



TOASTMASTERS

INTERNATIONAL

The Voice

District 83 Newsletter

Toastmasters—Achieving Greatness Together
Dedication, Determination and Desire
January 2011

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

The Division F Contest was held on October 16 @ the Nutley Library in Nutley, NJ. The Storytelling Club - Club # 8143 was in attendance. Representing the club was Lucy Kahn, Linda Bogner and Jason Velante who placed 2nd in the Table Topics Contest.





Success Story
William Markert, CC/CL
Area 21 Governor

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

I have been a Toastmaster for about 6 years. My home club is Open Door Toastmasters in Denville. I am also a member of the GSK Speakeasy Club in Parsippany.

What made you join Toastmasters in the first place?

I joined Toastmasters to improve my speaking ability, specifically, my ability to respond extemporaneously. Table Topics is a great way to practice responding on the fly.

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

Toastmasters has helped me to be more confident in my presentation skills. But it doesn't come without work. Once you realize you need to improve, you need to seek out opportunities to practice those skills. I frequently volunteer to do club officer training, specifically treasurer training. Every time I conduct a session, I am more comfortable in presenting to a group.

What are your goals as Area 21 Governor?

My goal is to help each club in Area 21 be a distinguished club. But it is not only about being distinguished. When you look at the criteria for being a distinguished club, you realize that the goals require club members to advance and club membership to grow. With an average 40 percent turnover of club members per year, clubs constantly need to gain new members to stay healthy. You need about 15-20 people to run an effective meeting without having people double-up on jobs. You also need to motivate members to accomplish their goals. So the goals of the distinguished club program were established to help clubs stay healthy so they can benefit their members. After all, we are in business for our customers; our customers are our club members.



Toastmasters Area 52 and 54 Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contest
BWM of North America headquarters, Woodcliff Lake, NJ
September 30, 2010.

BMW Group Toastmasters club # 5940 hosted the contest. There were close to 40 Toastmasters in attendance and everyone had a fun time getting to know each other and competing.

The contestants were as follows:

Area 52 Table Topics:

The question asked: September 22 was the first day of autumn. What do you like or dislike about autumn?

Barbara Monahan - cold and colds

Beth Suereth - cool temperatures, changes of season

Clint Hebard - leaf peeping

Hal Fine - colors of fall, picking up leaves

Area 52 Humorous Speech:

Mike McCann - our words

Clint Hebard – stranger in a strange land

Smita Patel – vacation memoirs

Susan Garavaglia – crazy old cat lady on the hill

Area 54 Humorous Speech:

Anthony Fasano – a spring break to remember

Mariliza Tong- my dad

Winners of the Area 52 Table Topic contest were Barbara Monahan 1st place and Clint Hebard runner up.

Winners of the Area 52 Humorous Speech contest were Susan Garavaglia 1st place and Clint Hebard runner up.

Toastmasters Area 52 and 54 Humorous and Table Topics Speech Contest



**Pictured here (L to R) Clint Hebard, Barbara Monahan,
Matt Taylor Area 52 Governor and Romeo Abenaja Area 54 Governor**



**Pictured here are (L to R) Clint Hebard, Garavaglia, Matt Taylor Area 52 Governor
and Romeo Abenaja Area 54 Governor**



**Winners of the Area 54 Humorous contest were Mariliza Tong 1st place
and Anthony Fasano runner up. Pictured here are (L to R) Anthony Fasano, Mariliza Tong,
Matt Taylor Area 52 and Governor Romeo Abenaja Area 54 Governor**

Interview With Allison Inserro District 83 Public Relations Officer

What do you hope to accomplish as the District 83 Public Relations officer?

I hope to gain more visibility for the clubs in District 83 and to show how having Toastmasters as part of your experience is a valuable asset to have during tough economic times. In my own club, Toastmasters of Westfield, we have seen more people join over the past year seeking not only to increase their confidence in public speaking, but also to network as part of their job search.

What tools do you plan on using to achieve your goals?

I expect to use email, Facebook, Twitter, other web sites, or anything else I can think of. I'd love to hear your ideas - please contact me if you have thoughts or suggestions. ainserro@gmail.com

Two items of interest regarding Toastmasters of Westfield:

- Anne Baker achieved DTM
- Will be celebrating 50 years chartered in 2011.

Teamwork and Toastmasters

**by
GS Batista, President
GE Speak Easy**

We had a novel booth at the GE Healthcare Western themed EHS Fair Oct 21, 2010. Visitors to our booth could not only get a packet of information about Toastmasters, and a handout for the Open House on November 16th, but they were also asked to identify a famous quote. This was the idea of our VP of Public Relations, Agatha Moldovan and the poster was done by VP of Education, Eric Tack.

Visitors were also asked to sign-in to play the game. This was an excellent way to get the names of those with an interest. Those who correctly identified the quote got 'gold nuggets' that they could redeem at the 'store' for prizes at the Fair. The exciting part was that we raised awareness of our group at the Piscataway site. We worked in pairs, in 1 hour shifts to man the booth, but special thanks goes to O. Dzivenu, VP of Membership, and A. Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms, and to members E.Tack, H.V. Shah, J. Yuan, D. Opdyke, and G. Batista for making sure that the booth was manned and that the names were collected. All in all it was a successful event

K-Toast Club Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary

On Thursday night June 17, 2010, the K-Toast Club held their annual dinner meeting, which this year included a special 5-year anniversary celebration. K-Toast is the Toastmasters corporate club located at KPMG in Montvale, New Jersey, and the event was held in KPMG's onsite Training Dining Room. On hand were present and founding members along with special District 83 guests - Tom Somers and Karen Seeman.

K-Toast has a tradition of a dinner meeting to welcome newly elected club officers, and this year's event committee (Marcie Parpan, Craig Kanouse, Chair Andrew Paleologos, Gina Piazza, and Chih-yu Lin) endeavored to do something special for to honor the milestone.

- The all important food menu included Chicken Piccata, Baked Ziti, assorted pizza, tossed salad and a personalized sheet cake for the occasion.
- Sergeant at Arms Chih-yu Lin called the meeting to order, read the Club Mission Statement and then served as Timer.
- Current K-Toast President and meeting Toastmaster, Andrew Paleologos, welcomed everyone.
- Karen Seeman, District 83 Lt. Governor of Marketing, performed the New Officer Induction ceremony.
- Gina Piazza gave her #10 CC Competent Communicator Speech on "Creativity", passing out a personal 'Idea Journal' to each attendee, encouraging everyone to recapture their suppressed creativity. Gina received a standing ovation for her efforts!
- Break Time for the cake!
- The innovative and humorous Table Topics were presented by charter K-Toast member, Michael Orth who focused his questions around a "5-year" theme.
- Keynote Speaker Tom Somers, District 83 Lt. Governor of Education, gave an inspiring speech about his personal experience of the value of Toastmasters.
- Andrew distributed awards and acknowledgements to all outgoing officers, to Gina for her CC and to new Club President Craig Kanouse for completing his CL. In addition, a Club Trivia quiz included on the agenda asked questions such as: who gave the first K-Toast speech at the first meeting (charter member John Britt on July 14, 2005), how many times has the club achieved Distinguished Status (each year since inception!) and who presented the most speeches in the clubs 5-year history (past President Raj Balaraman).
- Carolyn Heiser, the club's first President, provided some history of K-Toast and the closing remarks. Andrew Paleologos thanked the committee for all their efforts supporting the event and adjourned the meeting.

Enjoy the pictures . . . no one remembered to take a group photo that night!



We Need Your Input!



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

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

Please send your submissions to your editor, Joanne Callahan, at greenbriar206@yahoo.com

