



After making the rounds in the audience, Terry McCann's Olympic Gold Medal returns to its champion, left, and MTA Toastmasters Chapter president Frank Clarke.

## Toastmaster General's Word is 'Good as Gold'

BY GAYLE ANDERSON

Associate Editor

(Jan 10) Olympic Gold Medallist Terry McCann's encounter with a whale three years ago off the California coast taught the accomplished athlete, daily surfer and business executive a profound lesson in life.

McCann, now executive director of Toastmasters International, Inc., visited MTA Tuesday as guest speaker for an expanded Toastmasters meeting hosted by the MTA chapter.

"Suddenly, a California gray whale rose up from the sea like Moby Dick, his blowhole erupting furiously. Bobbing helplessly in my kayak, I was

level with his huge, unwavering eye and felt the spray from the giant blowhole erupting above. As he finished his dive, his tail slammed my kayak and sent me up in the air about 8 feet. I was never so excited in my life," said McCann.

The moral of the story? Put anticipation to good use. "Be ready for the whales that will rise up and send you flying," he said.

McCann's "whales" include winning the gold medal in wrestling, bantamweight division, in the 1960 Rome Olympics. "I really wanted to be a basketball player," said the diminutive McCann, "but there's not much call for 5'6" guards."

McCann's 40-minute speech harpooned his audience with tales of goals, motivation and achievement and ended with a rapid fire Q&A:

The meaning of life: fulfillment.

The key to self-confidence: practice hard, 50 percent more than everyone else.

McCann's formula for success of an endeavor or organization:  
1) meet the need 2) have a good time 3) replenish, replenish, replenish.

Retirement goal: Surf longer.



McCann brought along a friend of more than 50 years – his wife, Lucille. Now 67, he met his wife, Lucille, when they were both 15 and in high school. They have seven children and 18 grandchildren.



Terry and Lucille McCann

Asked to reveal their secret to a successful marriage, they gave different responses. Said Lucille, "It's a 90-10 give-and-take proposition." Said McCann, "I bought her a brand new red convertible." [Back to Bulletin Board](#)

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