



Basel International Speakers

Club News and Events

District 59, Division E, Area 2

Basel International Speakers

January 2014

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BIS new Committee members 2013-2014

After the Founding General meeting on October 2013, BIS can be proud of his active committee members for the year 2014.

The new members of the committee of Basel International Speakers are:

- President: Markus Seppälä
- Vice President Education: Nina Carrasco
- Vice President Public Relations: Ahlame Farsaoui
- Vice President Membership: Aneta Porczynska
- Secretary: François Matthey
- Treasurer: Anja Grönvold
- Sergeant at Arms: Jacqueline Oertli

Election in May 2014

The term of office of club officers runs from July 1 to June 30. In May 2014, a new election will be held to determine the new club committees. If you are interested in a committee position, please speak to one of the club officers.

Committee training 2014

A committee training will be hold in March; we would like to invite the entire committee members to join the training and be part of this learning experience.

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Interview with BIS's President: Markus Seppälä

I met Markus in a nice coffee place in Basel; I had the pleasure of interviewing him for two hours, and as VPPR of the club, I would like to thank Markus for his time and for sharing with us his seven years' experience in the Toastmasters clubs.

Ahlame: How long have you been in Toastmasters clubs?

Markus: I've been member of Toastmasters since the year 2007.

Ahlame: Where were you first Toastmasters club?

Markus: My first TM Club was in Brussels in Belgium (The Brussels Toastmasters Club).

Ahlame: How many different officer roles have you occupied since you joined the TM clubs in 2007?

Markus: I was first VPPR in Stockholm International, and then I was President of the same club. When I moved to Sydney, Australia I was a regular member of Community Speakers, and finally after moving to Basel, I was VPPR in TM of Basel.

In late 2012 I started working on a new TM club, the Basel International Speakers, and I was elected president in October 2013 at our Founding General Meeting.

Ahlame: What is your occupation?

Markus: I am a lawyer; I have been working since 2011 in Syngenta Basel.

Ahlame: What kind of hobbies do you practice in your free time?

Markus: Travelling has been my biggest hobby, I like to see the world and visit other countries, and I took over 100 flights in the last 2 years. And when I have time, I like PC gaming; Civilization IV and the GTA and Far Cry series are favorites.

Ahlame: How did you have the inspiration to create a new TM club in Basel?

Markus: The TM of Basel has been until 2013 the only English speaking club in Basel, the club was fully booked with over 40 people, and I saw a potential need for a new club with a different innovating style and with new faces.

Ahlame: What did you need when you wanted to create a new club?

Markus: Motivated and supporting people, new location, and 2 sponsors from another club.

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Ahlame: Did you face any administration challenges during the process of creating a new club?

Markus: Not really, because the TM organization is quite efficient, you need to fill a form and pay a fee of 125 dollars, and you receive all tools from the TM organization. The main challenge remains gathering enough members. You need 20 members to charter a club, out of which 17 must be members of only the new club.

Ahlame: Why did you change the location after only one year, you don't think it will be confusing for the new members?

Markus: Our old contract expired by the end of 2013 and the old location offered us only Fridays instead of Wednesday for our meeting. This was a great opportunity to review what our requirements were and find a place that meets more of them. I believe that the room at QuBa has, for example, better acoustics, better storage and fewer distractions from other groups. At the same time, it's as easy to find and as cost-effective as the old location at ABSM.

Ahlame: How the Basel International speakers club can be distinguished from the other TM clubs?

Markus: My experience in many clubs in many countries helped me to see different ways of doing the meeting, in our new club, we have tried some new ideas and a vote is done to keep the idea or to remove it.

We have some new ideas like: the thought of the day to begin the session with, the quiz master, the table topic evaluator and finally to end the meeting we discuss the club business.

Ahlame: Last word from you as the new Basel International speaker's president?

Markus: We are open to new ideas, so if you have any new approach or any feedbacks feel free to contact me or us, we are happy to welcome you in our club.

Charter Party April 2nd 2014

Basel International Speakers was officially chartered on Jan. 30, 2014. We would like to invite you all to join us for the charting party of our club!

Book the date, and join us to celebrate the charting of our new club!



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International Speech and Evaluation Contest:

The dates for the next District contest is: May 16-18 in Krakow (Poland), registration is open.

This will be the last D59 Continental Europe event. From next year the District 59 will split officially into 2 Districts.

Spring Contest:

May 3, 2014 in Bern organized from Committee of Bern Toastmasters. As the District 59 offers all contest in 3 languages: English, German and French every member can participate in these languages as long as the member has competed the contest on every level in this language. Therefore all contests can happen in three languages at all levels!

The logo for Toastmasters International, featuring the words "TOASTMASTERS" in a large, bold, blue font above the word "INTERNATIONAL" in a smaller, blue font. The text is enclosed in a dark red rectangular border.

Club meeting location

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters Club meets at QuBa, Quartierzentrum Bachletten. Bachlettenstrasse 12, 4054 Basel.

Our next meeting

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters club meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Our meetings start at 18:45 and last about two hours.