

January 15, 2005

On a very cold January morning, the Kansas City Chapter of National Speakers Association met for the first Saturday Seminar of 2005. Melissa Lewis began the meeting with introductions of the people, members, candidates and guests who were in attendance. There was a wide variety of facets of the business represented.

Brian Sullivan introduced Candy Wirley who gave a short spotlight from her regular presentation. Her presentation offered the 4 “Cs” which are confidence, communication, creativity and change. Be aware of our communication skills. In communication the following are involved:

- 7% is words,
- 38 % is tone, and pitch
- 55% is body language.

Candy added that the “s” is also in use as “silly.” The group then blew up balloons and ..., you had to be there to understand what happen with the balloons.

Brian then introduced Victoria Labalme, the featured presented for the day. Victoria’s biography is very extensive including program creation for major corporations and performances on television and in movies.

Victoria began by observing how we are obsessed time as we try to do as much as possible with the time we have. Using a prism, we see many different colors. We have to expose our audiences to the many colors in our presentations. We don’t want speeches that are all one color. We need to bring out “all of who we are” in our speeches/presentations. “If your expertise is the light, then you are the prism.”

Through a series of physical exercises involving the whole person, Victoria diagnosed the various aspects of communication presenters should be using to more effectively reach their audiences. There were joint group exercises, one-on-one practices and individual evaluations in front of the group.

Victoria provided practical techniques in:

- warming up,
- ourselves as characters,
- creating characters,
- acting out the parts,
- animating words,
- using the space,
- habitual gestures and phrases, and
- applying the skills.

After a tasty lunch, Cathy Worley and Mindi McKinna spoke of the exceptional experience they had at the first Cancun University held January, 2005 by National Speakers Association.

Steve Schumann offered several announcements, including the topic for the March Seminar. Details will be e-mailed and “snail” mailed to those on the “information” list.

Members of the chapter are now able to bring a first-time guest on a two-for-one price. The chapter also will offer a “template” letter for members and candidates to send to members of organizations they belong to with the intent of offering them the opportunity to be on our information list for future events.

The room was then rearranged for Victoria could present her program which will be the late night show at the Burbank workshop next month.

