

# **Serving as Jokemaster in a Toastmasters Club Meeting**

Use of Humor  
in providing a supportive and  
positive learning experience

# BYLAWS OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL (TI)

## Article III: Membership, Section 7: Nondiscrimination

(Toastmasters International) This Corporation shall not discriminate, in the conduct of its programs and activities, against any persons on the basis of age (except those persons under 18 years of age), race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, so long as the individuals, through their own effort, is able to participate in the program or activity.

### Governing Documents of Toastmasters International



[https://www.toastmasters.org/  
leadership-central/governing-  
documents](https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/governing-documents)





# TI Mission Statements and Core Values

<https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/governing-documents#Policy11MissionStatementsCoreValuesandEnvisionedFuture552>

## **Toastmasters International Mission**

- We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

## **District Mission**

- We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

## **Club Mission**

- We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

## **Toastmasters International Core Values**

- Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence

## **Toastmasters International Envisioned Future**

- To be the first-choice provider of dynamic, high-value, experiential communication and leadership skills development.

Also see Ethics & Conduct Policies & Protocol <https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/governing-documents#Policy30EthicsandConduct558>

# The way we communicate should contribute to a supportive and positive learning experience

- In the United States, speech content can be on any topic, including controversial subjects; however, to be effective communicators, speakers should present content in a manner that audience members are willing to receive the message.

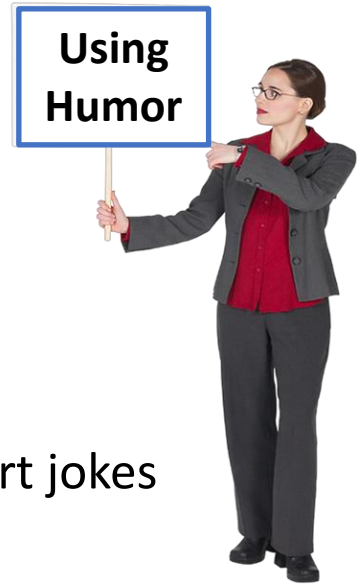
**If our message is not received, then we have failed to communicate**

- Speakers should be mindful of how audience diversity might impact receptiveness to messages, especially if addressing sensitive topics, such as race, sex, religion, or politics; so avoid presenting content in a manner that might cause audience members to stop listening or feel they are being targeted based on their group affiliation.

**Avoid using disparaging language or content that negatively targets individuals or groups based on race, sex, religion, or political affiliation, especially if you are not identified as part of that group.**

# Role of Jokemaster in Toastmasters

*"We learn best in moments of enjoyment"* – TI Founder Dr. Ralph C. Smedley



- Humor is a critical part of communication skills:
  - Appropriate, well-timed humor adds greatly to the Toastmasters experience.
  - As meetings are structured, it is often a challenge for members to know when to insert jokes and humor into the meeting.
  - This is one of the reasons we have a Jokemaster in many meeting.
- The Jokemaster role serves as a simple, lower-pressure role:
  - It gives members the chance to practice delivering humorous content, including delivering the punch line or punch word for best effect.
  - Instead of a joke, members can also use this role to share a lighthearted, inspirational quote, anecdote, or personal humorous story to break the ice for the meeting ahead and set an upbeat, fun tone.
- As an extra challenge, the Jokemaster could attempt to select a joke, quote, or anecdote aligned with the theme of the meeting.

# Role of Jokemaster in Toastmasters

- To be sensitive to a diverse audience, use of humor should be in good taste; avoiding messages that target race, sex, religion, and political affiliations.
- The Jokemaster role in Toastmasters meetings:
  - provides an opportunity for members to practice using humor in a professional setting while being sensitive to audience members;
  - serves as a way for members to practice delivering humor or lighthearted anecdotes; set a fun tone and improve their communication skills.



**As an opportunity for improving communication skills, serving as the Jokemaster enables one to strive to set a fun tone; have a light and enjoyable experience, while demonstrating a sensitive awareness of a diverse audience.**