

A D37 success story

Cary Toastmasters was chartered in 1972. Like so many clubs who have been around the block, this one has experienced great times and some not so great. The recent history reflected a period of not so great. For many different reasons, the club had reached the point of no return. The days never looked darker for Cary Toastmasters. It would take a herculean effort to bring this club back from the edge of the cliff. Believe it or not, that is exactly what happened.

Veronica Bucki, DTM knew of the sad fate of Cary Toastmasters. As a strong believer in the Toastmasters program, she wanted to attempt to intervene to see if she could save this storied club. Veronica, along with Jackie Kilberg ACB, CL, Katie Gales ACS, ALB, Mike Eckardt ACG, ALB, and Majid Reshamwala ACB committed to saving the club. Veronica worked with Toastmasters International to allow them to re-instate the original charter. Once this was completed, they were on their way.

Any member who has worked on a club rebuild knows how tough it can be to create momentum. Cary Toastmasters was no different. Meetings early on had 5 people. Many members had multiple roles in practically every meeting. This went on for the first several months. This would have been the time that the towel could have been thrown in. Believing in better days required vision and unwavering focus. This group had all that and more. They knew it was just a matter of time before they would be back as a healthy, vital Toastmasters club. They were right!

At the time of this writing, Cary Toastmasters has just submitted an Advanced Communicator Silver award which will earn the club their 9th DCP point. From September 2013 to April 2015, this club went from barely being open for business to *President's Distinguished!!* My purpose in writing this piece is twofold:

1) I wanted to recognize the efforts of the small but committed group of Toastmasters who worked to create a solid foundation for this club to grow and prosper.

2) I am hoping that this success story will encourage others who are in the middle of trying to rebuild a club. This can be done. The key to this turnaround was the willingness of this membership to *STAY THE COURSE!* They would not, could not, and did not give up. This story shows us all the very best that Toastmasters has to offer.

Allow this story to fuel your efforts to change direction for a club in your area that may be close to throwing in the towel. Tell them the story of Cary Toastmasters. Let them know that real success is closer than they think.

Bill Marlow

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