

New/Revised Toastmasters Educational Programs Explained

Awards Start July 1, 2006

Toastmasters International has announced changes in the Communication and Leadership Tracks. The new *Competent Leadership* manual has been introduced. This is a very interesting manual!

To review, here are the changes to the tracks.

A new member receives two books: **Competent Communication** manual and **Competent Leader** manual. Both manuals should be worked simultaneously.

To earn the Communication track designations:

- Competent Communicator (CC): Complete 10 manual speeches.
- Advanced Communicator Bronze (AC-B): Achieved CC (or CTM) and completed two Advanced Communication Manuals
- Advanced Communicator Silver (AC-S): Achieved AC-B (or ATMB), completed two additional Advanced Communication Manuals, and conducted any two programs from the Better Speaker Series and/or the Successful Club series.
- Advanced Communicator Gold (AC-G): Achieved AC-S (or ATMS), completed two additional Advanced Communication Manuals, and conducted a Success/Leadership Program, Success/Communication Program OR, and Youth Leadership Program. Also, mentor a new member with the first three speeches.

To earn the Leadership track designations:

- Competent Leader (CL): Completed the 10 manual projects
- Advanced Leader Bronze (AL-B): Achieved CC (or CTM) and CL awards, served at least 6 months as a club officer, participated in officer training, participated in the preparation of a Club Success Plan and conducted any two programs from the Successful Club series or Leadership Series.
- Advanced Leader Silver (AL-S): Achieved AL-B (or old CL award), served a complete term as a District Officer, Completed a High Performance Leadership project and served successfully and a Club Sponsor, Mentor or Coach.

To earn Distinguished Toastmaster recognition,

- You must complete both tracks and earn AC-G (or ATMG) and AL-S (or old AL).

One thing you might notice right away: to earn a new CL, you do not have to be a club officer!

The new *Competent Leadership* manual should be ordered and reviewed by all club Vice Presidents of Education. Please communicate the new manual changes to your clubs. Club members may wish to purchase a manual, as many routine tasks they complete at a meeting will give them credit towards a CL project!

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In all of the Communication manuals, *projects* are completed by giving a speech and being evaluated.

In the new *Competent Leadership* manual, there are 10 projects but there may be as many as four *tasks* a member will need to complete to finish a *project*. Each task receives a written evaluation. Note: evaluators will need to be assigned for these leadership tasks. For example:

CL manual project 1: Listening and Leadership- The member is to practice good listening skills while serving in **any three of the four** following roles: Evaluator, Table Topics Speaker, Ah-Counter, Grammarian.

Each of these tasks will need an evaluation. It is up to the clubs if they want the evaluation or be both written and verbal. Due to meeting time constraints, a written evaluation may be sufficient. If there is enough meeting time, and since this is a new process, giving a few oral evaluations might be a good idea to help all club members understand the tasks in the manual. Traditionally, the General Evaluator has commented on the performance of leadership roles. Clubs may wish to continue that procedure.

NOTE: Only one task can be completed per meeting. For example, if a member serves as *Ah Counter* and *Grammarian* at a meeting, that member cannot get credit for both tasks on that day.

Overall, this manual is going to be fun for the members and will challenge them to be involved in many more Toastmasters events! For example, Project 6 has a task in which a member is to "Help Organize a Club Speech Contest"! What a great way to help encourage members to get involved in events! You can put new members to work on this in February or August!

Important dates regarding the change in the tracks:

January 1, 2006: Both the old and new tracks can be worked on. This means all members can start working on the new CL!

After June 30, 2006: The new awards can be submitted. The awards with similar names/tasks such as CTM/CC, ATMB/S/G & AC-B/S/G will arrive with the new names even if entered with the old names. For example: An ATMG entered on June 29, 2006 will arrive titled as an ATMG. If the same award were entered on July 1, 2006, the award would be titled AC-G.

June 30, 2008: Deadline for submitting applications for CL under the old system. Those currently working on a CL should complete the requirements by that date.

Please communicate this information to your club members.