



## Fellow Toastmasters!

Let us remind you first that September is already here! Which means that it's time for paying our **Membership Dues** - 700 rub!!!

Please also pay attention to the **Members Interest Survey!**

You can fill in the **electronic version** and send it to **Helen Dyakonova** (at [dhel@mail.ru](mailto:dhel@mail.ru)) or you can bring the **paper version** to our next meeting!

If you are a frequent visitor of the Moscow Free Speakers Club meetings, you might have noticed that no two of them look alike. The **464<sup>th</sup> meeting on September, 3<sup>rd</sup>** was no exception from this tradition. First, every Muscovite knows that if you drive your car in the beginning of September, you can't really predict the travel time. Due to this nuisance we started with our agenda a bit later, than usual. However, this didn't undermine anybody's spirits: the members had additional time to exchange the latest news as well as mingle with the honored guests. As the meeting started, we had some other (pleasant) surprises. Stay tuned to learn more about them!

**1. Evgenia Ganina**, a soon to be member of the club, opened the meeting with an **Invocation** on the inspiration. She set the pace for the whole meeting, telling us, how grateful she was to her new boss, who inspired all of their office just by taking on his new role. Evgenia, way to go!

**464<sup>th</sup> meeting, September 3, 2009**

## **Quote of this issue:**

**"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."**

*—Mark Twain*



**2. The Toastmaster** of the meeting, **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B**, showed her mastery in organization of the meeting, leading the first part of it with grace and ease. She briefly

introduced all her team and made sure that the meeting went as planned.

**3. Word master, Ruslan Khodzhaikov**, offered us to enrich our vocabulary with a word everybody knows. However, you couldn't really expect how many expressions there are with the word "*dust*"! He called us to get down with our dust at the break time and dusted down our knowledge about this extensively used word. Great job, Ruslan!

**4. Olga Afonskaya** lifted our spirits with the **Joke of the Day**, which you can find at the end of the newsletter, as usual.

## Moscow Free Speakers Club



5. This time we had only two scheduled speech projects, but you'll be kicking yourself for missing them!

The first speaker to take the floor was **Valeria Kholodkova** with her **10<sup>th</sup> manual project**. Valeria made a full circle with her Competent Communicator manual. Her Ice Breaker was dedicated to her beloved dog and her 10<sup>th</sup> project concerned the topic of dogs either. Madame President gave us a very emotional enumeration of how dogs can be more human than humans, inspiring us to take a different perspective, when thinking about dogs.



At the second part of the meeting **Igor Vinogradov, VP PR**, as the Presiding officer, congratulated Valeria on her **completion of the CC manual** and presented her an unofficial certificate from the Club (the official will come from the World Head Quarters in due time). From now on, Valeria can proudly place CC after her name. Congratulations, Valeria!

6. Miraculously, at this same meeting, **Serge Kuzin, CC**, delivered his **10<sup>th</sup> advanced speech (!)** completed his second Advanced Communicator Manual, and thus earned his **Advanced Communicator Bronze** award! According to the manual, the project entitled "*The Swine Flu Delusion*" was to be a media speech, geared to persuade a general television audience to take a side of a social cause. Serge urged us not to give in to the media hysteria about the famous swine flu, delivering his speech in a very lively and interactive manner. Serge, congratulations on your AC-B award! And let us congratulate ourselves with the completion of our **1<sup>st</sup> goal towards the DCP award!**



7. **Mikhail Piskunov** was the **General Evaluator** of the meeting for the first time in his Toastmaster career and handled his job quite well. He started by uncovering the hidden secret of every skilled Toastmaster evaluator, known as "the sandwich method". As the meeting went on, Mikhail gave every participant a positive and supportive evaluation. Nice job, Mikhail!



## Evaluations:

We had a reversed evaluation order this time, the meeting was full of surprises!

**8. Igor Vinogradov** was the personal evaluator for Serge Kuzin. Igor noted the excellent quality of the speech, but failed to put the meat into his evaluation sandwich. Instead, he gave Serge a well-deserved Bronze Achievement Medal award, signifying the significant milestone in his Toastmaster career.

- + *Personal delivery of a general topic;*
- + *TV-like quality of the presentation;*
- + *Humorous attitude to a serious matter.*

**9. Olga Filimonova**, the personal evaluator for Valeria Kholodkova, pointed out the following:

- + *an emotional and inspirational speech;*
- + *distinct and careful language;*
- + *good use of numbers in the speech;*
- *eye contact can be improved.*



**10. Olga Filimonova** went on and led the very unusual **Table Topics Session**. Instead of doing it the conventional way, she proposed to play the game, that could be called “Guess the word”, when the participants had to explain some situation to either a particular person or to the whole audience, without using the taboo words.

We had some really funny sketches the most appreciated of which was the one, performed by **Alexander Solka**, a visiting Toastmaster from a Lausanne club. His assignment was to explain the expression “First aid”. Who could know, that he is a volunteer fire-fighter in his own town! Thus we saw a very professional, yet, humorous first aid admission. Thanks a lot, Alexander!

### **Our Birthdays!**

**Our Warmest Congratulations  
to Our Dear Fellow:**



**VLADIMIR CHIRKOV! (September 8<sup>th</sup>)**

## Moscow Free Speakers Club



Next time we will hear three projects. The speakers will be **Valentin Novikov**, **Vladimir Golovanov** and **Nina Tsygankova, CC**. The next meeting promises to be an unusual one (did we ever have a usual meeting?). The Toastmaster of the meeting, Igor Vinogradov, will be giving a **recap** of his experience of visiting the International Speech Contest, which took place on August, 15<sup>th</sup>, in Connecticut, USA.

**Our next meeting is on October 1<sup>st</sup>!**

**Don't miss it!**

### **News!**

Please, welcome the renewed version of our Club's website – [www.moscowfreespeakers.ru](http://www.moscowfreespeakers.ru)!

We look forward to your ideas and suggestions for improvement! Send them to [toastmasters\\_ru@yahoo.com](mailto:toastmasters_ru@yahoo.com)!

### **Points:**

<b>Margarita Ryndina</b> (Toastmaster)	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Valeria Kholodkova</b> (Speaker 1)	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Serge Kuzin</b> (Speaker 2)	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Olga Filimonova</b> (Personal Evaluator 1)	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Igor Vinogradov</b> (Personal Evaluator 2)	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Mikhail Piskunov</b> (General Evaluator)	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Olga Filimonova</b> (Table Topic Master)	<b>8.6</b>

### **JoKE of the meeting:**

A man was walking along a California beach and stumbled upon an old lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it and out popped a genie. The genie said "OK. OK. You released me from the lamp, blah, blah, blah. This is the 4th time this month and I'm getting a little sick of these wishes so you can forget about three. You only get one wish!"

The man sat and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I'm scared to fly and I get very seasick. Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there to visit?" The genie laughed and said, "That's impossible! Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete... how much steel!! No, think of another wish!"

The man said OK and tried to think of a really good wish. Finally, he said, "I've been married and divorced four times. My wives always said that I don't care and that I'm insensitive. So, I wish that I could understand women... know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment... know why they're crying, know what they really want when they say, 'nothing'... know how to make them truly happy ..."

The genie said, "You want that bridge with two lanes or four?"

*by Olga Afonskaya*