

Club hopping my way to becoming a CTM

By Heather Buchwitz, CTM

My long journey to my CTM began when I worked at ENMAX, at the Current Speakers club. As a business club, the ENMAX meetings were extremely efficient: we were always in and out within the hour. I loved the convenience of having a club right where I worked and being able to squeeze it into a lunch hour.

When I returned to school, I joined the U of C Speakmasters club. Speakmasters is a huge club. There's nothing like 35 people staring at you to ensure you showed up well prepared for your speech. This club was hilarious. Whenever possible, it seemed that topics related to dating and mating. For Table Topics, they often made called two or three people up at a time and made them perform skits. This meant that up to 12 people had the chance to participate in the Table Topics. Another thing that was great about this club was that they hit a xylophone everytime you said "um." As Mark counted 21 "ums" in my last speech, I would love to see something like this implemented.

Then I moved and started club hopping for a more convenient club. One of the clubs I checked out was Miracles Toastmasters. This club strives to be motivational in nature. I really like the idea that your speeches are geared to self-growth.

The Igniters Toastmasters was another tempting one to join. It's a new one and gaining members quickly. When I went to the meeting they asked me to fill about a profile about myself. They wanted to know about things such as my goals, what I wanted in life – and how they could support me in getting there. One of the things this club is trying to do is to get members to partake in speaking engagements outside the club. The lady starting this club is a life coach and very motivational to be around. (*The lady is Mona Cooley. She rocks. – ed.*)

I also checked out the CTI Tech Talkers club. This club was professional and I knew that I could develop a more polished speaking style if I joined them.

I really enjoyed my club-hopping and – if you haven't tried it – I would encourage you to check out a few clubs. Each of them is dynamic in their own way and I think that they each offer something that we could bring back and try out at our own club. Happy club hopping!