

## **Good Fences Make Good Neighbors**

### **Issue**

As our speaker's club continues to grow, members are finding fewer opportunities to give their speeches. As a result, members are losing enthusiasm and motivation. Some are leaving the club. That means less revenue for the club and with fewer members completing Competent Communicator, Competent Leader, or an advanced level, the club loses opportunities to become distinguished.

### **Recommendation**

Since our club was founded at a location on the southeastern side of Jefferson Rd, I propose that members who either work or live on the southeastern side of Jefferson Rd have the opportunity to complete their speeches before those who work or live elsewhere, such as the southwest, northwest, and northeastern sides of Jefferson.

### **Implementation**

As of our next meeting, those who work in the southeast will be assigned as speakers for the time being. To make it easy to distinguish the southeasterners from everyone else, the southeasterners will sit on one side of the room, and the others will all sit on the other side.

If you are not a southeasterner, you will not be able to hold an office in the club. New elections will be held at the next meeting. Only southeasters will be allowed to vote.

## **Arguments against**

I know that some of you may not like this separation. If a colleague, friend, or even family member is not a southeasterner, but you want to remain on the same side of the room, you can petition the club's council to sponsor this person. While the petition is in process, the person you wish to sponsor can sit on the same side of the room as the southeasterners, but in the back. We need to clearly identify who is and who is not a southeasterner.

## **Arguments for**

I am sure you can understand that our club will benefit by quickly having a number of members complete a book, giving the club the recognition we seek as a distinguished club and then move forward and become a select distinguished club and then a president's distinguished club!

Think of the fame, the glory, the power we will have as a club!

## **Questions and Answers**

I have anticipated some of your questions.

Q1: By accepting your proposal, do you see that the club may gain distinguished club status, but may lose much more?

A1: Yes, I realize that having this "fence" (this border, this wall) may cause dissension within our ranks and that this dissension may lead to contention, bickering, and divisions among us. Those who do not like the proposal may leave the club. We might not have enough members to continue the club at all. We might lose the very speakers who can win contests for our club, thus losing our ability to be a competitive club.

Q2: Your solution to a problem is very arbitrary and unjust. Have you explored other more equitable ways to achieve the goal of having speakers complete their requirements sooner so that the club can achieve distinguished status?

A2: No, this is the only solution that comes to mind. I am open, however, to your suggestions. Are there suggestions your might propose?

## **Closing**

With nations building fences, walls, and borders with neighboring nations, it would do a world of good to consider the ramifications of decisions – what is gained and what is lost. Each of us, I'm sure, has a valuable point of view to add to the conversation.