



# PINNACLE

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**WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE**  
[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

The official newsletter of Active Minds Toastmasters Club  
Club-2446, Area-62, Division-I, District-20

## Possible



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## Club Mission

*We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.*

## Executive Committee

President: *Hazel Davids*  
Treasurer: *Lisa Waite*  
Secretary: *Luis Nuguid*  
VP Ed: *Emy Badiang*  
VP Membership: *Beth Awwad*  
VP PR: *Dana Winner*  
Sergeant-at-Arms: *Sandy Stein*  
Immediate Past President: and  
Area 62 Governor: *Ray Hernandez*



# President's Message

Hazel Davids

As we enter the final frontier of 2013 and flying into a new space unknown to us – 2014 – we embrace the things we cannot change and stand firm to face our next challenge. "Happy Holidays! " My wish for all Toastmasters is good health, wealth, happiness and prosperity for 2014! (2013–2014)

“It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever – the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it.” (Vince Lombardi).

To all Active Minders we may not have accomplished all of the club or individual objectives we have set for ourselves, but we are half way there. We have the next quarter remaining to accomplish what we set out to do. I would not have been able to do all of the things on my own if it were not for the members and ExComm around me. Thank you for always cheering, supporting and offering a helping hand where needed.

We are not stopping but moving steadily and never, ever giving up! The adventure of life is to learn, "each one teaches one". Keeping with the Toastmaster Club Mission, “we provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self–confidence and personal growth”.

Toastmasters International Mission: We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. So let's take flight into 2014 and face the unknown together! We welcome 2014's unknown adventure! Together, let's pursue the POSSIBLE!

# Editorial

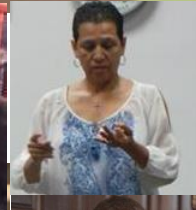
Dana Winner

## Pursuing the Possible

As we enter 2014 we are half-way through the 2013–2014 Toastmasters year. In this issue of the Pinnacle we will review our activities and achievements for the past quarter year. Knowing where we come from helps us aim for the objectives for 2014 as we strive to reach the pinnacle.

In this issue of the Pinnacle, you will find the usual quarterly columns and topics, such as The President's Message, upcoming special events plus the Progress Tracker, Club achievements and Welcome of New Members. Please see the opinion piece by Mouaz Al Nouri under the title In My Humble Opinion. The highlights of meetings and activities include the Advanced Speeches Marathon, Halloween Party, Division I & O Debate and Winter Solstice Party. One very special article is about the visit to Kuwait of the District 20 VP Education, Vicky Ferrer Mustafa.

The Gregorian New Year is a global opportunity to renew our vision and reach for the POSSIBLE!



Mouaz Al Nouri's Lessons Learned from his Competent Communicator projects (excerpted from his Competent Communicator Graduation Speech).



1. Don't speak about sex, politics, religion. Although I won the "Best Speaker" award despite touching on politics – don't try it yourself. Nevertheless, always speak about something you have passion about.
2. Always practice. Don't only write it and read it couple of times. When you listen to yourself delivering the speech, you'll be more comfortable when you deliver it. If you can find someone to listen to you before you deliver your project it can even be better.
3. Don't fold your hands, use them. Actually try to use your full body when speaking including the vocal variety and use more pauses and facial expression. Also control movement on stage, don't just move around aimlessly on the stage. Your movement has to have a meaning. Start moving to make a point, move to the second and finish with a third position linked to a point.
4. Don't ever, ever, ever read from notes. Audiences will not like this.
5. A very good technique for bonding with the audience: "If you could make them laugh, you can make them cry".

6. I also learned a lot from the Competent Leader program. Don't ever think that the meeting roles you play are less important than the speeches you deliver. When you explain your role and give your report during the meeting you have another speaking challenge. I would like to see you asking to play meeting roles with the same enthusiasm as when you ask for an opportunity to deliver a speech. I do feel sorry when I see the VP of Education sending an email out asking for functionaries and then one of the senior XCOM members has to volunteer to play the meeting roles.
7. For those of us speaking English as a Second Language, we can sound more "intelligent" when speaking English by speaking in short, sharp sentences that are aimed at the primary objective.
8. Get a mentor – he or she will keep you progressing and improving. Also read the comments that are provided by the audience of your speech. I got a lot of good ideas from the listeners.

Ladies and gentlemen, If you didn't start with your program, do it now and don't delay it more, there is a lot of things to learn. And don't think that finishing the Competent Communicator or Competent Leader is the end. It is actually just the beginning. I am very proud that my beginning was in the Active Minds TM club and I'm very proud that I've delivered all my projects in the Active Minds club. Thanks to you all, today I have become a Competent Communicator!



# Halloween



The November 1, 2013 Active Minds Club meeting produced the usual high quality of speeches, table topics and evaluations. Toastmaster of the Day, Dracula (ildone Galvez) opened with the spooky theme of the day. Colleen Lopez, Hesham Eissa, Beth Al Awaad were the Best Evaluator, Best Speaker and Best Table Topics Speaker respectively. The meeting ended with a fun time of games and music.



# Advanced Speeches Marathon

## ACTIVE MINDS TM CLUB

Club 2446, Area 62, Division I, District 20

Invites you to an exciting, educational and entertaining afternoon of



## ADVANCED SPEECHES

22 November, Friday, 5pm to 8pm  
American University of Kuwait (AUK Main Auditorium)  
For queries please e-mail us at: [actm@amclub@gmail.com](mailto:actm@amclub@gmail.com) or  
Visit our website: <http://activeminds.toastmastersclubs.org/>



Advanced Communication Series



Best Speaker Ildone Galvez  
with President Hazel Davids



Best Evaluator  
Lisa Waite  
with  
President  
Hazel Davids



Active Minds Advanced Speakers, their evaluators and the meeting functionaries



# Debate Showcase

By Natalia Desai

For the first time ever Kuwait witnessed a **Debate Showcase Event** organized and produced by the collaborative efforts of Division I and O of Toastmasters International. The Divisions are headed by governors **Bobbie Hoxit** and **John Joseph**, who are exemplary leaders and work tirelessly to support Toastmasters in Kuwait. The brains behind the Debate Showcase was **Area Governor Satish Kumar**. His excellent leadership and his quiet brilliance resulted in this successful event.

In the hours preceding the show energetic volunteers worked around the clock to ensure the event would be successful. For the first time ever Kuwait National Television (KTV2) covered a Toastmasters event in Kuwait. Bobbie Hoxit and Area Governor Satish were proud and honored to be interviewed before the opening ceremony. The leadership of Toastmasters in Kuwait encouraged members to participate in the Debate Showcase, giving them an opportunity to develop three basic competencies – *listening, thinking and speaking*.



Area 62 Team from left Lakshminarayan Nandiraju (backup), Ray Hernandez (Area 62 Governor), Sandy Stein (Best Debator) Hazel Davids (Active Minds President) Milt Dana, Dana Winner (Team Captain)

# Debate Showcase (cont.)

The event had three compelling resolutions for debate by six teams, *one* from each of the six areas of Toastmasters Division I and Division O. The debate team members work in the fields of management, engineering, teaching, medicine, and finance. The event took place at the American Creativity Academy in Hawally. To welcome members and guests, the registration desk was staffed by Natalia Desai, Joanne John and Sreekant Nair.

The meeting was opened by Rodel Cuaton, Sergeant at Arms, who read the Mission Statement and reviewed the ground rules of the debate before introducing the **Debate Event Chair**, Satish Kumar. Satish explained why he had organized the Toastmasters Debate Showcase and predicted that this was only the first of many more to come. He then introduced the Chief Judge, Don Prades, who is a pioneer of the toastmasters movement in Kuwait.

Toastmasters International states *“The debate setting encourages participants to make quick responses, present coherent arguments and make a clear presentation of their views. Nowhere else can a Toastmaster find a more ideal method for learning competitive speaking in a direct opposition situation”*. The immediate goal of each team was to convince a panel of judges and the audience that its arguments on the subject are better than those of the opposition. The speakers in this debate presented credible arguments and supported them with facts and anecdotes.

The debate for each segment was divided into four rounds. Round 1 began with a five minute constructive speech by the affirmative team captain to introduce the main themes of the affirmative argument. The affirmative speech was followed by cross examination by the Captain of the negative team. The cross-examination questions were aimed at discrediting the validity, adequacy or logic of specific aspects of the opposing side. Round 2 and 3 followed the same structure by the other team members. Finally, the team captains summarized their arguments.

# Debate Showcase (cont.)

The moderator for the first debate, Area Governor Praveen Madhavan, announced the first resolution, “**Social Networking Webses are counterproductive**”. The affirmative team Captain Musaddik Peshimam delivered the opening speech. He was then cross-examined by the Captain Dana Winner, who then delivered the negative team opening speech. The other team members for the affirmative team were Leslie Saldanha and Binoy Sebastian. The negative team included Sandy Stein and Milt Dana. After an energetic argument the judges decided the Area 62 team won that debate. Sandy Stein was declared the best debater for debate 1. The Area 62 debate team were all from Active Minds Club.



In reality, everyone went home a winner as they had learned how to conduct a successful debate. The Debate Showcase required three months of hard work by Satish Kumar and his team to bring all the clubs and members together to share a night of intensive dialog.

[More details regarding the Division I & O 2013 Debate at Indians in Kuwait portal](#)

# Saturday with Vicky



Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> District 20 Lt. Governor Education and Training DTM Vicky Ferrer Mustafa met with many of the Division I & O leaders for breakfast. The informal atmosphere led to creative dialog regarding the growth of the Toastmasters program in Kuwait. However there was one VIP missing: DTM Don Prades who was laid up with a painful leg. So, Vicky and her entourage paid a visit to Don Prades. After a time of socializing DTM Vicky brought the meeting to order and in a glowing speech of appreciation, presented The Golden Gavel to DTM Don Prades, giving him credit for her rise to leadership in Toastmaster Division 20. DTM Don responded to the honor with an inspiring impromptu speech.



# Final Meeting of 2013 & Winter Party

The final meeting of 2013 was conducted in a party atmosphere at Sandy Stein's home. The agenda was led by co-Toastmasters-of-the-Day, Luis Nuguid and Maha Al Sumaidi. New member induction was conducted by Babes Collis for DTM Bobbie Hoxit, Tamer Al Qutub, Hareth Al -Saddi, Badr Al Enezi, Anas Mohammed, Kirsten Chua, Ronal Arias and Hussam Asaad. The main feature of the meeting was two Competent Communicator graduation speeches by Omar Hosn and Mouaz Al Nouri. The meeting was followed by a great dinner – thanks to everyone who brought a dish! After dinner games and music completed the evening. Thanks to Sandy for opening her home!



# Welcome!

## New Members



Ron Arias



Division I Governor  
DTM Bobbie Hoxit



Kirsten Chua



Hussam Asaad

# Special Events

- Jan 17 social/special event for the coming 250<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Feb 7 Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest
- Feb 21 Evaluations & International Speech Contest
- March 7 Area 62 Speech Contest
- March 31 Members pay dues
- April 11 DiviTAC
- May 15-17 DTAC
- May 30 Advanced Speeches

# Progress Tracker

Contest Eligibility: All members are eligible to compete in Table Topics, Evaluation and Humorous Speech Contest. Only those who have completed at least 6 Competent Communicator speeches may compete in the International speech contest.

| Name                                   | Completed |
|--|-----------|
| Abdul Mohsen Alhusainy                 | *3        |
| Abdul Rahman Shinan Mohammed Kunhi, CC | CC        |
| Anas B Mohammed                        | *0        |
| Bobbie Hayes Hoxit, DTM                | DTM       |
| Buthaina Z. Awwad                      | *3        |
| Christopher Ferrer Maqui               | *3        |
| Colleen Lopez, CC, ALB                 | CC, ALB   |
| Dana Lee Winner, CC, CL                | CC, CL    |
| Don Prades, DTM                        | DTM       |
| Emy Almojallas Badiang, CC, CL         | CC, CL    |
| Enrique Luis Nuguid                    | *2        |
| Gerald Ivan Collis, CL                 | *2, CL    |
| Hareth Del Santos Alsaadi              | *4        |
| Hazel Wendy Davids-Ruiters, CC, CL     | CC, CL    |
| Henelyn D. Collis, CTM, CL             | CTM, CL   |
| Hesham T. Eissa                        | *2        |
| Kirsten Padilla Chua                   | *1        |
| Lisa Waite                             | *5        |
| Milton Edward Dana, CC                 | CC        |
| Mouaz Anouri                           | CC        |
| Omar R Abialhosn                       | CC        |
| Raymond Leanillo Hernandez, CC, ALB    | CC, ALB   |
| Roberto V. Bulquiren Jr.               | *1        |
| Rodel Alvarez Cuaton, CC, CL           | CC, CL    |
| Ronald Obal Arias                      | *1        |
| Samer Odeh                             | *3        |
| Sandra Rose Stein                      | *6        |
| Shermaine Kay Danao Esplana            | *6        |
| Stephen Erasmus, ACB, CL               | ACB, CL   |
| Yousef Majed Nayef                     | *1        |
| Ildone Limbaga Galvez, CTM, CL         | CTM, CL   |
| Maha Mohammad Ali Al-Sumaiti, CL       | CL        |

\* Competent Communicator Speech Projects

# 2013-14 Objectives

| Objective  |
|--|
| Distinguished Club Award   |
| Pinnacle Vol. 4 will be published in 4 issues: July, October, January, April – trying for Newsletter of the Year Award |
| Websites updated monthly   |
| Fast Track Award   |
| High Achiever Award  |
| Super 7 COT  |
| Feb 1–Mar31 Talk Up Toastmasters Award   |
| Talk of the Town Award – Article about Active Minds will be published in Kuwait English language press                 |
| Members pay dues by end of March   |
| May–Jun Beat the Clock Award   |
| LGM Super Club Award   |

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