



# The Voice

## District 83 News & Events

### SEPTEMBER 2020 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### IN THE LIMELIGHT

District Director's Words	1
<a href="#">New Virtual World</a>	3
<a href="#">Be the Leader</a>	5

#### DISTRICT EVENTS

<a href="#">Hail and Farewell</a>	7
<a href="#">It's a New Year</a>	11
<a href="#">Attract New Members</a>	12
<a href="#">Choosing Your Mentor</a>	14

<a href="#">When Leaders Rise</a>	17
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#### REGULAR FEATURES

<a href="#">New DTMs</a>	16
<a href="#">Celebrations</a>	19
<a href="#">Dates To Remember</a>	20
<a href="#">Contributors</a>	20
<a href="#">Photo Credits</a>	20
<a href="#">Editorial Information</a>	21

### WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

#### Leadership and You

By William Markert, DTM – District 83 Director

When most people think of Toastmasters, they think of an organization that helps people become better communicators. In reality, there are two aspects to our educational program: Communications and leadership. I've been interested in leadership since I graduated from college and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. There is a tremendous need for good leaders, and I hope you are motivated to be one.



#### What are some qualities of a good leader?

First, they need to have a vision or purpose. Vision is the ability to think about and plan for the future. Vision must result in action if we are going to make a positive change. Think of Martin Luther King's vision speech, "I Have a Dream." A great deal has changed since the 1960s with respect to the civil rights movement and more changes lie ahead. Unfortunately, Dr. King never got to see any of the changes he dreamed about.

Another quality of a good leader is integrity; this is also one of Toastmasters International's core values. Integrity is the practice of being honest and adhering to strong ethical and moral principles. Leaders with integrity are consistent in their responses to challenging situations based on their values. Members of the team can anticipate how a leader may respond in different situations.

All good leaders need to be good communicators. They not only need to be passionate about something, but they must also inspire others to be passionate about it also. They need to be able to effectively communicate their vision and inspire others with the same kind of enthusiasm.

Effective leaders also need to lead by example. Many of you know that I served 23 years in the US Air Force. When I assumed command of the weather station at Fort Rucker, AL, I made the effort to become familiar with all the equipment and routinely practiced using it. During a severe weather outbreak, I returned to the weather station in the middle of the night to operate the weather radar. I felt it was important that the forecasters had confidence in me operating the radar to provide real-time data needed to issue a tornado warning. There are many other characteristics of good leaders such as transparency, courage, accountability and empathy.



### **Where do we need leaders?**

Everywhere! We need good leaders in the world, our country, states, communities and our families. The need is never greater than during challenging times. Leaders are needed on the frontline of our health care industry. Some stepped up to save lives, serving those who contracted the Corona virus. Others are conducting research in hopes of finding a vaccine for this disease. With medical equipment and personal protective equipment in short supply, some manufacturing executives chose to shift production from their primary products to medical equipment and supplies to serve the national need.

There is a tremendous need for public servants to develop policy, procedures and protocol to mitigate this on-going challenge. Teachers, for example, need to figure out how to continue educating our children without meeting in person and school administrators have to reallocate resources to support remote learning.

Toastmasters also needs leaders. We need leaders to serve clubs. More experienced leaders are needed to serve areas, divisions and districts. Toastmasters International needs visionary thinkers on its board of directors to develop strategy and policy that help us adapt to the new normal. The need for leaders is ongoing.

### **Preparing for leadership**

How does one prepare for leadership? Certainly, having an appropriate academic background will provide a solid foundation. Experience is a valuable asset because it will enable you to lead by example. John Maxwell captures this concept in his quote, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." Most of us are not born leaders.

We need to develop and refine leadership skills. We start in small leadership roles, learning how to build teams, communicate a vision and motivate team members to embrace the vision. With each new skill, we gradually prepare ourselves to accept greater leadership roles. I suspect that all Toastmasters want to improve their leadership skills; our tag line is "Where leaders are made." We start with a leadership role in a club.

Some of you choose to further those skills and seek additional leadership opportunities. When I first served as a district treasurer, I learned a great deal about budget creation and how the budget supported the district's mission. That was a skill that benefitted me in my role as Chief Financial Officer for a local Boy Scout Council.

Even serving as a Toastmaster at a club meeting develops the skills of planning and running meetings. That is a skill all of us can benefit from. Toastmasters serves as your learning laboratory. In your club meetings, you can experiment with various leadership styles in a non-threatening environment.

### **My challenge to you**

The main points I want you to remember are the qualities of a good leader, that there is a tremendous need for leadership, leaders are essential for making our world a better place and that all of you will develop your leadership skills by actively working the Toastmasters educational program. Step up to the challenge and "Be the Leader!"

**"Leadership is a mindset in action. So don't wait for the title. Leadership isn't something that anyone can give you – you have to earn it and claim it for yourself."**

***Travis Bradberry, co-author of Emotional Intelligence 2.0***



## **District Program Quality Director's Message** **It's a Whole New VIRTUAL World in Toastmasters!**

**By Michelle Tropper, DTM**

We welcomed the new Toastmasters year with everything virtual: club meetings, TLI, District Leader Training, Club Officer Training, contests, and much more!

### **Toastmasters Leadership Institute 2020**

Thank you to all of our district leaders and club officers who stepped up to the plate to take on leadership roles during this challenging year, and for taking the time to participate in our trainings. We start each new Toastmasters year with trainings for our leaders at our Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI). The trainings set the foundation for club success throughout the year and help to ensure that our leaders understand their roles and responsibilities and how to support our members.

### **Virtual training breaking records**

For our first ever all-virtual training season, we had a record-breaking number of Club Officers (744) and District Leaders (47) participate in trainings. 240 district leaders and club officers attended our first ever Virtual TLI on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Participants spent between two and a half to four hours each discussing issues facing the district, making the most of Zoom meetings, Pathways Change Management and recalibrating your mindset, as well as learning about their respective leadership roles. We also had a special Pathways Base Camp Manager session for Presidents, VPs of Education and Secretaries.

During our Club Officer Training sessions in July and August, an additional 504 club officers received training on their roles and also learned about the Distinguished Club Program, how to conduct administrative responsibilities for their clubs, and how to engage members in the "Toastmasters Educational Experience."

### **Toastmasters are always seeking to improve**

The feedback results from the trainings are in and these have been shared with the Division Directors and our trainers. For the majority of our participants, most enjoyed the virtual learning format and the ability to participate in training "from their living rooms." As with every event, we did have a few officers who felt we could improve and make our trainings more engaging and interesting. We will work hard to innovate future sessions to make them as meaningful and valuable as possible, while still delivering the required content from Toastmasters International. I'll be reaching out over the next few months to those who had constructive feedback and invite you to work with me to help improve our delivery of these sessions.

### **Fall Contest Season 2020**

Now that the first round of Club Officer Trainings has ended, we're rolling full steam ahead into our Fall Contest season with Humorous and Table Topics contests. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, Toastmasters International sent a message to all District leaders stating that effective immediately, all Speech Contests at the Area, Division and District levels *must* be conducted online. This applies to all Districts regardless of local authorities' restrictions or lack thereof, related to COVID-19. This decision was



made in the best interest of members and our organization. The Board's concern for the health and safety of our members remains paramount.

In order to help with adjusting to our virtual reality, my team and I will be offering virtual and on-demand trainings for running virtual contests, as well as providing contest officials' trainings as we have in the past. Stay tuned to [tm83.org](https://tm83.org) and watch your inbox for upcoming trainings and District events.

Please feel free to reach out and discuss your innovative training ideas with us and/or to volunteer to join our team!

**Program Quality Team Members:**

Program Quality Director	Michelle Tropper	<a href="mailto:michelletmd83@gmail.com">michelletmd83@gmail.com</a>
Training Coordinator	Darlene Blanco	<a href="mailto:darlablanc@outlook.com">darlablanc@outlook.com</a>
Pathways Champion	Shawn Mandar	<a href="mailto:shawn.mandar@gmail.com">shawn.mandar@gmail.com</a>
Awards & Recognition Chair	Jo-Rose Portfolio	<a href="mailto:joroseportfolio@gmail.com">joroseportfolio@gmail.com</a>

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**Have you seen the 2020  
International Speech Contest finalists video?**  
**[Click here to watch!](#)**



## **District Club Growth Director's Message**

### **Be the Leader – Serve as a Club Sponsor, Mentor or Coach!**

**By Kristen Oliveri, DTM**

As you have heard countless times by now, we find ourselves in unprecedented times. Many people are dealing with personal responsibilities and longer remote working hours during the ongoing pandemic, and too many others have lost their jobs and are looking to get back into the job market. "No national economic shock or downturn in the U.S. has ever happened as fast as this one. We had increases in unemployment [over the course of] two months that took two years in the Great Depression." (Lawrence Katz, an economist at Harvard, quoted in an 8/23/20 article in *The Atlantic* by Joe Pinsker, ["The Pandemic Recession Is Approaching a Dire Turning Point".](#))

Many of our members and clubs are struggling, and we as Toastmasters are here to help them. It is as important now as ever for us to exemplify the Toastmasters International tagline: **Where Leaders Are Made**. District 83 needs you to help a new or struggling club to ensure a consistent, quality club experience for all of our members. We are in need of volunteers to serve as club sponsors, mentors and coaches. What do these roles entail? Here are the details of each:

**Club Sponsor** – A New Club Sponsor helps a club get chartered by identifying a potential club, finding a location (for in-person meetings), recruiting members, collecting fees and doing the charter paperwork.

**Club Mentor** – A New Club Mentor meets regularly with the club for 6-12 months after chartering, helping the members to build the skills they need to guide the club.

A new club can have up to 2 sponsors and 2 mentors.

**Club Coach** – A Club Coach is an experienced Toastmaster officially assigned to work with a struggling club (one that has 12 or fewer members and has requested help from the District) to help that club become Distinguished. The assignment lasts to the end of the current club year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) if the club reaches Distinguished status or better by that date. If Distinguished Club status is not reached in the first year, the assignment is extended to the end of the next club year (the next June 30<sup>th</sup>).

In addition to developing your leadership skills and helping your fellow Toastmasters and your district, you will earn credit toward your Distinguished Toastmaster award under the Pathways program! The new requirements for the DTM award are:

1. Complete two unique learning paths.
2. Serve as a club officer for 12 months.
3. **Serve as a club mentor or coach.**
4. **Serve as a club sponsor** or conduct a Speechcraft or Youth Leadership program.
5. Serve as a district officer for one year.
6. Complete the DTM project.



To volunteer to serve as a club sponsor, please complete the Google form linked on the district website at:

<https://tm83.org/index.php/club-growth/club-sponsor>

To volunteer to serve as a club mentor, please complete the Google form linked on the district website at:

<https://tm83.org/index.php/club-growth/club-mentoring>

If you have an idea for a new club in the district, please complete the Google form linked on the district website at:

<https://tm83.org/index.php/club-growth/new-leads>

To volunteer to serve as a club coach, or if your club would like to request a club coach, please complete the applicable Google form linked on the district website at: <https://tm83.org/index.php/club-growth/club-coaching>

For any questions on these roles, you can reach out to the members of the 2020-2021 Club Growth team:

Club Growth Director	Kristen Oliveri	<a href="mailto:tmd83kristen@gmail.com">tmd83kristen@gmail.com</a>
Club Extension Chair ( <i>sponsors</i> )	Dave Cragin	<a href="mailto:david1.cragin@gmail.com">david1.cragin@gmail.com</a>
Club Quality Chair ( <i>mentors</i> )	Jo-Rose Portfolio	<a href="mailto:joroseportfolio@gmail.com">joroseportfolio@gmail.com</a>
Club Retention Chair ( <i>coaches</i> )	Phil Coniglio	<a href="mailto:philip.coniglio@basf.com">philip.coniglio@basf.com</a>
Club New Source Research Chair	John Zalepka	<a href="mailto:johnzalepka@gmail.com">johnzalepka@gmail.com</a>







## District Events

**HAIL AND FAREWELL** is an annual District 83 event to acknowledge and thank the outgoing district officers, welcome the incoming officers, and recognize the high achieving Toastmasters for the previous year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 event was held August 15<sup>th</sup> online in a virtual conference room.

(All photos and graphic images courtesy of Jessica Huang, DTM, District 83 Public Relations Manager.)



*Toastmaster of the Year – Peggy Seymour*

*Division Director of the Year – Kadian Grant*

*Area Director of the Year:*

*Annette Demendonca*

*Manda Pasarkar*

*Leadership Development Award:*

*Belvin Armenian – Division G Director*

*Achievement Awards:*

*Aida Murphy – Club Extension Chair*

*Janice Buffalow – Pathways Education Chair*



## Hail and Farewell 2020, cont.

Lynda Starr

Willie is presenting Lynda with gifts

**District 83 Leaders 2020-2021**

tm83.org

**Toastmasters International Mission**  
We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

**District Mission**  
We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

**Club Mission**  
We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

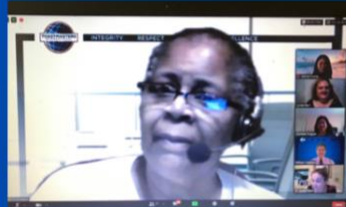
**District Director William Markert, DTM**  
**Program Quality Director Michelle Tropper, DTM**  
**Club Growth Director Kristen Oliveri, DTM**  
**Administration Manager Lauren Briede, LD1**  
**Finance Manager Kenneth Ward, ACB, ALB**  
**Public Relations Manager Jessica Huang, DTM**  
**IPDD Lynda Starr, DTM**





## Hail and Farewell 2020, cont.

### Leadership



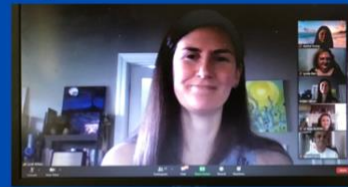
Cyndi Wilson, Region 9 Advisor



William Markert, District Director



Michelle Tropper, Program Quality Director



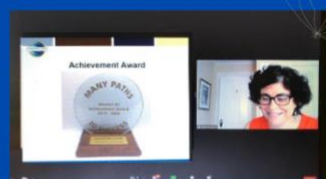
Kristen Oliveri, Club Growth Director

### Achievement

CONGRATS



Belvin Armenion



Aida Murphy



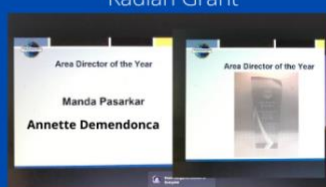
Janice Buffalow



Kadian Grant



Peggy Seymour



Manda Pasarkar  
Annette Demendonca



## Hail and Farewell 2020, cont.

**Toast or Roast 1**



A 2x3 grid of video call windows showing participants for the "Toast or Roast 1" session. The background is blue with confetti and martini glass icons. The participants are:

- Anne Gilson
- Su Brooks
- Sherri Rase
- Michelle Tropper
- Manda Pasarkar
- Jenna Barone

**Toast or Roast 2**



A 3x2 grid of video call windows showing participants for the "Toast or Roast 2" session. The background is blue with confetti and martini glass icons. The participants are:

- Darnelle Richardson
- Margarita Estrada
- Janette Markert
- Manny Reyes
- Ramki Ramakrishnan
- William Markert



## It's a New Year—Be the Leader

By Su Brooks, DTM 2

Happy New Year!  
Whether you are a  
Toastmaster with 20+  
years of tenure or have  
just delivered your  
Pathways Ice Breaker,

you have numerous opportunities to be the leader to support the theme District Director Willie Markert, DTM, has chosen for our district this year.

### Embrace Pathways

Tell your VPE what your plans/goals are for 2020-21. You can write them down on paper or an electronic journal, file or track it on a spreadsheet. Do whatever is best for you.

Attend a Pathways training session if you need assistance or ask your mentor. Explore the projects and learn that Levels 1 and 2 support your basic development while Level 3 provides lots of choices and can be great fun. By taking the initiative, you chart your course for success by reaching out and set an example for others.

### Look into the Pathways Mentoring Program or start a club mentoring program

When/if eligible, begin the Pathways Mentoring Program, available to members after completion of Level 2. Did you know that you can be both a mentor AND a protégé?

Get a mentor if you do not already have one; Be a mentor to someone else. There's always something new to learn and share. Seek a mentor or protégé from outside of your

club if that works for you.

With the flexibility and many options for virtual meetings, I have already met with my newest protégé twice!

### Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

Try something new. Are you ready to select a new path yet? Have you decided (if eligible) that this is the year you will begin competing in contests?

Explore a leadership position. Shadow or assist a current leader to learn the job. Use that as a Pathways project, if applicable. Become the leader next term. A current officer might see possibilities in you and your leadership skills that you do not see in yourself. I have met some people who are shy or lack confidence, however they gladly serve when asked.

### Allow others to Be the Leader

Are there new officers in your club? Step back and let them take their turn. This allows them to gain leadership skills and share their talents. This also provides them an opportunity to work towards their DTM award and allows you to move on to your own new goals.

**About the author:** Su Brooks, DTM 2 became a Toastmaster in 2000, has earned two DTM awards in the traditional education program and is working on her Pathways DTM. She currently serves as VPE at Talk of Monmouth and Secretary at What Exit? Her district service for 2020-21 includes: Staff Writer for The Voice, a Social Media Strategist on the PR team, as well as a member of the upcoming five-year district planning team.



## How to Attract New Members in the Online Environment

By Janette Markert, DTM

Fellow Toastmasters, how are you enjoying your online club meetings? It took a little

getting used to, am I correct? It is our new reality, at least for the time being! We all persevere and try our best to carry on as usual. Has your club's Vice President of Membership chimed in about a membership drive yet? How healthy has the attendance been at your club's online meetings? Do you consider your club meetings fun and interesting? Do you look forward to attending the next meeting? Why am I asking so many questions? I'll try to explain why the answers to these questions actually feed into one result: member retention and strength for bringing in new members.

### The key to a healthy Toastmasters Club

Good membership retention is a key to having a healthy club and when your club is healthy, it attracts new members! This seems so simple a concept but it's one that many clubs ignore. Many clubs lose 35 percent of their membership each year. This is a good reason to really promote membership. Every Toastmaster should be aware of contributing to their club's quality. If your club hasn't listened to the "Moments of Truth" presentation recently, ask your Area/Division Director to make a visit and deliver it. It is at the heart of having a healthy club pulse.

### Be the leader

If your club meetings are becoming humdrum, don't just sit there, yawn and accept it. Get going and do something about it! You needn't be a club officer either, to promote

a change at your club. William Markert's slogan says it all: Be the Leader! It takes each and every member to promote quality at their club and sometimes just a little spark can light a fire. Did your online meetings start off with great attendance but now you only have a handful of members at the meetings? Don't let your club turn into a cadaver with dead, lifeless and poorly attended meetings. Sometimes all clubs need some CPR!

### Attract new members

This brings me back to how to attract new members. How is your Vice President of Public Relations promoting your online club meetings? Did the VPPR go to the TI website and indicate that your club is meeting online? Some clubs have gotten visitors from afar! Does he or she have a social media presence for the club? If your club has Facebook, do the members regularly check in, leave comments, likes & dislikes? Does your club use Meetup? Does your club know that the district will subsidize a Meetup account for all community or corporate clubs with fewer than 20 members? (See [tm83.org](https://tm83.org) and find the homepage tile about this.) Since meetings are now entirely online, if your club does not have an online presence, it will be much harder to attract new members. If you have a VPPR who is less experienced with social media, the solution is to get in contact with another club VPPR and start getting helpful assistance. Toastmasters love to share. People like to have fun, fellowship and enjoyment. If your club regularly advertises these kinds of events and happenings, it becomes attractive.

### Invite guests to each and every meeting

Do your club members bring guests to the meetings? Ask every member to invite friends to the club meetings. Make a challenge to all members to bring a guest to every meeting. **Make this a club prerogative.** Did you know that "*Dual is Cool?*" Ask neighboring clubs' members to





## How to Attract New Members in the Online Environment, Cont.

visit your club meetings. You never know if they might also join *your* club. When other Toastmasters visit your club, you can get some wonderful new ideas, as well as a potential dual member. It's even okay if they don't end up joining, especially when they add to the ambiance of fun and excitement. Online meetings make it easier for guests to attend, so your club should be seeing a larger number of guests at each meeting. (If this isn't true at your club, examine why not.)

### Fun factors

A great way to involve guests is to invite them to take part in Table Topics. Are the Table Topics at your club up to snuff? Are they interesting, engaging and creative? If your club always falls back to picking a number from the 365-question list that you can find online, then here is a place that needs attention! Please, burn that list. Being Table Topics master requires creative brain cells. Do you hear laughter or read great comments in the chat box at your club meetings? No?! Then I suggest you call for medical assistance! Your club needs CPR.

Do your club meetings have a theme? This can make any meeting entertaining. Having a theme entices your

members to put their creative hats on. Toastmasters generally love a challenge so just go ahead and make a contest out of it, to make the most imaginative use of the theme. Advertise those winners on your club website and on social media. Themes do not always mean a holiday is involved. It can be just about any topic or idea. I was in a club that held a "Love our Sergeant At Arms Day" meeting.

### Think outside the box to add new members

In short, to attract more members, your club needs to be healthy, vibrant, ALIVE and well advertised. Attracting new club members is an on-going challenge for most clubs. Make no mistake, this is not a passive process. Attracting members takes work. Thankfully, you can make this work a fun and rewarding experience. Yes, it takes some thinking out of the box, but you can do it! As a matter fact, your club is counting on you.

**About the author:** *Janette A. Markert has been a Toastmaster for more than 11 years. She has served as Area & Division Director, as well as District Administration Manager. Janette is currently working on her second DTM.*

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**"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."**

*Mahatma Gandhi, Indian lawyer and civil rights leader*





## Choosing Your Mentor

By Lynda Starr, DTM, Immediate Past District Director

Lance Miller, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, wrote in a Toastmasters Magazine [article](#), "The ultimate benefit of Toastmasters membership is becoming someone who can help someone else become a competent leader and communicator. A mentor takes an active role in helping a protégé to develop skills." Additionally, Dana Lamon, 1992 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking, [wrote](#), "The success and quality of each Toastmasters club depends on its members' willingness to serve as mentors."

There is no doubt in my mind about the value of mentoring both for the mentor and the mentee or protégé. The key, however, is to have the right mentor and protégé matched together and for each one to be committed to the success of the relationship. In this article, the first in a series on mentoring, I offer some tips for choosing your mentor.

### What are your goals?

For the mentor/mentee relationship to succeed, you first need to know what you want to accomplish. Once you have your short-term and long-term goals, you will have an idea of the people to consider to be your mentor. The person should be someone whom you admire and perhaps has accomplished the goals or similar goals to those you hope to achieve.

Have a few people in mind because your first choice may not have the time or be willing to work with you. You may select more than one person as a mentor if you have multiple goals in different areas. The person who works with you to set running goals may not be the same person who can help you prepare for a speech contest. When you ask the person, be prepared to share your goals, the length of the engagement, and how much time you will need from them. An hour a week for an in-person or phone conversation should work plus some quick emails or texts.

### What is your and your prospective mentor's communication style?

Your mentor should be open and willing to share the secret sauce recipe with you. They should also speak your language, meaning that if the person tends to speak in technical jargon and you don't, it may be difficult to communicate.

There needs to be trust between the mentor and protégé as you will be telling your mentor things in confidence that you would not want shared with others. Both the mentor and mentee need to be honest with each other. Your mentor is there to help you but can only do that if you are 100% honest with them and willing to take feedback in the spirit in which it is given. The mentor also



## Choosing Your Mentor (cont.)

needs to be honest with you and share feedback in a helpful manner, remember the evaluation sandwich; that works here as well. In addition to being honest with you, your mentor should also push you to answer some difficult questions, to move beyond your comfort zone, to try new things, and take some risks.

### It's a give-and-take relationship

While the structure is for the mentor to advise the protégé, the relationship is a two-way street and the mentee can teach the mentor some things as well.

Everyone has skills and unique perspectives and we can all learn from each other.

Whether you are new to Toastmasters, a longtime member or have goals for life outside Toastmasters, a mentor can be beneficial. It will help both the mentor and protégé to learn and grow.

**About the author:** Lynda Starr, DTM is our Immediate Past District Director. She is a member of Dining to Speak, Northern Stars Advanced, and What Exit Toastmasters.



“One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.”

*John C. Maxwell, speaker, author and expert on leadership topics*



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

**Molly Brummer**

**Juana Dannecker**

**Brenda Davis**

**Julie Doerr**

**Richard Gomulka**

**Laura Graziano**

**Stacey Greene**

**Poonam Gupta**

**Eileen E. Inciong**

**Pauline Jarney**

**Rama Kalia**

**Arvind Kanda**

**William Markert**

**Susan Matson**

**Lelet McGorry**

**Patricia Mitrano**

**Wendy Moses**

**Shivaji Punukollu**

**Keith Schreiber**

**Nayan Shah**

**Frank Schuck**

**William Steinbrunn**

**Matt Taylor**

**Gary Tully**

**Rafael Victor**

**Deejah Wynter**

### **DTM's during July and August 2020**

**Sylvia Badenhause**

**Phyllis Goldblatt**

**Saikat Maitra**

**David Ostlund**

**Manda Pasarkar**



## Opinion



### When Leaders Rise

By Sherri Rase, DTM – Social Media Strategist

**2020 is unlike any other year.**

There's no doubt about it – 2020 is a year of change. There is catastrophic change in the form of COVID-19, a

virus that continues to rage around the world. There has been visible negative change, where we see people's inhumanity to one another – like the young woman who played 'crack the whip' with a cane-using older woman in an office supply store and dared to mention that the woman should be wearing her mask. There is positive change, as we look around us at unprecedented numbers of new candidates running for office, seeking to fill offices from local ward leader to Congress, and higher, more representative of our electorate.

#### Historical lessons

2020 is also a year of milestones – like 100 years since Women's Suffrage was granted. And with that, the understanding that the right to vote was given only to white women. Women of color were not able to vote until decades later. We learn from what we see that history is no longer written in stone, but rather on sand. Just as others before us, we can learn the skills to lead.

#### Who do you see in the mirror?

Toastmasters recognizes that people's number one fear is the fear of public speaking– a fear even greater than the fear of death. But public speaking is not the entire equation for Toastmasters. Leadership is the other half of the coin. Every morning when you look in the mirror, do you see a leader or a follower? For myself, I see both.

#### The blueprint for leadership is the Toastmasters Pillars: R.I.S.E.

While others wait for a leader to rise, understand that YOU may be that leader others seek. The four pillars of Toastmasters are the blueprint. What you build is up to you.

**Respect** is lacking in most of the world around us today, but from within our clubs to the outside world, we have the opportunity to model the best behavior. We model the way the rest of the world can be, and ripples spread out from there.

**Integrity** is something that is earned over a lifetime, in doing the right thing even when no one is looking. You brought it with you to your club. Do you use it?

**Service** is how we get the word out, recognizing and bringing out the potential in new friends and new members. New friends whom we hadn't met before, brought into one another's' orbit by club meetings.



## When Leaders Rise (cont.)

**Excellence**, the Crown Jewel, encourages us to create the cycle for ourselves and recreate the spark to share with others. We can elevate the voices of people who have not been heard in a long time, or perhaps at all.

### Election is an opportunity to lead

November 3 is Election Day all across our country. We, as Toastmasters, owe it to all of the voices who need to be heard, all of the eligible voters who are able to vote, to flex our leadership in all the ways we know. From now, late summer, until a few short weeks from now, we need to be as persuasive as we can in making cogent arguments from facts, not emotion. We need to reach out to people who do not think like us to begin to create community. The fact is that we have more common ground than not, but when we get lost in flame wars on social media, each side becomes more firmly entrenched. Lead by registering ALL voters, not just the ones who agree with you. District 83 encompasses a large part of

New Jersey, where voting absentee is available to anyone for any reason. District 83 includes part of New York, where early voting is possible. Go on, Leaders! Make this happen!

All over the country, just like the sun, leaders from Toastmasters rise to every occasion. Look in the mirror tomorrow morning – will you be one?

**About the Author:** Sherri Rase, DTM, has been a Toastmaster since 2010. She began her road to DTM when she was in 8th grade, taking second in the Sunrise Middle School Spelling Bee and where she did her first Table Topics speech in Ms. Goga's English class. Since then, she has done her best to remember there are two ears, one mouth and how important it is to use them in that proportion. Sherri is a Charter Member of What Exit? Toastmasters and Northern Stars Advanced Toastmasters and serves as a Social Media Strategist and Newsletter contributor for District 83.

"Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful committed citizens can change  
the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever  
has."

*Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist*





## CELEBRATIONS

### Member Anniversaries – Third Quarter 2020

JOIN DATE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	JOIN DATE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
<b>20 YEARS</b>			<b>5 YEARS</b>		
6/1/2000	Brooks	Susan	6/1/2015	Adamo	Nathan
6/1/2000	Kirylak	Andrej	6/1/2015	Bergman	Charles
6/30/2000	Spear	Radhi	6/1/2015	Cavallaro	Carmen
7/1/2000	Helsel	Monica	6/1/2015	Corniel	Nelson
7/1/2000	Lanese	Katie	6/1/2015	Golden	Anne
7/1/2000	Valore	Mona	6/1/2015	Gursel	Cemile
8/1/2000	Sidey	Michael	6/1/2015	Longden	Doug
<b>15 YEARS</b>			6/1/2015	Lyons	Larry
6/1/2005	Harmalker	Subhash	6/1/2015	Silvestre	Cindy
6/1/2005	Kanouse	Craig	6/1/2015	Smith	Erin
6/1/2005	Sreenivasaiah	Neel	6/1/2015	Snyder	Patti
8/1/2005	Bart	Jeffrey	6/1/2015	Stewart	Victoria
8/1/2005	Das	Somak	6/1/2015	Totzev	Iavor
<b>10 YEARS</b>			6/1/2015	Whitener	Eileen
6/1/2010	Chanthyasack	Maniphanh	7/1/2015	Convery	Joseph
6/1/2010	Marcella	Susan	7/1/2015	Lombardi	Kevin
6/1/2010	Mendez	James	7/1/2015	Markov	Peter
6/1/2010	Ozekcin	Adnan	7/1/2015	Modi	Preena
6/1/2010	Sysyn	Debra	7/1/2015	Nunna	Arun
6/1/2010	Thottukadavil	Maria	7/1/2015	Saenz	Mayra
6/1/2010	Thottumari	Rosalin	7/1/2015	Shea	Scott
6/1/2010	Thottumari	Vincent	7/1/2015	St. John	Donna
6/1/2010	Varghese	Bobby	7/1/2015	Turganova	Elvira
7/1/2010	Portales	Maria	7/1/2015	Xu	Meng
8/1/2010	Austin	Kenneth	7/1/2015	Yu	Zhuoxin
8/1/2010	Bluhm	Martin	8/1/2015	Larko	John
8/1/2010	Cuadros	Rebeca	8/1/2015	Machiraju	Satya
8/1/2010	Ireifej	Paul	8/1/2015	Otsuka	Yuko
8/1/2010	Pollock-Downer	Alethea	8/1/2015	Perera	Ravindra
8/1/2010	Shaikh	Aman			
8/1/2010	Yap	Tint			



#### 4Q20 Dates To Remember

8/1/20-9/30/20	Smedley Award Membership Contest (submission deadline 9/30/2020)
September	Club-level Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests
9/1/20-9/30/20	Clubs collect and submit member dues for DCP credit (deadline: 9/30/2020)
October	Area-level Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests
November	Division-level Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests
11/1/2020 to 2/28/2021	Club Officer Training (2nd round)



#### Contributors to this edition

William Markert  
Michelle Tropper  
Kristen Oliveri  
Su Brooks  
Janette Markert  
Lynda Starr  
Sherri Rase  
Jessica Huang

#### Photo Credits

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Pg 11	Su Brooks
Pg. 12	Janette Markert
Pg 14	Lynda Starr
Pg 17	Sherri Rase



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

**Send your submissions to:**

**Melissa Brown, ACG, ALB**  
**[melissa@coachreadycontent.com](mailto:melissa@coachreadycontent.com)**



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**Submissions for the December 2020 issue are due **November 15<sup>th</sup>****

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**