

# TM 1808 MANIFESTO

We members of Toastmasters 1808 are a unique group of men dedicated to improving our speaking and leadership abilities. Although we have a history of irreverence and **raucous spontaneity, we subscribe to a system of values and certain procedures that** produce excellence. Some of the foremost commitments and understandings are as follows:

**I.** Regular attendance is an important commitment. It provides continuity and healthy competition. As with many things in life, 80% of success is just showing up. We make 7:05 Friday morning a standing appointment. We show up in ample time to perform our duties and assist where needed.

**II.** We believe that a full complement of officers is necessary for the optimal operation of the club. Each officer commits to faithfully perform his duties; he gains in knowledge and leadership as he “moves up the chairs.”

**III.** Although the President announces the following week’s scheduled duties and contacts the scheduled Toastmaster by Monday of the scheduled week, and although the scheduled Toastmaster contacts his scheduled players in turn, **it is the responsibility of each member to check the schedule. If a scheduled player cannot perform his duty it is his responsibility to arrange for a replacement and communicate the fact** to the Toastmaster, President or Chief Evaluator, as the case may be.

**IV.** The Toastmaster should call his scheduled players by **Monday** of the scheduled week. Whether he makes contacts by phone or e-mail, he should get **confirmation** that the member will perform. The Standby Speaker is not an automatic fill-in for a scheduled speaker; he is an emergency standby. The Toastmaster commits to get out his newsletter by the **Monday** following his meeting.

**V.** Profane language is sometimes appropriate, except during a formal speech. However, profanity, like salt, can be overused. It is often a crutch used in lieu of intelligent discourse. We in 1808 give all members and guests respect ... even when it is difficult.

**VI.** New members are essential to the vitality of the club. Each member should strive to bring at least one prospective member as a guest per six-month term. The club will pay for the first breakfast for **bona fide** prospects (not your brother-in-law visiting from Keokuk). The member will immediately pay for all his other guests.

**VII.** New members will give speeches **only** from the basic manual until they have earned their CTM designation. **No exceptions.** The speaker shall provide the manual to his evaluator and inform the Toastmaster of the speech number and purpose for use in his introduction.

**VIII.** Evaluations are an important feedback in the 1808 experience. Each member commits to write **legible** (including the signature) ballot comments for each speaker and the Toastmaster. Ballots are **not** to be used for scratch paper. Symbolic votes for best table topics speaker may be announced, but the award goes to the highest vote getter of the actual participants. Time limits for formal evaluations will never be reduced below two minutes, even if a meeting is running late.

**IX.** We have our fun, but we take Toastmasters very seriously. Even though TM 1808 is a volunteer group, we realize that our performance in the club is an indication of how we conduct other facets of our lives, both business and personal. If we put forth the proper effort, we can experience great personal growth and life-long friendships.

5/16/2008