

## Traveling Gavel



### Objectives

- Encourage members to visit other clubs.
- Share talents and knowledge of communication and leadership skills.
- Extend the fellowship of Toastmasters.

### How?

A qualified capture of the gavel is made when three (or more) club members from a visiting club visit the current Gavel Host Club. The capture team should participate in the Host Club's meeting in some way – by coordinating ahead to get on the agenda. The visiting Toastmasters "Capture" the Traveling Gavel at the end of the meeting; taking their prize home to celebrate at their next club meeting.

### Details

- Only District 47 members in good standing of clubs in good standing that meet at least twice a month are eligible to physically capture the gavel.
- The gavel can only be captured when at least 3 qualified members of a visiting club announce their intention and travel to the host club to lay claim to the gavel. **Note, if a club is hybrid the visit MUST have at least one in person visitor and the other 2 may be online.**
- If two or more qualified clubs attempt to capture the gavel at the same meeting, the gavel goes to the club that sends more members.
- If there is still a tie, the gavel is given to the club that contacted the President of the host club first.
- A visiting member cannot belong to the host gavel club.
- It is not necessary for the host club to tell potential captors that other clubs will also be attempting a capture. This only adds to the urgency to plan your own raiding party.
- The host gavel club cannot recapture the gavel until it passes to a third club. For example, Club A raids Club B and gets the gavel. Club B cannot reclaim the gavel until it passes to another club. If Club C raids Club A, then Club B can reclaim the gavel.
- A club can claim the gavel numerous times as long as they follow the rules.
- The winning clubs must bring the gavel to the District conference.
- If a club holds the gavel for 3 weeks, the club will return the gavel to the Trio and they will return it to the previous club
- This is similar to the "hot potato" game – whoever is holding the gavel at the end wins!

## **Where Are the Gavels**

- Southeast Florida: One gavel will be floating within Southeast Florida
- Bahamas: One gavel will be floating in the Bahamas.
- Online ONLY clubs: These clubs will have a unique background that can ONLY be used if they are the current holder of the virtual gavel.
- “Once a Month Club”: These clubs can visit other clubs and follow all the rules without physically taking the gavel. To receive credit, they should take a picture and email the information to [gavel@toastmastersd47.org](mailto:gavel@toastmastersd47.org) (within 1 day of visiting). The “Once a Month Club” should provide the Club Name and Area. This will be posted on the District social media pages for recognition

## **Make Your Story Known!**

Once a Traveling Gavel is captured, the visiting Toastmasters must announce the new home for the Traveling Gavel by emailing [gavel@toastmastersd47.org](mailto:gavel@toastmastersd47.org) (within 1 day of capture). The new location (Club Name, Area) will be posted on the District social media pages so that other Toastmaster Clubs can develop their plan to capture the coveted Traveling Gavel. An image or two of the capture will help the District advertise your club’s accomplishment.

Failure to email [gavel@toastmastersd47.org](mailto:gavel@toastmastersd47.org) within 5 days of capture will require the club to return the gavel to the previous host club.

## **Prizes???**

You want prizes?

- Prizes will be awarded to the club with the most captures or pictures in the case of the Once a Month clubs.
- Prizes will be awarded to the club who is holding the gavel when the game stops (and no we are not telling you in advance when we stop the game)
  - Prizes will be awarded to the club holding the gavel in the Bahamas
  - Prizes will be awarded to the club holding the gavel in the Southeast Florida
  - Prizes will be awarded to the club holding the virtual gavel (online club)
- Prizes will be awarded to the club who holds the gavel the longest
- Prizes will be awarded to the last club of the “Once a Month Club”