More! See Ted Corcoran's Top Ten Tips for Public Speaking

MTA Toastmasters president Sangeeta Patel presents guest speaker Ted Corcoran, right, president of Toastmasters International and safety manager for Irish Railways.

Toastmaster's International President Ted Corcoran Visits MTA

By ADRIENNE S. BLYTHE

(Nov. 7, 2003) Ted Corcoran — president of Toastmasters International — spoke eloquently with his soft Irish accent to MTA employees, Thursday afternoon, and shared some advice on how to be an effective public speaker.

Using humor and personal stories, the Dublin resident discussed his top ten tips for public speaking — the focus of Toastmaster's International. He has been an active member of Toastmasters for more than 18 years.

Corcoran was introduced by Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis and Andrea Burnside, managing director of operations.

Community Relations Officer Joanne Longsden gave a presentation about the MTA's rail safety educational and outreach program, one of the best in the country.

Before his speech, Corcoran toured the MTA Headquarters building with Gary Spivack, deputy executive officer for safety. As safety manager for the Irish Railway system, he took great interest in MTA's safety standards and practices.

Members of MTA's Toastmasters chapter were excited to have their international president visit the agency.

"We are very honored to have him here," says Frank Clarke, former MTA chapter president. "There was a much larger turnout than expected, which is great."

Corcoran stressed how important good communication skills are for everyone. "When it comes to rail safety," he stated, "It can be a matter of life or death."

Ted Corcoran's Top Ten Tips for Public Speaking

- Know your audience

- Decide on a theme

- Decide on a purpose

- Select supporting arguments

- Include stories

- Include an opening, a body, and a conclusion

- Practice, practice, practice

- Know the room that you are speaking in

- Use voice and gestures to illustrate your message

- Be brief, be seated, and be done

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