



TOASTMASTERS

INTERNATIONAL

## The Voice

*District 83 Newsletter*

**Toastmasters—Achieving Greatness Together**  
**Dedication, Determination and Desire**  
**September 2010**

**The Voice** is dedicated to inspiring Toastmasters in District 83 to achieve their goals. Let **The Voice** be *your voice* by sending in your success stories—the way that Toastmasters has helped you either personally or professionally. Everyone has a story to share and your experiences can help others find *their voice*. Please send your submissions to Joanne Callahan, your District 83 Newsletter Editor, at [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com). Photos are welcomed!

### **Interview with Brian Lin** **Immediate Past District 83 Governor**

***Did you accomplish everything you hoped for during your term as District Governor?***

Looking back, we have achieved a lot together as a district in a year. We have completed all core 4 goals set by Toastmasters International. We have completed two successful seasons of trainings and contests. We have two fabulous district conferences. We have received full 10 points for the number of Distinguished Area and the number of leadership awards. We are #35 in the world out of 80+ districts. We are quite successful getting things. We, as a district, have served our members well in 2009-2010.

There were goals I wanted to accomplish but have not. Leading District 83 to be one of the top 10 districts of the world was one and training 70% or more club officers was another. 100+ people showing up at any training or division contest also did not happen.

***What was your proudest moment in this role?***

When someone walks up to me and tells me that I have made a difference in his/her life, tracing back to

something I said or did a few years ago.

***What didn't you accomplish that you wished you had more time to achieve?***

Charter another 5-10 clubs!

Our 2009-2010 LGM Karen Seeman, DTM worked tirelessly to help various groups forming new clubs. Under Karen's direction and with the help of members from all over the district, we chartered 12 clubs.

We have a few prospects in the pipeline but we did not enough time to put all the pieces together. Member numbers, paperwork, funding, meeting locations, sponsors & mentor recruitment can all be a challenge.

I always want to foster an on-line community of Toastmasters in the region to share company sponsorship info, club leads, and district management best practices. This has not been done yet due to time spent on other activities.

In the area of education, we were challenged with the number of ACs & CCs for most of the year. Tom So-

mers, LGET, and the division & area governors have made a lot of phone calls and sent a lot of e-mails in the last two months of the fiscal year to ensure members completed their educational goals. We met our educational goals in the last 10 days of the year. I had wished for sooner.

I am puzzled why some members need regular reminders to do things good for themselves. Aren't we all grownups who will eat carrots and spinach without our mothers nagging? Do we forget our dreams and promises when caught in the midst of daily chores and routines?

It will be a great accomplishment for me or any district officers to see that our members diligently work toward their educational goals, pay dues on time, and reap the benefit of the Toastmasters program without much supervision. I would rather see our district officers serve more time as leaders and managers than reminders and dues collectors.

*What are you doing with all the spare time you now have?*

I don't actually have much spare time. I am a member of 4 Toastmasters clubs. Besides my own club meetings, I help officer trainings and coaching. I stay connected with friends, Toastmasters, and Toastmasters friends via phone, social media and e-mails. I have been working on my photo projects of costume parades and modern belly dance concerts. I have enrolled in a local adult school to learn Spanish. I need to practice violin again. My music hands have been rusty, even though I have been gesturing extensively in my speeches.

**Summary:**

Year 2009-2010 has been an incredible learning experience for me. As a first time District Governor, I needed a lot of support and mentoring from veteran members inside and outside of District 83. I certainly met challenges in many areas and I am glad most of those challenges have been resolved or turned out to have better results than expected.

Managing a district of 3500+ member is no small task and I did not do it alone. I am very grateful that many people have offered to help. My senior officer team Tom Somers, LGET, Karen Seeman, LGM, Paul Scharf, IPDG, Kim Start, PRO, and Ed Kmiec, Treasurer have all done a great job taking care of core district functions, while division & areas governors went to every corner of the district promoting our organization and running events. If I have to thank every one who has contributed to making us successful, it will take a whole book.

My theme of the year was "Better You, Better World." I believe I have lived this theme, and I am glad to see that many of our members did the same.

If you have paid your dues, delivered speeches, evaluated, helped a fellow member, spoken to a guest about Toastmasters, conducted trainings or events, and /or participated in any district event or club meeting and clapped enthusiastically, I would like to thank you. You have made yourself better and the world better this year.





## Success Story

Lisa Pantano, DTM

Lt. Governor Education and Training

**How long have you been a member of Toastmasters and what is your home club?**

I've been an active member for just about 5 years and 1 month. My home club is Tower and Bridge which is a corporate club at Sanofi-Aventis, and we celebrated our 15th anniversary in August.

**What made you join Toastmasters in the first place?**

I have this issue with my lower lip quivering when I talk to people I don't know. I can feel it but I don't know if anyone else can see it. For years, it drove me nuts and I knew I had to do something. Someone had mentioned Toastmasters to me and since this particular club provided lunch I felt it would not be a waste of my time to attend. I ended up joining this club, but I was not an active member until

I joined Tower and Bridge a few years later.

**How has being a member of the club helped you either personally or professionally?**

Personally, being a member of Toastmasters has helped create a great network of people that I can contact with questions about anything and many times these conversations do not involve Toastmasters. I've also learned a lot of different things about different cultures since our group is very diverse. Professionally, I had 3 instances where I needed to speak in front of a group and I had positive feedback in all 3 cases. I do find that technical speaking is more difficult than any other type of speech. Motivational speaking and talking about me is easy. But talking about designing a production plan or how to minimize

powder dispersal issues takes public speaking to a different level. Someone can say 'um' 250 times in 20 minutes and this audience will not notice or care, although giving this type of presentation is much easier because of Toastmasters. I am able to use skills and techniques I've learned over the years.

**What are your goals as Lt Governor Education and Training?**

What I'd like to see are individuals within the clubs setting and achieving goals. If individual members are not achieving their goals, they will not be happy and will not stick around. If the members are not happy then the clubs are not happy. If the clubs are not happy the areas don't get distinguished. What we need to do is make sure those people and are get-

ting what they need in order to succeed.

As a district, what we are doing besides areas visits is the 'Me Too' board and doing significant follow-up. If someone commits to getting an award, we are going to contact them to help them achieve their goals. If a club does not show interest, the individual can lose their motivation to continue. If we can show interest in their progress, then they will stay motivated to succeed. My goal is to let the membership know we are interested in their success.

If the members are involved and the clubs are involved with the members, then they have no choice but to be successful. It will take a lot of work but it may be as simple as letting these individuals know that we care about them, too.



**Dear Toastie:**

Our club has an unusual problem. Do to an increase in advertising, we have been attracting more and more guests at each meeting. The problem is that they remain guests and hesitate to join our club. What can we do to encourage our guests to take the plunge?

Signed,  
**Concerned Toastmaster**

**Dear Concerned:**

Commitment shy guests need to be educated about the benefits of joining Toastmasters. The VP of Education may want to take a few minutes before the end of each meeting to go over the benefits of a Toastmaster membership, focusing on the positive aspects of increased communication skills as well as the chance to network with like-minded people. Once guests realize that membership will help them in their personal as well as professional lives, they may be more willing to join. Also, if your club has a mentoring program, explain that a mentor will be assigned to all new members to help guide them through their icebreaker speech and beyond.

---

*Do you have a question, concern, or problem that pertains to Toastmasters? Send in your issue to Ask Toastie at [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com) and Toastie will provide a response in a future issue of this newsletter. All submissions are kept confidential and your identity will not be revealed.*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## New Jersey City University Toastmasters

Club # 799353

5-Year Anniversary Milestone Article

by Franca Kirsch (Vice president of Education 2010-2011) and  
Rita Oleas (Past President 2009-2010)

***Excellence and distinction come from observing, listening and communicating!***



Memorably packed with toasts and cheers, members and guests gathered on October 19, 2005 to charter the New Jersey City University Toastmasters. Five years later the accomplishments are attributed to a lot of hard work and dedication by all the members. What a phenomenal five years it has been! New Jersey City University Toastmasters has:

Hosted Area Speech Contest | 2006 and 2007

Achieved Distinguished Club Status 2006-2007

Won Area Speech Contest: *Luis Morales* | March 2007

Won Area Evaluation Contest: *Kenneth Sanders* | March 2007

*Judith Galang* become Area Governor 2007-2008

Achieved Distinguished Club Status 2009-2010

As a club we are meeting our personal and professional goals while ensuring there are enough members to keep up the momentum. This means so much more than earning the ribbon- it shows that our club is serving its purpose to each individual member. New Jersey City University Toastmasters has benefited many members who came to conquer their fear of public speaking or to strengthen their overall communication and leadership skills. The club's atmosphere and camaraderie among members is very conducive to learning and honing the basic skills required to be successful, i.e. listening, communicating, presenting and evaluating.

As we think about the future direction of New Jersey City University Toastmasters, it is good to reflect on the personal and professional growth we have experienced thus far. The past presidents were a driving force to our success: Robert Piaskowsky, Tracy Szymanski, Judith Galang, Luis Morales, and Rita Oleas. Valuable contributions were provided by Dr. Ansley LaMar as a mentor and the club founder. Sponsored by New Jersey City University, the club truly exemplifies a commitment to communication and leadership. The result is a club that is fun, friendly, and filled with individuals who want more out of life.

**We Need Your Input!**



Do you have a photo of a recent Toastmasters event or meeting? Will your club be celebrating an important milestone? Your District wants to know!

Please send me pictures and articles for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. You don't have to be a literary genius or a professional photographer. Just a Toastmaster willing to share with the rest of us what your club already knows – and that is just how special you are!

Please send your submissions to your editor, Joanne Callahan, at [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com)

