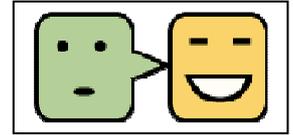




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Speaking Tips # 53 Part 2

2011-03-29

A Swedish Wedding Party Toastmaster - Implimentation

Before dinner

Guests must know who is the TM. Do carry a badge showing it's you. You must come before everybody else to help welcoming the guests. You represent the wedding couple so you had better show your brightest and most charming smile. You do well by telling the guests where the seating list is located, where the drinks are served etc.

Some guests, upon arrival, may feel the urge to say a few words during dinner. If so, they must turn to you. Unannounced spontaneous speeches are not allowed if there is a TM. If YOU, on the other hand only have a few speeches lined up and you need more, then you have the right to involve more speakers. However, beware not to be too "generous". Set limits and keep them. Also, set limits to the speech lengths of such additional speeches. They should be limited to 1-2 minutes. When it is time to go for dinner, you are to announce that. If the sound level is louder than you voice, you can use a gong or whistle to get attention and silence the room. You can use the same tool every time you need to silence the guests for introductions.

During dinner

The very first introduction should be short and concise as the welcome greeting itself is supposed to be short. When everybody sits and the first course has been served, you rise and hit the gong. You wait until everyone is dead silent, you pause a moment, look at everybody and finally you announce "the bride's father"! You wait until he rises and then sit down. He gives a short welcome greeting which ends with the initial "skål" (cheers). Thereafter you follow your well planned speakers agenda. Note that it is impolite to sit down before the speaker has risen. What you should now try to achieve is what I call "flow". This means that you will have prepared your introductions in a way that creates a "leading context". While preparing you could, for instance, have asked the speakers about the contents of their speeches. Having done so, you can use something of what has been said and link it to something in the speech to follow when introducing the next speaker. This creates a flowing transitions. If you can take the opportunity to include something which has just been discussed at the dinner table you will be considered a master of impromptu speaking. If you know that the speakers and the guests can take it you can also use soft insinuations or ironic comments which may be entertaining for the guests. Humor is permitted and almost an obligation.

Finally, either when the guests are still seated or later, you read out loud possible incoming telegrams, email and other short messages.

But do remember something very important! You assist the wedding couple by humbly and sympathetically leading the party, not by dominating it! You are the team leader who makes others stand out, not yourself! Good luck!

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