

Um & Ah Counter

The Um & Ah Counter, part of the Grammarian's team, keeps track of the number of times each speaker says "ah", "um", "you know", and other filler words that many speakers use. The Counter may use a small electronic buzzer to indicate to the speaker when he or she has used a filler word.

The Grammarian will call upon the Um & Ah Counter to deliver a report during the evaluation part of the meeting. At this time, the Um & Ah Counter stands and relays the contents of the report to the group, listing the number of infractions for each speaker. This role is often combined with that of "Word of the Day" Counter. In this case, members who use the Word of the Day properly are also mentioned in the report.

Checklist

Before the Start of the Meeting

- Discuss role with Grammarian, ensure that WOD is known (if applicable)
- Retrieve electronic Um & Ah Buzzer from storage area, if applicable

During the Meeting

- Listen carefully for ums and ahs, and, if using, immediately and briefly sound the buzzer to let the speaker know
- Use "buzzer discretion" when monitoring new members, or those who are easily distracted. Usually, during formal speeches, the buzzer is not used so as not to distract the speaker.
- Record a stroke beside each speaker's name for each useless word

During the Report

- Upon being asked to make a report by the Grammarian (or occasionally the General Evaluator) stand and read the name of each person who used a useless word, and read the number of times the word was caught
- The Counter may make comments about specific words, eg. "Karen, you used the word 'OK' 14 times!" or "Randy, you only said 'Um once tonight, that's a great improvement, congratulations!"
- Provide praise for those speakers who are obviously improving in the ability to speak without these useless words

After the Meeting

- Consult with the Grammarian to ensure that the official report is properly filled out