



## **AH COUNTER**

The purpose of this role is to help your fellow toastmasters become aware of filler words. The Ah Counter is present to help cure the annoying habit of *vocalized pauses*: ah, uh, mmm, "you know," and other "filler" words. Note that "so," "like," and conjunctions are legitimate English words *when used properly*. Excessive use of conjunctions *and "so", especially at the beginning of a sentence or when used to connect unrelated sentences*, and any use of "like" other than as a comparison *or to express a sentiment ("I like ...")* are fillers.

### **Before the meeting:**

Provide the Toastmaster with your introduction when asked. The introduction is how the Toastmaster will introduce you to share your duties in the beginning of the meeting. It should be a couple of sentences relating to the theme. It can be your opinion, a quote, humorous or informative.

Locate a blank copy of the Ah Counter form from the Sergeant at Arms. Also collect the clicker and piggy.

### **During the meeting:**

You may begin recording and clicking filler words as soon as the Sergeant-at-Arms calls the meeting to order. There is no need to wait beyond that point.

Describe your duties when called upon by the Toastmaster. You have a minimum of 30 second to a maximum of 1:00 to explain your responsibilities. You can word this any way you wish, but an example of information to include is:

*My job is to make people aware of their use of filler words (such as 'um, ah, etc.), any repeat words, awkward pauses and such. Each time there is an ah or um, I will use the clicker (demonstrate). We DO NOT click during speeches or guests. At the end I will give a report and we ask for a \$.25 contribution for each infraction up to a maximum of \$2.00.*

Use the clicker each time you hear an infraction. The loud click may sound unfriendly and annoying, but it helps members become aware of their misuse of pauses. You may choose to withhold clicks if you find the speaker is using them to excess or if the sound is disrupting to the meeting or the speaker's ability to finish. It is more important to record the infractions than click them, and you most likely will not get them all, but do your best to click most of them, even if late.

## **DO NOT USE THE CLICKER DURING PREPARED SPEECHES AND DO NOT CLICK GUESTS.**

During the Evaluations section of the meeting, the General Evaluator will ask for your report. Provide an overview of infractions, emphasizing who made the *fewest* (NOT the most), and ask people to pay the piggy as you pass around your list and the piggy.

### **After the meeting:**

At the end of the meeting, return the equipment to the proper bin.