

# PUT EXCITEMENT INTO YOUR MEETINGS

Holding a number (maximum 4) of **Integrated Theme Meetings** each year is a great way to stimulate interest, creativity and involvement in a club. It is preferable that members, other than the VPE be responsible for the planning of these meetings. The preparation for the theme meeting can include decorations, food to be placed on the tables, a menu (if the club has a meal meeting), the physical meeting agenda, prizes and games that tie into the theme and the meeting program which would be prepared in consultation with the VPE.

Theme meetings should naturally adhere to the criteria for excellent meetings, which are meetings that

- **Start** on time, **keep** on time and **end** on time
- Have involvement of members
- Allow members to achieve their goals
- Have a balanced and organized agenda
- Have variety and flexibility
- Are enjoyable
- Encourage humor
- Recognize achievement
- Support both new and continuing members
- Have a welcoming atmosphere and welcoming of guests and members
- Have a variety of speeches
- Provide a non-threatening atmosphere
- Have an element of surprise

## Creating Theme Meetings

Some possible themes could include

A Season	Humor
A National Day	Trains and Planes
St Patrick's Day	A country (Italy, Japan etc)
Facing the Music	Wine
April Fools' Day	The Play's the Thing
St Valentine's Day	Rock and Roll
Memories	Music
Kindness	Friendship
Dreams	Christmas
The Internet	Toastmasters International
Disasters	The Stock Market
History of Your Local Area	Champions
Into the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	The Wild, Wild West
Letting Off Steam	Camera, Lights, Action
Healthy, Wealthy and Wise	Thinking beyond the Square
Halloween	Caring and Sharing
Kangaroo Court	Current Week, e.g. Education, Volunteers

Prepared plans for 2 such Theme Meetings are included on the next page.

## **WINE**

- DECORATIONS:** Wine bottles, Wine advertisements, cut-out cardboard grapes  
Advertising from wine producing regions  
On Tables – mini bottles of wines, corks with flags in them
- FOOD:** On tables – cheese cubes, water biscuits and wine glasses
- PRIZES/GAMES:** Wine glasses with winner's names painted on them on the night
- MEETING PROGRAM:** Instead of gavel, use corkscrew and wine bottle  
Introduction – Allow 10 minutes for Toast so speech can be made on wine making prior to Toast given
- Table Topics – Celebration when wine is used
- Assignments - Wordmaster, Poetmaster, Laughmaster
- Debate - Wine v Water
- Speeches - Persuasive Speech on selling wines  
Storyteller  
Show What You Mean
- Conclusion - 5 minutes on Listeningmaster or Quizmaster

## **TRAINS AND PLANES**

- DECORATIONS:** Posters of aeroplanes etc  
Models of trains and planes  
Plane/Train mobile  
Arrange Meeting in shape of aircraft, i.e. aisles and seats, have seat numbers,  
Boarding passes and people check in  
Cardboard hats of hostesses/pilot  
If available dress up in uniform
- FOOD:** Candy in shape of transport i.e. planes, trains  
Aeroplane jelly
- PRIZES/GAMES:** Guess the destination  
Raffle for Mystery Flight or train trip
- MEETING AGENDA:** Agenda could have take off, departure times, stopovers etc  
Border/Symbols on agenda  
Could be in shape of luggage bag
- MEETING PROGRAM:** Find members who have travelled train routes/flights (eventful hopefully)  
to present speeches  
Table Topics to have Travel theme, i.e. possible scenarios