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JAN NORMAN ON SMALL BUSINESS
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Tip of the Day: Join Toastmasters

January 29th, 2008 by Jan Norman

Today's tip comes from Hilary Kaye, of [Hilary Kaye Associates](#) in Tustin.

As a business owner for 20+ years, there have been many things I wish I had learned earlier. Sometimes, you don't even know what you don't know. But my tip for today is an easy one: if you are one of the many people who would rather do almost anything other than public speaking, listen up. I know it sounds counter-intuitive, but do look into joining a Toastmaster's Club. Really. They are everywhere — in almost every city — and at any timeslot — morning, noon and night.

As a business owner, effective speaking skills are essential — whether you are addressing a large group, a small staff meeting or even a one-on-one conversation. Toastmasters is a comfortable, friendly and supportive environment for reaching the point where public speaking is no longer at the top of your "hate-to-do" list. You can even improve impromptu speaking — Toastmasters offers the vehicle "Table Topics" to help you learn to think on your feet, with a moment's notice.



Check it out. Look up [Toastmasters](#) and use the location finder to find a group in your own area and available time slot.

My group, which meets in the city of Orange, is multi-cultural, multi-generational and multi-capable (novices through old pros). And we have become close friends. Curious? I'd be glad to answer anyone's questions, hilary@hkamarcom.com.

Send your tips, resources and strategies for small-business success to me at jnorman@ocregister.com. If I use one, I'll give you credit and link to your Web site.

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