

# Let Your Voice Be Heard!

## Special points of interest:

- A Word from the President
- Is Perfection keeping you away?
- Reflections on 2009
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## A Word From The President

"Whenever a new year approaches, I begin to think about resolutions and how many I have accomplished over the previous twelve months. It's a time for reflection and even a little bit of guilt for letting things slide to the end of the year, but also renewal and reaffirmation to continue and complete anything left undone."

"But one thing I can say is that the resolution for self-improvement is never a one-off deal. You don't do it once and mark it off a list. Instead, it's a continuous process requiring constant growth and change. Each of the Voices of Aaron club members have resolved to improve their public speaking, and it's been a joy to watch each person improve and grow. I commend each of these individuals for the efforts they've put in."

"Likewise, to anyone who is interested in self-improvement with public speaking, communications and leadership, there is no need to wait until the next New Year's resolution. As with any self-improvement decision, the best time is to start is now."

-Andrew Boring, President



## Contacting the Voices of Aaron:

Thursdays: 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
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678-558-6481  
[www.voatoastmasters.com](http://www.voatoastmasters.com)

## Perfection Or Fear Of Speaking by J. Shakir Ramsey

Perfection is the enemy of progress. Many times, you plan to give a speech with the best of intentions. You had your name down to present, but you forfeit the opportunity because you feel the speech is not ready. The speech needs more tweaking, more rehearsal in front of the mirror. You convince yourself that it has to be perfect and

that you cannot present it to your peers unless it is perfect. The mere idea of delivering less than a perfect speech makes you shudder at the prospect of embarrassing yourself.

Here's the reality:

1. There is no such thing as a perfect speech
2. You only learn by doing. Toastmaster's is a judgment

neutral zone, You are amongst friends whose primary purpose is to encourage your development as a speaker, not tear you down. Next time, I challenge you to get up and speak when you are not that comfortable and have not rehearsed that much. Let go of perfection and let your voice be heard!



***After attending a few meetings, I joined The Voices of Aaron.***

***“You maybe asking if this is something that they wanted, and the answer is ...”***



Newly inducted members are (l-r): Shakir Ramsey, Sadie Hannans, Art Washington, Kim Smith and Johnnie Lumpkin.

## First Impressions by Kim Smith

The Voices of Aaron Toastmasters Club is one that builds you up without first tearing you down. Rather, they gently deconstruct you in a most painless, yet highly effective way.

When I visited the Voices of Aaron for the first time, I noticed right away the warmth and friendliness of the club members. I had visited other clubs, and although their speak-

ers were excellent, there was no warmth for visitors. The friendliness seemed to be reserved for those who were already members.

After attending a few meetings, I joined The Voices of Aaron. I never looked back nor regretted my decision. The Club is a welcome respite from day to day activities. The members are warm, friendly, and helpful.

The veteran members possess a great deal of knowledge about public speaking and they are willing to freely share that information.

An Initiation Ceremony was held in which new members received their club pin. Everyone was excited and pleased as Club Secretary Angela Wims led the Toastmasters Creed and pinned everyone. A group photo was taken afterwards.

## Moving Forward One Step After Another by Konji Harrison

2009 ends with the Voices of Aaron Toastmaster Club gaining in terms of quality membership and corporate leadership. People from many different walks of life have seen the benefits of Toastmasters and decided that the Voices of Aaron Toastmasters Club was the place where they can grow in the areas of listening, leading, and speaking. Our members are sharing from their hearts,

experiences, and growing knowledge base. This is creating a steady transition from members to leaders.

You maybe asking if this is something that they wanted, and the answer is it was a natural demonstration of the things that these members wanted to develop in joining Toastmasters. It actually makes sense that if you learn how to listen

effectively, speak clearly, and carry yourself as a professional that people would enlist you as a leader.

As we move into 2010, let the natural progression continue. We all have a message that needs to be heard. Let us start getting the word out!

## New Members Inducted And Contest Season Is On The Way!

We had the honor of inducting seven new members (Shakir Ramsey, Sadie Hannans, Art Washington, Kim Smith, Johnnie Lumpkin, James Staubes, and Ross Lautenbach) over the past six months and the Voices of Aaron are humbled and honored that these outstanding individuals would entrust us to help them in their personal communication development.

We will not let you down!

January isn't just the first month of a new year, it's also the kickoff month for speech contests!

The Voices of Aaron will be preparing for the Table Topics and International Speech contests starting in the first meeting of January!

The Humorous Speech and Evaluation contests will follow pending contest dates from our District 14 governing body.

Don't miss out on the chance to witness a very outstanding competition! Go to the club website for more details at:

[www.voatoastmasters.com](http://www.voatoastmasters.com)