

2012 Advanced Aurators Member Survey

Final Report

Issued – February 11, 2012

2011 – 2012 Advanced Aurators Executive

President - Rodney Denno

VP Education – Nancy Largent

VP Membership – John Hawkins

VP PR – Lori Collerman

Treasurer – Blair Montgomery

Secretary – Merrilee Miller

Sergeant at Arms – Darren Frew

***Data analysis and this report were provided by Rodney Denno.

**The survey was completed by 14 Advanced Aurators members
at the February 2, 2012 regular club meeting.**

Generally speaking – Advanced Aurators members are very satisfied with the way club meetings are structured and conducted.

1 – Very strong consensus that membership should be in the 25 – 30 members range. There was some consensus that membership growth up to 35 would be OK.

2 – Very strong consensus that personal invitations are the best way to build membership. Most members indicated a strong willingness to do one or two presentations per year to other clubs to promote Advanced Aurators.

3 – Most members indicated that they do not make a point of connecting with every guest. Making guests feel at home in our club by introducing ourselves and getting to know them is an important part of presenting a welcoming club environment. This is an area for improvement for most members.

4 – Strong consensus that meeting themes should be fun and educational.

5 – Advanced Aurators members strongly prefer our current meeting format to the standard Toastmasters meeting format.

6 – Strong consensus that members should focus on giving advanced manual speeches.

7 – Strong consensus that Advanced Aurators members serve on the club executive once every 4 years.

8 – Very strong consensus that members would like to see different evaluation techniques used at Advanced Aurators meetings so that members can see how effective the various techniques are and learn how to apply them.

9 – Socializing with fellow Advanced Aurators members is a somewhat valuable benefit to most members.

10 – Very strong consensus that improving (evaluation skills, speaking skills, leadership skills) are important educational benefits resulting from membership in Advanced Aurators.

11 – Very strong - almost unanimous - consensus that the quality of speech evaluations members receive in Advanced Aurators help them improve their speaking skills.

12 – Very strong – almost unanimous – consensus that Advanced Aurators meetings are of better quality than regular TM club meetings.

13 – Very strong consensus that Advanced Aurators provides a supportive, positive and friendly club environment in which to learn and grow.

14 – About 30% of members prefer to sign-up for roles using Easy-Speak.

15 – About 70% of members prefer to sign-up for roles either in an AA meeting or via email to the VP Education.

16 – Very strong interest in enhancing the educational aspects of our meetings through - Workshop on evaluation techniques (1.9), Using humor to strengthen our speeches (1.7) and Using drama to strengthen our speeches (1.6).

Member Profile (Based on 14 completed survey's)

	AVG	CTM	1
Years in TM	12.6	ATM-B	1
		ATM-S	1
Years in AA	4.5	CC	2
		ACB	2
Member of other clubs?	11 of 14	ACS	3
11 of 14 respondents belong to at least one other club.		CL	1
		ALB	3
		ALS	1
		DTM	5

Respondents used the following metric to evaluate each question below:

Strongly Agree = 5

Somewhat Agree = 4

Neutral (I do not agree or disagree) = 3

Somewhat Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

Membership Building

AVG

AA should strive to have 35 – 40 active members.	2.5
AA should strive to have 30 – 35 active members.	3.6
AA should strive to have 25 – 30 active members.	4.6
For AA the TI membership building campaigns are a great way to recruit members.	3.3
For AA personal invitations are a great way to recruit members.	4.7
I am willing to do one or two presentation a year to other clubs to promote AA.	4.3
I make a point of connecting with every guest at AA meetings.	3.5

Meeting Format and Location

I like meeting themes that are fun and educational.	4.4
I want meetings to be fun to help me unwind from the stresses of work.	4.4
I prefer a standardized TM meeting format to our current meeting format.	1.8
I prefer the current AA meeting format.	4.6
The focus on giving advanced manual speeches in AA should be retained.	4.5
I would like to see different evaluation techniques used at AA so I can see how effective they are and learn how to apply them.	4.5
The current (PLI) meeting location is suitable for AA meetings	3.9

Leadership

I expect and am willing to serve on the AA executive once every 4 years.	4.4
--	-----

Membership Experience and Benefits

Socializing with fellow members is a valuable benefit of AA for me.	4.1
Improving my evaluation skills is an important educational benefit of AA for me.	4.8
Improving my speaking skills is an important educational benefit of AA for me.	4.6
Improving my leadership skills is an important educational benefit of AA for me.	4.4
The quality of speech evaluations I receive in Advanced Aurators helps me improve my speaking skills.	4.9
All factors considered I think our meetings are of better quality than a regular TM club	4.9
AA provides a supportive, positive and friendly club environment to learn and grow.	4.7
I would like more education workshops at meetings	3.6
I would like to deliver an education workshop at a meeting	3.6
I prefer to sign up for club meeting roles online (Easy-Speak, etc.)	2.9
I prefer to sign up for club meeting roles through email to VP Ed	3.9
I prefer to sign up for club meeting roles at the club meetings	3.3
I prefer to be assigned a variety of meeting roles	3.2
I prefer to select my own meeting roles	4.2

Topics (Very Interested = 2, Somewhat Interested = 1, Not Interested = 0)

AVG

Table Topics	0.6
--------------	-----

Debating	1.2
Parliamentary Procedure (Robert Rules of Order)	0.8
Workshop on evaluation techniques	1.9
Using drama to strengthen your speeches	1.6
Using humor to strengthen your speeches	1.7
Communicating with the media	1.3

Written Comments

What makes AA membership most worthwhile for you?

- Evaluations, people, location
- The caliber of talent of the members
- Learning to give and receive evaluations
- Highest quality speeches
- This club has an incredible core of people. It's like joining the royal family.
- Evaluations, Advanced speeches
- The people I've met make it great!
- Feedback on speeches and opportunities to evaluate using different techniques
- Network, learn from others, develop my evaluation skills
- Listening to great speeches and evaluations
- Camaraderie and evaluations
- Evaluations
- The in-depth feedback, improved listening skills and relaxed friendly atmosphere
- Confidence building. Leadership skills. Speaking with ease in public of one-on-one

What changes would enhance the 'Advanced' in AA?

- Provide enough agendas
- Bring in pro speakers
- I would like to see occasional (2 or 3 times per year) opportunities to speak impromptu
- More education
- More variety of evaluation techniques and special guests
- Present at Division or District in workshops
- Get people to try non-sandwich evaluation techniques
- Remind mini-evaluators to limit time to approx. 1 minute to allow for others to speak
- Continue focus on advanced speeches
- Become known as and respected as – The Best Evaluation Club in the World
- Employ a wider range of evaluation techniques such as 'problem solving' evaluations
- Inflow of other experienced members

In the coming 12 months how can AA best help you achieve your goals?

- Don't change anything
- I'd like to learn how to give evaluations because I often feel unbalanced – too positive or too negative
- Remind me to get out my CL manual
- HPL project support
- Keep doing what we are doing
- Continue focus on developing different evaluation techniques
- Help me master other evaluation techniques such as GLOVE
- Allow me to speak every two months
- I usually miss supper so.....better food
- Just keep doing what you are doing
- Active roles, totally engaged

Compared to other clubs what do you see as the greatest benefit for joining AA?

- Seeing greatness at work
- The level of expertise
- Evaluations
- Highest caliber members
- The people
- Strong core team
- The honest, detailed, advanced evaluations from a sincerely intelligent group of people
- Raised the bar for evaluation skills
- Round robin discussion on how the speech went
- Strong evaluations
- Evaluations from seasoned Toastmasters
- In depth evaluations
- You can't get this kind of feedback anywhere else!
- Very supportive and evaluative

What's your favorite thing about an AA Toastmasters meeting?

- Evaluations
- Giving a speech
- Hearing a great speaker or evaluator so I can learn via observation
- The people
- Formal speech and evaluation session
- The people – connecting with them and learning from them
- Variety of opinions
- Support from different evaluators for improvement
- Well organized and prepared, professional agenda
- Humor and atmosphere
- Speeches and evaluations
- Excellent speeches and evaluations
- Experienced members

What's your least favorite thing about an AA Toastmasters meeting?

- Being the Timer
- Rushing – whether a participant or audience member I like to know I have time and that I'm not overtime
- Parking
- 'Forcing' round robin when it is done
- Never enough time – we do things in depth and it takes time
- Getting there (traffic and parking pains)
- Sloppy timing by all – be more professional
- Meetings are too short
- That we only meet once per month!

What is one thing we can do to boost meeting attendance?

- Bring guests
- Bring in pro guest speakers
- Bring good prospective candidates as guests
- Start and end on time (we are improving)
- Make every meeting FUN – Camaraderie between members and repartee during the meeting helps
- Promote at home clubs and training events
- Email blast to guests and various events listed on district website
- Have something funny – joke of the evening
- Strongly encourage members to bring guests

- Personal invitations
- Phone absent members who have not been to meetings
- Word of mouth

What kind of career goals can our club help you achieve?

- Anything is possible
- Be emotionally spontaneous for film acting
- Ability to consistently deliver good speeches – like the same speech over time (IE speech contests, keynote, etc.)
- Become a focused listener
- I do a lot of public speaking at work.....everything helps
- I want to get better at facilitating
- Sales and business development

What other activities would you like to see our club organize?

- Quality potlucks
- WOW night
- Maybe go for brunch, lunch or dinner sometime
- Evaluation ‘Outreach’
- Evaluation workshops
- Evaluation workshops
- How about some social events?
- Workshops (evaluation, judges, contest)
- More social events: pot lucks, picnics, etc.
- ALL evaluation workshops should be done by Advanced Aurators
- Once every 3 months we could go out for post meeting social gathering

What are the changes you’d like to see in meetings or club organization in general?

- I love how gracefully Exec/Business meetings are folded into regular meeting. I like the transparency of that and how it can involve more members
- More variety in who gives a prepared speech (already good but even more is great)
- More opportunities for people to take on roles. How about splitting the meeting chair and general evaluation for each half of the meeting?
- More variety in evaluations (dual, team, etc.)
- Easy speak is overkill – prefer the old system

I would also like to say.....

- You guys rock, super nice
- Maybe a night of “challenge” speeches – not 2 minutes, 5 – 7 minutes, topic assigned at meeting
- Thank you for asking!!
- Thanks for asking!!
- I really enjoy being part of AA
- Good Work!