



90 Toastmasters Celebrate 90 Years of Toastmasters!



On 17 October 2014, nearly 90 Toastmasters from District 95, Division C came together to celebrate Toastmasters' 90th Anniversary. The dinner/meeting event was held in the historic Arminiusmarkthalle in Berlin, Germany.

There were toasts, speeches, Table Topics, and an award section. Special effort was made to bring back „retired“ Toastmasters, especially those who were club charter members. Among the dignitaries who brightened this occasion were: Region Advisor, Morag Mathieson; District 95 Secretary, David Mathieson; District 95 Lieutenant Governor Marketing, Michal Talaga; and Past District Governor, Benjamin Brühl.

Three core values – Affordable, Inclusive, and Inspiring – shaped the evening. Out-of-town guests were given overnight lodging by Berlin toastmasters, a modest meal was served, and homemade cakes were brought for desert. Clubs from all over the Division were invited for a bilingual evening in German and English to hear inspiring speeches and express their gratitude for the organization Ralph Smedley founded in 1924.

There was time to chat with old friends and time to find out about new ones. Time honored protocol was observed in our meeting format. New twists were added to awards.

Speeches



Region Advisor, Morag Mathieson



Area C1 Governor, Pascal Heymann

Toastmasters of the Evening, Division Governor Peter Henrich and past Division Governor Johanna Mählmann started us off with Prosecco toasts in German and English and expertly guided us through the agenda. Area Governor Pascal Heymann gave the first key note speech, sharing his dream of conquering the world one project at a time. Region Advisor Morag Mathieson followed with stories disputing Ralph Smedley's observation that "we learn best in moments of enjoyment." After dinner, Eliza Hirvansalo, our Table Topics Master, set up lively debates in German and in English.

Wings Award

In the award and recognition section, Area Governors Toni Lämmel and Dagmar Klementz recognized club Founders as well as our event sponsors. They also presented a new award designed specifically for this event: the Wings Award. This award honors Toastmasters in our Division who have "earned their wings" – wings grown through self-direction, evaluation, and practice – Ralph Smedley's concept and method. From 20 nominations submitted, 5 individuals were chosen. Diana Cerbu and Robert Felts of Mercury Toastmasters; Sasha Goldmann of Berliner Spreeredner; Katja Zarm of HanseRedner Rostock; and Marius Sypior of Berliner Redekünstler all received silver wings and a ribbon. In addition, Wings Award ribbons were awarded to Frank Thorogood of Toastmasters Nice for his 50 years as an active Toastmaster and to First Berlin Toastmasters as the oldest club in our Division.



From left to right, Area Governors Dagmar Klementz and Toni Lämmel. Wings Award Recipients: Frank Thorogood, Marius Sypior, Katja Zarm, Diana Cerbu, Robert Felts, Sasha Goldman; and, for First Berlin Toastmasters, President Doris Schürmann.

After a parade of thank yous recognizing the 20 Toastmasters who worked together to turn inspiration into action, our meeting was adjourned. Music, dancing, and conversation continued till the Market Hall closed at midnight. The festive atmosphere was picked up again the next day when we gathered for our Division Conference and Fall Contest.

Our website (toastmasters90th.org) will remain live till the end of the year. Please visit it to see pre-event videos, event photos, Toastmaster jokes and a quiz. Perhaps it will inspire you as you plan your 90 Years of Toastmasters celebration.

Thank you Toastmasters!

Khushi Pasquale ACB, ALB, Mercury Toastmasters Berlin
Organizer, 90 Years of Toastmasters Celebration