Flexible yet Structured

Flexibility helps keep meetings interesting. Maintaining a certain level of structure and order is also important. While this may seem to be a paradox, it possible to do both.

Structure ensures meetings are productive. Publishing an agenda with times listed helps. People don't like to waste time.

Within that structure constraint, there is flexibility. This flexibility may be with the meeting location or meeting content.

Location flexibility: Occasionally a club can meet offsite (outside for a picnic, or at another business facility). These events provide community visibility, add challenges for meetings, and may require improvising because of the change.

Content flexibility: A few years ago, segments of the movie, "Other People's Money", were used in place of member speeches (last minute cancellations). This movie contains two short speeches, which were evaluated by the Evaluators. It was challenging, different, and interesting.

One of my most memorable meetings was a backwards meeting. The educational meeting started with the General Evaluation and Evaluations, moved on to the Speeches, and ended with Tabletopics.

What made this meeting memorable was the Speaker who spoke "after" the evaluation.

Without knowing very much about the speech (except for the objectives) the Evaluator gave an evaluation (he guessed at what might happen).

The Evaluator made many positive comments, including a comment on how the Speaker not only used the Word for the Day, but also used the Word for the Day from the previous meeting (the Evaluator randomly selected two words).

For a constructive comment, the Evaluator noted that he was a bit shocked when it appeared the Speaker was going to pick her nose, but then recovered by brushing her hand through her hair.

When the Speaker gave the speech, she did "everything" that the Evaluator mentioned, including the nose / hair incident. It was a memorable speech!

Flexibility and structure are a great combination to implement every week.