



The Voice

District 83 News & Events

JUNE 2020 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

IN THE LIMELIGHT

District Director's Words	1
Why Online Meetings?	3
Reflections/Projections	4

DISTRICT EVENTS

District 83 Elections	7
New Officers Q&A	8
Virtual TLI	11

A Toastmaster's Story

New Awards	12
TMs Donate PPE	13
The New Reality	15

CLUB NEWS

Hunterdon Spk. Easy	24
Gateway 2	25
Hunterdon Spk. Easy	26

Voices of Youth	27
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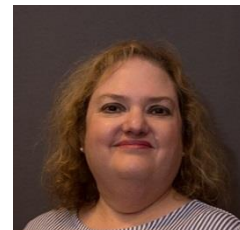
REGULAR FEATURES

Welcome New Clubs	6
New DTMs	23
Celebrations	28
Dates To Remember	29
Message from Editor	29
Contributors	30
Photo Credits	30
Editorial Information	30

WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Lessons Learned

By Lynda Starr, DTM – District 83 Director



Sometimes you cannot see the forest for the trees. To me this saying means that we are so involved in the details that we need to take a step back and appreciate the overall picture. As I approach the end of my tenure as District 83 District Director, I want to look back beyond the details and think about the lessons I have learned this year.

It takes a village

There are 175 clubs in the district with about 4,000 members divided into 37 areas and nine divisions. While I would love to take the burden of work off the shoulders of the Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, the rest of the DXT [District Executive Team], division and area directors, and club officers, that is not possible. Most of us have full-time jobs, family responsibilities and interests beyond District 83. Until we find ways to clone ourselves, to be in two places at once, or have 28-hour days, we must share the work. At the Toastmasters mid-year training, district officers were told, "If you take on tasks that others should be doing, you take away their opportunity to lead, learn and grow." That statement was an eye opener for me, as we all joined Toastmasters to improve.

Everyone has their own perspective

If all District 83 members agreed on everything, decisions would be made more quickly, but life would be less interesting and less rewarding. We may never have any new ideas or innovations. If you only think about what you want and do not listen to what the others have to say, you will not arrive at a compromise. Everyone has their personal point of view, shaped by life experiences, values, state of mind, and the assumptions they bring into a

situation. Clubs, like people, are unique; and I love that every club, despite having commonalities in mission, the presence of speeches, evaluations and Table Topics, has its own culture and personality. If every club were the same, it would not matter which club we joined, and we might not find the one that meets our needs. The downside to perspective is that many issues are not about the individual, and as leaders we need to look at what is best for the organization even if that may not agree with our or a specific member's or club's interests.



There is such a thing as shared responsibility

In the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year, our then-District Director Manny Reyes, DTM had the phrase "Proactive Empowerment" and the idea that everyone needs to make a commitment to serving others and becoming their best. While many Toastmasters embrace the idea that leaders help others to succeed and "it takes a village," unfortunately many members do not. For example, a member needs a coaching assignment, but will only agree to work with clubs that meet on Tuesday evenings and are close to their homes. Another member has an idea for an online workshop but says they do not have time to organize the event. In order to have successful club and district events and to achieve our individual goals in Toastmasters, we each need to step up and take responsibility. This also includes taking on club meeting roles in order to improve one's speaking, listening, and leadership skills. Yes, we are all busy with Toastmasters and other responsibilities but need to lend a helping hand and to take charge of our own goals. The best part is that, when we help others, others will return the favor and help us; and together we will all achieve our goals.

Some things are bigger than all of us

While we have all heard expressions "Expect the Unexpected" and "Man Plans and God Laughs," the Covid-19 pandemic was totally unexpected and something for which we could not have prepared. We expected to have in-person club meetings and district events. Some members are working on HPL Projects, youth leadership programs, Speechcraft, and workshops; and all those plans had to be changed because of the pandemic and stay-at-home orders. While deep down, we know that we will move beyond the pandemic pause, we also know that some things in life will change, and we need to adapt. Yes, Toastmasters is an important part of my life, but family comes first; sometimes work obligations must usurp Toastmasters obligations, and a pandemic, hurricane or blizzard top it all.

There are many paths to success and many definitions of success

My theme for the 2019-2020 Toastmasters year has been Many Paths to Success. The idea behind this is that everyone has a different story and different goals they want to achieve. Whatever your goals are, if you can achieve them, then you are a success. It could be an Ice Breaker for one person and achieving a DTM for another person. We may not achieve all the goals I set out for District 83 this year, some a result of the pandemic, others timing issues and changes in priorities. However, I will still deem this year a success. One of my personal goals was to serve the district to the best of my ability and to help people achieve their goals. I think I can put large checkmarks next to both of those items.

**MANY PATHS
TO SUCCESS**

I wish all of you a better summer than spring, good luck, and continued success wherever your life and Toastmasters journey take you. I will be here to help in any way I can. Thank you all for a great year, despite its personal and world difficulties. Be well.



District Quality Director's Message

Online Club Meetings – Why You Should Have Them

By William Markert, ACS, CL - District Program Quality Director



In March, the Corona virus pandemic dramatically changed life as we knew it. Many small businesses shut down and many larger businesses transitioned their work force from office environments to work-at-home offices. Our world has been turned upside down. No longer are we sharing a story over a cup of coffee in the break room. Instead, business is taking place in a virtual environment. Some clubs have chosen to defer meetings until we are allowed to meet in person again. I encourage all clubs to meet virtually. Following are just a few of the benefits of meeting virtually.

The best reason for holding virtual club meetings is to keep up the club's momentum. Meetings provide an opportunity for club members to advance their speaking and leadership skills. We know that clubs that meet frequently tend to be more vibrant and fulfill the needs of their members. When members are attaining their educational goals, they are much more likely to stay as members of a club. Clubs that have deferred meetings may find it difficult to retain members and keep the critical mass needed to function efficiently.

The second reason for meeting virtually is to help our members stay healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic appears to be an equal opportunity virus. It has attacked young and old, those with pre-existing conditions and those without. Meeting virtually allows us to participate in club meetings from the safety of our homes, and you don't even have to wear a mask to participate.

Virtual meetings provide an opportunity for all of us to join and participate in meetings around the world. Last week I visited a club meeting, and they had a visitor from India participate in the meeting. Toastmasters is an international organization. We gather with members from around the world yearly at our International Convention. Why not use the virtual meetings as an opportunity to meet fellow Toastmasters from around the world and learn a little about their culture?

People and particularly Toastmasters, by nature, are social beings. We have a need to be around other people. This pandemic has limited our ability to socialize. Many of us have been locked up in our homes for over two months. We miss the opportunity to be with other people. While virtual meetings don't allow us to physically be together, they do provide an opportunity to talk with our friends and colleagues. This is important for our mental health. Embracing virtual meetings will teach you a new technology and help you maintain a balanced perspective.

My last reason for encouraging virtual meetings is to fully amortize the value of your membership dues. Whether you pay your own dues or the company pays dues on your behalf, you should expect and take advantage of the value available from dues payment.



District Club Growth Director's Message **Reflections and Projections**

By Michelle Tropper, DTM – District Club Growth Director

As I reflect on this past year as Club Growth Director, I'm proud of the accomplishments we made as a District to further Club Growth. Although our efforts were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic, we made tremendous strides and were on a trajectory to becoming a Distinguished District and beyond for this year. The relationships we cultivated and processes we put into place to engage members in the club building process will continue into the next Toastmasters year. We will need to adjust to new ways of building clubs and membership and helping individuals achieve their personal and professional goals for improving their communication and leadership skills.

We have a unique opportunity as Toastmasters to experiment with and perfect online meetings and make them interesting and entertaining! It's not just Toastmasters that are meeting online. Companies around the world are conducting virtual conferences, and with more people working remotely and connecting online, there's a growing need and demand to make our virtual interactions meaningful and memorable. Now is the time to demonstrate the value of Toastmasters and promote our educational programs to help improve online meetings and communications. Both of my clubs have been meeting online and welcoming new guests interested in learning about and improving how they conduct meetings and presentations online.

The clubs we build now and beyond COVID-19 will be challenged to conduct a combination of both online and in-person meetings in the future. New clubs that are ready to form can start online/video first until ready to meet in person. As an organization, we need to adapt to the times and embrace online meeting technology to help enhance our meetings and build membership in our clubs.

The District is hosting two **virtual demo meetings/open houses** for prospective members and clubs that are interested in learning more about Toastmasters. The demo meetings will take place:

June 8, 2020 from 7:00pm-8:15pm and

June 18, 2020 from 12:00pm-1:15pm

Leaders from throughout our district will model the roles of Toastmaster, Topics Master, General Evaluator, Speaker, Evaluator, Timer and Ah Counter with a condensed agenda. At the conclusion of the demo meeting, we will break out into small groups to respond to prospective members' and prospective club organizers' questions. Invitations will be sent to all prospects in our district databases, and members are encouraged to invite friends and colleagues to participate in these meetings as well. Please share the **following registration link with anyone interested in participating:**

https://bit.ly/tmd83_meeting_registration

The success of the district depends on volunteers and teams working together. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated group of Toastmasters to comprise the District 83 Club Growth Committee for 2019-20.



Extra special thanks to **Aida Murphy, DTM, Club Extension Chair**, who went above and beyond to organize and conduct 10 demo meetings throughout the District which resulted in the establishment of nine new clubs between 7/1/2019-3/31/2020!

Special thanks to **Anne Swartz, DTM, Club New Source Research Chair**, for qualifying over 100 prospective leads for new clubs from Toastmasters International and members of District 83. Anne's efforts helped us prioritize which clubs to pursue for Demo meetings, and most of the clubs that we formed this year were a result of her positive communications with these prospects.

I also want to acknowledge **Kimberly Lambert, ACB, ALB, Club Retention Chair**, for working with our club coaches and providing them with training to be successful in their roles. This year we had 10 clubs with 14 new coaches assigned. Two of the clubs, Conackamack and Holmdel, have already achieved Select and President's Distinguished status, and four other clubs with coaches are very close to achieving their goals of becoming Distinguished Clubs. Thank you to all the coaches who are working hard to help our clubs achieve excellence.

Other Club Growth team members whose efforts were essential in building new clubs included:

- Sylvia Badenhausen, ACB, ALB and Priscilla Amalraj, DTM - both served as Club Quality Chairs and assisted with our club mentors.
- Su Brooks, DTM, Destination DTM Chair, was a consistent resource for helping us identify individuals looking for sponsor, mentor and coach opportunities as they pursued their DTM awards.
- District Director, Lynda Starr, DTM; Program Quality Director, Willie Markert, ACS, CL; Administrative Manager, Meena Shanmugavel, DTM; Public Relations Manager, Jenna Barone, EC3; Finance Manager, Rich Gomulka, ACG, ALB; Webmaster Tom Somers, DTM; Pathways Coordinator and my mentor, Janice Buffalow, DTM; Immediate Past District Director, Manny Reyes, DTM; Regional Advisor, Anne Gilson, DTM; and all of our Division and Area Directors – thank you all for your unending support throughout the year and helping out in so many ways to support club growth in the District.

I'm extremely grateful to the many volunteers who assisted with our efforts to build new clubs, retain existing clubs and coach struggling clubs to become Distinguished this past year. Whether you provided personal mentorship, volunteered and assisted with demo meetings, stepped up to be a club sponsor, club mentor or club coach, provided feedback on a 360 Evaluation, offered suggestions or leads for new clubs or assisted with our special trainings, your contributions were especially meaningful.

Together we:

- Chartered 9 new clubs
- Appointed 14 coaches to clubs
- Conducted Sponsor, Mentor & Coach Training
- Hosted Pathways Train-the-Trainer Trainings for Mentors & Coaches



It truly does take a village to build success. I look forward to the coming year, serving as Program Quality Director and helping our incoming Club Growth Director, Kristen Oliveri, and her team expand upon our accomplishments from this year.

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WELCOME NEW CLUBS

DFJ Toastmasters 1/21/20

Woodland Park Toastmasters 3/1/20

Mitsui Toastmasters 3/9/20

**Being the best in this moment
puts you in the best place for the next moment.**

- Oprah Winfrey



DISTRICT 83 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

As with most District 83 meetings scheduled during the COVID-19 pandemic, Zoom conferencing was used to link over 120 registered members for the 2020 district annual conference on May 16, 2020. Congratulations to the following three candidates who were elected to head the 2020-2021 District 83 Executive Team.



William Markert, ACS,CL
District Director



Michelle Tropper, DTM
Program Quality Director



Kristen Oliveri, DTM
Club Growth Director

The following were elected as District 83 Division Directors:

Division A	Narendra Pondugula, DTM
Division B	Juana Dannecker, ACG, ALS
Division C	Meena Shanmugavel, DTM
Division D	Hemant Vora, DTM
Division E	John Martoglio, EH2, VC2
Division F	Donna Walters, CTM, ALS
Division G	Sharon Daughy
Division H	Sharon Brown, DTM
Division I	Manda Pasarkar, ACG, ALB



[Editor's Note: The top three 2020-2021 District 83 officers (William Markert, Michelle Tropper, and Kristen Oliveri), pictured on the previous page, were sent four questions regarding issues currently facing our members, clubs and officers. They were asked to answer at least three of them. Their responses follow.]

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Q: The last six months have been especially difficult for our members and clubs. What do you identify as the most challenging effect of COVID-19 on our clubs, and how will you recommend new officers address it?

WM In my opinion, the most challenging effect of Covid-19 has been the impact the stay-at-home order has had on the club experience. Community clubs for the most part faced a different challenge than corporate clubs. Many community clubs had limited experience with online meeting platforms. Clubs had to secure an online platform and then members had to learn how to use it before transitioning to online meetings. Many desktop systems don't have integrated cameras so users would need to acquire additional equipment, or they would need to join meetings using a smart phone or tablet. While not a problem for our younger Toastmasters, these issues presented significant challenges for many mature Toastmasters who aren't technically savvy. Many corporate clubs faced a different issue. Corporations generally have the infrastructure needed for conducting virtual meetings. During this period, normal business was significantly disrupted. Many employees work from home and haven't been to the office in weeks. These disruptions have additional workloads on employees, and many have not had the time or motivation to participate in club meetings; they are just trying to survive. My recommendation to new club officers is to stay connected with their members. Staying at home has kept us from visiting with friends, colleagues and neighbors and many are starved to socialize with others. I've found that participating in online club meetings is a good alternative for staying in touch with my friends. We should not allow this disease to divide us, but rather to bring us together through a virtual connection.

MT The most challenging effect of COVID-19 on our clubs has been the inability to meet in-person. Change is always difficult, and we've had so many changes to adjust to in just the last two months as Toastmasters. The good news is that EVERYONE is adjusting to online and virtual meetings! That means more people are going to be looking for ways to improve how they meet online. Toastmasters is an organization that individuals are turning to in order to help develop their online communication skills. New officers should find ways to make online meetings an ongoing part of how club business is conducted – both now while we are unable to meet in-person, and even after we're able to meet face-to-face again. Make sure you update your club demographics in toastmasters.org to indicate you're meeting online. Provide ongoing tutorials for club members on how to utilize your club's online meeting platform, or rotate amongst club officers to onboard and mentor members on how to use the technology. As we develop trainings for our district leaders and club officers, we'll look to help expand your knowledge and comfort level with online meeting technology, and how to best engage audiences in online meetings.

KO Not being able to meet face-to-face is an enormous challenge. Eventually we will be able to meet again in person, but for now club officers need to recognize that the pandemic affects different people in different ways and do their best to support their members. While we can't meet in person, the importance of connections is as important now as ever. Toastmasters has always been a place where members can become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders, and this has not changed. Embrace the technology and hold virtual meetings through Zoom or other online platforms. And remember that we are all in this together – the district is here to support you. Clubs can share their experiences with each other to foster a sense of community and learn from each other. There are countless benefits to connecting, including connecting virtually.



Q: Pathways will soon be the only Toastmasters education program available. How should clubs respond to members who choose not to participate in its benefits?

WM People, by nature, are resistant to change. Resistance generally occurs because of fear of the unknown. I would recommend that club officers have a conversation with those Toastmasters who are not currently enrolled in Pathways and find out the real reason that they don't want to enroll in Pathways. We can help demystify the experience by providing Pathways training for our members. Currently, our Pathways coordinator is conducting virtual training sessions monthly and upon request. If technology is the problem, remind them that there are a number of paths which are available in print format for an additional fee. Unfortunately, a number of the additional resources available in the online format will not be available in the print format. For members who are unwilling to participate in the Pathways program, they need to recognize that their opportunity to speak will become extremely limited. Toastmasters is encouraging members to give Pathways speeches, and I expect clubs will be giving priority to members giving Pathways speeches. Also, recognize that no further educational awards will be presented for legacy educational program achievements. So why not transition to Pathways, learn something new and receive recognition for your educational achievements?

MT I encourage members and clubs who are accustomed to the traditional program to really give Pathways a chance! If you put in the effort to work through and complete Levels 1 and 2 in Pathways, you'll start to see some of the familiar projects you loved in the traditional program as you discover the electives in Levels 3, 4 and 5. There are also some wonderful new projects that were not available in the traditional program that makes Pathways much more relevant and meaningful to those who are looking to develop new skills and expand upon their current knowledge.

Levels 1 and 2 of Pathways are really designed to engage new members in the Toastmasters experience by exposing them to some of the fundamentals of the program – delivering an icebreaker speech, learning how to listen to and incorporate feedback, learning how to provide feedback, and mentoring. No matter how wonderful you are at public speaking, there's always room for improvement. We have members in our district who have achieved multiple DTM awards, both in the traditional education program AND in Pathways. They've given multiple icebreakers over the years, and each time they do so, they find something new to share with their clubs and new members that they haven't shared before. Each Path gives you an opportunity to expand your horizons and further develop your skills and competencies as a communicator and leader. Give Pathways a chance! If you're still not convinced, let's set up a time to talk. I'm happy to speak with anyone who's struggling to make sense of Pathways. Email me at michelletmd83@gmail.com

KO Clubs should support their members in any way that they can. Change can be scary for many people, and Pathways is a big change from the traditional program. Clubs should emphasize the benefits of the Pathways program, from the level of choice with 11 specialized learning paths to real world application of the skills learned throughout the program. Like anything new, there is a learning curve; but, if you are willing to take the time and work in the system, you will reap the benefits.

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Q: What is your 2020-2021 primary goal for District 83?

WM During this next year, I would like to develop a 5-year strategic plan to position our district for continued success. I see five pillars to the strategic plan: enhancing marketing and communications, increasing club and membership growth, revitalizing current events and introducing new events to the district, improving fiscal stewardship, and improving club and member services.



For the last two years, we've talked and worked on an internet marketing campaign. By talking with sister districts, I believe this vision will become a reality next year and help us grow membership. It is also important for us to build relationships with corporate sponsors and find out if their corporate clubs are delivering on their expectations. Without relevant feedback, it is difficult for those corporate clubs to improve. Membership growth is a shared responsibility. During our training session, this should be a topic for all officer breakout sessions.

We recently conducted our annual business meeting virtually. It is time for us to start looking at other virtual forums to engage our members. Training for the Toastmasters Leadership Institute will be conducted virtually, out of necessity.

Next Toastmaster year, we will be receiving less funding from World Headquarters because a number of clubs are not renewing, thanks to COVID-19. We will need to be good fiscal stewards of the funds we do receive, but I believe we need to budget funds for area and division directors to make club visits and conduct membership events. It is important that we provide resources to help them accomplish their mission.

Developing a strategic plan is important because we not only need to plan for success in the current year, but also need to lay the groundwork for future leadership teams to be successful.

MT My primary goal for 2020-21 is to assist members and clubs in successfully adapting to the changes upon us with online meetings, trainings, contests and events. While we hope and plan to get back to meeting in-person, virtual events are the current reality and will continue even when we get back to in-person meetings. I look forward to working with all our district leaders to laying the foundation for current and future online events that are valuable, successful and memorable.

KO My number one goal as Club Growth Director is to continue the great work of Michelle Tropper and her team, to add new clubs to expand into new communities in District 83. We will leverage the videoconferencing and other digital tools at our disposal to coordinate virtual demo meetings and open houses throughout the year. Once restrictions related to COVID-19 are lifted and we can begin to meet in person again, we should continue to have an online presence going forward, to make clubs more accessible to more people. Toastmasters International has embraced online technology with the implementation of Pathways, and we should continue to think of new ways to adapt to enable our members to stay connected and achieve their goals.

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Q: What message do you have for our members as we enter into the new Toastmasters year?

WM The tagline for Toastmasters is, "Where Leaders are Made." Each of you is a leader. Some of you are leaders at work. Many of you have family leadership responsibilities, and I'm sure that a number of you volunteer as leaders in your communities. Today there is a tremendous need for leaders in the world. Your country, communities and district need you to step up to leadership roles and be active in solving problems. My message is simple and articulated in my theme for next year: "Be The Leader." I challenge each member of District 83 to accept the challenge.

MT Whether it's mastering your understanding of everything Pathways has to offer or mastering the technology and techniques of online meetings - embrace technology as a tool to help you achieve your communication and leadership goals!

KO As many have said, these are unprecedented times. The state of emergency in New Jersey and resulting stay-at-home Executive Order has changed the way we connect with friends and family, do business, and hold our Toastmasters meetings. I think we are all realizing the importance of staying connected, and Toastmasters is a good way to stay in touch with and support other people while continuing to enhance your communication and



leadership skills. Leading virtually is a unique skill that Toastmasters offers us the opportunity to hone. I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy and once this is all over I look forward to seeing everyone in person. We will get through this, together!

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SEE YOU VIRTUALLY AT TLI

By William Markert, ACS, CL -- Program Quality Director

District 83 will be holding its Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) on June 20, 2020. Training will be conducted virtually on Saturday morning starting at 9:00 AM. You may be wondering, what exactly is the TLI. The TLI is your opportunity to learn about your roles and responsibilities for the upcoming Toastmasters year, meet the new District Executive Team, and learn how to communicate with members about our new education and recognition programs. There are a number of goals we hope to accomplish at the TLI.

You will be introduced to the new District Executive Team. There will be a brainstorming session with respect to what club and district officers see as challenges in the COVID-19 era. We will hold a session on conducting Zoom meetings to help improve online meetings and meet the needs of members in clubs that have deferred meeting. Starting July 1, 2020, the only Toastmasters educational program will be Pathways. We'll provide an opportunity to discuss Pathways Change Management to address the challenge of members and clubs that are resisting the change to Pathways. We will also discuss quality of club meetings and how that impacts member retention. We will conclude training with concurrent role-specific training for club and district officers. For presidents, VPEs, secretaries, and any other interested Toastmasters, there will also be a training session on Pathways base camp management. In addition to participating in the live online training session, club and district officers are encouraged to read and review the applicable training materials available on the Toastmasters website, toastmasters.org.

Clubs will receive Distinguished Club Program (DCP) credit for officers that attend virtual training. Additional division-sponsored club officer training will be offered throughout the summer. Dates and registration information will be posted on the District 83 website (tm83.org) as they are scheduled. While we don't know how long social distancing will be required, we're tailoring our club officer training to a virtual format. We anticipate that there will come a day when we can meet in-person again, but for the summer training cycle all district- and division- sponsored training will be conducted virtually.

Success in your professional, personal and volunteer life requires planning and work. All club and district officers are encouraged to attend the TLI to equip yourselves with the tools for success. See you virtually on June 20th!



A TOASTMASTER'S PERSONAL STORY

Your Time To Shine Will Come

Jenna Barone, EC3, Public Relations Manager



When I look back to when I was newly elected as District 83's Public Relations Manager at the beginning of this Toastmasters year, I felt severely underqualified for the position. In June 2019 I had only been a Toastmasters member for fifteen months. I knew I had so much to learn about Toastmasters, public speaking, and leadership. It's funny how, when I take on something way out of my comfort zone with so much uncertainty, I doubt my capabilities, even knowing that life has not always been easy for me.

Throughout college I found myself dealing with a lot of difficult situations that most people my age never experience in a lifetime. I thought I could never get through it all, **but I did**. Whenever I was faced with uncertainty, with doubt, with fear, I pushed through and came out the other side even stronger and wiser than before. I knew that taking on Public Relation Manager, although a huge responsibility, would make me stronger and wiser too. Throughout the year I learned so much about Toastmasters, about leadership, about humility; I gained some really noteworthy qualities, thanks to the support of other fellow Toastmasters' guidance.

Fast forward to March 2020, when the Coronavirus pandemic hit full force. There was so much uncertainty and so much fear. Toastmasters International announced we would be transitioning strictly to a virtual platform. All clubs and events would now need to take place online. I knew in this moment it was my time to shine. I have always been technologically savvy, so I used this to help my club, Clifton Toastmasters, go virtual. I compiled tips and tricks to help fellow Toastmasters in the district to learn and feel more comfortable using an online platform to present and conduct themselves virtually. I volunteered as technical host for any online event or meeting to help in any way I could. I even had the pleasure of conducting a webinar to teach other members how to host and attend a Zoom meeting.

Although, the last three months have not been easy for us as Toastmasters, the greatest thing I learned is that your time to shine will always come, sometimes in the most unexpected ways. The next time you are faced with a difficult situation, ask yourself, "What is this trying to teach me? How can I serve others"? And lastly, "Is this my time to shine"?

**The two most important days of your life
are the day you are born and the day you find out why.**

- Mark Twain, American Author



NEW AWARDS FOR THE 2019-2020 TOASTMASTERS YEAR

Toastmasters International received a great deal of feedback requesting a modification to the Distinguished Club Program. While they have chosen not to modify the program, they have added a number of awards to recognize club achievements during the large-scale lockdown caused by the Corona virus.

Following are new club awards for 2019 – 2020 only and the requirements which must be satisfied to earn the award:

- **Online Ovation/Education Award Silver:** Clubs must have allowed online attendance anytime after January 1, 2020 and continue to allow online attendance through June 30, 2020. This must be reported in Club Central in the club demographics section. In addition, clubs must achieve four educational goals in the traditional and/or Pathways educational program based on the Distinguished Club Program.
- **Online Ovation/Education Award Gold:** Clubs must have allowed online attendance anytime after January 1, 2020 and continue to allow online attendance through June 30, 2020. This must be reported in Club Central in the club demographics section. In addition, clubs must achieve six educational goals in the traditional and/or Pathways educational program based on the Distinguished Club Program.
- **The Great Revival Award:** Presented to clubs that were suspended on April 1, 2020 and then reinstated between April 2 and September 30, 2020.
- **Membership Consistency Award:** Presented to clubs that experienced no net member loss from the club's base on July 1, 2019.
- **Membership Resiliency Award:** Presented to any club that had a net membership gain between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

In addition, there are new awards to recognize achievements of areas and divisions, as follows:

2019-2020 Area Awards

- **Online Ovation Award Bronze:** Areas will be awarded for achieving 50% of paid clubs allowing online attendance, as reported by clubs in Club Central.
- **Online Ovation Award Silver:** Areas will be awarded for achieving 75% of paid clubs allowing online attendance, as reported by clubs in Club Central.



- **Online Ovation Award Gold:** Areas will be awarded for achieving 100% of paid clubs allowing online attendance, as reported by clubs in Club Central.
- **Visiting Victor Award:** Area Directors who complete 100% of their second-round club visits by May 31, 2020 of all active and suspended clubs in their Area will be awarded.

2019-20 Division Awards

- **Paid Club Champion Bronze, Paid Club Champion Silver, Paid Club Champion Gold** will be awarded to the top three Division Directors in each District, with a net increase in paid clubs (as a percentage), calculated from May 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, with April 30, 2020 as the base.
- **Membership Payment Bronze, Membership Payment Silver, Membership Payment Gold** will be awarded to the top three Division Directors in each District, with a net increase in membership payments (as a percentage), calculated from May 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, with April 30, 2020 as the base.

Toastmasters International admires and appreciates the truly extraordinary efforts of club, area and division officers who are diligently working to achieve their year-end goals in these unprecedented times.

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**I have learned not to go through life
wearing catcher mitts on both hands.
I have to throw something back occasionally.**

Maya Angelou: American poet and civil rights leader



Members Reach Out During Pandemic

Toastmasters Aids Frontline Healthcare Providers

By Janette Alexander, DTM – Division A Director



Near the end of March 2020, William Markert, District 83 Program Quality Director, received an email from his church's pastor at the Denville Community Methodist Church. Pastor Heather explained that the church owned a 3D printer and was looking for someone to investigate using it to create personal protective equipment (PPE) which was in short supply. Several church members had suggested contacting Will. Being the inquisitive type and one who enjoys using his crafting skills, Will began searching online information about 3D printing, as he had no experience in it. The more he learned, the more interested he became in this opportunity.

He discovered that he could get instructions and files for manufacturing face shield parts. He watched many YouTube videos on techniques for 3D printing, tips and tricks for using the machine, etc. He started to feel comfortable about making the face shields. He told Pastor Heather that he was going to attempt to make them, and the church dropped off the machine and supplies. Will did a test run, just to see if he understood the machine and process. He chose a small project to make a nut and bolt. What a big smile he had when he was able to show me the finished products and demonstrated that they fit together perfectly.



Setting up the machine.

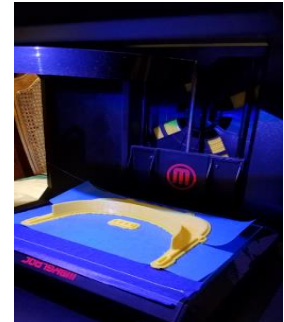
Once he had the plans and instructions for the shield visor, more supplies were needed. Some parts could be purchased locally, but many needed to be ordered and shipped. One component was elastic banding to make the mask wearable, and another church member who sews donated a whole spool of it. Will soon learned that he wasn't the only one making face shields because some supplies were backordered. These included acetate film for the plastic shielding, and foam strips for where the visor rested onto the forehead. In fact, it wasn't until the beginning of May that all of the component supplies were received! This didn't deter him, however, because each visor for the shield took around 2.5 hours to print on the 3D printer.

Over the next several weeks, you could hear the 3D printer working. It was a little like being in Santa's workshop, right in our dining room. The printer made funny whirring noises and melodious sounds as it moved back and forth depositing the plastic. If you've never seen one of these machines work, it is fascinating to watch. The plans that are sent to the printer are 3D CAD (Computer-Aided Design) files that describe a three-dimensional object as "slices" or planes of data so that the machine can lay down layers of plastic to build the object. This is why it takes so long to run a job. The



machine moves back and forth, depositing layers, one on top of another, to build the part(s). Instead of ink, the machine uses spools of raw plastic filament that is gently melted and deposited to a build plate. You can watch the object grow and appear on the build plate.

By the time all the component parts were received, the visors printed on the 3D printer were ready. On May 4, the first allotment of 25 face shields was delivered to Morristown Medical Center. Each shield was packed up separately in parts in a Zip-lock bag with full assembly instructions. Unfortunately, the hospital uses a drop box for PPE donations, so he wasn't able to speak to anyone about the shields. He's waiting to see if they will possibly acknowledge receipt and give some feedback about their use. A second set of 25 shields is in process and will be dropped off sometime in the next week.



3D printer at work



Will models the end product.

Will plans to donate 50 face shields in total. He told me he felt "just wonderful working this project and helping our healthcare providers in need." It's great to be a Toastmaster!



First donation of 25 shields is delivered.

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Members Reach Out During Pandemic, cont.



Toastmasters Aids Frontline Healthcare Providers, cont.

By Denise Galiano, Oratory Toastmasters President

During these uncertain times it is hard not to have control over anything. However, if we look deeply enough within ourselves, there is always a way to help. I was looking for a way to assist people in need during our pandemic, but I had to keep myself and my family healthy and safe at the same time. I did not feel fulfilled sitting around and listening to officials tell us what we could not do, even though it was for our safety and wellbeing. I needed to know what I **COULD** do.

Someone told me that a fabric store was giving away free kits to make masks and donating the finished products back to them. I got in my car immediately and picked up the first kit. There was enough material for five masks, which gave me only a momentary feeling of achievement. I needed to do more.



A plea for masks was given by Oscar Marin, CC of Essex Toastmasters in one of our district updates. This was an invitation I could not resist. I went online and ordered more fabric and elastic by the roll. I set up an assembly line and made masks of many colors and many patterns. If people had to wear masks to hide the smiles they would pass on to others, then the masks must serve the same purpose. I wanted to make more and more masks so I put some of them on Ebay with a free-will donation to NJ health care facilities through our Toastmasters Network with every purchase. The purchased masks gave me the ability to pay for the fabric and supplies to keep me producing more and more masks for those in need. It also provided others a way to donate when they did not have the ability to sew masks themselves. It has turned out to be very fulfilling in a time of uncertainty and limitations. Fifty more handmade masks are going out this week to follow the dozens already donated, and it will continue until none are needed anymore.

There is always a way to help.



WHEN VIRTUAL TURNS REAL

[Editor's Note: The following articles were written by D83 members to offer help in our new reality as we continue to maintain our relationships and work toward our personal and career goals.]



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Six Tips To Elevate and Amplify Your Virtual Presence in Online Meetings

By Somesh Chablani, DTM – Area 41 Director

We are all in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 situation translates to tremendous change as the situation and markets rapidly evolve. To successfully lead and manage teams in uncertain times, every leader must effectively communicate and be fully engaged with employees, colleagues, clients, family, and friends.

As people across the globe adjust to working remotely, video conferencing platforms like [Zoom](#), Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts, and more are being leveraged for business meetings and virtual team collaboration. However, virtual meetings also need the speaker or host to adjust his/her style and online presence to be effective, as well as ensure the audience is engaged throughout the entire conversation and meeting agenda. It is very easy for leaders to assume that in-person

presence of a conference room is the same as their virtual presence in facilitating a remote/virtual meeting. It is important to remember that attendees often multi-task in virtual meetings and a few either dominate the discussion or remain disengaged.

What is a Virtual Presence?

A presence is the state or fact of existing, occurring, or being present in a place or thing. In the context of an online meeting, virtual presence is the skill required to have engaging and impactful conversations as well as effectively delivering a positive and impactful digital experience to your audience. Elevating both your persona and presence in a Zoom, Teams, or other virtual meeting requires not only engaging the audience in video conference-style modality but also ensuring your message is delivered as intended.



Here are six powerful tips for leaders to help exude their virtual presence as well as engage their audience:

Prepare, Engage, and Conclude

Prepare:

1. Technology Readiness:

Test the online meeting technology in advance. Always recommend that the participants test the virtual meeting technology prior to the meeting. Ensure the meeting link, dial-in instructions and discussion topics are sent well ahead of the meeting. People need the ability to participate via audio, but make it clear if video conference is the preferred norm. Pre-arrange how participants will check in on changing meeting arrangements or instructions. This will help the speaker or host to avoid delays and technical distractions in order to ensure a smooth start.

2. Agenda and Timeliness:

As a host or the main facilitator, start the meeting a few minutes early. Set clear objectives and send out a detailed agenda including any background documents or presentation(s) to review. A structured agenda always helps to keep things on track and makes sure everyone knows the meeting schedule and topics. Many of the online meeting platforms have capabilities to send out reminders prior to the scheduled meeting.

Engage:

3. Lights, camera, action!

The first step is to establish trust within the virtual participants. When using video capabilities, look and focus into your camera, be present and mindful. Ensure you have good lighting. Use a good virtual background to ensure it is palatable and not distracting.

To make everyone feel connected, use eye contact with the audience by focusing on your camera or webcam. Video conferences are best effective when people can see each other's facial expressions and body language. Practice looking into your camera during the meeting when you speak to keep the audience engaged.

4. Pauses and Inflection:

Good virtual presence goes beyond enabling webcams and screen sharing. A strong voice, especially in virtual meetings, convey confidence, credibility and makes a strong connection with your audience. Pausing at intervals or during transitions gives participants a few moments to reflect or note down key discussion points. Vocal variety, or inflection, is a way to communicate by changing the sound of your voice, using different speeds and tones. Good vocal variety helps keep the audience engaged and clues them in on your meaning, feelings or emphasis.

5. Audience Involvement and Feedback:

Audience participation is critical for the success of any meeting, whether physical or digital. As facilitators, we need to monitor the flow of the conversation and keep things moving. Check on the participation: who has shown up and for how long? The speaker or host, can periodically call on participants to comment, speak, or answer a question. The facilitator can also use the meeting platform poll feature or "raise-a-hand" feature to capture the voice of the audience and solicit feedback. The chat window is also an effective tool to share audience feedback across the group or to the speaker.

Conclude

6. Summarize and Close:

Always reserve some time at the end of the meeting for Q&A. Thank the participants for their time and feedback and encourage them to use the chat and poll in future meetings. It's a good



practice for the speaker to close the meeting with a brief summary and participants' to-dos relevant to online meetings, virtual trainings, or action items.

Virtual meetings have now become an integral part of our daily lives. These powerful tips and best practices will help any speaker and meeting

host to elevate and amplify this/her virtual presence. In addition, these skills are very relevant to online meetings, virtual trainings, or webinars – for both hosts and participants. They will help in your personal and professional life to be well prepared when the time comes to take on the opportunities that arise in your social and professional networking efforts and/or leadership position.

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WHEN VIRTUAL TURNS REAL, cont.

Great Pathways Projects for Online Meetings

By Su Brooks, DTM2 -- Destination DTM Chair



In recent months, many clubs have conducted online meetings. While people navigate the challenges of cats climbing on keyboards, awkward lighting and fine-tuning their audio, we know that there is room for improvement.

In Pathways, there exist several opportunities for members to step out of their comfort zones by selecting one or more projects that lend themselves especially well to meeting remotely.

Manage Online Meetings

You are asked to facilitate an online meeting or lead a webinar. Different Toastmasters can take turns for each meeting. Leading a webinar is another option for this project if you want to control the learning environment to teach specific skills.

Moderate a Panel Discussion

Four panelists share talking points on a topic of your choice. Each could have different talking points, contributing their ideas; or two panelists could be in favor of the idea while the other two panelists could oppose the idea, as in a debate.

The moderator introduces the meeting, calls on each panelist, and provides a summary of the ideas at the end.

Using Presentation Software

Develop and enhance your use of presentation software such as PowerPoint while sharing your screen in an online meeting. Create compelling words and supporting visuals with a minimum of information per slide. Each audience member has the option to enlarge or reduce the amount of space the screen share takes up by choosing to hide or show the participants when the slides are displayed.



Creating Effective Visual Aids

While you might not choose a vertical flip chart in an online setting, you can certainly create visually appealing horizontal graphics to use as a background image if your computer supports it. You could also try sharing your screen to present a photo, illustration, infographic, map or PowerPoint slide to reinforce your message.

You could wear a hat or hats as props to serve as anchors or milestones during your speech as long as the audience can still see your face.

Understanding Vocal Variety

In addition to compelling content, you can use a number of ranges and contrasting techniques: louder/softer; slower/faster. Pay attention to word choices and try to use the Word of the Day.

You and your evaluator should be mindful that the speech evaluation form is different from that of other forms, with a different rubric for evaluating.

Evaluations

For each project, remember to go through your curriculum to discover best practices to make your project and the speech a success. Your evaluator can download your evaluation form from a FreeToastHost website, if your club uses that, and return a filled pdf; or your evaluator can print the file, make notes, scan and return it.

If you are an evaluator, kindly return the evaluation promptly after the meeting so the member has it for his/her records.

Enjoy your meetings

Try these exciting projects that lend themselves well to the online club meeting environment.

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WHEN VIRTUAL TURNS REAL, cont.

Delivering Dynamic Online Speeches

By Margarita Estrada, DTM – Speakers Bureau Chair

My childhood friend, Josephine, hates selfie pictures and videos. One Sunday while we were having dinner, she tells me, “Marge, one day while riding the subway, I look to my right and see a young woman taking a cell phone out of her purse. Then she proceeds to smile, tilting her head left and right, opening her eyes,

pursing her lips, smiling, changing the position of her torso and extending her cell phone as far as possible. She takes the picture and says out loud, ‘Now, that’s a good picture.’ Could you believe how vain society has become”?



As she ranted on and on and on, I kept my mouth shut. Finally I confessed, “Jo, I am one of those people too! I love selfie photos and videos.” She says, “Marge, I can’t believe it. You. You joined those crazy people.” She shook her head in disbelief.

Fast forward to March 2020 and COVID-19. She tells me, “Marge, I’m working from home, and we have Zoom meetings all the time. Now I have to worry about how I look on camera, my expressions, my makeup and hair, the background in my home. My God, Marge, I’m like that woman on the subway.”

Welcome to the new reality. I believe that when employers realize how much money they save (i.e., electricity, workers’ compensation, insurance, lawsuits), more employees will be asked to work from home. It is this impending reality that inspired me to write this article.

We will have to learn how to navigate this new normal to our advantage in our work, personal, and social lives. In the Toastmasters world, we will have to learn how to work with the camera, make it our friend, so that our virtual audience still feels connected to us.

The following are hints that can help you deliver speeches on camera that will draw your audience to you.

- 1) Assuming you have already crafted your speech, schedule a Zoom (or other online conference service) for yourself and a fellow Toastmaster.
- 2) To ensure that your image and voice are clear, do not use Wi-Fi. Instead, plug in directly into the router.

- 3) Deliver your speeches standing up. Put the laptop on a surface that is above eye level, directly in front of you. This is important because, if your laptop or computer is to your left, right, or below eye level, you will be looking down or to the side, disconnecting yourself from the audience.
- 4) Is there enough lighting? Ask your assistant if he/she can see your expressions.
- 5) Is the background clear? Does it reflect who you are? Some people use virtual backgrounds; however, I believe that your home reflects your personality, and that, in turn, translates into the delivery of your speeches.
- 6) Realize that you have a lot of space that you can utilize (left, middle, right, behind, and front). Just because you are talking to the screen, does not mean that you must be constricted.
- 7) Split the space. For example, use front to communicate directly to the audience, step back when there is character dialogue, walk right to left (within the frame) to indicate a timeline (child, teen, young adult).
- 8) Look at the camera, regardless of where you are within the frame. Adjust your stance. Tilt your body in such a way that you can have character dialogue and not lose your audience.

The conundrum of delivering speeches online is that one cannot “feel” the energy of the audience. As speakers, we feed off that energy. How can we deliver dynamic speeches when we



can't "feel" the energy? I must admit, it's tough, but not impossible! If using Zoom, use gallery mode. Gallery mode allows you to see everyone, and their reactions! If you see a lot of jazz hands, head bobbing front and back, shoulders moving, you'll "see" and "know" that you are reaching your audience.

COVID-19 has changed the vehicle through which we communicate; however, what has not changed is our commitment to practice our speeches so that our audience is the recipient of a message that will change their lives. Remember, an honest message that comes from the heart will always connect to your audience, regardless of venue.



Congratulations to Our Newest DTMs!

**George Bertele
Somesh Cheblani
Philip Coniglio
Maureen Corbeski
Kimberly Chung
Thomas Friend
James Matteo
Beverley Margolies
Susan Menella
Kristen Oliveri
Laura Rose
Rehman Syed
Jahnavi Utukuri
Cynthia Vincenti
Cyndi Wilson**



Club News

Hunterdon Speak Easy Toastmasters Celebrate 15 Years

By Laura Newton, CC,ALB – Club Treasurer

The Hunterdon Speak Easy Toastmasters Club held a 15-year anniversary dinner and celebration on January 26, 2020 at Dolce Family Restaurant in Flemington, NJ.



Invited attendees were past officers of the club as well as current members and their spouses. Twenty-four people attended, including several club past presidents, who enjoyed a wonderful Italian dinner and cake.



[↑]

Youngn Chanlam, VP-PR
posts photos of members and
memorable club events.

[→]

[l-r] Club Secy. Kala Sivasubramanian, SAA
John Newton, Claire Pollard, and President
Mike Hodge celebrate their club's 15th
anniversary.

The room was decorated with table centerpieces and balloons and featured a picture board displaying photos of important moments in the club. People were invited to take photos home with them.

One of the favorite parts of the event was a contest with prizes. Categories included the oldest member, longest club membership, most offices held, newest member, and farthest-traveled attendee. People took the microphone to share what club membership meant to them, and some memorable testimonies were given.



We concluded that Toastmasters was “like family.”



Club News

Gateway 2 Toastmasters Hold Open House

By Srinidhi Dasaka, DTM–Club Secretary; Division H Director



“It is not the mountains we conquer but ourselves.” - Edmund Hillary

In the first few months of the new year, many of us set new goals and challenge ourselves to grow better personally and professionally. With this theme of “Challenging Yourself,” Gateway 2 Toastmasters welcomed 50 employees from PSEG to its Open House on February 6, 2020. Most of the guests were members of PSEG Women’s Network, with whom the club had collaborated to introduce Toastmasters to them.

The meeting started with opening remarks from the club president, Suzanne Matula, CC, CL and Pradnya Joglekar-Vice President-PSEG Women’s Network. They shared their thoughts on the importance of being good communicators and leaders in life.



The day witnessed a prepared speech by one of the seasoned members of the club – Nisha Aidasani, ACB, CL **[left]**. Titled “Dating Nisha,” it centered on finding ways to enjoy one’s own company.



Led by Dr. Ansley LaMar, ACG, CL **[left]**, guests were shown how Table Topics and Evaluation segments are conducted and the importance they add to an individual’s learning and growth.

The meeting concluded with an engaging and insightful Q&A co-hosted by four of the senior members of the club. Most guests left with a better understanding of Toastmasters and how it could help them in their professional and personal goals. This was also the first-time experience for many of the current officers of the club at hosting an Open House.





Club News

Hunterdon Speak Easy Toastmasters Hold Open House

By Laura Newton, CC,ALB – Club Treasurer

The Hunterdon Speak Easy Toastmasters Club held an Open House with a local Professional Service Group of Central New Jersey (PSGCNJ) on November 25, 2019 at First United Methodist Church in Somerville, NJ. Planned as a regular Toastmasters meeting and coordinated by new member Natalie Lihacova, all the usual roles -- speech, evaluations, and table topics -- were demonstrated.

Guests had traveled to the meeting from various parts of northcentral New Jersey, so they were encouraged to locate a Toastmasters Club near them, via the Toastmasters International website. Neighboring Toastmasters Club meeting sites were also displayed to assist those interested in visiting them. Promotional materials from Toastmasters International were displayed, along with our banner with meeting information about the Hunterdon Speak Easy Toastmasters Club in Flemington. We also had business cards with our club information, meeting time and a QR code to our club website.



Natalie Lihacova



President Mike Hodge gives an overview of Toastmasters.



A PSGCNJ guest speaks to a Table Topics question.

There was a Question and Answer session after the Toastmasters overview speech. Many of the PSGCNJ members participated in Table Topics, and each received a positive and constructive evaluation by Laura Newton, CC,ALB. The meeting was very well received, and a number of PSGCNJ members expressed interest in Toastmasters.



Opinion **Voices of Youth**

By Sherri Rase, DTM – Social Media Strategist

Toastmasters International requires members to be 18 years or older. Where do the roots of developing a voice or the understanding that one has a unique contribution to the world have an origin?

From the time we are children, many of us learned that we are to be seen and not heard. We are treated in an “adultist” manner where, because we have little experience, there is little we could offer to a conversation or a perspective. People who work with youth know that perspective comes from everywhere, and a recent course I taught at the Pride Center of Staten Island demonstrated just that. I worked with about 15 youth ranging in age from 13 to 18, and we discussed both confidence and the value of constructive criticism. In each session, the differences in how the youth perceived themselves was very different from where they began.

Confidence relies on breath, stature and knowledge, and like a symphonic conductor we Toastmasters triangulate our presentation like a fine piece of music. Starting with breathing exercises and “setting the instrument,” how one stands and how one sits while speaking gave a physical anchor to the conversation. Each person could feel the difference in how they felt sitting and standing and how the path of the air affects phonation. We discussed physical preparation, Amy Cuddy’s concept of Power Posing to manage nervousness and how to breathe to maximize energy by using adrenaline from anxiety to fuel the machine. All around the crowded, pre-COVID conference table, glimmers of understanding moved like a spark, galvanizing the group.

The discussion around the power of constructive criticism is one that my Northern Stars Advanced Club has had nearly every meeting. When we use the Toastmasters Feedback Sandwich method, we are encouraged to do better, to be better and to embrace what “more” looks like for each of us. Unfortunately, a quick query around the room indicated there is not much encouragement going on in the younger set. I gave some examples and encouraged them to give it a whirl and we were off.

Consider this: when each of us was growing up, there were people who put their stamp on us, some good, some less so. For every teacher, parent, and spiritual guide who held that lantern to show the way, how many of us have said “thank you” as adults? Sure, you can find someone on social media and say hello – definitely do that. Honor that gift they have given with one of your own: the gift of voice to youth. How they say what they say is important. We can coach that. Let us also demonstrate the gift of listening.



CELEBRATIONS

Member Anniversaries – Second Quarter 2020

Join Date	Last Name	First Name	Join Date	Last Name	First Name
20 YEARS			10 YEARS, cont.		
4/1/2000	Matteo	James	6/1/2010	Ozekcin	Adnan
4/1/2000	Mattis	Wanda	6/1/2010	Mendez	James
4/1/2000	Moss	Robert	6/1/2010	Chanthyasack	Manipanh
4/1/2000	Steinhilber	John	6/1/2010	Varghese	Bobby
4/1/2000	Trunzo	Arlene	6/1/2010	Qureshi	Saif
5/1/2000	Tully	Gary	6/1/2010	Thottukadavil	Maria
5/1/2000	Weaver	Christine	6/1/2010	Thottumari	Vincent
6/1/2000	Brooks	Susan	6/1/2010	Thottumari	Rosalin
6/1/2000	Spear	Anuradha	5 YEARS		
6/30/2000	Kirylak	Andrej	4/1/2015	Balbuena	Doreen
15 YEARS			4/1/2015	Bhave	Leena
4/1/2005	Wang	Jessie	4/1/2015	Bhuiyan	Mushi
6/1/2005	Harmalker	Subhash	4/1/2015	Blackwell	Marceline
6/1/2005	Kanouse	Craig	4/1/2015	Bracke	Derik
6/1/2005	Sreenivasaiah	Neel	4/1/2015	Chavez	Hilda
10 YEARS			4/1/2015	Couillard	Monica
4/1/2010	Broquist	Alice	4/1/2015	DeCarlo	Matthew
4/1/2010	Kenney	Julwel	5/1/2015	Samuel	David
4/1/2010	Kleinmann	Raphael	5/1/2015	Sawant	Ashvini
4/1/2010	Michel	Ivette	5/1/2015	Smith	Bernadette
4/1/2010	Ogunade	Adebimpe	6/1/2015	Adamo	Nathan
4/1/2010	Pulickal	Joseph	6/1/2015	Cavallaro	Carmen
4/1/2010	Puri	Rajiv	6/1/2015	Gursel	Cemile
4/1/2010	Ramcharitar	Oomadai	6/1/2015	Longden	Doug
4/1/2010	Schreiber	Keith	6/1/2015	Lyons	Larry
4/1/2010	Thuremella	Chandra	6/1/2015	Silvestre	Cindy
4/1/2010	Tintle	Christopher	6/1/2015	Smith	Erin
5/1/2010	Inciong	Eileen Espinosa	6/1/2015	Snyder	Patti
5/1/2010	Pasarkar	Manda	6/1/2015	Stewart	Victoria
5/1/2010	Phillips	James	6/1/2015	Totzev	Iavor
5/1/2010	Sebag	Ruth	6/1/2015	Whitener	Eileen
6/1/2010	Marcella	Susan			
6/1/2010	Sysyn	Debra			



3Q20 Dates To Remember

6/1/20 – 8/31/20	Club Officer Training; Schedule to be posted on our district website.
6/20/20	Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) – Virtual Event – Start time: 9:00A (See Page 11 for more information.)
6/30/20	Clubs to complete Education Achievement Requirements (Traditional and Pathways) and submit applications to TI for DCP purposes
6/30/20	Deadline for clubs to submit 2020-21 club officer information for DCP credit.
9/30/20	Deadline for clubs to submit membership dues for 10/1/20 through 3/31/21.



It has been my honor to serve as the Editor of *The Voice* these past two years. I have especially enjoyed working with its Staff Writers: Su Brooks, DTM2; Margarita Estrada, DTM; Janette Markert, DTM; and Sherri Rase, DTM, who accepted their quarterly assignments with enthusiasm and rarely missed a deadline. Working by their side has been a real pleasure! My sincere thanks goes to Lynda Starr, DTM who, throughout my “solo practice” as editor, always supported me with ready and instructive answers to my many questions. There is a great deal of behind-the-scenes work that goes into the preparation and posting of our District 83 Newsletter, involving many members; I deeply appreciate all of their cooperation.

I hope to continue to be involved with *The Voice* as an occasional contributor and, always, a loyal reader.

Jeanette (Jen) Fredericks, DTM
D83 Newsletter Editor, 2018-2020





Contributors to this edition

Lynda Starr	Margarete Estrada
William Markert	Kristen Oliveri
Michelle Tropper	Somesh Cheblani
Jenna Barone	Srinidhi Dasaka
Janette Markert	Denise Galiano
Su Brooks	Laura Newton
Sherri Rase	

Photo Credits

Pg 1	Lynda Starr
Pg 3	William Markert
Pg 4	Michelle Tropper
Pg 7	L.Starr, W.Markert, M.Tropper
Pg 12	J. Barone
Pg. 15-16	Janette Markert
Pg 17	Denise Galiano
Pg 18	Somesh Chablani, Stock
Pg 20	Su Brooks
Pg 21	Bruce For
Pg 24	L. Newton, Y. Chanlam
Pg 25	S. Dasaka, M. Figueroa
Pg 26	N. Lihacova, Y. Chanlam
Pg 27	Sherri Rase
Pg 29	Jeanette Fredericks

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Your timely articles and club news are welcome!

Send your submissions to
district83newsletter@gmail.com

Submissions for the September 2020 issue are due
August 15th



All submissions should include:

- author's name, photo (if desired), and achievement designation (ACB, Path.1, etc.);
- achievement designations of all members mentioned in the article;
- photos with captions and accreditation information.

District 83

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL