



TOASTMASTERS

INTERNATIONAL

The Voice

District 83 Newsletter

**Toastmasters—Achieving Greatness Together
Dedication, Determination and Desire**

August 2010

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!

Local Toastmaster makes her Radio Debut

by Donna Juzva

Somerset Toastmasters VPE, Mary McGinley, CC, CL, made her radio debut this month. On February, 8, 2010, Mary was interviewed by Sean K. Berry, host of The Casting Couch on blogtalkradio.com.

Mary's leadership and organizational skills, help her both as a Toastmaster and as the Founder and Producing Artistic Director of the Carolinian Shakespeare Festival.

In an hour long interview, Mary exercised speaking skills which she gleaned from her experience as a Toastmaster. She exemplified the poise and confidence indicative of a Toastmaster as she talked about acting and directing. She spoke with a high degree of knowledgeably about Shakespeare, his plays and the culture of his time.

Ms. McGinley even offered advice for actors preparing for auditions. She suggested that like a musician has a play list, an actor should have a repertoire of at least a dozen speeches of different types that she/he can perform on the spot. In her alter ego, the Audition Physician, Mary offers many valuable tips in her 'Audition Clinic' blog at http://www.muse-of-fire.org/audition_physician/Audition_Clinic/Audition_Clinic.html.

In accordance with the Toastmasters mantra, 'every speech a

manual speech' Mary's received a written and spoken evaluation on her interview fulfilling the requirement for speech #2 in the Public Relations, Advanced Communications Manual. So not only does the interview showcase Mary's work but it puts her one step closer to her ACB. Way to multi-task, Mary!

June in to hear Mary's radio debut at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/castingcouch/2010/02/09/mary-mcginley-founder-of-the-carolinian-shakespea>



The Techie Toastmaster



Toastmaster Technology by Joel Heffner

Sometimes we forget how far we have actually come using technology. Just about every Toastmaster is affected by technology - before, during, and after each meeting.

Before a meeting even starts, technology has been used. Years ago, a club would have to send out a postcard or notice (by mail) to remind members of a meeting. Sometimes, members would be reminded by telephone calls. Using technology, you can spread the word about your meeting by announcing it on your Web site, blog, Facebook group, Twitter, or by sending out an email. If you create a template, making your meeting's agenda is a snap. Digital cameras are great to take pictures that can be used during your presentations. Scanned images are also useful.

Individual members also use technology in advance to help them prepare for their speeches. Using Google or Wikipedia, for example, you can research topics in seconds, without going to your local library. Computers help you organize your ideas with mindmaps and outlines. You can make handouts quickly and efficiently with a computer and printer.

Once your meeting starts, a computer or smartphone can be used by your timer. Speeches can easily be recorded with a computer or digital camera. The files can be played back and emailed to members as needed. Using an LCD projector, a speaker can use PowerPoint to show slides that help put your point across more effectively.

After the meeting, you can post speeches on your Web site, blog, or on YouTube. Seeing yourself is a great way to improve. You can even invite Toastmasters from down the road or around the world to help critique your work. It can give you a whole new prospective on your speaking.

WIKIPEDIA

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English

Technology isn't a passing fad. It's here to stay. The more you know about it, the better you can use it as a Toastmaster. Like the fear of public speaking, the fear of technology can be overcome...with practice!

[Joel Heffner, ACB, is a member of the New Day Toastmasters Club on Staten Island, NY.]



Success Story
Mary Ellen Burns
District F Governor

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

I have been a member of Toastmasters for about four years. My home club is Nutley Toastmasters.

What made you join Toastmasters in the first place?

I joined TM to overcome my fear of public speaking. That fear was interfering with my long term goals and with my taking more of a leadership position in my profession.

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

Without being too dramatic, let me say that TM has changed my life. It has been an extraordinary experience. I have met many people through TM who share my desire for personal growth and they have become close friends. Being a member of TM has not only allowed me to become more relaxed speaking in public but it has also given me opportunities to improve my leadership skills. The leadership track of TM is almost like a hidden gem....most people join to become better speakers and then discover that they can also learn how to lead and inspire others by working on the leadership awards. TM has opened up doors for me, within myself and in the world of business.

What are your goals as the future Division F Governor?

Aside from my TM goals of achieving a Presidents Distinguished Division this year, my goals are to become a better leader, someone who can inspire and motivate. I want anyone who is working with me to have a similar experience to my own....I have always felt encouraged, supported, and inspired by other Toastmasters. I would like anyone working with Division F to desire to be the best they can be, to be encouraged to attain their personal goals. As a leader, if I can continually ask myself, "Are the individual members of the clubs in this division having a positive experience being a TM and if not, what can be done to change that?", then I will be on the right track. And so the theme for us this year is, Division F is on FIRE - Fiercely Inspiring, Reaching, Expanding.....as speakers and leaders.



Don't Just Sit There on Your Assets

by Datta Groover, DTM



How many speakers have you heard trying to sound like one of Toastmasters' previous world champions? Many people overlook their own greatest strengths while trying to imitate (consciously or unconsciously) the strengths of others. The great thing about focusing on your own personal assets is that they are yours alone.

We commonly think of assets in terms of measurable material commodities. The most valuable assets we own, however, are those that are not as measurable in terms of exchangeable value, but have a far greater intrinsic value. We simply have to look in order to find them.

One of the biggest errors speakers of all experience levels make is not taking full advantage of their assets. We each have a uniquely distinct set of assets that differentiate us from every other speaker. The best way to become aware - and **STAY** aware - of our assets is to write them down. Make a list of your assets today, and add to it regularly.

David Brooks, Toastmasters' 1990 World Champion, says the best way to improve as a speaker is to "Start a story file. Just write the titles of stories from your life, and add to it when you remember others."

As a side benefit, one day in the distant future you may look back on those stories you carefully put in your story file, and realize your life was all pretty darn worthwhile.

You can reach Datta at <http://HigherSpeech.com>



Nerves Kick In: You pass out.

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<http://www.publicspeakingcomics.com>

Picatinny Toastmasters Club Won First Place

by Terri Spinella
Picatinny Toastmasters
District 83, Area 23
Club 3547



The U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey, recognized the benefits of belonging to Toastmasters. The Picatinny Toastmasters Club won **First Place** in the Teams' Tournament in the "Quality of Life Team" category for 2010. There was a ceremony on June 7 at the Lindner Conference Center at Picatinny Arsenal.

The Teams' Tournament ceremony is held once a year and recognizes and awards the accomplishments of different types of teams at Picatinny Arsenal. In order to promote and recognize team building throughout the Arsenal, this year's awards were presented in the following categories: Integrated Product Team, Natural Work Group, Self Directed Work Team, Quality of Life Team, Process Action Team, Six Sigma Team and Southwest Asian.

Nominations are judged based on process as well as results such as cost savings and long-rang benefits. Dr. Joseph A. Lannon, Director of ARDEC, presented the first and second place teams with certificates, Picatinny Arsenal souvenir coins and recognition gifts. Refreshments and door prizes were also provided.

Debi Merz, President of the Picatinny Toastmasters Club (Club 3547- District 83), always welcomes new members. The club is open to the public and meets on the first and third Wednesdays in Building 1 on the Arsenal from 11:45 - 1:00. If you would like to contact the club, you can email them at picatinny-toastmasters@googlegroups.com or visit their web page at <http://groups.google.com/group/picatinny-toastmasters>



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

