



# *Dawn Talkers Club #84*

## **When you are the Grammarian**

This is truly an exercise in expanding one's listening skills. The Grammarian listens for awkward, misused, or creative language, words or sounds used as pause fillers ("um,er,ah"), and inappropriate interjections ("so,new,you know"). The Grammarian is also the "fine master", levying fines based on a variety of infractions.

### **Prepare in Advance**

- Select a "Word of the Day". It should be a word that will help the group increase their personal vocabularies – a word that can easily be incorporated into everyday conversation, but which is different from the way we usually express ourselves. An adjective or adverb is suggested since they are more adaptable than a noun or verb, but feel free to select your own special word.
- In letters large enough to be seen from the back of the room, print your word, its part of speech, and a brief definition. Prepare a sentence as an example of how to use your word. If you choose to print your word on the blackboard prior to the meeting, ensure you arrive early enough to do it before the Call to Order.
- Prepare a brief explanation of duties of Grammarian.

### **Entering the Meeting Room**

- If you preprinted the Word of the Day, place it at the front of the room where all can see it. If using the blackboard, print your information on it.
- Get a blank copy of the Grammarian's Log from the Sergeant-at-Arms

### **During the Meeting**

- When introduced prior to Table Topics:
  - If guests are present, briefly state the purpose of the Grammarian.
  - Announce the Word of the Day, state its function (noun, etc.), define it, use it in a sentence, and request to use it for anyone speaking during any part of the meeting.
- During the meeting:
  - On the grammarian's report, list everyone in the room in order of seating. Then record any awkward or misused language (incomplete sentences, sentences that changed direction in midstream, malapropisms, etc.), and who said it.
  - Note creative language (interesting vocabulary, descriptive "word pictures", etc.) and who said it.
  - Register who used the Word of the Day (or a derivative of it) correctly (or incorrectly).
  - Listen to everyone for crutch sounds and long pauses when used as fillers and not as a necessary part of sentence structure. Try to determine if the speaker has a pattern when using crutch words or sounds.
  - In short, listen to everyone's word usage and make notes as appropriate.
- When called on by the General Evaluator during the evaluation segment:
  - Stand by your chair and give your report. Try to offer the correct usage where there was a misuse instead of just saying what was wrong.
  - Report on creative language usage.
  - When possible, rather than just giving raw numbers, give specific examples of how and when a speaker used a crutch sound.
  - State who used the Word of the Day (or a derivative of it) correctly or incorrectly.