

Low Attendance

What Happens If No One Shows Up?

There's no secret as to how you attract and keep members-just hold good, fun meetings, and the Toastmasters program will do the job for you! Dr. Smedley had it right when he wrote, "We learn best in moments of enjoyment."

What do you do when attendance is sparse? Following are some ways you might consider.

TWO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Have one Speaker and the other is the Evaluator.

THREE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Have one Speaker, one Evaluator, and a Toastmaster.

FOUR MEMBERS PRESENT:

Have one Speaker, a General Evaluator, a Toastmaster, and a Table Topic Master.

The General Evaluator incorporates the duties of "ah" counter and Grammarian into the evaluation of both the speaker and the meeting. The Toastmaster also acts as Timer. It is essential to the health of the club that these duties remain natural and that members adopt a positive attitude. This will keep guests' interest in joining this club maximized.

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Have: Toastmaster, Speaker, General Evaluator, Table Topic Master, and Timer.

With five people in attendance the duties somehow now seem to be a breeze. The opportunity to have a truly quality meeting, according to all of the suggestions of Toastmasters International, is now possible. Guests will see the positive growth aspects of belonging to this club, and if each one is asked to join, one can expect them to say yes.

The business meeting (for all of the above meetings) should incorporate the essentials of parliamentary procedure. Membership-building plans-to include conducting Speechcraft, increasing local publicity, and everyone inviting three guests to the next meeting-should be discussed. Invite your Area and Division Governor to attend and offer ideas.

The schedule of your next meeting would be reviewed, and the Toastmaster for the following meeting would be directed to phone all members to remind them of their duties. Printed agendas should be available to help guests follow the meeting.

The key to a successful meeting is to plan, prepare, execute, and follow-up. When each meeting is organized, educational, and fun, guests will join. The more members, the more opportunities there are to learn and grow. Remember, Dr. Smedley wrote, "We learn best in moments of enjoyment." Make your next low-member meeting one of enjoyment and growth.

The key to saving a Club and seeing it through hard (low-member) times is for the members to remain flexible and positive. The kiss of death for any club is to suspend meeting until the membership has grown. The ludicrous aspects of this position are evident; the membership cannot grow if there are no meetings. Toastmasters will foster personal growth in people even under adverse conditions. In fact, anyone belonging to a low-member club will undoubtedly experience personal growth in an enhanced capacity far more readily than those in larger clubs. Think it through, adjust the agenda, and for your club's sake, DON'T GIVE UP! Your positive, "can do" attitude, is everything.