



# Bridge Builders Newsletter

May 2023

**Bridge Builders  
Toastmasters Club  
(#1944)**

**How can you best find out  
about Toastmasters?**

**TRY IT!**

## Club Membership

Our Bridge Builders Toastmasters Club is generously sponsored by McDermott/CB&I Storage Solutions (Plainfield), and our membership is open to **both** CB&I employees and the general community. **Guests are always welcome.**



We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from **12:00 NOON to 12:59 PM** (both online & in-person).

For more information, visit our club website <https://bridgebuilderstoastmasters.godaddysites.com/>

Toastmasters International  
[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

## Spring Open House – May 16



Spring is reawakening the Illinois landscape. Trees and flowers are in bloom once again. Mother Nature is offering so many possibilities for new growth!

Is spring also reawakening within **you** the desire to refresh some of your skills? Would you like to experience new growth in communicating or in leading others?

### Great Opportunity to See for Yourself

Our Bridge Builders Toastmasters Club is hosting its Spring Open House on Tuesday, May 16. This **FREE** hybrid event is being hosted both in-person and on-line via Zoom. Toastmasters is a fun and highly effective way to improve your communication skills. Members will be available in both formats starting at 11:45 AM to allow time to chat and greet our guests. The meeting itself is scheduled for 12:00 - 12:59 PM. (For Zoom link and questions, email us: BridgeBuildersTM@gmail.com.)

This Open House is a great opportunity to see a Toastmasters meeting in action. Learn how we can help you to build a brighter future. Plus, the names of guests (who are not already members of Toastmasters) will be entered into the drawing for our **door prize**. Is a \$25 Amazon e-gift card in your future? We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!



## “Love a Tree” Day – May 16

### Yes, Same Day as Open House!

What will **you** do to celebrate on May 16? **Hug** a tree? Or “**mug**” [make a face] with a tree for a clever selfie? Or **shrug** off your hesitations and attend our Open House?

It's the perfect time to find out if **Bridge Builders can make a TREE-mendous difference** in your professional or personal life!





## Dick Poirier



**2022-2023 Club VP – PR**

Vice President of Public Relations is only one of many roles and offices that Dick has held within Toastmasters.

He was one of the **founding members of Bridge Builders** – that was back in 1994. His goal at that time was to help a CB&I work colleague improve his communication skills in speaking with clients. Over the years, Dick has served in various positions at all levels – from local clubs up to international.

Dick is currently working within the Presentation Mastery, Team Collaboration, and Engaging Humor paths, but he has previously earned (in 2000) Toastmasters International’s highest status – that of **Distinguished Toastmaster**. Dick is a natural mentor and servant leader!

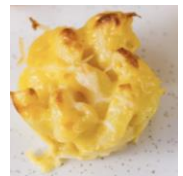
**We thank Dick for his dedication!**

## Accismus? What is *that*?

Recently our VP of Education **Joshua L.** introduced us to the unusual word “**accismus**” (ak-SIZ-muhs). It is a noun that means “pretending **disinterest** in something while actually **desiring** it”. As such, it is considered a form of irony.



Have you ever committed an act of accismus (even though you didn’t know that word or its pronunciation at the time)? The pretending might have been related to a food, an opportunity, or some other thing – lots of possibilities.



Several of our Bridge Builders have confessed to acts of accismus. See if you can match the “something” at the center of the act with the “pretender”.



### ACCISMUS TARGETED “SOMETHING”

1. Foster pit bull named Goldie
2. Wristwatch
3. Fannie May vanilla buttercreams
4. Amazing and affordable apartment
5. Last mac-n-cheese bite appetizer
6. Mom’s old SUV with heated seats
7. Last scoop of double chocolate ice cream

### MEMBER

- a. Dick P.
- b. Elaine S.
- c. Reese O.
- d. Joshua L.
- e. Mark B.
- f. Megan V.
- g. Sharon C.

q

Speaking of irony, isn’t it ironic that the word **queue** (which refers to people or things waiting in a long line) is really just the letter “q” followed by silent vowels waiting in a long line to never be heard?

BTW: **Dick P.** is still streaking in attendance – now at 14 straight!



\*ACCISMUS MATCHES: 1-e; 2-b; 3-g; 4-c; 5-f; 6-d; 7-a

To report errors, please email us at BridgeBuildersTM@gmail.com.