

New Home, New Members

■ **Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club moves to new meeting room, welcomes new members.**

By Yvonne Liu, Vice President of PR, Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club

PUBLIC WORKS — Have you always wanted to join a Toastmasters club downtown, but it was always too far away?

Here is a new opportunity for 2006 that will alter your life.

The new Public Works Building is at 1149 S. Broadway St., LA 90015. Starting Wednesday, Feb. 22, Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club will be meeting in the eighth floor in Room 8044 of the new building every Wednesday at noon.

Following the Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Engineering began moving to the Public Works Building in February. Bureaus of Street Services, Street Lighting and Contract Administration will also be moving to the same exact location in the next few months.

Since its very first meeting on Jan. 14, 2004, Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club has been bringing knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm to new, experienced and retired employees.

The club provides its members with excellent communication and leadership skills.

Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club builds self-confidence through mastering public speaking skills and developing leadership skills.

Any adult can join. A potential member does not have to be a City employee, although the Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club consists of mostly City employees. A potential member does not have to be a Public Works employee.

To compete in the contest, the contestant must be a Toastmaster member. However, you do not need to be a member to be part of the audience. Everyone, a member or a non-member, is welcome to attend a contest.

The club's dynamic membership has enjoyed support and encouragement from City Engineer Gary Lee Moore and Chief Deputy City Engineer II Brad Smith. Director of Sanitation Rita L. Robinson has also visited and sent her support. President of Public Works Commission Cynthia M. Ruiz has visited the club and recently congratulated club president Chelsea Li on her



Chelsea Li, Bureau of Engineering Civil Engineering Associate III and President of the Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club.



Bob Gallagher, Bureau of Engineering Geotech Engineer I and Pioneers Toastmasters Member.



Tom Nguyen, Bureau of Street Lighting Street Lighting Engineering Associate II and Pioneers Toastmasters Member, with the club's Word of the Day.

speech contest awards.

If you have always wanted to join, but was stationed too far to participate, here is a new, 2006 opportunity. Just press "8" in the Public Works Building elevator and drop in any Wednesday at noon. Guests are always welcome!

Watch out for news regarding upcoming exciting speech contests, namely, Toastmaster International Speech Contest on Wednesday, March 8, and Toastmasters Evaluation Contest on Wednesday, March 15.



Newsbriefs

TREE TIPS

Planning to plant a tree anytime soon? Here are a few tips from the Public Works' Bureau of Street Services' Urban Forestry Division. The usual procedure is to do slow, deep watering at these levels during the respective seasons:

- Winter (December – February)— 7.5 gallons/week
- Spring (March – May)— 10 gallons/week
- Summer (June – September)— 30 gallons/week
- Fall (October – November)— 20 gallons/week

"Homeowners should remember that clay soil holds more water and dries slowly, so they should water less frequently," said Chief Forester George Gonzalez. "Sandy soil holds less water and dries quickly, so watering should be done more frequently." Lorenzen added that more water may be needed during long periods of severe heat and drying winds, and less water may be needed during extending periods of cool, rainy weather.

Additional tips:

- Keep tree's base area free of grass and weeds. Pull unwanted vegetation by hand to prevent damage to the tree's feeder roots and prevent weed trimmer damage.
- Do not fertilize or use weed killers. Fertilize only at planting.
- Periodically (every six months) check tree ties to ensure they do not constrict trunk. Loosen if necessary. Remove tree ties and tree stake after 1 to 3 years.

The Bureau of Street Services maintains the City of Los Angeles' 680,000 tree urban forest. It also resurfaces and reconstructs streets and other pedestrian-oriented facilities within the city. For any additional questions, contact the Bureau's Urban Forestry Division at (213) 485-5675.

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