

**Kapolei Toastmasters (KTM)**  
**Thursday September 25, 2014**  
**12:00-1:00PM**  
**Kapolei Hale Conference Room C**  
**Theme: Gifts and Talents**  
**Meeting Recap**  
**(Submitted by Joyce Bullion, TM, Kapolei Toastmasters)**

**1. Opening of Meeting:**

- President Holly Holloway, CC, CL, opened the meeting and we followed her lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- We had 11 people total which consisted of 11 Members. There were no guests. Holly announced that we miss not having guests. She also announced our theme of Gifts and Talents and mentioned tomorrow is her birthday and she accepts all gifts. She then passed around the spreadsheet for us to sign up for future meetings.
- Members in attendance were: Holly, Joyce, Dorreanne, Eileen, Iris, Owen, Chakib, Tanya, Melanie, Guy, and Sara.

**2. Education Session:**

- Holly introduced our TMOD Guy Kidder, TM who introduced:
  - **Timekeeper:** Melanie Baguio, TM, was our Timekeeper and first time to solo with it. She shared her role well.
  - **Grammarian/Ah Counter/Word of the Day:** Dorreanne Kaehuaea, TM, explained her role as Grammarian/Ah Counter. The “word of the day” was “meander”- a verb which means to wander off course.
  - **Jokemaster/Inspiration:** Joyce Bullion, CC, gave an inspirational story about a little girl who could only play “Chopsticks” and wanted to be a concert pianist. She got a maestro who played a duet with her and together

the piece was outstanding. Joyce tied that into Toastmasters and how we help each other to produce great results by helping each other. We can use our gifts and talents to grow and learn.

### 3. Featured Speakers:

- **Featured Speaker #1:** Eileen Helmstetter, TM, gave speech number 1 titled “Why I am, Who I am”. It was an ice-breaker speech in which we learned what experiences in life molded her to be the person she is today. She started by telling us she likes to live outside her comfort zone. When she was very little she went to visit a cloister monastery with men only. She put on a cap and tucked her hair under the cap so she looked like a boy. She has done rock climbing at Yosemite with no help and developed strength, had a job on a salmon troller and developed character, backpacked in Alaska and was scared by a bear where she learned self-reliance and to make minimal footprints. She had two children through natural childbirth and that helped her develop into who she is today. I loved her speech and look forward to hearing more from Eileen.
- **Featured Speaker #2:** Tanya Mendoza, TM, gave speech number 2 from the CC manual titled “Gift of Life”. Tanya started by asking all of us, “Have you ever wondered why me and why now? Sometimes it can take 15-20 years to figure the answer to that question. She had a not so normal childhood and did not enter college and have the same dilemmas her friends had in college. She waited to decide what her calling was and due to personal challenges decided to become a massage therapist. After she married and had trouble getting pregnant, she met a man named Uncle Ken who did lomi, lomi massage. He did a procedure and her collapsed uterus was fixed and she became pregnant in a short time. Uncle Ken was a double amputee

due to diabetes and though he was so successful in changing other people's lives, could not help himself. Tanya felt badly that she had not thanked him and he died in his sleep in 2006 due to a wheelchair accident. Tanya is so grateful for her gift of life and gave a very well organized speech. I look forward to hearing more from her.

#### 4. Table Topics Master:

- **Speaker:** Iris Benachour, TM, kept with the theme of Gifts and talents and mentioned that gifts are free and talent is actually a weight unit. We should use our talents and give them as a gift.
- **Question number 1** was "Do you know your talents and how are you using them?" Holly Holloway, CC, CL volunteered to speak on this question. She said one of her talents is to give good hugs. She inherited that talent from her father. She said each person needs 13 hugs a day. When people hug her back, she receives the gift from her talent.
- **Question Number 2** was since we all have talents and they are a choice for us to use, she asked "What talent would you use if you were surprised by someone using their talents." Iris called on Chakib Benachour, TM, and he answered "Everybody has a story and he uses his talent of listening to hear other people's stories. He is enriched by that. That is his gift.
- **Question Number 3** was "Do you believe that if we substituted our talents instead of going after material things that the world would be a better place to live? Owen Tamamoto, ACB, ALB, volunteered to speak and answered a strong "YES!" This would be a much better world if we taught each other how to learn and grow.

#### 5. Evaluation Session:

- **Evaluator for Speaker #1:** Holly Holloway, CC, CL, evaluated Eileen Helmstetter, TM, and gave her kudos for a speech well done. Eileen was well prepared with good opening and great conclusion. She had great eye contact. Holly suggested that Eileen tell us how she arrived in Hawaii.
- **Evaluator for Speaker #2:** Joyce Bullion, CC, evaluated Tanya Mendoza, TM. Joyce gave kudos to Tanya for speaking so clearly and preparing well. She gave kudos for good eye contact. Joyce said she loved the questions Tanya asked from the start because it helped us all to connect well. Joyce said she could relate to the blanks because of fear and that it would be good to turn them into effective pauses and not apologize for them. Joyce also suggested a smoother closing. Joyce looks forward to hearing more from Tanya.

## 6. Reports:

- **Timekeeper:** Melanie did a great job as Timekeeper and gave a thorough report of each person's time.
- **Grammarian/Ah Counter:** Dorreanne gave a complete recording of word fillers and usage of the word of the day. She admitted she has been gone for a while and she was so engrossed in the words everyone spoke that at times she forgot to listen. Lol! So glad Dorre is back.
- **TMOD Closing remarks:** Guy made his closing remarks and in my biased opinion was outstanding as Emcee. He met all challenges with his talents and gifts and went the extra mile.

## 7. General Evaluator:

- Sara Toyama, TM, gave the club a glowing report for readiness and to Holly for setting the tone. There was a good flow to the meeting and Melanie did great in her role and so

did all those who stepped in at the last minute. She also mentioned that the evaluators did well and had a lot of positive things to say and that Joyce related to Tanya's dilemma. Sara also said the TMOD Guy Kidder, TM, was outstanding.

**Announcements/Adjournment:**

- Chakib Benachour, TM was inducted as a new member. He read his promise to the club, and we responded with our promise to him.
- Eileen Helmstetter, TM, was presented with her Ice-breaker ribbon.
- Holly announced that dues of \$40.50 are due now.
- Eddie Joseph, DTM, needs roles filled for upcoming Division B Contest.
- We were asked again to sign up for future roles.
- We were adjourned.