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October 2021

Hello Toastmasters!

Welcome to the **October** edition of **The Voice of District 83**, which highlights what is happening in the District along with up-to-date information and ideas that will help you be successful!

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## Message From District Director



By Michelle Tropper, DTM

Greetings Toastmasters!

I'm proud to announce that our Toastmasters year has started off strong! Our District 83, officers & appointees, budget and Success Plan were all approved at our District Council meeting on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you all who attended and voted. We can now proceed with our agenda and fund our events and programs.

As for the speeches we love to hear, our District 83 Omni-Pro Speakers Bureau is kicking-off the fall season with two motivational sessions, entitled "You've Got What It Takes!" on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Most importantly, many clubs are participating in the Area and Division virtual speech contests. Please register on [tm83.org](http://tm83.org) to attend these events. You will see the best speakers in our District who are also extremely fun and entertaining.

One of our major goals this year is to retain and reignite interest amongst members in Toastmasters. Sometimes, the way to generate interest and invigorate members is to try a different approach. If you can find a way to introduce a no pressure element of fun into your meetings, you're bound to have an experience to remember that keeps folks coming back and wanting more.

How do you find the fun in Toastmasters? Share your experiences with our newsletter team, and they'll feature them in the [Find the Fun](#) section of the newsletter.

I encourage and challenge each of you to find the fun in your Toastmasters meetings!

Wishing you all a fun-filled fall!

Michelle

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## Radhi Spear Elected as Second VP of Toastmasters International – Congratulations!!!!

District 83's very own Radhi Spear, of Piscataway, NJ, has been elected Second Vice President of Toastmasters International, the world's leading organization devoted to communication and leadership skills development. Spear was elected to the one-year term at the organization's 90<sup>th</sup> annual International Convention, held virtually Aug. 23-28.

A Toastmaster since 2000, Spear is a charter member of her home club, [AT&T Middletown Toastmasters in Middletown, NJ](#). She has held several high-profile leadership positions within Toastmasters and has attained the Distinguished Toastmaster designation—the highest level of educational achievement in the organization.



As a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Spear is a “working ambassador” for the organization. She works with the Board to develop and support the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.

Spear is a software engineer for AT&T in Middletown, New Jersey, and has worked in the telecommunications industry for over 30 years. She has expertise in software development, systems administration, and acceptance testing. She troubleshoots problems and develops software for projects that impact millions of people.

Spear holds a master’s degree of science in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey. She participates in employee

resource groups at AT&T, including Women of AT&T and InspirASIAN, which fosters development and leadership opportunities for its members. She was also an assistant Girl Scout troop leader for five years.

*She says, “In Toastmasters, you learn skills that you can use in all aspects of your life, and as you help others, you learn and grow at the same time. I now have the ability and the confidence to speak up.”*

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## **Taking Care of Business! The District 83 Council Meeting - A Huge Success!**



By Lynda Starr, DTM, PDD

On Tuesday, September 21, 2021 successfully held its Annual Virtual District Council Meeting. The District 83 Council achieved their goals when they shared, voted upon and approved the 2021-2022 District 83 budget & success plan as well as confirmed the newly appointed of district leaders.

Several pieces of important business took place. The District 83 Budget for 2021-22 was approved as presented. The incentives for members, clubs, Areas and Divisions were also presented as they related to the budget.

The District 83 District Success Plan for 2021-22 was approved as presented.

Copies of all the documents that were presented to the District Council and approved are available for viewing [HERE](#).

District Director Michelle Tropper, DTM, reviewed the list of appointed district leaders including 35 area directors and Siva Jonnada, DTM and Uday Bhoopalam, DTM, who will serve as Division A and Division I Directors, respectively. She also appointed the remaining members of the District Executive Committee:

**Congratulations to the new Trio and newly-appointed district leaders!**



**The Trio (left to right)**

- **District Director – Michelle, Tropper, DTM**
- **Program Quality Director (PQD) – Sharon Brown, DTM**
- **Club Growth Director (CGD) – Manda Pasarkar, DTM**
- **Administration Manager – Leigh-Anne Cobb**
- **Finance Manager – Amah Goka**
- **Public Relations Manager – Djuna Barnes, DTM**

In addition to the roles that were confirmed by the District Council, the following individuals are also serving in key leadership roles this year. Michelle Tropper, DTM said, “Thank you to the following individuals who have stepped up to serve.”

- **Immediate Past District Director and District Leadership Chair – William Markert, DTM**
- **Parliamentary Committee Members:**

**Jeanette Fredericks, DTM – District Parliamentarian**

**Lynda Starr, DTM & Rory Moore**

- **District Chief Judge – Anne Swartz, DTM**
- **Webmaster – Thomas Somers, DTM**
- **Newsletter Co-Editors:**

**Lelet McGorry, DTM**

**Eileen Inciong, DTM**

- **Youth Leadership Chair – Somesh Chablani, DTM**
- **Club Extension Chair – Hemant Vora, DTM**
- **Club Quality Chair – Katelyn Seyffart**
- **Club Retention Chair – Meena Shanmugavel, DTM**

There are still a number of key volunteer leadership opportunities still available within the District including:

- Logistics Manager
- New Club Source Research Chair (for the Club Growth Committee)
- Conference Education Committee Chair
- District Contest Coordination Chair

Please contact District Director, [Michelle Tropper, DTM](#) with any questions about the District Council meeting and available leadership opportunities.

Voting members of the District Council are the Club Presidents, Vice Presidents Education or their proxies and the members of the District Executive Committee: District

Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, the Immediate Past District Director, Public Relations Manager, Administrations Manager, Finance Manager, Division Directors and Area Directors.

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## District 83's Somesh Chablani, DTM Wows the Audience at the Toastmasters International Virtual Convention!

By Su Brooks

I am grateful to have attended the Toastmasters International Virtual Convention held August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, where I had the opportunity to see the workshop "Proven Secrets for Communicating with Power and Persuasion." by Somesh Chablani, DTM. Chablani is also District 83's Youth Leadership Chair and Area 42 Director. It was the first session I watched and was captivated by the important power words, "You, Now and Because." Somesh also shared many untold guides in the art of persuasion.



When asked how he felt after presenting on the International stage, Somesh said, *"Speaking on the International stage was an unforgettable experience. I'm wowed by the fact that my education session was viewed by more than 10,000 attendees! My session scored 4.8 out of 5. I'm proud of that."*

*Somesh shared some of the feedback he received.*

"Just finished watching Somesh Chablani's session. I highly recommend it. I got so much out of it. I can't wait to start using this techniques."  
- Gitel

"This is one of the best speeches I have watched. He persuaded me to continue being a member of TM" - Rose

"Excellent content that will surely add value to my persuasive endeavors. Thank you Somesh" - Joshua

If you want to experience Somesh's workshop, Please note that your all-access pass allows you to continue to view on-demand workshops and other activities through the end of October. Or you can purchase a pass for \$40 at [toastmasters.org](https://toastmasters.org) if you didn't sign up in August.



**All-Access Pass  
40 USD**

Get access to your favorite 2021 Virtual Convention sessions, including:

- 14 Education Sessions
- World Championship of Public Speaking
- Golden Gavel Award Presentation
- International Speech Contest Semifinals
- Accredited Speaker Program

[Buy now](#)



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## Omni-Pro Speakers Bureau – You’ve Got What It Takes!

### In Person Oct 9<sup>th</sup> & Virtual – Oct 11<sup>th</sup>!

The District 83 Speakers Bureau Presents “You’ve Got What It Takes!”. See live and in person, Margarita Estrada, DTM, Mario Lewis, DTM, Isaak Gelbinovich, DTM, and Somesh Chablani, DTM on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the Madison Public Library for a cost of \$10 that includes a COVID Care Kit! Join Patricia Loud, DTM and Cyndi Wilson, DTM (6) on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm virtually for Free. Both events will inspire and motivate.

Register HERE at [tm83.org](http://tm83.org)



The poster is a blue rectangular graphic with white and red text. At the top, it features the Toastmasters International logo on the left and right, and a central red box with the text "OMNI-PRO" in white. Below this, it says "District 83 Speakers Bureau" in white. The main title "You've Got What It Takes!" is in large white font. Underneath is a red rectangular photo of four speakers: Margarita Estrada, Mario Lewis, Isaak Gelbinovich, and Somesh Chablani. Below the photo, it lists the "In Person Event, Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 10:30 am" with the speakers' names in parentheses, and the location "Madison Public Library, Keep St., Madison, NJ". It then states "Fee of \$10 includes a COVID-19 care kit" and "Space is Limited - Register at www.tm83.org". Below this, it lists the "Free Virtual Event, Monday, October 11 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom!" with speakers "Patty Loud & Special Guest Speaker, Cyndi Wilson, PMP, DTM6". At the bottom, there are two small photos of Patty Loud and Cyndi Wilson, and a QR code on the right.

**OMNI-PRO**

District 83 Speakers Bureau

**You've Got What It Takes!**

**In Person Event, Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 10:30 am**  
(with Margarita Estrada, Mario Lewis, Isaak Gelbinovich & Somesh Chablani)  
Madison Public Library, Keep St., Madison, NJ

Fee of \$10 includes a COVID-19 care kit  
Space is Limited - Register at [www.tm83.org](http://www.tm83.org)

**Free Virtual Event, Monday, October 11 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom!**  
with Patty Loud & Special Guest Speaker, Cyndi Wilson, PMP, DTM6

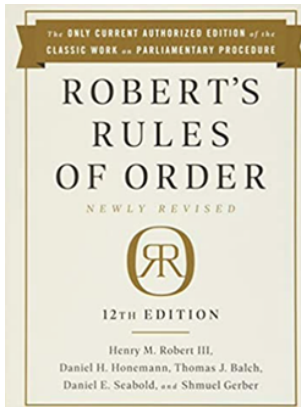
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## Parliamentarian Perspective!

Toastmasters International is an organization where “leaders are made.” Part of that methodology is to build a leadership skill set that will help each member achieve that objective. An important tool is a basic knowledge of parliamentary procedures, a set of rules that guarantees a deliberative assembly the ability to expedite business, maintain order, and ensure justice and equality for all. If the guidelines are followed, the results are courtesy and justice; one order of business at a time; the rule of the majority; and the

rights of the minority.



Toastmasters Clubs in the United States and Canada have adopted Roberts Rules of Order<sup>NR</sup> (Newly Revised) as its parliamentary authority for all of its deliberative assemblies, and members should have a working knowledge of its basic principles to use during club-and-above business meetings.



Instruction in basic use of parliamentary law is a goal that District 83 Director Michelle Tropper, DTM has adopted this year, saying *"I've always marveled at how smoothly business meetings are run when aided by an adept Parliamentarian. I'm excited that we now have a district committee dedicated to not only helping our meetings run smoother, but also to imparting the knowledge and art of the process to others."* To that end she has created a Parliamentary Procedures Committee to carry this out. This team is comprised of **Lynda Starr, DTM**; **Rory Moore, DL3** and I, **Jeanette Fredericks, DTM** are the foot soldiers in this effort.

Do we as leaders really need a basic knowledge of parliamentary procedures? You bet! Look for workshops and other instructional events throughout the year to bring this important leadership tool to a screen near you. *We promise to make it effective, interesting and fun.*



Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

2021-2022 District 83 Parliamentarian

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## When You Lead...Lessons Learned

by Jennifer Charles

I, Jennifer Charles, became a toastmaster in 2015 with aspirations of improving my presentation skills. As I continued my journey with Toastmasters, I naturally took on different roles such as the Timer, Grammarian etc.. But then I also became a club officer. During the course of my officer experience, I began to better understand that there was more to Toastmasters than being a speaker. I discovered that being an officer was teaching us how to become leaders.



As we triumphantly welcome a new Toastmasters term and applaud our incoming officers and leaders, I want to share a few important things that I have learned:

**BE THERE!** Your personal growth and development are what you put into it. This is no different for your club. Oftentimes we find ourselves confronted with life's "many's": Many

late hours at work, too many times stuck in traffic, and way too many obligations-personal, family, and work. Keep committed to your growth and development. Showing up and being present are the first steps to creating success for yourself and your club.

**WHAT DOES THIS CLUB MEAN TO YOU?** Each one of us has significance and purpose. As a leader, call to mind why you love being a Toastmaster and what you love about your club. What brings you back for each meeting? What have you learned and how is it helping you in various aspects of your daily life? Keep sight of that always and lead with it with your words and your actions.

**TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED.** Let us appreciate each meeting and each member and guest. Celebrate and encourage the skills, talents, creativity and tenacity of everyone we come in contact with.

Although sometimes leading in this current environment can be challenging, you can learn and thrive. Take nothing for granted

when you want it to thrive. When you give your best, win or lose, you know your efforts will have been well worth it. .

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## **Eunice Jimenez Credits Dual Membership for Her Success in the Toastmasters International Speech contest Semi Finals!**



by Lelet McGorry, DTM

Eunice Jimenez, DTM, a proud officer and member of District 83's [Jersey Toastmasters Club](#) is also a member of District 75's First Farmers Toastmasters Club located in the Philippines. At the Toastmasters International Virtual Convention held August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> she represented District 75 in the Toastmasters International Speech contest Semi Finals! Jimenez

delivered an exemplary performance with her speech entitled, "Bas Poocho", an Indian phrase that translates to "Just Ask".

When asked to what she contributed her success, she said, *"My dual membership helped me in so many ways. First, I get to see the best practices from clubs in different districts and apply my learnings to help other clubs overcome challenges. Second, it gave me the opportunity to get to know people both in the Philippines and in the US and the diverse backgrounds of these wonderful people is a great way to learn and be inspired. Third, I found a new home in the US when I joined Jersey Toastmasters Club but being a member in my Philippine club always reminds me of my roots."*

Jimenez is also the District 83 2020-2021 Evaluation Speech contest winner.

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## **Northern Stars Advanced Toastmasters Exemplify Excellence!**



by Mike Rutkowski, DTM



Over the last few months, [Northern Stars Advanced Toastmasters](#) members have exemplified leadership and excellence. Many members of our club are dual members, meaning they belong to additional clubs. This gives them the ability to compete in each club's contest. Dual members may only represent one club in higher levels of competition.

**Sherri Rase, DTM** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District 83 Table Topics and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Evaluation speech contest in May 2021 representing Northern Stars Advanced Toastmasters. Rase is also serving on the District 83 Public Relation Manager team as the Instagram Subject Matter Expert.

Dual member, **Denise Washington, MS1** placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the District 83 Table Topics contest representing [Warren County Toastmasters](#).



Dual member, **Paul Irefej, DTM** was declared the Winner of the District 83 Humorous Speech contest while representing [AT&T Middletown Toastmasters](#).

New member **Siva Jonnada, DTM** was awarded 2021 District 83 Area Director of the Year and currently serves as Division-A Director for 2021-22. Outside of Toastmasters, Siva was recently featured on NJ News12 TV for leading a clean-up team supporting the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee.



**William Markert, DTM, PDD** was the guest of honor at the Summer Hail and Farewell event to acknowledge his many accomplishments while leading District 83 in the Toastmaster year 2020-2021 through one of most challenging times in Toastmasters history. "Willie" also dutifully serves as our Club Treasurer.

Kudos to these Northern Stars Advanced club members who exemplify the Toastmasters core values (Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence) within and outside of District 83 activities. For more information about Northern Stars Advanced club or to attend an upcoming meeting, please visit [northernstars.toastmastersclubs.org](https://northernstars.toastmastersclubs.org).

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## What Exit? Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

By Su Brooks, DTM (2)

[What Exit?](#) celebrated its fifth anniversary on September 16, 2021. To commemorate the occasion, the club held two events.



On Saturday, September 25, we held our virtual meeting via Zoom. Narayanan Subramaniam, PM3, presided over the meeting as our Toastmaster. Prathiba Ranganathan, PM1, and I presented speeches that highlighted our What Exit? memories. Sherri Rase, DTM, facilitated engaging Table Topics. We are grateful we had



a few guests that expressed interest in becoming members.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, a few of our members gathered at Tarantella's Ristorante in Clark, NJ, to FINALLY meet each other and enjoy a delicious meal. At the end of the afternoon, we celebrated with a festive cake.

It is exceptionally meaningful that we were able to safely



enjoy this occasion since some of our members joined the club during the pandemic and we had not met in person before.

Next, we are excited to spread the word at the street fair in downtown Cranford, NJ. We

plan to promote Toastmasters, our club, our upcoming Speechcraft program in 2022, and provide information about the popular Youth Leadership Programs (YLP). We are delighted that YLP Chair Somesh Chablani, DTM, will join us that day.

The members of What Exit? look forward to many more years of helping each other find the fun and succeed. Be our guest. For more information see [whatexit.toastmastersclubs.org](http://whatexit.toastmastersclubs.org).

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### **It's District 83 Tall Tales & Table Topics Contest Season!**

The Fall Contest season and the area contests are underway. Did you know that your club can appoint a Toastmaster to represent your club in the Area competitions if your club did not hold a speech contest? For more information, contact your Area Director. As these are virtual, they are a wonderful way to experience the most entertaining and creative speakers in our district. Find the Fun and attend an Area Speech contest. Register [HERE!](#)

## District 83 Fall 2021 Virtual Speech Contest

### Table Topics & Tall Tales

Club Contests  
August 1 – September 15

Area Contests  
September 16 – October 31

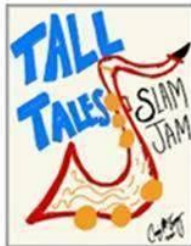
Division Contests  
November 1 – December 15



TOASTMASTERS  
INTERNATIONAL

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## Find the Fun!



*"To celebrate our D83 speech contest season, we held a "Tall Tales Slam Jam". All attendees were invited to spin a Tall Tale - no judging, no evaluations - just a fun evening of creativity and experimentation. We had 6 speakers and 7 Tall Tales were delivered - all impromptu - all FUN!"*

*-Michelle Tropper, DTM, SpeakAbility Toastmasters*

*"I create pathway project themes that encourage, engage, challenge, and inspire our club members to work and play together in new ways."*

*-Gina Mongiello, Master the Craft Toastmasters, NJ*

*"I find the fun in our club in collaborating to organize an event or contest, and in mentoring our members. The best part is seeing people grow, developed and get recognized by their coworkers that resulted in their promotion. It is a proud moment for all of us."*

*-Will Lukang, UBS NJ Toastmasters Club*



**find the fun!**

District 83

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## Save the Dates

### October 2021

- Area Speech Contests thru October 31<sup>st</sup> – Register [HERE](#)
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – District Executive Council (DEC) Meeting – Virtual – 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
- Area Directors continue 1<sup>st</sup> round of Club visits thru Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

### November 2021

- November 13<sup>th</sup> – Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Virtual – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm – Register [HERE](#)
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – Club Officer Training – Virtual – 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Elections for Jan 1 to June 30 terms for Clubs electing Officers semi-annually

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## Calling All Hands! Become a District 83 Club Coach, Mentor or Sponsor!



**Calling All Hands!**

**Become a District 83 Club Coach, Mentor, or Sponsor!**

- Pursuing a DTM?
- Seeking Leadership Opportunities?
- Want to give back to your fellow Toastmasters?

**Get involved, email your D83 Club Growth Director NOW!**

**Manda Pasarkar, DTM** - [mandatm83@gmail.com](mailto:mandatm83@gmail.com)

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

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## Keep the D83 Conversation Going us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram & more!

Join the conversation, learn about what's happening in the district, connect with fellow



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE  
DISTRICT 83  
Metropolitan N3, Rockland County NY, Staten Island NY



Toastmasters and more! \_\_ \_



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## Contact Us!

Suggestions for the newsletter and comments are welcome!

### **Contact Public Relations Newsletter Team**

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Please check out our website at [tm83.org](http://tm83.org).

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