

Dear Presentation Pros members:

What a wonderful meeting we had last Monday! We were 17 in attendance – a great start to the new term!

Nathan opened the meeting by thanking the outgoing officers for their service to the club and installing the incoming officers. He led the ceremony with wit and charm asking everyone to share (in five words or less) something about their respective officer roles. He then introduced Martina, who officially took the helm as our new President and inspired us to continue on the path of President's Distinguished!

Melissa was our gracious and extremely well-prepared Toastmaster and introduced the topic of "Liberty", a word not to be confused with "Freedom".

Randy gave us a fascinating slide show about the widespread use of the word liberty, which morphed into freedom and independence and finished with a display of fireworks.

My speaking tip was a reminder that we all have the freedom to express ourselves in our own unique style, which is backed 100% by Dr. Seuss.

The speaking portion of the meeting was exceptional as our three speakers presented thought-provoking ideas in the most engaging way.

First, David gave a speech entitled "Outrage", reminding us of the necessity of going beyond the headlines and investigating what is really happening behind the scenes, as misinformation abounds and can lead us to reach the wrong conclusions if we don't take the time to question what we read. David's speech was a perfect illustration of putting this abstract concept into practice.

Second, Elaine's speech entitled "Don't Hope, Decide" was incredibly inspiring. The moral of her story was that we too easily "hope" to do something and forget that we can change our mindset to "decide" to do this same thing, which is so much more effective. This was beautifully illustrated by the story of a man's warm reunion with his family at the airport retold by Elaine in the most riveting fashion.

Third, Steven presented the third installment in his series on Abundant Living. His speech was entitled "Can Meditation Improve Innovation and Creativity?" and in it he shared well-researched and compelling evidence for the benefits of meditation and mindfulness. By calming our busy mind, we can more easily access our creative and outside the box thinking.

Next, Nathan led an excellent discussion on 4<sup>th</sup> of July traditions. He kept the conversation active and fun by eliciting genuine responses from everyone. We learned that most people in the group enjoy more quiet than crowds and that many pets are terrified of fireworks!

The evaluation portion of the meeting was expertly led by Grace. Martina, Larry, Eric, and Carol Stewart offered thoughtful and helpful comments to the speakers and engaged the club members to do the same. And Michael's timing was perfect, as always.

Last but not least, Carol Saucedo presented a delightful Rooney on the power of names and how important they are to our identity. Should we change them or keep them? Who gave us our names? There are lots of stories remaining to be told on this subject. And we did all learn that Grace's last name is pronounced "Rocco".

Hope you have enjoyed my sincere attempt at highlighting our wonderful meeting!

Secretarially yours,  
Marie