



Happy Unexpected Endings

The power of feedback

Harvey Taphorn of Literally Speaking and a dual District Speech Evaluation Contest winner, told me a story about giving advice to a fellow toastmaster, **Supreet Dhillon** (Spring Forward Northwest Toastmasters). She had never met Harvey, so in her words, a stranger came to her after winning the Area Contest and told her that in order to win at the division level, she had to edit and delete some sections in her speech.

At first she hesitated to make those changes, because after all, she had worked hard to write her speech. But on further contemplation, she decided it was probably best to take the advice of someone who had such a rocking hairstyle [note, Harvey is bald :-)]. She eventually applied some of the suggestions and won at the division level. Following her win, Harvey gave her more suggestions, but this time she was less reluctant to accept the feedback. She made many of the recommended changes, and won the District Humorous Speech Contest.

After winning, she looked Harvey up on LinkedIn, and thought - hmmm - I would like to know more about this person who took a hobby he enjoyed (toastmasters) and turned it into a career at Crestcom. They met for coffee with both of them thinking that Harvey was simply going to share his journey. But as it turned out, she was intrigued by his work, made further inquiries, ultimately resulting in part-time work with Harvey. **What a win-win situation.**

Photo: Supreet Dhillon and Harvey Taphorn (October 2016)

About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., the organization's membership exceeds 345,000 in more than 15,900 clubs in 142 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.