



# The Voice

## WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

### Success and Succession

By Lynda Starr, DTM

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Everyone wants to be successful. Success comes from the French and Latin roots to go up or to go after. Similarly, succession comes from the same root. Both are very important to a Toastmasters club; but what does it mean to succeed or to have succession? Success is a sense of accomplishment, and succession is a plan for what comes next.

“Many Paths to Success” has been our District 83 theme for 2019-2020, and just as members have individual goals—both personal and professional—clubs have their own goals as well. Some clubs are very focused on having a clear definition of success and have completed the Club Success Plan when this year’s officers started their terms. Some clubs may be focused on the Distinguished Club Program, which is both a map to success and a measure of success. We need to know where we want to go in order to know how to get there and indeed to know when we have arrived at the stopping point. Although we say there are many paths to success; success is not an endpoint; once we reach success on one goal, the stage is set for the next goal.

Goals can be gaining the courage to stand up and make an icebreaker speech or to complete one’s DTM by June 30, 2020; for a club to reach 20 members or to increase its streak in being a President’s Distinguished Club. Whatever the goal is, it is important to commit to it and to go through the SMART criteria—is it specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timebound? If it is a club goal, is there buy-in from all the officers, and does each one have a part to play in bringing the goal to success?

It is now March and, while signs of Spring are around the corner and June is getting closer, there is still plenty of time for clubs and members to focus on goals. Now is the time to focus on what needs to be done to reach goals. To facilitate goal completion, it is also a good time to focus on succession, meaning who could take on officer and chair roles in your club next year. Also, take some time to think about what role you’d like to take next year, either in the club or district. This is a good time to think about possible successors and to start training them in the 2020-2021 role.



This offers some assistance to the current members in the role and also frees them to help them in the roles they want. I remember being shocked when, before I even started my role as district newsletter editor, then-district governor Bill Hood, DTM asked me who I thought could succeed me. At the time, I was surprised by his question, but now I realize the importance of preparing the next generation. If club officers are very ambitious and forward thinking, a three-year plan for the club is also useful to track membership growth, members' educational and

leadership paths and what the club hopes to achieve over time.

Keep your eye on the prize and what you can do to work toward achieving that goal. To keep everyone motivated, celebrate small successes on the way and remember that there are many paths to success, and clubs and members need to find the one that is right for them.

Good luck.



### **Congratulations to Our Newest DTMs!**

Peter Brot  
Maxine Cohen  
Carolyn Heiser  
Monica Maddan  
Alexander Rogovin  
Peggy Seymour  
Hemant Vora  
Disna Weerasinghe



## Program Quality Director's Message

### What Are You Waiting For?

By William Markert, ACB, CL



**Flash! Flash!** District 83 is adding a new incentive to encourage Pathways adoption within clubs.

As we approach the end of the Toastmasters year, the transition period from the legacy education program to the Pathways learning experience comes to an end. Starting July 1, 2020, Pathways will be the only educational program available for Toastmasters. So why not get a jump start and help your club earn a substantial incentive? The District is encouraging clubs to promote Pathways adoption by offering a \$100 Toastmasters International gift certificate or a new club banner with the current branding for those clubs that do not yet have this banner. Effective March 1, 2020, the incentive will be provided to the first 25 clubs with a 100 percent adoption rate that are at charter strength (20 or more) or have increased net membership by 5 over the club's beginning year membership base. The incentive is for the current Toastmasters year ending June 30, 2020.

Our requirements for a member to be counted as having adopted Pathways are: (1) each member signs into Pathways; and (2) each member selects a path. The requirements are easy to achieve and by doing so, you will help your club compete for the Pathways adoption incentive.

What are you waiting for? Sign up today.

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### Welcome New Clubs!

<b>NJR Toastmasters</b>	<b>12/27/19</b>
<b>Oratory Toastmasters</b>	<b>12/16/19</b>
<b>Princeton Power Presenters</b>	<b>12/16/19</b>



## Club Growth Director's Message

### Rotary and Toastmasters Collaboration

By Michelle Tropper, DTM



Toastmasters International and Rotary International have formed a collaboration to leverage our organizations' strengths.

There are multiple opportunities for you and your club to support this, including:

- Welcoming a Rotarian to visit a Toastmasters club;
- Inviting a Rotarian to be a guest speaker at a Toastmasters club;
- Considering opportunities to hold a joint Toastmasters/Rotary club meeting;
- Learning more about Rotary and visiting a local Rotary club.

Additionally, your local Rotary club may contact your local Toastmasters club and request a guest speaker to provide their members with an overview of Toastmasters.

The relationship between our two organizations is designed to connect local clubs. If invited to represent Toastmasters at a local Rotary club, embrace the opportunity. You'll be able to take your leadership skills and apply them outside of the club environment to make more of a community impact. Additionally:

- Speaking at your local Rotary club is a great way to market and attract members to your local Toastmasters club. Have one or several club members or officers attend the meeting and speak about different aspects of Toastmasters and what we have to offer. If they invite you to be a speaker, ask them how much time is allotted for the presentation, and how many Toastmasters you can bring with you (many Rotary clubs meet at lunchtime and provide lunch for their guests; they'll want to know how many people you're bringing with you).
- Leading and coordinating the presentation (and team, if a team will be involved) is a way to meet the requirements of a high performance leadership (HPL) project for a club member. HPL is a requirement for the traditional DTM award. The Pathways HPL is a Level 5 requirement in three Paths and a Level 5 elective in the other eight Paths.
- In addition to having club officers or members speak at Rotary meetings, you can also reach out to the District Leadership Team (Lynda Starr, William Markert or Michelle Tropper), or the [District 83 Speakers Bureau](#) for assistance in responding to Rotary requests for speakers. These district resources can speak at Rotary meetings if your club is unable to attend. They can also help you prepare for the presentation, provide you with marketing materials from Toastmasters International and make suggestions for your presentation.

Website links for more information:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/about/partner>

<https://speakersbureaud83.wixsite.com/speakers>

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

<https://my.rotary.org/en/search/club-finder>



## **District 38 Annual Conference Not To Be Missed!**

**By William Markert, ACS, CL and Lynda Starr, DTM**



When was the last time you met with over 150 Toastmasters and had the opportunity to learn, laugh and exchange ideas? Opportunity awaits, and we cordially invite you to the 2020 District 83 Annual Conference which is only two months away. The conference will be held on the weekend of May 15–17, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison, New Jersey. You will hear world-class speakers, participate in interactive workshops, learn about district business and, best of all, network with other Toastmasters.

It was an easy choice to come up with the theme for the conference—Many Paths to Success, which is also our district theme for the year. In both cases, we chose the tagline as representing the idea that each one of us has his/her own definitions of success and how we will get there. It also reminds us that this is the final transition year to the Pathways program and the choice of 11 paths that will build over 300 competencies. Finally, the theme connotes the idea that there are many branches and turns on the road to success, and we must celebrate those along the way.



There will be much to celebrate and enjoy at the Annual Conference. Our keynote speaker will be Aaron Beverly, the 2019 World Champion of Public Speaking. He is our neighbor from Philadelphia and District 38 and will share with us his path to success. He'll offer some tips that may result in a District 83 Toastmaster being the 2020 World Champion of Public Speaking. We will also have the district finals for the Tall Tales, Evaluation and the International Speech contests at the conference. The winner of the international speech contest will progress to the Region Video Quarterfinals, from which the top two finalists will progress to the semifinals at the International Convention in Paris, France in August. District 83 contestants have a great opportunity to become the next World Champion of Public Speaking!

We are currently in the process of selecting workshop presenters for the conference. There will be nine workshops offered in blocks of three, representing club development, professional development and personal development. Sessions are designed to be interactive workshops. Presenters are all Toastmasters with unique perspectives and experiences to share.

The conference will also host the district business meeting, where club presidents, vice

presidents-education, area directors, division directors and members of the District Executive Team will have a vote in the election of 2020-2021 district officers, on approving the realignment of district areas and the clubs therein. Even if you are not a voting delegate, it is very interesting to see what makes the district tick. Voting members need to attend or assign their proxy votes to another club member in order to assure we have a quorum in order to conduct business at the meeting and as a district. (See the following article on proxy voting.)

Other fun events will include networking, meals, silent auction, 50/50 auction, first timers' welcome and more.

The price for the conference currently is \$175. It increases to \$185 on April 16, 2020, so book now and save yourself some money. You may use TI gift certificates to pay for up to 50% of the conference registration fee. Register online at the district website, <https://www.tm83.org/> (credit/debit card only), or use the posted registration form to send in a check or check/TI gift certificate combination.

Looking forward to seeing you in May.







## **2020 District 83 Annual Conference**

### **Let's Get Out the Vote !**

**By Bill Hood, DTM – District Credentials Committee Chair**



District 83 meets annually at what was formerly known as our Spring District Conference, now the District Annual Conference. It is important that every club have representation at this business meeting in order to conduct the important business of the district. This is one of the responsibilities of the offices of Club President and Club Vice President- Education (VPE).

At these business meetings, the district reviews and votes on district leadership (the District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Directors), club alignment within areas and divisions, and other matters important to effective district operations. Each club has two votes, ideally exercised by the Club President and VPE.

The Club President (or VPE) in attendance may cast both club votes. If the Club President or VPE is unable to attend the district business meeting, an alternate club member in good standing is appointed to represent the club. This is referred to as a "proxy."

The district must check that each person voting at the business meeting is entitled to a vote. That means that their club is in good standing, that the President and VPE indeed hold that office and are members in good standing. If a club sends a proxy to vote, a check is made to insure that person is a member of that club and is in good standing. No member can carry more than three votes.

So that the district leaders can plan effectively for the business meeting, they must know in advance who will be carrying the votes for each club. During March, Club Presidents and VPEs will receive an email telling how they are to inform the district the names of the members who will represent their club. There will be a few weeks for the club officers to determine which club members will be available to attend the meeting and vote.

There is no charge to attend the district business meeting, which will begin at 9:30 AM on May 15, 2020, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, New Jersey. Please make plans to come to this meeting and stay for the District 83 Annual Conference, which follows the business meeting. Registration for the conference can be made on the District 83 website [www.tm83.org](http://www.tm83.org).

Membership in Toastmasters International involves more than just showing up at club meetings and giving a speech now and then. Toastmasters membership is about being part of a supportive group of individuals in your District who share the common goal of improving their communication and leadership skills. Please be a part of the group effort to make the learning climate better for each Toastmasters member of District 83.



## How-To Corner #1

### Claim Credit for Being a Club Sponsor, Mentor or Coach

By Michelle Tropper, DTM – District Club Growth Director

If you have ever served as a club sponsor, mentor or coach, make sure that your service has been recognized by Toastmasters International (TI) and is indicated on your Toastmasters profile under “Club Support History.” If you don’t see the club(s) you supported listed, TI is awaiting a confirmation from that club in order to recognize you for your service.

In order to ensure you receive credit for your sponsor, mentor or coach service, you’ll need to take the following steps (these steps are required for your service to count towards either of the DTM awards). For those of you looking to complete a traditional DTM award by June 20, 2020, complete these steps BEFORE June 30.

#### Sponsors & Mentors

- 1) TI no longer automatically awards sponsor credit just based on inclusion of your name and membership number on Form 1, Application to Organize.
- 2) For acknowledgement and receipt of credit as a sponsor or a mentor, you need to get a Chartering Club Officer to send an acknowledgement to: [newclubs@toastmasters.org](mailto:newclubs@toastmasters.org) with your name and membership number, indicating that you successfully completed your service as either a sponsor (message can and should be sent as soon as the club is officially chartered) or a mentor (message can be sent six months after the club chartered). They should include the name and number of the club you supported in this message. This has always been a requirement for getting credit as a club mentor. Toastmasters International recently made this a requirement to get sponsor credit as well.
- 3) If your service as a sponsor or mentor occurred more than a year ago, or the club has disbanded and you no longer have contact with any of the chartering officers, you can still request credit for your service. Please contact Club Growth Director, Michelle Tropper, as soon as possible for assistance.

#### Sponsors, Mentors & Coaches

- 1) If you will be completing your sponsor, mentor or coach service in June (for completion of DTM in June), you should submit your DTM application anytime between June 1 through June 30, 2020, even though your service may not be complete until the end of June. TI will process your applications as they are received. If it turns out that you didn't complete the sponsor, mentor or coach service by June 30, your application will be revoked afterwards.





- 2) Do NOT wait until June 30 to get your application submitted, as TI expects to be inundated with requests that day and would like to process as many applications as possible before then.
- 3) Clubs that chartered in December 2019 should submit their acknowledgement of the member's mentor service anytime between June 1 – June 30, even if the six-month mark is on June 30. Similarly, for clubs expecting to charter in June, have them acknowledge successful completion of sponsor service prior to June 30. TI will honor acknowledgements submitted in June, even if they're received prior to June 30. ***For the sponsor or mentor credit to apply to the traditional DTM, the new clubs need to send their acknowledgement to TI for their service no later than June 30, 2020 for the individual to receive the credit!*** If the acknowledgement submissions are sent by the clubs and received by TI by June 30, the sponsors and mentors will receive their credit to count towards the traditional DTM.
- 4) For Club Coach roles, TI will rely on preliminary Distinguished Club Program results. If the club is displaying as Distinguished on the Distinguished Club Program dashboard, World Headquarters will treat this as if the Club Coach role was successfully completed, thereby earning credit for the club support role and the exception granted previously for a District leadership role.
- 5) **All traditional DTM paperwork must be submitted to TI by June 30!**

### **Early Processing for the Advanced Leadership Bronze (ALB), Advanced Leadership Silver (ALS) and Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) traditional awards**

World Headquarters will start processing ALB, ALS and DTM awards early, beginning June 1, 2020. A member who wishes to apply Club Coach, Club Officer, or District Officer service for the 2019-2020 program year toward a traditional ALB or ALS award can do so by submitting a completed [Advanced Leadership DTM Award Application](#) form to World Headquarters via email or fax.

For club and District officer roles, so long as the role began on July 1, 2019 for a District Officer's term or January 1, 2020 for a club officer's term, World Headquarters will assume that the role has been successfully completed through the end of the term.

Please note that all awards looking for the early submission must be emailed or faxed, as they will not be accepted through Club Central. **Please ensure that any awards submitted are received to World Headquarters no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Mountain Time on June 30, 2020.** Additionally, please ensure the applications are complete, as there will also be no exceptions for applications received with missing information.



Educational awards can be faxed to +1 303-799-7753 or emailed to [educationprogram@toastmasters.org](mailto:educationprogram@toastmasters.org)

Questions?

- **Sponsors, Mentors, Coaches:** Please contact Michelle Tropper at michelletm83@gmail.com
- **ALB, ALS and DTM Applications:** Please contact Su Brooks at subrooks@verizon.net



Be a yardstick of quality.

Some people aren't used to an environment  
where excellence is expected.

-Steve Jobs



## How-To Corner #2

### Be the One Everyone Wants To Hear

By Jenna Barone, EC2 – District Public Relations Manager



Do you avoid joining conversations because you don't know what to say? Do you get anxious in social settings, feeling like no one listens when you speak? I am going to share with you three simple tips to own any room you walk into and instantly gain the respect of every person in it.

#### 1. SELF-PRESENTATION

Everyone's first impression of you will be what they see when you walk into the room. How are you dressed? You don't need to be wearing fancy clothing or carrying designer bags to present yourself well; you just need to look put together. This means wrinkle-free, clean clothing, neatly styled hair, and manicured nails (not necessarily painted but nicely trimmed). Think about what people will see and prepare accordingly.

#### 2. BODY LANGUAGE

In addition to how you present yourself, your body language is another important factor in getting the room's attention. Are you slouched or standing up tall? Are you making eye contact or looking everywhere else around the room? Make eye contact with your audience, shake hands firmly, use appropriate hand gestures while speaking. A person can instantly tell how you feel about the situation just by your body language so it is important you are giving off the correct impression.

#### 3. MESSAGE

What you say is the last piece to getting people to listen. Are you just talking to talk, or can your audience connect to what you're saying? Speak with a strong voice that will let people know what you have to say is important. Why should people listen to you? You should always think about the take-away from what you are saying. It is important to have value in your words so people can associate you as someone who cares about what they say and how they say it.

Some of you reading this may be saying, "Easier said than done." It can be intimidating or unimaginable to have all eyes on you, but that's not to say it can't change! With Toastmasters you are able to experience many situations that will allow you to practice the above. During meetings you have different opportunities to practice these tips. Table Topics is an impromptu exercise where you typically get asked a thought-provoking question and have one to two minutes to answer it. If you present a speech, you not only have a speech evaluator who will give you two to three minutes of feedback in addition to your evaluation form, but each audience member can give you written feedback as well. If you take on a role you will get the chance to give a report on what that role entails. For example, a timer will be able to let each speaker, speech evaluator, and table topics participant know how much time he/she spent talking.

Outside of your Toastmasters club you can attend various Toastmasters events where you will get the chance to network with other members and practice self-presentation, your body language, and your message. While these tips are easy to follow, it takes practice and dedicated commitment to ensuring you own every room you walk into!



## **DTM by the Traditional Educational Program** **Communication+Collaboration+Leadership=DTM**

**By Su Brooks, DTM 2 – Destination DTM Chair**



Earning a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award requires a great deal of teamwork, as well as time and energy to enhance speaking and leadership skills. I interviewed two of District 83's recent DTM recipients, Peggy Seymour, DTM and Maxine Cohen, DTM to learn how Toastmasters are helping each other attain their DTM goal before the traditional education program ends on June 30.

### **Interview with Peggy Seymour, DTM**



#### **What inspired you to host DTM speakouts?**

I needed a High Performance Leadership (HPL) project for my DTM award. My corporate club, Frontline Speakers, meets once a month for an hour, and there aren't enough speaking slots for everyone.

Four of us were looking to complete a DTM in the traditional program. We set up speakouts hosted by Frontline and meet for an hour roughly every two weeks.

(Speakouts, also known as speak-a-thons, provide additional opportunities for speeches, evaluations, and educational workshops/presentations.) Some of the members needed more time to present the longer educational modules for their Advanced Communicator Gold Award requirement and the longer speeches in the Advanced Communication manuals.

#### **Continuing the program...**

We are getting close to June 30 when the traditional program ends. After I earned my DTM in November 2019, I decided to continue the speakouts to support others in the club. A few of the original members in the group dropped out, and a few others joined the group.

We have tremendous support from the district. Our leaders informed us that we may conduct these sessions and required that clubs host the speakouts.

#### **What inspired you to continue leadership of these sessions?**

I compare it to running an obstacle course where you reach down to help raise the others up and over the wall.

Although I have earned my DTM, there are leadership projects in Pathways Levels 4 and 5 that help me fulfill a project requirement while helping others complete their DTMs. For others looking to do the same to help members of their clubs, I suggest you look at Pathways.



## **Have you encountered obstacles?**

The biggest challenge is that the members have to want to succeed more than you want them to succeed, much like mentoring. The key is communication. Ask what projects each is working on; How long will it be? Who will evaluate whom? We like to switch it up a bit so the same people are receiving evaluations from others.

I learned that several people do not have a workplace where they can conduct these events. Also, we need participants and an audience.

## **Tell us more about the speakouts.**

These began in February on weekday evenings for an hour in North Brunswick, New Jersey, hosted by Frontline Speakers; weekend sessions for 1.5 hours began in Cranford, New Jersey, hosted by What Exit?. These will continue until June 30.

Speakers from District 46 may identify opportunities that their clubs might have for our speakers, and we are extending the offer for their speakers to visit our clubs. Cranford is easily accessible by train.

For information including guidelines and a schedule of events, contact Peggy at: [peseymourtm83@gmail.com](mailto:peseymourtm83@gmail.com). If there is interest in continuing these events in Pathways, who knows what the future holds?

## **Interview with Maxine Cohen, DTM**

### **How did you form your group?**

The idea of helping District 83 members achieve their traditional DTM award was designed and coordinated by Monica Helsel, DTM. While Monica was working to complete her Advanced Communicator Gold Award, she asked members whether they still were interested in pursuing the DTM award. Monica brought her idea to form a DTM Group to District 83 leadership.



Monica emailed six members to see if we were still interested. Five of the original six recipients said they were interested in joining the DTM Group. She designed this unit so as to eliminate obstacles preventing members from achieving their DTM. The group had its first teleconference meeting in May and was established in June 2018.

The original members included: Maxine Cohen, Bruce For, DTM; Monica Helsel, Wendy Moses, ACS, ALB; Andrew Paleologos, DTM; and Marc Strano. Anne Gilson, DTM and Su Brooks, DTM 2 were members of this group during their terms as DTM Chairs, providing District level support when challenges and opportunities were identified.



### **Are the DTM Group members in the same club?**

No, members of the group belong to different Toastmasters clubs. Most live and work in different parts of our district and do not know each other well.

### **Where and how often did you meet?**

We began with informational emails. DTM Group included teleconference meetings to identify what each member needed and what challenges they encountered. By identifying my need to serve as a Club Coach, Club Sponsor or Club Mentor, the group alerted district officers to look out for clubs needing support in the northern district areas. In October I was assigned as a Club Mentor to VZW WN Toastmasters Club in Rockland County, New York, which worked out perfectly.

Later email meetings were status reports so Monica and Anne/Su could assess member progress. Monica secured the Clifton Library on a Saturday for members to deliver 10-15 minute educational workshops. This location allowed members to present workshops when they could not do this at their club.

This variety of meetings (teleconferences, emails, and physical location for speeches) worked best for all members as teleconferences and emails did not require travel and helped work around our schedules. Attendance at the physical location was on a need-only basis.

### **Success Stories**

I needed to coordinate the Art of Effective Evaluation workshop for my Advanced Communications Gold award. Last year Area 92 Director Manda Pasarkar, ACB, ALB and Division I Director Gimai Ma, DTM were helpful in promoting my workshop throughout the Division. Manda was instrumental to the success of my workshop when I needed participants. She found two members from the Ridgewood Club who spoke at the workshop. Manda talked up the workshop, and three members of the Fair Lawn Club attended, in addition to Gimai and Manda. I was able to successfully deliver my workshop, thanks to their help. I earned my Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award on February 3, 2020 with the help and guidance of the DTM Group.





## **District Events**

### **District 83 Gathers To Recognize Members' Success**

**By Janette Markert, DTM – Division A Director**



Twice each Toastmaster year the district salutes our members and clubs for successfully achieving their many goals and gives away hundreds of dollars in Toastmasters dollar certificates. Now that the district is accepting partial payment to events like the conference with TI dollars, the awards handed out should be no small incentive to attend and collect them.

The Winter Celebration and Recognition event was on Saturday February 22, 2020. As part of the event, there was a booklet listing all the awardees – each of the educational awards under the Traditional and Pathways programs as well as the various club awards. The booklet had eight pages of awards, and this only covered from October 1 – December 31, 2019! This is definite cause for celebration! After your club works hard to get new members and members earn educational awards, it's a great feeling to be acknowledged for the efforts. When there's incentives that the district offers, it's icing on the cake to get some TI dollars. It's also fun to see who completed what and to congratulate one another.

If you haven't noticed, the district has started to accept TI dollars as payment or partial payment toward many of the district events (like the celebration event or even the conference). Do you or your club have TI dollar certificates in some envelope languishing in a seldom-used drawer or have them filed away at the back of a file cabinet drawer? If your club doesn't need more supplies and you've collected enough pins, shirts, and totes that you might need, it's a great time to find those envelopes and files so you can use those certificates!



**Somesh Chablani, ACG, ALB**

#### **EVENT SPEAKERS**



**Mario Lewis, DTM**



At the Winter Celebration, not only were individuals and clubs recognized, but there were announcements of future events and happenings, as well as presentations by two of the district's new Speakers Bureau participants, Somesh Chablani, ACG, ALB and Mario Lewis,DTM. Somesh spoke about getting your "A Factor" together and keeping your sword sharp. Mario spoke on his five tips to connect with the audience. Both were entertaining and inciteful lessons. It was an opportunity to get a sampling of what the Speakers Bureau has to offer.



Michelle Tropper led a recognition exercise where all attendees were encouraged to write out notes of gratitude to Toastmasters who impacted their journey. These were posted on to the wall, and a sampling was also shared. Everyone took in the amazing family of members and realized how we all grow and benefit from our Toastmasters connections.

The morning's event was entertaining, uplifting and inspirational. If you didn't attend, take note of the next celebration coming up in the autumn. If you didn't pick up your award(s), they should be available during the Annual Conference.



## Club News

### Speak Easy Toastmasters Observes 20 Years

By Mark Grebenau, JD, MD, PhD, DTM – Club VP-Education



On December 19, 2019, Speak Easy Toastmasters club #1922 celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special meeting and party. The meeting was unusual in two ways: (1) instead of members bringing their own lunches, catering was provided in honor of the anniversary; and (2) rather than speeches and table topics, the meeting featured “round robin” table topics, in which each participant chose the next speaker and provided a question in keeping with the theme “holiday celebrations.”



In addition to current members (most of whom are employed by CIT Bank), a former member, Sheri Blake, participated in the round robin via a remote audio/visual connection.

**[left]: Sokol Bendeni and Ed Burwell greet each other during the Speak Easy Club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary program.**

**[right]: Ellie Lawrence addresses the audience during Table Topics.**



Other participants included Lori Stern, Darlene Naranjo, Sandra Guzman, Susan Cowap, Ed Burwell, Sokol Bedeni, Mark Grebenau, Monica Bermeo-Poulos, Micha Stark, Adaeze Nwachuku, Frank Panucci, Ellie Lawrence, Joyce Mason Fingal, Jennifer Grinberg, and Frank McKinley.

All attendees look forward, collectively, to more and greater achievements over the next 20 years and beyond!

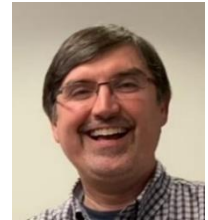




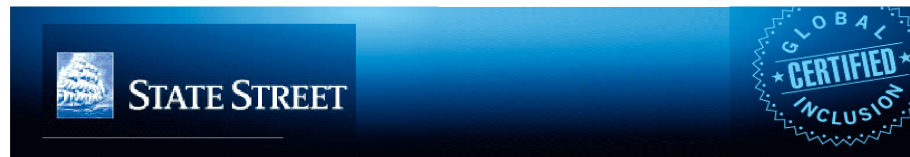
## Club News

### State Street Princeton Holds Membership Drive

By George Bertele, ACS, ALS - Club President

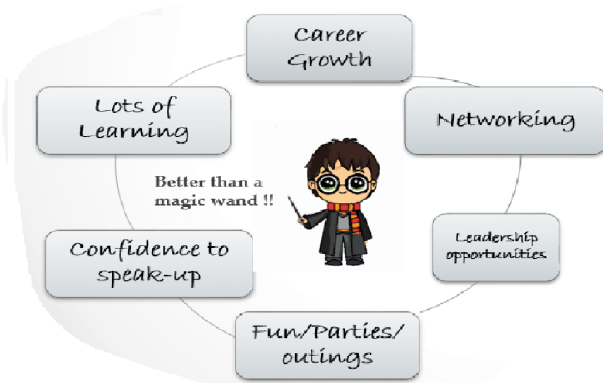


The State Street Princeton chapter of Toastmasters held its semi-annual membership drive on Thursday, November 21, 2019. The theme for advertising the event was “The \*MAGIC\* of Toastmasters,” its emphasis being “worth your time” because sometimes it seems we need magical assistance to fit anything else into our work day.



Why don't you join the State Street Toastmasters club with us here in Princeton?

You know I am already way **TOO BUSY !!**  
What would I get out of Toastmasters anyway ???



Want to Learn More ?

**JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!**

**Thursday 11/21 -12:00-1:00**

**1S-A conf room**

**(Near security desk on 1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

**and...**

**-Lots of food...!!**

**-Door prizes...!!**

**-Find out how to win a**

**Salt Creek Grille Gift Certificate...!!**

**-Come as a guest, listen and learn...!!**



We thought that the Magic theme would catch people's eye, and emphasizing how busy everyone is (but "Toastmasters is worth your time") would resonate with the members of our company who work in our building. Many thanks to one of our members, Snehal Harkawat, for dreaming up the poster concept.

Vice President Membership Nisha Muthumohamed, DL1 presented her "Researching and Presenting" project to complete Level 1 of her Dynamic Leadership path. Club President George Bertele gave a presentation entitled "What is Toastmasters?" in which he described the club, the Pathways program, member achievement recognition, and some of the fun events the club has held. Finally, a fun holiday-themed Table Topics session was given by our club Vice President of Education, Sandra Carson-Price, PI2.

Ten guests attended, and several have reached out to express interest in joining the club.



## **Toastmasters Speech Contests**

### **Notes from a Contestant's Journal, #1**

[Editor's Note: We have asked two District 83 Toastmasters who will participate in their Area speech contests this March about their decisions to enter the process, prepare for the competition, and plan the next step.]

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#### **2020 Area Evaluation Contestant**

**By Linda DeLap, ACB, CL -- Sergeant at Arms**  
**Power Talkers Toastmasters**



Generally I don't jump at the chance to participate in contests. The thought of competing usually doesn't excite me. During my school years long ago, I wanted to be accepted as part of the crowd. Any special recognition seemed embarrassing.

In Toastmasters, I have not seriously considered competing in a speech contest. I practice for many hours and end up memorizing my speeches in order to remember important thoughts and express them "right." In contrast, speech evaluation can be fun. I enjoy concentrating on listening to the speech, watching the speaker, and thinking of fair, helpful comments.

Two years ago, I participated in an evaluation contest at Power Talkers Toastmasters, my club. Winning was a complete surprise! The speech that my talented competitor and I were evaluating was a cleverly disguised tall tale. I recognized that, but the other evaluator did not, and the judges counted that against him. Unfortunately, I had to forego the area contest because of something immovable on my schedule.

A year later, an opportunity to compete in an evaluation contest at the area level landed in my lap, and I took it. Participating in a contest is much more exciting than watching it. These contests are conducted with care and require many volunteers, including sergeants at arms, timers, judges, and, for an evaluation contest, the test speaker. The test speech for that area evaluation contest absolutely floored me. In evaluating it, my words tumbled out. I mentioned one small feature that detracted from the flow of the speech, then continued my extravagant praise. But...I forgot to watch the timing lights, went over by more than 30 seconds, and was disqualified. The other contestant was surprised and pleased.

Now I am looking forward to trying again. Fellow Power Talkers are kindly giving me opportunity to practice my evaluation skills, while I watch the time.





## Notes from a Contestant's Journal, #2

### 2020 Area International Speech Contestant

By Shelby Holliman Carey, ACB, ALB -- Club President  
Shore Speakers Toastmasters



When I first heard the word “contest” in a Toastmasters setting, I immediately felt intimidated. I’m not a naturally competitive person; and at the beginning of my Toastmasters journey I was still figuring out what public speaking even meant for me. Fast forward three years to International Speech contest 2020, and I couldn’t feel more differently. While the butterflies are still there and I know my competition will be tough, I am now entering my first contest season, representing my club, Shore Speakers, with a feeling of pride, further accelerated by my determination to represent my club well.

As I continue to polish my speech, my strategy is not so different from preparing a speech for a normal club meeting. Only now, it will be more important than ever to seek multiple layers of feedback on my performance before the Area Contest. Historically, speeches that have made it to the world stage have both inspired the audience and made them laugh. My goal is to make sure I incorporate those two elements into my speech in order to connect with my audience. After all, that is what all speakers are there for, right?

My Toastmasters training has fostered my zest for the art of public speaking. As an adjunct professor of public speaking, I have used my speaking to facilitate a learning environment, lead training at work on the fly, and deliver president’s announcements at club meetings.

Make competition season what you want it to be! For some, winning is the only goal. If you’re like me, you can see it as a challenge to take your speaking to the next level in a competitive environment. After all, as hockey player Wayne Gretzky once said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”

Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn.

John C. Maxwell, American leadership author and speaker





## My Voice

### Tell Me More About It

By Srinidh Dasaka, DTM – Division H Director



“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands--one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.” -Audrey Hepburn

Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of mentoring some amazing Toastmasters in India and the United States, from university students to working professionals to entrepreneurs to homemakers, each full of passion and the desire to learn and grow in life. The increasing mentoring skills were also helping me at work whenever I had to lead projects or guide juniors on the team. But can your strength ever become the area of self-doubt?

Last year I was presented with an opportunity to tutor several women in conversational English. It was a volunteering opportunity with my local library, and I was keen to support them. As much as I wanted to go forward with this new commitment on my almost-full plate, there was something holding me back--the self-doubt of whether I would be able to do justice to this new role and really benefit the women.

In my first few classes I was probably more nervous than my students. It wasn't a comfortable experience to teach with so much doubt in myself. A training session was organized for all of us, along with some guidance from the leaders. This helped me slowly build my self-confidence. Soon with every class I started noticing a significant progress in both my students and me. I started enjoying it as much as I did when mentoring Toastmasters for their speech or leadership projects.

While there have been quite a few wonderful moments from this volunteering experience, one of my favorites occurred this last January. In celebration of the program's impact and the students' progress, the mayor of Kearny, New Jersey was invited to address the gathering at this special event. As one of the tutors, I had also been asked to speak for 10 minutes on my journey and the lessons learned. My aid for preparing this speech came in the form of the Competent Communicator Manual (Opening and Closing a Speech, Body Language, Voice Modulation and Persuade with Power). In the Innovative Planning Path, the projects Connecting with the Audience and Presenting Social Speeches gave me more inputs to create an impactful speech. It was one of those moments where I was immensely satisfied with having integrated both my interests so well. The excitement doubled when near the end of the program the mayor asked me if I had been practicing public speaking and about my approach in putting together the speech. No points for guessing what we discussed for the next few minutes. The answer starts with T and ends with S.



**The author (4<sup>th</sup> from right) stands with Mayor Alberto G. Santos (center) and other literacy volunteers in front of their Kearny Library meeting site.**

Sometimes in life, you talk about something and then demonstrate it. Other times you demonstrate first and then talk about it. Both techniques are effective in their own way. But that day I learned a third technique: demonstrate so well that everyone in the room wants you to tell them about it.

Tell me more about it !



## 2Q20 Dates to Remember

3/1 - 3/31/20	"Talk Up Toastmasters" Membership Contest
3/1 - 3/31/20	Clubs collect and submit membership dues
3/1 - 3/31/20	Area-level International Speech & Evaluation Contests
3/15 - 4/18/20	Clubs determine proxy holders to District Conference
4/1 - 4/30/20	Club Presidents appoint club officer nominating committee
4/1 - 4/30/20	Division-level International Speech & Evaluation Contests
5/15 - 5/17/20	District Conference
5/1 - 5/30/20	Club Officer Elections
5/1 - 6/30/20	Beat the Clock Membership Contest



Be Miserable  
or  
Motivate Yourself.

Whatever has to be done, it is always your choice.

- Wayne Dyer,  
Philosopher, Author, Motivational Speaker



## Member Anniversaries – First Quarter 2020

Join Date	Last Name	First Name
<b>35 YEARS</b>		
1/1/1985	Zarr	Dori
<b>30 YEARS</b>		
2/1/1990	Pinchak	Robert
<b>20 YEARS</b>		
1/1/2000	O'Hagan	Jennifer
<b>15 YEARS</b>		
1/1/2005	Beeram	Sireesha
1/1/2005	Deb	Soma
2/1/2005	Bhoopalam	Uday
2/1/2005	Caplin	Glen
3/1/2005	Barrera-vidler	Monica
3/1/2005	Holden	Gregory
<b>10 YEARS</b>		
1/1/2010	Brot	Peter
1/1/2010	De Mayo	Nick
1/1/2010	Diddi	Srinivas
2/1/2010	Cain	Randolph
2/1/2010	Migton	Marty
2/1/2010	Sonty	Giri
3/1/2010	Volyand	Alex
3/1/2010	Volyand	Emilia

### Contributors to this edition

Lynda Starr	George Bertele
Will Markert	Srinidhi Dasaka
Michelle Tropper	Linda DeLap
Jenna Barone	Mark Grebenau
Su Brooks	Shelby Holliman Carey
Janette Markert	Bill Hood

### Photo Credits

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Pg 9	Jenna Barone
Pg 11	Su Brooks, Peggy Seymour
Pg 12	Maxine Cohen
Pg 14/15	Janette Markert
Pg 16	M.Grebenau,L.Stern,S.Cowap
Pg 17	G. Bertele, S. Harkawat
Pg 18	Lynda DeLap
Pg 19	Shelby Holliman Carey
Pg 20/21	Srinidhi Dasaka



**Your timely articles and club news  
are welcome!**

**Contact the Newsletter Editor:**

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**Submissions for the June 2020 issue are due May 15<sup>th</sup>**

All submissions should include:

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

## **District 83**

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL