



District 38 Speakers Bureau

Who Are We?

The District 38 Speakers Bureau exists to help speakers develop their speaking skills for the public arena—to help polish presentation, delivery, and content for audiences outside the Toastmasters club environment. The group provides support and education to help developing speakers begin the move from free to fee speaking.

The District 38 Speakers Bureau is a function of Toastmasters International and is supported, appointed, and authorized by the District 38 Governor and Public Relations Officer. Speakers Bureau is not a club. To become a member of Speakers Bureau, you must be a member of a Toastmasters Club, give a qualifying speech, then be voted on and passed by the members.

What Happens At Speakers Bureau Meetings?

Meetings have several components. We usually start with an educational presentation on a topic of interest to speakers. Then Qualifying Speakers give their presentations and receive feedback from the audience on how they did. At the end of the meeting, we open the floor for attendees to share experiences in the world of speaking, including leads, accomplishments, lessons learned, etc. and for others to share connections and advice.

Why Should I Attend Speakers Bureau Meetings?

Even if you attend as a spectator, you have much to gain from Speakers Bureau meetings, including:

- Meet and learn from other developing speakers
- Hear what other speakers are saying and doing in their presentations
- Learn and grow from monthly educational topics
- Learn what is on the mind of your audience

When And Where Are Speakers Bureau Meetings Held?

Speakers Bureau currently meets at the Cherry Hill Public Library, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 (lower level conference room). Just a few minutes from Rt. 70 but is situated between Rts 38, 73, and 70. We meet the second Wednesday of every month, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

How Do I Become A Qualified Speaker And A Member Of Speakers Bureau?

To become a member of Speakers Bureau, you must give a qualifying speech. The process is:

1. Attend at least three Speakers Bureau meetings so you understand our format and expectations.
2. Sign up to give your Qualifying Speech (contact Rae-Ann: RA@Rae-AnnRuszkowski.com, 888-724-7517)
3. Prepare a 15 – 20 minute formal presentation. Work with a Qualified Speaker, as needed, for coaching and advice.
4. Submit your speech title and a speaker's introduction to the Speakers Bureau Chair at least two weeks before the meeting (RA@Rae-AnnRuszkowski.com)
5. Come to the meeting prepared to speak and receive feedback.

What If I Need Help Preparing My Qualifying Speech?

Speakers Bureau members are often asked to mentor people preparing for their Qualifying Speech. This mentoring is always helpful to the Qualifying Speaker in preparing their presentation, contributes to their success, and is free of charge. You can request free coaching by contacting the Speakers Bureau Chair, Rae-Ann Ruszkowski (RA@Rae-AnnRuszkowski.com)

What Happens After My Qualifying Speech?

After you give your speech, members of the audience will provide in-depth, constructive feedback on your content, appearance, delivery style, and overall presentation. They will also complete a written feedback form which you will receive at the end of the meeting.

In addition, members of Speakers Bureau will vote on whether to admit you to Speakers Bureau. Ballots are counted after the meeting, and you will be notified by telephone or e-mail within a few days. You might “Pass” and be admitted to Speaker’s Bureau, or you might be asked to “Try Again” at a later time.

What Are The Benefits Of Becoming A Member Of Speakers Bureau?

Members of District 38 Speakers Bureau gain many benefits, including:

Networking opportunities with other speakers

Constant learning and development of speaking skills

Marketing tips and Business Development

A Web Presence / Profile with pic, bio, social media links and contact opportunity

Opportunities to speak to local service clubs and other organizations

Opportunities to speak at Toastmaster training and conferences

Audience Vision – 360 speech evals, via video.

How Can I Become More Involved In Speakers Bureau?

There are several ways to support the Bureau and become more involved:

- Serve As Master Of Ceremonies At A Speakers Bureau Meeting
Each meeting has an emcee who helps plan the meeting, introduces speakers, and helps the meeting run smoothly and on time by serving as the “Toastmaster” for the evening.
- Present An Educational Topic
Each meeting has a 15 – 30 minute educational presentation on a topic of interest to speakers. Past topics have included making a professional presentation, using questions in presentations, and getting your book published, how to use social media to build a speaking career, what should be on your website. Offer to present a topic, or nominate a business contact who might be willing to present a topic of interest to speakers.
- Contribute To The Monthly Newsletter
Rae-Ann Ruszkowski, the Founder of the Speakers Bureau and the publisher of “From the Stage,” is always looking for contributions to the newsletter and for content on the website. All Qualified Speakers are permitted to write articles for the website that focus on speaking and the power of Speaking. You can write a short article on a topic of interest to Speakers Bureau members and attendees. Articles might be about recent speaking events, upcoming opportunities, lessons learned in the world of speaking, etc.

- Sign Up To Speak After Becoming A Qualified Speaker

The Chair for Speakers Bureau will be coordinating assignments outside the club when received. While any group or club can find and contact a speaker through the website, direct requests will still be made. When outside groups submit a request for a speaker, Rae-Ann will send an e-mail to all Qualified Speakers who have registered their topics, phone number, and e-mail address. Bookings are assigned based on the fit between the requested topics and the available speakers.

For more information on the District 38 Speakers Bureau, contact one of our officers:

*Rae-Ann Ruszkowski, PMP
Speakers Bureau Chair, 2013-
888-724-7517 (cell)*

RA@Rae-AnnRuszkowski.com

*Donna E. Fountain
Speakers Bureau Co-Chair, 2013*

FountainDE@Yahoo.com

Visit our speaker's website at SJSpeakersBureau.com