



PROS Toastmasters Club  
By Joan Cannon

It began in 1993 with two people who had moved from Clubs in downtown DC in different buildings to Oxon Hill, MD. Norma J Depoyan and I worked together and we each missed the Toastmasters Clubs we left. After looking around for someone else to begin a club, we decided we would have to do it ourselves. It took time, planting seeds and talking to friends about how great the meetings were at the Taxmasters Club and the Revenooers Club. We had great support from the Division E Governor, Rosemary Senneff, Fran Gedra, District Governor, and Ronald Dickens, Area Governor at the time. Norma was the first President, and I was the second.

In no time, well probably about 6 months time, we had received a Charter, and sent in the first Semiannual Report for April 1, 1994. We had 16 members by then, and became more a family than a Club! We discussed everything from family incidents and accidents, to travels, recipes, work related presentations, and wonderful stories We shared and learned each week and it became the highlight of the week to meet and greet, learn and teach! From each position at a meeting, there are lessons for work and life! Even being the ah-grammarians taught us to listen differently, and we never listened to professionals the same!

The naming of the Club took a lot of time and thought. It was Norma's idea to name it PROS, not because we wanted to be professional speakers, but because we were all People, Reaching Out for Success! Norma is now retired and living in Fresno, CA, but we are still long distance Best Friends.

Some other names I have from our first Membership Report include my friends Rachel Martin, Gloria McRae, Ruth Hannon, Loretta Gaigalas, Leah Jacobs, Esperanza Balandran, Carl Johnson and Anne Frey. Kathleen Pollard joined soon after and is still proudly a member and my friend.

When we moved to New Carrollton, MD, we kept the "PROS Family" together. We thought several times about merging with the other Club, but decided there was room for two Clubs with the number of people in the huge office.

Over the years we put on several Speechcraft programs, and a great Youth Leadership Program.

There were times of struggle, with just a few people attending meetings, yet we all persevered through retirements, job moves and relocations, and today I am very proud of the PROS who are enjoying a lively, active, club. I have visited several Toastmasters Clubs, attended Area and District Meetings and Contests, and will never forget the friends and family from the PROS Toastmasters Club, 9720!