive into the deepest trench, but they will remind you that there are lots of challenging activities in the area of public speaking.

It was **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B**, who stepped onto the

stage first. She took up very, if not the most, challenging role in public speaking – **To speak off the cuff**. Unlike

usual speakers, Valeria did not prepare the speech in advance; instead, she has chosen five topics, of which her personal evaluator, Tatyana Gladychева, had to draw one just before the speaking. According to the chosen topic, Valeria had to provide a consultancy for her friend who was going to open a local bakery. Being absolutely confident, she has provided such a detailed recommendation that any of her friends would be absolutely satisfied. And probably will refuse any services of an agent on a business opening. And if you once decide to set up your own enterprise, mind the importance of "4P": place, product, promotion and price.

7. Our brilliant storyteller, **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B**, has



accepted another challenge - to tell as an **Interpretive reading** a private story about the relationship between two people and the transformation of that relationship across the lifespan.

She called her speech quite provocatively "**Mental striptease**". If you think that this task is easier than the previous one, you are mistaken! It is simple to tell a bookish story, standing on a stage, but it is the art to make the whole audience listen. Taking into account how all the listeners were inspired, Margarita succeeded in this challenging role. We are waiting for new stories from you, Margarita!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



8. The second part of this meeting was led by Denis



Shevchuk, and as a General Evaluator he started with evaluation of... all the women present! And the points were only positive. It was his unique way to greet ladies with the 8th

of March. After that, Denis returned to his duties and made several comments concerning the first part of the meeting. He gave the participants quite enough suggestions and feedbacks.

Evaluations:

9. Tatyana Gladysheva, the Personal Evaluator of Valeria Kholodkova, remarked that it was rather hard to judge such a great project. She, however, made some comments about the project:

- + Valeria's speech looked natural;
- + plenty pieces of advice were given to a person who was opening a new café.

But sometimes it was not clear which factor among the described was the most important for this venture.

10. Lilia Nurutdinova had to evaluate a project that is rather unconventional for our club, and she coped with it

very well. She mentioned a few advantages of Margarita Ryndina's delivery:

- + natural gestures;
- + vocal variety;
- + provocative topic;
- + transferring the emotional content of the story read.

Lilia, however, noted that the dialogue was not so easy to follow and it would be better to choose a more straightforward story.

11. Table Topics Master of the meeting, Maxim Tsvetov,



suggested us to convince everybody that our profession is the most important and useful in the world. It was not surprising that many attendants were inspired by this topic. A lot of different occupations we were told about:

delivering knowledge, defending the environment, checking important information, discovering new materials and so on. And you know what? Finally it turned out that every profession is significant for our society! And the winner of such lively discussion became Valentin Novikov, who protected his profession (a chemist) with the high diligence and a big portion of humor!

Our next meeting is on March, 31st!

We will hear to the Ice-Breaker by Daria Smirnova, project #5 by Evgenia Maseeva and the speech from an advanced manual by Nina Tsygankova, AC-B!

See you soon!



Points:

Valentin Novikov, CL <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	4.2
Alla Oganova <i>(Invocation)</i>	4.0
Angelina Zinovieva <i>(Word of the day)</i>	3.6
Alexey Eraskin <i>(Joke of the day)</i>	3.3
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	4.6
Margarita Ryndina, AC-S <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	4.0
Tatyana Gladychева <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	3.7
Lilia Nurutdinova <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	3.8
Denis Shevchuk <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	3.2
Maxim Tsvetov <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	3.7
Meeting as a whole	4.2

Our Birthdays!

OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR FELLOWS

Yury Voropaev

(March, 9th)

Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B

(March, 20th)

Lilia Nurutdinova

(March, 31st)



Joke of the Day:

Two young women were walking on a hot summer's day and saw a beautiful lake close to the road.

"It's so hot! Let's go for a swim in that lake to cool down", suggested the first woman.

"But we haven't got any swimming things to put on," said the other, "We can't swim naked!"

"Oh, don't worry about that," reassured the first woman, "There's nobody here to see us."

So they took off all their clothes and got into the lovely cool water for a swim.

After a few minutes they noticed a farmer walking towards the lake with a large bucket.

"Are you here to ask us to get out of the lake?" the first woman asked.

"I think he's here to look at us," said the second woman.

The old farmer frowned and held up the bucket for them to see.

"No, I'm not here to tell you to get out of the lake, and I didn't come here to watch you ladies swim naked," he replied. "I'm just here to feed the alligator."

By Alexey Eraskin