Moscow Free Speakers Club

527 meeting, December 15th 2011

Dear Toastmasters!

The end of 2011 looks really successful: a new very promising member was "born" – at the 15.12.2011 meeting Alexander Shlegel delivered his outstanding ice-breaker. You can find a link to the video of his speech below.

On the 22.12.11 we participated in an unusual New Year party hosted by agent A and agent B, Andrey Kosilov and Alexandra Borissova. We enjoyed our time there and learned who were the best in 2011. Watch out for the news about the best in 2011 on our site, and as to the party, this year, thanks to Igor Vinogradov, Victoria Cherunova, and Alexandra Kovaleva, there is a video of it (part 1 and part 2).

And a very important announcement – at the meeting the Executive committee offered the present members to vote for the entrance fee raise from 60 to 100 rubles. 6 people voted "neutral" or "against" the raise, 14 people voted "for" the raise. Therefore, starting with the first meeting of 2012, the entrance fee will be 100 rubles.

President Denis Shevchuk, CC, CL

Quote of this issue

Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Word of the day (idiom) – to cut a dash

to make a striking impression; be ostentatious or showy

By Valentina Bereza

Joke of the day

In the present time candidates for presidency seem to pop up every other day, and I think it's quite a difficult time for them. So I decided to compile some advices from successful political and public figures that could be useful.

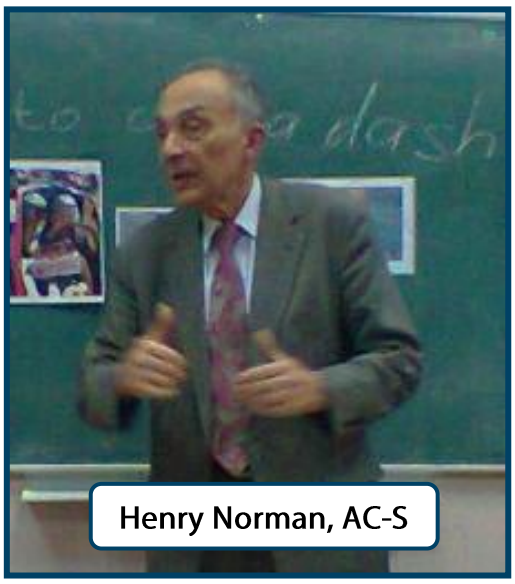
1. Tell the truth - this is the only way you will provide a nice contrast with the other candidates.
2. State openly that the only way to succeed in business to rise early, work late and be involved in oil business.
3. Make up your mind on the issue of corruption. Decide: either you want it less or you want more chance to participate in it…

Read the whole joke at the end of the Newsletter.

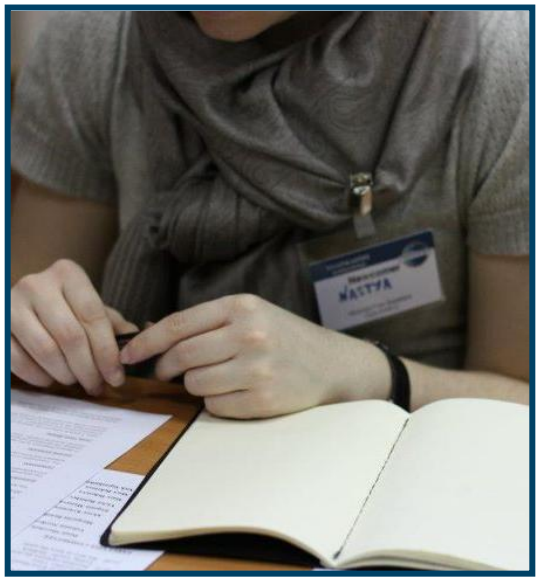
BEST MOMENTS

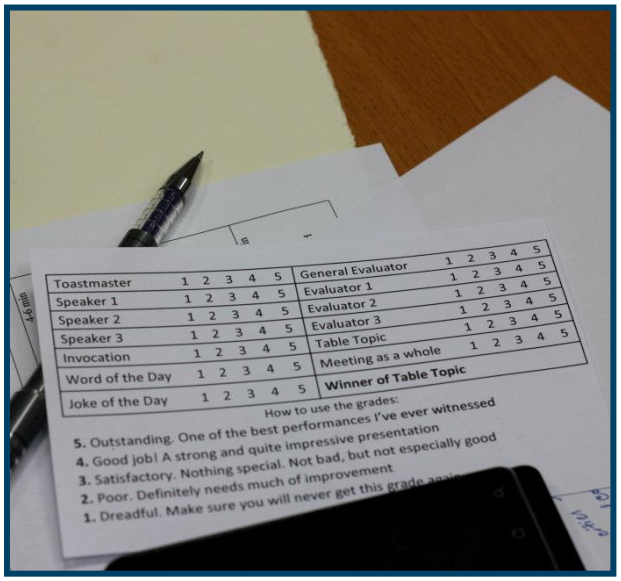
Maria Mokrushina

Alexander Shlegel



Henry Norman, AC-S





BEST OF …

Project #1 "The New Year – Make you wish!"
by Alexander Shlegel

"…Tonight I decided to recall some of my New Year eves. Who surrounded me, what I drank, what I listened to and what I wished. Beginning from my childhood The first New Year when I was allowed not to go to bed, but stay with adults, was 1985. The city of Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. The temperature is about minus 20. I am not a baby anymore; I am supposed to go to school next year. Oh, it is so pleasant to watch all the preparations, to drink sparkling lemonade and feel the smell of tangerines! People are so joyful decorating the flat and listening to ABBA, Toto Cutugno and Valeriy Leontief. When the clock stroke 12 times, I closed my eyes and wished to become a scuba-diver or a fireman. Whether I had become one of these or not… you will soon know…"

> "I was really impressed the by the way that you delivered your Ice-breaking speech. It was done in an original way that captivated the attention of everybody who was here in the audience listening to your project. You didn't use notes and looked rather confident".
>
> *Personal Evaluator*
> *Ekaterina Sidorenko*

You will soon learn in the video of Alexander's project.

Project #2 "Swedish Finns: Who are These People?"
by Ann-Sofie Nyman

"…While some historians believe that Swedes may have lived in Finland as long as Finns, there is no agreement about this. What is known and proved is that there was a wave of immigration of Swedes from Sweden to Finland in the Middle Age. This was also the time when Finland was incorporated into Sweden, of which it then remained part until it was conquered by Russia in 1809.

During the few hundred years of Swedish rule of Finland, Swedish was for natural reasons the language used in administration, education and other public areas of activity. This does not mean that all Swedes were "elite" ruling over Finns; most of them were peasants and agricultural workers among others during this time…"

> "…The topic was rather unusual for most of us and partly it made your task more difficult because Swedes and Finns are not appealing to our everyday life. The outline you prepared was good and the preparation was great…"
>
> *Personal Evaluator*
> *Mary Beketova*
> *Watch the video*

Project #7 "Count the real result of elections"

by Alexandra Borissova

"…I'll help you to read and analyze these curves in sole agreement with the rules of the club: no politics, only mathematics. Statistics is not that difficult, be sure.

First, some simple theory. Everyone knows coin flipping game: cross or pile. Generally, the probability of flipping cross is 50%. But that doesn't mean if you flip a coin 100 times, there would always be 50 times cross 50 times pile. Once you do 100 flips, it can be 50 50, next time 40 60, next time 30 70, next time 50 50 again.

If you plot this result, it will look like this bell called Gaussian or normal distribution. Its maximum corresponds to the value of probability – here it is 50%, but we also see another values – up to 100 0, but much rarer.

But where is Gauss and where are elections?..."

> "The object of the project – collecting information from different sources – was completed very well. You gave us the statistics about elections in four countries and about elections in Russia in different time periods… "
>
> *Personal Evaluator*
> *Denis Shevchuk, CC, CL*
> *Watch the video*

Table Topic Discussion

Table topic was performed

by Alina Guseva

Children eating strawberries, monkeys scratching each other's backs, a girl lying in a warm puddle. What is common among these situations?

In Alina Guseva's opinion, all of the aforementioned children and monkeys enjoy their experience (watch the video of Alina's introduction). What do you find pleasure in? Alina offered the question to the audience, and there were many eager to share: our guest Salman Ahmad travels by train occasionally, and he found that he likes taking platscart over kupe. It's a pleasure for him to be in an open space and see people around (watch the video of Salman's speech). Have you ever relished washing your face or sleeping with your cheek on a pillow? Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B did after a post-eye surgery week when she couldn't do either (watch the video of Valeria's speech)… The winner of the evening was Simon Scotting with his enthusiastic and funny speech about wonders of Russian banya.

Congratulations, Simon!

Moscow Free Speakers Club

Points:

Elena Filya Toastmaster	4.5
Elena Jakobi Invocation Master	4.0
Valentina Bereza Word Master	4.2
Victoria Cherunova Joke Master	3.5
Alexander Shlegel Speaker 1	4.8
Ann-Sofie Nyman Speaker 2	4.2
Alexandra Borissova Speaker 3	4.1
Ekaterina Sidorenko Personal Evaluator 1	4.1
Mary Beketova Personal Evaluator 2	4.1
Denis Shevchuk, CC, CL Personal Evaluator 3	4.0
Maria Mokrushina General Evaluator	4.5
Alina Guseva Table Topics Master	4.4
Meeting as a whole	4.3

Videos:

Alexander Shlegel Speaker 1	The link
Mary Beketova Personal Evaluator 2	The link
Denis Shevchuk, CC, CL Personal Evaluator 3	The link
Alina Guseva Table Topics Master	The link
Salman Ahmad Table Topics Speaker	The link
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B Table Topics Speaker	The link
Alexander Shlegel Table Topics Speaker	The link

Our next meeting is on December, 29th!

We will hear the project #4 by Dmitry Trapeznikov, project #9 by Alexey Kravtsun and a Project from an advanced manual by Nick Sapozhnikov, AC-B.

See you soon!

Our Birthdays!

OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR FELLOW

Valeria Kulnevskaya
December, 24th

Ann-Sofie Nyman
December, 28th

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MoscowFreeSpeakers@gmail.com

Joke of the day

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1. Tell the truth - this is the only way you will provide a nice contrast with the other candidates.
2. State openly that the only way to succeed in business to rise early, work late and be involved in oil business.
3. Make up your mind on the issue of corruption. Decide: either you want it less or you want more chance to participate in it.
4. Speak eloquently because when all your ideas fail, words will come in very handy.
5. And finally make sure you really want to take part in democratic election. Mind you, democracy is a process by which people choose a man who will get the blame.

By Victoria Cherunova