

Ways (and Means) with Words

MTA Toastmasters get started in the new fiscal year with new officers and a reinvigorated quest for trophy gold. Try this!> [Speech tip](#).



New Officers: Foreground, from left, Diana Estrada, Sangeeta Patel, president, and Kathleen Johnson. Back row, Patricia Clark, Sam Samphat, Muriel Blake and Henry Tuazon. Not pictured: Wanda Davis. Below, new president Sangeeta Patel, at podium, presides over weekly meetings where members develop confidence in public speaking skills. Membership has grown to 28 active members.



David Schlesinger, a Green Line Maintenance supervisor, bagged 9 'Best Speech' trophies in District 52 competition last year, going up against the best of the best from some 80 clubs in the Greater Los Angeles Region.



CHECK IT OUT: MTA Toastmasters Chapter meets every Tuesday in the Board Overflow Room at noon. Look for the bright gold banner, bright Blue Ribbons and, yes, all those shining trophies.

Speech tip> Eye contact is very important. When the speaker looks directly at the audience, the audience believes the speaker cares about them. They think the speaker is sincere, credible, friendly and honest. These feelings have a great impact on the speaker's message and the willingness of the audience to accept it. As you speak, don't just gaze around the room, make random contact. If the audience is large, pick out one or two people in each section (left, right, back and center). Avoid looking repeatedly at the same person. You can improve your eye contact by addressing everyone in an elevator and wave to those you recognize across a room. And, most of all, wait for a response and study the facial expressions. These same expressions can be found in an audience, which is a quick way to validate your audience' attention. --from *LACMTA Toastmaster's Club 7451 Newsletter*

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GAYLE ANDERSON

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