



THE VOICE

DISTRICT 83 NEWSLETTER

April 2016



**STEP UP
TO SUCCESS**

District 83 Spring 2016 Conference



MAY 21-22, 2016

Hyatt Regency • New Brunswick

SATURDAY, MAY 21: Full Day

SUNDAY, MAY 22: Half Day



In February 2016, we shared some news about the District 83 Spring Conference. This month, we present part two of the series: an interview with conference Co-Chairs Lynda Starr, DTM (left) and Olga Berejnaia, DTM (right).

How do you ensure that first-timers become repeat attendees?

Brian Lin, DTM, PDG has said, he always tells people he is a first-timer at conferences because first-timers are treated even better than best. First-timers have a special session in the morning to teach them the ropes and lay of the land. There will be a first-timers breakfast table so that they will not feel alone. The first-timers ribbon on the nametag is a call for people to come over and introduce themselves to the newcomer. You don't have to be new to Toastmasters to be new to a conference.

How do you determine which events take place on Saturday and which take place on Sunday?

Obviously Saturday is a full day so we can offer more sessions. We have divided the Evaluation and International contests between the two days so that those unable to attend on Saturday can participate and to make it less nerve-wracking for contestants in the International Speech contest rather than having to wait until late in the day on Saturday. Combining the International Speech contest with the Step up to Success session on Sunday makes for a strong day. You may register for a contest-only fee of \$10 for the Evaluation contest and \$15 for the International Speech contest.

Since there are district incentives for clubs whose members attend the conference, how do you make sure members get credit for their attendance if they belong to more than one club?

Please list all your clubs on registration form or in comments section of online registration. The awards include:

- Three first timers from a club at a district conference (full day attendance). \$40 TI Gift Certificate
- Five members from a club at a district conference (full day attendance) \$25 TI Gift Certificate
- Club banner or equivalent participation at conference in Spring. Custom Banner Ribbon

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Have you registered yet? Looking forward to record-attendance May 21-22 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick. Call the hotel directly to reserve a room, 732-873-1234. Mention Toastmasters Spring Conference for these rates for Friday and Saturday night. Or, book online using this link:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/toastmasters2016>.

King/Handicap Accessible King:

Single/Double Occupancy	\$139
Triple Occupancy	\$164
Quadruple Occupancy	\$189

Doubles:

Single/Double Occupancy	\$154
Triple Occupancy	\$179
Quadruple Occupancy	\$204

The Spring conference registration form is available on page 4.

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District 83 Newsletter Team

District Director	Bill Hood, DTM
Public Relations Manager	Swathi Karamcheti, ACG, ALB
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Co-Editor	Lynda Starr, DTM
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Staff Writer	Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46)
Staff Writer	Sherri Rase, ACS, ALB

The Voice will publish online and via email in August, October, December, February, April and June. We welcome your comments, contributions and suggestions. We will assign staggered deadlines prior to publication. **The final deadline for the June 2016 issue is May 19, 2016.**

How to reach the District 83 Newsletter Co-Editors

Su Brooks: subrooks@verizon.net or subrooksd83@gmail.com

Lynda Starr: lbstarr@optonline.net

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Conference registration notes

Online conference registration will close on May 10. On the day of the conference, only cash or checks will be accepted; sorry, no credit cards at the door. Price: \$170 for full conference attendance.

Upon arrival at the conference:

1. Check in at the registration table.
2. Stop by the credentials table if you are carrying a proxy to vote at the District Business Meeting.
3. Store your club banner by the hospitality table. Mark your club's name on the banner bag.

The District Business meeting is FREE.

It is open to everyone, not just officers.

Club Presidents, VPEs and District officers can pick up their ballots at the Credentials Desk at registration. Proxies are available on the district website for Club Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education that are not able to attend but want to have someone from their club represent.

District Officer Elections

The list of nominees for District Officers will be posted to the District 83 website and social media at a later date.

Club Newsletter Contest 2015-2016

Does your club have a newsletter? If so, consider entering our newsletter contest! If not, consider creating one. While providing club information, the newsletter team may earn credit toward goals in the Competent Leader manual. We have provided the opportunity for as many clubs as possible to enter and participate.

Contest Criteria:

- Must use current TI logo
- May use TI templates or create your own layouts.
- Club must be in good standing.
- Issues dated between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 are eligible.



Continued on page 3

In the Limelight: Tony Snowden, CC, CL

Why did you join Toastmasters?

I had a couple of reasons for joining Toastmasters. First, I joined to jumpstart my professional speaking career. I knew that Toastmasters would provide the opportunity to take my speaking skills from good to GREAT by providing me a means in which to continue practicing the art of public speaking, while receiving valuable feedback from both new and experienced Toastmasters. Feedback helps us grow!

Second, I joined to grow my network. They say it is not what you know, but who you know. Toastmasters gives me the ability to meet people from all walks of life, and one of those connections could be the key to my next speaking engagement or matrimonial engagement (wink, wink)!

How has Toastmasters benefited your life outside the club?

As I just relocated back to the east coast after being in California for eight years AND I was living in a community I was brand new to, Toastmasters helped me to quickly get to know members of my community. Since joining less than a year ago, I have created many lasting friendships and professional connections. In addition, Toastmasters continues to improve my confidence as I improve my communication skills. Community service and giving back to the community is important to me, and Toastmasters has also allowed me to be able to satisfy that need.

What aspect of the Advanced club are you enjoying thus far and/or most looking forward to?

The Advanced club is where my wings really began to spread. The level of evaluation is some of the best I have experienced,

and that has allowed me to fine-tune my delivery style and develop some of my keynote speeches.

Any personal info you'd like to share (family, job, interests)?

Currently, I continue to work on growing my Public Speaking and Coaching business, Power Incorporated Coaching Services, and look for ways to add value to the people I cross paths with on a daily basis. I reside in the Poconos Mountains and I love the natural beauty of the area. I have been doing more Leadership Development with young people in my community and Lehigh Valley and feel honored to be a part of shaping our next generation of Leaders. I am a Personal Development and Leadership Development Junkie, and strive to get others addicted!

Please provide your educational designation and information about all of the Toastmasters clubs you are in including those in District 38.

I currently belong to the Toastmasters @ Lehigh, Poconos Toastmasters, and Northern Stars clubs. I am the VP of Education for the Toastmasters @ Lehigh and the area director for Area 24 – Division B. I have achieved my CC and CL and am close to achieving my ACB.



Club Newsletter Contest continued from page 2

- **Deadline for submissions: July 15, 2016.**
- Submit a pdf to d83newsletter@gmail.com
- Include correct Toastmasters branding standards (colors, use of logo, fonts, images, design devices.)
- Minimum of 2 pages; no maximum number of pages.
- Maximum of one entry per club.
- Results will be announced at the District 83 Fall 2016 Conference.
- Perpetual "Club Newsletter of The Year" award. 27" trophy with the winning club and year engraved on one of the smaller plates. Winning club will take possession of the trophy at the Fall Conference and return it to the District at the Spring Conference.

The judges will evaluate the newsletters using these guidelines:

Maximum points per category are shown at right.

Does the newsletter contain educational articles, recognition of member and club achievements, and promote participation in Toastmasters' activities?	25
Is the newsletter informative and entertaining?	25
Does content appear to be well-compiled?	20
Does text follow rules of grammar, free from typos?	10
Is layout attractive?	10
Do graphics provide logical connection to story or provide valuable information?.....	10

TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 83 2016 SPRING CONFERENCE

Step Up to Success

www.toastmasters83.org

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 21-22, 2016



Hyatt Regency New Brunswick

2 Albany St, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

(732) 873-1234

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Club Name: _____ Div/Area: _____

Status (Check current designation)	<input type="checkbox"/> CTM	<input type="checkbox"/> ATMB	<input type="checkbox"/> ATMS	<input type="checkbox"/> ATMG	<input type="checkbox"/> CL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALB	<input type="checkbox"/> DTM
	<input type="checkbox"/> CC	<input type="checkbox"/> ACB	<input type="checkbox"/> ACS	<input type="checkbox"/> ACG	<input type="checkbox"/> AL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALS	

I would like to work on a committee for this conference () YES () NO

Circle any committee(s) you would like to volunteer for!

Contests	Credentials	Education (workshop proctor)	Repeat Attendees	First-Timers
Fundraising	Hospitality	Parade of Banners	Publications/ Programs	Publicity
Registration	Video/Photography	Facilities	Please contact me	

Are you a first time Conference attendee? () YES () NO

Are you bringing your banner for the Parade of Banners? () YES () NO

Dinner Choices Chicken Fish Vegetarian

Registration Fee: Conference cost - \$160

**Mail Registration Form & Payment to
Spring Conference Registration Chair:**

Irene Freeman, ACS/ALS

75 Poplar Drive, Morris Plains NJ 07950

973 432 9016

irenefreemantm@gmail.com

For Questions, Please Contact:

Spring Conference Co-Chairs

Olga Berejnaia, DTM

908 922 3450 olgabdtm@gmail.com

Lynda Starr, DTM

201 320 1752 lbstarr@optonline.net

Please contact the Hyatt directly for room reservations

Your attendance is agreement to be photographed/videographed, otherwise, please opt out

Make check payable to: District 83 Toastmasters

SPRING CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Congratulations to those selected as workshop presenters for the Spring conference. Please watch the district website and social media for additional information on the sessions.

Club Development Track

Maira T. Pineda, PDG, ACS, ALS, QS
(qualified speaker)

SHOW ME the Membership! Don't Just Tell Me That it's Valuable to You!

Su Brooks, DTM

Your Integrated Communications Plan for Toastmasters

Michelle Tropper, ACG, CL; and Paul Scharf, DTM6, PDG

Inspiring Youth through Toastmasters

Professional Development Track

William Markert, ACB, CL

Entrepreneurship – The Basics for Running Your Business

Manny Reyes, ACS, ALB and Mushi Bhuiyan, ACS, CL

Keys of Confidence

Roberto Sempe, ACB, ALB

Connecting Goes Beyond Words

Personal Development Track

Dorie Bisanz

Grudge Busting

Sunil Robert, ACG, ALB

Find Your Voice

Fred Jacques, ATM-G

Guide the Elephant Gently

Upcoming Events

JUNE

Second Annual Sandy Scharf TLI
Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Saturday, June 25, 2016

Contact Paula Markert: paula@markertconsulting.com for information. Additional information will be posted on the district website as soon as it is available.

JULY

Save the Date:
Hail and Farewell
Saturday, July 23, 2016

Contact Margarita Estrada: impact21estrada@gmail.com for information. Additional information will be posted on the district website as soon as it is available.

AUGUST

2016 International Convention • August 17-20, 2016 • Marriott Marquis • Washington, D.C.

TAKE A BUS WITH US TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2016!

Fellow District 83 Members:

The 2016 Toastmasters International Convention is scheduled for August 17-20, 2016 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. This is the closest the International Convention will be to our district for at least the next few years.

A group of members is planning to charter a bus to transport us back and forth to the Convention. Details are as follows:

Depart: Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Return: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Cost: Specifics to be determined, anticipated approximately \$200 per person (to cover two-way travel)

All members are welcome to attend the International Convention. Registration opens April 2016. More information about the International Convention can be found at <https://www.toastmasters.org/Events/2016-International-Convention> (watch the site and your Toastmaster magazine for updates).

If you are interested in riding on the bus to International Convention, **please contact Anne Gilson** at d83anne@gmail.com by **April 15, 2016** and note which of the following options you are interested in:

- You will travel **BOTH WAYS to D.C.** and back on the bus
- You have your own transportation **TO D.C.** but will ride **BACK TO NJ** on the bus
- You will ride **TO D.C.** on the bus, but have your own transportation back to NJ

How District Officers are Nominated and Elected

It's getting to be that time of year when we elect the District Trio and all division directors for the upcoming Toastmasters year. While the elections take place at the Business Meeting of the Spring conference, the work begins in February with the Nominating Committee.

We spoke with Anne Gilson, DTM, IPDG and Nominating Committee chairperson about the committee's work.

What does the nominating committee do (top district officers, division governor candidate selection)

The Nominating Committee's function is to: seek out candidates for the District Trio and all division directors for the upcoming Toastmasters year, evaluate and interview all candidates, nominate candidates, and provide a complete report of candidates to the district director.

Area director candidates and other district officer candidates are NOT reviewed by the nominating committee. Area directors, Public Relations Manager, Finance Manager, and Administration Manager are all selected by the incoming district director once he or she is elected. Any member who is interested in any of those roles should reach out to the incoming district director as soon as possible.

Who is on the nominating committee and how selected?

The Nominating Committee chair is selected by the District director.

The nominating committee consists of volunteers from each division, along with the chair. A call for volunteers was made at the December 2015 District Executive Council meeting. Other members were invited to join by the Nominating chair. Any member who is not seeking an elected district office, or who does not have a close personal or professional relationship with a candidate is welcome to serve on the nominating committee. No member of the committee may have served the previous year. International Directors, Region Advisors, and announced candidates for any Toastmasters International Board of Directors office may not serve on the committee.

How long is the process?

Nominations were opened in January 2016 and closed March 25, 2016. In-person interviews for nominated candidates took place on April 2. Our report is due to the district director in enough time for the list of nominated candidates to be published to the district membership at least four weeks before the conference. Names of floor candidates may NOT be published to the district membership with the names of nominated candidates.

Elections are scheduled for May 21, 2016 at the business meeting at the District 83 Spring Conference (Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick). The business meeting portion of the conference, as always, is free to attend.

How is one nominated?/Can I nominate myself?

Any member in good standing can nominate any member in good standing. Members can nominate themselves.

The requirements for each office are as follows:

- At the time of taking office, the district director must have served at least six consecutive months as club president and at least 12 consecutive months as a director, division director or a combination of these.
- At the time of taking office, the program quality director must have served at least six consecutive months as club president and at least 12 consecutive months as a director, a division director, an area director or a combination of these.
- At the time of taking office, the club growth director must have served at least six consecutive months as club president and at least 12 consecutive months as a lieutenant governor, a division director, an area director or a combination of these.
- At the time of taking office, the division director must have served at least six consecutive months as members of a district council.

Nominations were closed as of March 25. However, anyone who is interested in running for an elected office at this point who was not previously nominated may be nominated from the floor at the district business meeting.

How many people are nominated per office?

Typically, 1-2 people are nominated per office. The district will accept nominations from as many qualified candidates as are interested.

What is interview process like?

The nomination committee interviewed all known candidates for the elected district officer roles. Each candidate was evaluated using a standard set of criteria to ensure fairness. The interviews and committee deliberations are confidential. The committee used the interviews to confirm that all candidates understood the duties and responsibilities of the offices they were running for, was committed to fulfilling these duties and responsibilities, and had the necessarily skills and abilities to be successful in their roles.

If I can't make the deadline or attend on day of interviews, can I still run and how would I do that?

The nomination committee made other arrangements to speak

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with candidates who were not available on the day of the in-person interviews.

Candidates who missed the deadline for nominations may be nominated from the floor at the district council business meeting at the May conference. All contested candidates – nominated ahead of time or nominated from the floor – will be asked to give a 1-2 minute campaign speech at the conference. It's a good idea for all candidates to have such a speech prepared, since the nominating team does not always know who will run for office from the floor.

What is election process?

The first thing the district needs for successful elections is a quorum of voting members – otherwise, we cannot conduct official business (like elections). To that end, it is CRITICAL that all clubs' voices are heard during the elections. Club votes are held by club Presidents and VPs of Education. One or both of these officers from every club should plan to attend the district council business meeting to vote. If neither of these officers is available to attend, the club should send another officer or another member to vote. The President and VP-E that are sending a representative to vote on their behalf need to sign a Proxy Authorization Form (available at <http://toastmasters83.org/district-conference/proxy-authorization-2016.html>) to

allow that other member to represent their votes. The voting representative MUST be a member of that club that he or she is holding a proxy for; meaning, for example, an area director cannot take a proxy for a club in their area unless he or she is a member of that club. All presidents and VP-Es, or proxy holders, should check in at the Credentials desk upon arriving at the conference. At Credentials, voting members will be asked to sign in and will be given a ballot. Members of the District Executive Committee also carry a vote and an individual may not carry more than three ballots.

Elections will take place at the business meeting and will be led by the District Director. Elections for the 2016-2017 District Trio will be first, followed by elections for each Division Director role.

Anything else?

All candidates are reminded to adhere to the Toastmasters International Campaign Guidelines as outlined at this link: <https://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/District-Leader-Tools/District-Management/Elections-Toolkit/Campaign-Guidelines>

Members can contact Nominating Committee chair Anne Gilson or District Director Bill Hood with any questions about the nomination, campaign, or election processes.

STEP UP TO SUCCESS

By Roseann Hood

“Success doesn't come to you, You must go get it,” says Nido Qubein.

“Step up to Success,” the theme of the 2016 Spring Conference is asking you to take action. Action, a verb! No matter how you set your barometer for success, you must DO something. Success means many different things to different people. Whatever the personal achievement is, whether it's being financially secure, holding powerful positions, owning million-dollar homes, cars, planes, etc. or being a Toastmaster, it takes action to be successful. It's not only obtaining material things, success is being proud of the life you live, the love you share, the time you give.

Step up to Success!

“Success is not a matter of luck, an accident of birth, or a reward for virtue. Success is a matter of decision, commitment, planning, preparation, execution and recommitment. Success doesn't come to you. You must go get it.”

– Nido Qubein

International Directors – Who are they and What do they do?

By Richard Peck, DTM

Who they are....

International directors along with the Executive Committee comprise the Toastmasters International Board of Directors. There are fourteen International Directors each representing one of the Toastmasters regions. Although each International Director represents a region it is important that they view things from a global perspective when involved in committee work, considering Policy and Protocol changes, and the implementation of new programs. International Directors are elected to two-year terms during the annual Business Meeting at the Toastmasters International Convention. To maintain consistency at the board level, International Directors from odd- and even-numbered regions are elected in opposite years; even-numbered regions in even-numbered years (i.e. 2016), odd-numbered regions in odd-numbered years (i.e. 2017). Utilizing this approach there is always a second-year person on the board to serve as a mentor for the incoming first-year director.

What they do....

International directors support Toastmasters both in the boardroom as organizational fiduciaries and out of the boardroom as representatives of the Board.

In the Boardroom:

- Participate, as assigned, on committees to support the strategic direction of the organization
- Demonstrate a global perspective during discussions and decisions
- Participate in organizational financial oversight and approve the annual budget
- Participate in strategic-plan development and monitor execution
- Understand and embody the mission, values and envisioned future as well as the governing documents at all times
- Appropriately use professional experience
- Determine high-level policy direction and review and approve policies

- Maintain an understanding of organizational operations, progress and capacity
- Discuss organizational opportunities and determine future direction as appropriate
- Handle disciplinary matters appropriate to the Board
- In the second year of the term, mentor first-year directors
- Identify and encourage talented and qualified members to seek election to the Board

Out of the Boardroom:

- Visit districts, as needed and approved, as an organizational ambassador to share the organization's message, motivate and support district leadership teams, and lead corporate and media visits
- In collaboration with the region advisor of the same region, maintain an awareness of district progress and achievement and participate in regular conference calls with district leaders in order to support and encourage them
- Interact with members at events in order to maintain awareness of the organization (through contact with district leaders, district visits, mid-year training and the International Convention)
- Refer ideas, suggestions, opportunities, concerns, challenges, requests, conflicts and other substantive issues to the Board or World Headquarters as appropriate
- Be an ambassador for the organization at all times. Identify and encourage future district leaders
- Participate as a facilitator at district leader training as assigned

Richard Peck, DTM, PID, is a candidate for 2nd Vice President, Region 9, Toastmasters International.



PLAN AHEAD: INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTESTS AND EVALUATION CONTESTS FOR 2016

April: Division Level

May: District Finals at the Spring Conference

August: International Speech Contest Finals
at the Toastmasters International Convention
Washington, DC, August 17-20

Why I've Enjoyed the Region Advisor Role

By Radhi Spear, DTM

As Region Advisor, I am continuing my Toastmasters journey, helping my fellow Toastmasters while at the same time learning and growing from the experience. I often feel the average person joining Toastmasters has no idea about all the opportunities Toastmasters offers for growth and self-improvement. Most people join to improve their communication skills, but are hesitant to take up leadership roles as the area director position and above precludes one from taking part in contests, but what they don't realize is that the leadership role also offers tremendous speaking opportunities in front of varied audiences. To be a good leader one has to be a good communicator.

The Region Advisor role is a support role to help districts achieve their goals. In order to do that, Region Advisors need to have served as District Director/Governor for a minimum of 12 consecutive months, be available for training and travel as needed and have consistent access to the internet and email. The Region Advisor position is for fifteen months starting April 1 of one year ending the following June 30. There is a three-month overlap with the new Region Advisor who starts on April 1 of the year when the current Region Advisor is completing their year. This overlap is to help the new Region Advisor come up to speed on the issues of the various districts. Every year, the role of the Region Advisor and International Director becomes more refined and clearer as World Head Quarters (WHQ) receives feedback from the district leaders and us.

The Region Advisor collaborates throughout the year with the districts and WHQ. We are given extensive training by WHQ to assist us in our role. We train with WHQ via webinars to be prepared for the District Leader training, we attend webinars to

learn about the new tools like the new Insightly Lead Management System that has been rolled out for districts to use to keep track of their leads, we are trained in conflict resolution to help District Leaders get along and work in harmony and so on. We have regular monthly meetings with WHQ to discuss issues and receive updates. The Region Advisor conducts the training of the District Leaders two days before the start of the TI International Convention; the Region Advisor along with the International Director also conducts mid-year training. Throughout the year the Region Advisor communicates with the region's International Director to maintain awareness of all the District's progress and achievements.

Region Advisors are operational advisors at the regional level who guide and consult with district leaders. As a Region Advisor, you support district leaders in their efforts to fulfill the district mission of building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence. We provide marketing support and share our expertise to help grow membership and clubs. Through frequent and consistent communication we establish a trusting relationship with the district leaders. The goals of the club, area, division, district and region are all aligned.

In a nutshell the Region Advisor's job is to guide each district in the region to be distinguished. In other words, my role is to help members learn and improve and reach their goals.

Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46), serves as Region 9 Advisor.

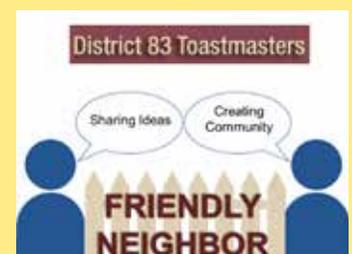


Friendly Neighbor Ribbon Awards

District Director Bill Hood, DTM, explains, "The concept of the ribbon is to mimic the club members' visitation and participation spirit of the Traveling Gavel without the limitation of a single gavel. Both clubs expand their vision and imagination with this simple approach of reaching out." Award recipients will receive their ribbons at the District 83 Spring Conference in May at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ.

Congratulations to:

- Germinators • Orion Deliverymasters
- Red Bank Toastmasters • Talk of Monmouth



Maximize Your Reimbursement

By Maxine Cohen, ACS, ALB



Whether you are a District 83 officer, division or area director or officer in your club, you may find you are entitled to reimbursement for out-of-pocket district activities. The following are best practices to ensure you receive complete reimbursement for your out-of-pocket expenses.

The most common payment request is for reimbursement for food served at a district training session or contest. To ensure full reimbursement for purchased food, pay close attention to event type and district policy. District policy and expense forms are located at the District 83 website under District Officer Resources. Area speech contests base reimbursement on the number of areas covered. Maximum reimbursement for single area contests is \$50, dual-area contests are \$100 and triple-area contests are \$140 per session. Division speech contests are reimbursed up to \$150. Club officer training sessions base reimbursement on registered member count at each training session. At a minimum, the district expects at least 20 registered members per training session. The district pays up to \$70 for the first 20 members and \$2.50 for each additional registered member.

Reimbursement requests for all district events must include original receipts as well as the sign-in sheet for the event. Additionally, training sessions require the registration page from the district website showing the number of registered members. Where it is not feasible or possible to obtain original receipts, provide an explanation of the reason. Valid explanations may warrant exception. To facilitate processing, the related expense voucher should identify the contest or training session date, the areas/division covered by the contest when applicable and the venue where the event took place. Ensure that your name and address are readable.

When feasible, number attendance sheet lines to facilitate counting number of actual attendees. Reference receipts to reimbursable entries on the voucher form by number or letter reference. While all expended amounts should be included on the voucher, determine whether total amount is within policy before posting total to the voucher pay box. Only include the maximum allowed reimbursement in the pay amount when your amount exceeds the maximum. As an example, let's say Jim has receipts totaling \$100 for an officer training session with 24 registered members. The maximum reimbursement would be \$80 based on the calculation for 24 registered members (\$70 for first 20 members plus \$10 [4 x \$2.50] for the additional four members). Jim should post the \$100 on the voucher to

reconcile with the receipts he submitted. However, Jim should only post \$80 in the pay field because the \$100 Jim spent exceeds the maximum reimbursement. Eighty dollars is the maximum reimbursement per our policy. Please be aware that for training sessions the district reviews both the number registered for the event based on the District website page and the actual number who attended based on the sign in sheet. The district generously counts the higher number of the two required sheets towards the maximum calculation.

Another way to ensure you get the maximum reimbursement is to ensure you do not lose any required documents. First, when feasible, place all original receipts related to a reimbursable activity in a marked envelope or else staple or tape them to 8 1/2" x 11" papers so they do not get lost. Place together all related required documents needed for reimbursement, such as the registration page printed from the district website, attendance sheet, original receipts, and completed voucher document. Keep them together until you are ready to mail them to the district director. Make copies or scan all documents before mailing. Submit them as soon as possible to reduce the likelihood of misplacing documents.

While food served at training session and contests are the most common reason to request reimbursement, other related and valid expenses may also be covered. For instance, you may be unable to find any free venue for a speech contest, but have located a low-cost alternative. For instance, your local area library may be charging \$35 to cover room cost for a training session. Although free venues are still preferred, the district considers the \$35 room rental fee as reimbursable. Likewise, if you find you need to have forms copied at Kinko's or other copy shops for your training session, these expenses are reimbursable. Please keep in mind that the total of all your expenses will still have the same maximum reimbursement. Adding these additional costs can easily cause your total expenses to exceed the maximum reimbursement allowed. Ensure that any expenditure you submit to the district for reimbursement relates directly to the reimbursable event and that it does not go over the maximum reimbursement allowed.

Paying attention to details such as the basis used to calculate maximum reimbursement before you spend money on a district event and submitting all required documents timely will reward you with full reimbursement for covered expenses.

Maxine is the 2015-2016 District 83 Finance Manager. Maxine is also VP-PR and web administrator for Park Toastmasters Club in Ramsey.

The Gift of Competition

By Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS

“May I forget myself, remember my speech, and touch my audience.”

– Craig Valentine
1999 Toastmasters World
Champion of Public Speaking

Do you enjoy challenges? Do you enjoy making a difference? Do you enjoy feeling good about yourself?

Competition can contribute toward a positive end to all of the above.

All of us have a story to tell that will change many lives. In fact, if one person listens to your message, and it makes them see the world from a different perspective, you have changed many lives because your story will be told, generation to generation.

My participation in competition started in September 2010 while I was a member of Toastmasters En Español. Julian Hernandez, the president at that time, suggested that I compete in the Table Topics contest. My response was, “No.” I was scared. As a recently rehabilitated panic attack sufferer, the fear that those attacks would come back was vivid in my mind and heart. Every week, Julian took time to encourage me to compete. He told me, “Margarita, at some point, you must put your feet in the fire, and now is the time.” I reluctantly, took on the challenge.

The day came, and I felt anxious. I kept saying to myself, “Be calm. Everyone is your friend. You’re already a winner because you are here.” I was competitor number 3. Suddenly, I heard, “Our next contestant is Margarita Estrada,” and I was asked the question. I don’t know how I answered it, because my mind was a blur! I was just happy it was over. Although I earned second place, I didn’t enjoy it because I was so worried that I would fail.

I didn’t compete again until September 2013 when I became a member of Impact 21 Toastmasters. There, I would meet my now mentor and friend, Mario Lewis, who I had always admired as a competitor. I remember watching him in many competitions, and was never surprised when he won. And now, I was in his club!

The day I joined, he brought in his 2012 Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking semi-finalist award – a beautiful, tall, clear glass masterpiece! He looked at me and said, “You can do this!” He then spoke about his experience at the semi-finals, capturing a spot in the final 9 for the World Championship (Ryan Avery won that year), and his vision to win it all! I just felt it, deep in my heart that I wanted to win it all, too!

Since then, I have participated in many competitions, and am keeping my eye on the prize — a beautiful Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking trophy!

The reasons competition should be a goal in your public speaking skill set are many. Through competition, all the skills learned in the Competent Communication manual, (The Ice Breaker, Organize Your Speech, Get To The Point, How to Say It, Your Body Speaks, Vocal Variety, Research Your Topic, Visual Aids, Persuade With Power, and Inspire Your Audience), are tested.

As you craft your speech, over and over again, to ensure that your message is clear, you will laugh, you will cry, you will be frustrated. However, when the final version is done, you will feel a sense of relief. Then, the long hours of practice begin. The sense of accomplishment you will feel once you are able to bring your speech to life in a way that impacts your audience cannot be described. I’ve discovered that preparation prevents problems going forward.

The following are lessons I have learned through the gift of competition:

- Be Inspired! Watch YouTube videos of past world champions.
- Focus on one idea; write speech, the rewrite as many times as necessary until you feel that your message is clear.
- Use movement words to trigger body movement
- Narrow speech down to 6:30 minutes.
- Test speech with your home club, then other venues.
- Learn speech so well, that no matter what happens, you can still deliver it.
- Work smart and hard.
- Get ready for negative/frontal feedback – it will give you the greatest breakthrough!
- Problems will always arise. We must always move forward. The show must go on!
- Meditate before and prior to speaking (don’t pay attention to others that are speaking.
- The defining factor is not resources it’s resourcefulness.
- Explore needs, beliefs, and emotions.
- Appreciate what’s driving other people.
- In the end, you’re the CEO! If a suggestion doesn’t feel right, don’t incorporate it in your speech.
- Enjoy yourself!

I encourage you to compete, because once you do; you will never be the same again. You will gain confidence, poise, and become more grounded. As I mentioned in the beginning, competition gives you the opportunity to tell your story and impact many lives.

Put your feet in the fire, and experience the gift that keeps on giving – Competition.

Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS, serves as a staff writer for The Voice.

Having Fun with Toastmasters

By Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46)

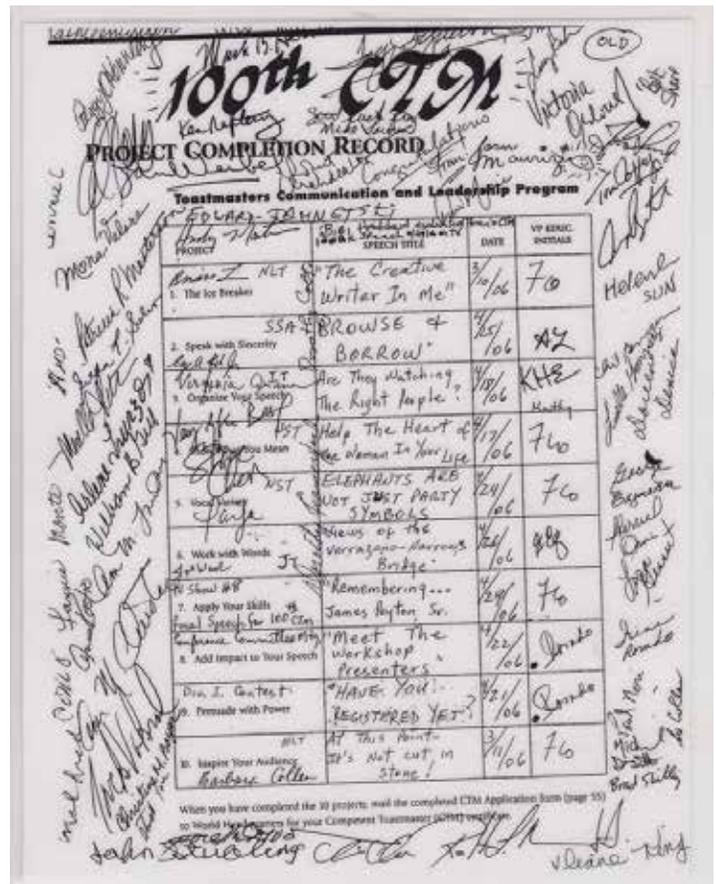
According to Webster's New Explorer Large Print Dictionary, the word "fun" means "something providing amusement or enjoyment." My Toastmasters experience certainly meets the definition. When I joined my first Toastmasters club (Corner House Toastmasters #5757 in October 1988), I had no idea what a fantastic trip I would be taking!

I first visited Corner House when my Women's Club of Tottenville was planning to honor Helen Hayes at our annual testimonial dinner, not especially for her prowess as an American stage and screen icon, but for her community endeavors over the years. I wanted to attend the meeting so I wouldn't embarrass myself when the big day arrived and asked my close friend, Julie Porowski, DTM to come with me. We never did get the chance to honor Miss Hayes because she became quite ill and her press agent said her doctor wouldn't agree to permit her to attend.

In June of that year, Julie and I were told that the Corner House club did not meet during the summer so, following the advice of the late past District 46 governor Sister Alma Wedge, DTM, we joined the Richmond County Toastmasters club where I am still a member. I completed my first CTM (Competent Toastmaster) in December 1989 (14 months!!) Sister Alma was a founder of the Richmond County club in 1976. Over the years, I've learned many things from many fellow Toastmasters, not only in preparing speeches and delivering them to different audiences, but life in general.

At my installation as the District 46 Governor in May 2001, Sister Alma was my special guest and I had the honor of having Past Toastmasters International President Bennie Bough, DTM join us at the head table. I was completing my 50th CTM and I asked Bennie to evaluate my speech. After the event, he asked me to step out in the hall so we could talk and I was as nervous as a child on the first day at kindergarten. He showed me what he wrote in my manual and I was shocked! It read, "This was one of the finest speeches I've ever heard" and signed his name. Needless to say, we're still great friends and it's a friendship I value to this day.

I completed my 100th CTM on April 29, 2006 and, for fun, I asked all the members of the club to sign my Record of Assignment page at the back of the manual. I was asked by members of my other clubs if they could also sign the page



and I asked Joan Maurizio, DTM 3, my favorite calligrapher, to label the top of the page, and that's how I filed my 100th CTM. Since the educational change from CTMs to CCs (Competent Communicator), I've filed 56 CC awards. I'm not bragging, I'm just having FUN! I challenge myself every day. I try to challenge other Toastmasters to try something different with their speech projects.

If anyone reading this article would like to attend one of our Area 64 club meetings and give a speech, let me know. I'm always looking for speakers, evaluators and responders for Table Topic questions on our No Limits club's CTV show, "Toastmasters in the Community."

Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46), serves as a staff writer for The Voice. She can be reached at frantotten@verizon.net or (718) 984-1339.

DTM Award Recipients • Congrats to recent DTMs (Source: TI)

• Deepak R. Butani • Jim Samuel (DTM 8) •

• Paul Scharf (DTM 6) • Alex Volyand • Emilia Volyand •

Richmond County Toastmasters Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46)

On March 2, 2016, members and friends of the Richmond County Toastmasters club #3817 gathered at the north site of Staten Island University Hospital and celebrated the club's 40th anniversary.

Area 64 Director John A. Weibel, DTM presented president Joan Maurizio, DTM 3 with a certificate and letter of congratulations from Toastmasters International in honor of the occasion. The event was chaired by Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG 46 as her 33rd High Performance Leadership (HPL) project. The club hosted the annual Area 64 Evaluation Contest and the International Speech Contest as part of the festivities.

Fran asked the members to share their favorite quote for the program as an inspiration for the attendees.

Ruth Sebag, ACS: *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, become more, then you are a leader."*

John A. Weibel, DTM: *"Life begins at 40 and Richmond County Toastmasters has outlived Jack Benny."*

Yevgeniy (Gene) Kislov: *"If you have to doubt something, doubt your limits."*

Joan Maurizio, DTM 3: *"I wish I could tell you it gets better, but it doesn't get better, you get better."*

Below: Members of Richmond County Toastmasters present: (left to right) Warus Neelapriyantha, Joan Maurizio, Fran Okeson, Diana Caughell, John A. Weibel, Ruth Sebag, Yevgeniy (Gene) Kislov.



Above: Joan Maurizio accepting the certificate and letter from John A. Weibel.

Warus Neelapriyantha: *"Toastmasters opens the door for public life. There is no age limit. Old and young can make a difference."*

Diana Caughell, ACB, CL: *"You were born to win, but to be a winner, you must plan to win, prepare to win and expect to win."*

Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46): *"May your life be like a snowflake, leaving a mark, but not a stain."*

Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46), serves as a staff writer for The Voice. She can be reached at frantotten@verizon.net or (718) 984-1339.

Photos courtesy of Richmond County Toastmasters.



Above: Richmond County Toastmasters officers (left to right): Joan Maurizio (President); Fran Okeson (VPE & VPPR); Diana Caughell (VPM); John A. Weibel (Secretary & Treasurer); Ruth Sebag (SAA).



A Conversation with Steve Chen

Steve Chen, DTM, 2015-2017 International Director, Region 9, Toastmasters International, will be attending the District 83 Spring conference. Swathi Karamcheti ACG, ALB, District 83 Public Relations Manager sat down with Steve.

What are you looking forward to at the conference?

I look forward to renewing friendships with fellow Toastmasters and to discuss their progress and development. I also look forward to meeting new members and guests and to share in their excitement for our program.

From Ice Breaker to International Director, how was your Toastmasters Journey?

It has been an exciting 15 years of learning and growing journey for me. I have learned so much from so many leaders and mentors, and have made so many friends from all walks of life.

Was there any moment in your journey when you had to step back or rethink as a leader? What did you do then?

Yes, I vividly recalled moments of challenges during my leadership journey; some did cause me to rethink and reflect on my contributions, effectiveness, and even leadership style. Since I believe challenges are actually learning and growing opportunities, I welcomed them. As leaders, constantly adjusting, learning, and finding renewed energy to better serve our membership are what we are all about.

Describe the most memorable moment in your life that was enhanced because of your Toastmasters' experience.

One special moment was one night a year ago when I started teaching college again. I was surprised to realize that I am now a much more natural and comfortable instructor. Thanks to Toastmasters, I was able to utilize effective public speaking techniques in classes and even apply leadership skills gained from Toastmasters in working with students and faculty members.

What kind of leadership attributes did you learn as an International Director?

Two attributes I will highlight here:

- 1) We all bring something different and special to the team and the Board of Toastmasters International is no exception.
- 2) Learning never stops. The more we contribute and apply ourselves, the more we learn and become better at it. The beauty of Toastmasters is that so many opportunities (and mentors) are available to each of us to learn, contribute, and grow!

What do you consider yourself the best? As a speaker or as a leader? And why?

Effective communication skill is critical to being a good leader. That said, I have only made it to the district contest stage once, so I am far from the speaker I wanted to be. I do enjoy being a leader; however, because of the opportunities to serve and to make a difference.

Tell us about any club that has stood out as extraordinary and how?

I will mention my home club, True Potential Toastmasters, #5394, the club that embraced me as a hesitant guest 15 years ago. Every year, it elects a team of relatively new members to guide it forward, and every year it achieved distinguished status or better. Many of its past leaders also went on to join district leadership. The key, I believe, is that members will "step-up to the plate" and contribute greatly when we place our trust on them – and let them know that we believe in them.

What is your advice to our readers?

Embrace Toastmasters program fully, participate and enjoy your special journey. If you apply yourself to improving your communication and leadership skills, you WILL achieve your full potential as a speaker and a leader – it is that simple – and many will benefit from your involvement.

ACES

By Paul Scharf, DTM 6, PDG

ACES, the first Advanced Club in District 46, now District 83, chartered Dec. 1, 1987.

Come join us for an evening of

L U S T
E S P O
T E G
A E
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R

Requirements to be a member of ACES – a CC or better and remain a member of another club.

Reasons to join include, majority of members are current or past district officers, ability to present speeches longer than 8-10 minutes, and ability to present projects from advanced manuals and modules. We give individual and group

evaluations. We also go above and beyond the Toastmaster manuals and modules.

Some of our past meetings included such skits as; Fractured Fairy Tales, Mock Trials, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, The Big Bad Wolf and Humpty Dumpty, A Member Roast, Backward meetings, Statesman's Night, an evening of Tall Tales. Future meetings will include A Mystery Caravan Trip, Theater/Diner outing.

We have been involved in district activities including, officer training, and presentations at district conferences including the Art Of Negotiations and Parliamentary Procedures.

Do you want to advance your communication and leadership skills then visit and participate in the oldest and most diverse Advanced Club in the District?

Take Your Speech to a Higher Level with **ACES**

Advanced **C**ommunication **E**valuation **S**peakers

2nd & 4th Mondays 6:45-9:00 PM

Iselin Public Library

1080 Green Street

Come be our guest at any meeting and see how much fun an Advanced Club can be: <http://aces.toastmastersclubs.org>.

GROWING YOUR CLUB: HOW TO PLAN AN OPEN HOUSE

By Janice Buffalow, DTM

Members are the foundation for our clubs. We value our members and want each of our clubs to be successful. Coming May 1 to June 30 is the "Beat the Clock" award where clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members will receive a "Beat the Clock" award from Toastmasters International. In addition, if your club has 20+ members paid by the District 83 Spring Conference, during the Business Meeting 10 club names will be drawn to receive \$20 in TI certificates. There are additional incentives on the Toastmaster 83 website for clubs achieving club strength (20 or greater members) and/or net gains of members.

How can this be accomplished? Where do you find members? Although there are several ways to do this, one proven method is having an Open House! This is a great way to showcase your club and sell Toastmasters to people in your community or even in your company. However, planning an Open House should not be taken lightly and takes time to plan.

Identify a chairperson and a team; determine if there is a specific theme or format for the Open House. Some ideas are: conduct a shortened meeting with Q&A at the end, conduct a Table Topics meeting with participation of guests, or even identify a key person in your community or company to be your

special speaker. Determine if refreshments are to be served before or afterward, plan your time accordingly. Don't forget to have greeters, agendas, handouts with information about Toastmasters and your club. Ensure all officers and members are wearing name tags; provide them to your guests and have a member sit next to them. Most importantly, advertise the event early and often. Use social media to get the word out (e.g. Meetup, Facebook, free ads, Twitter, etc.) Above all, don't forget to award those who are actively participating on the Open House team.

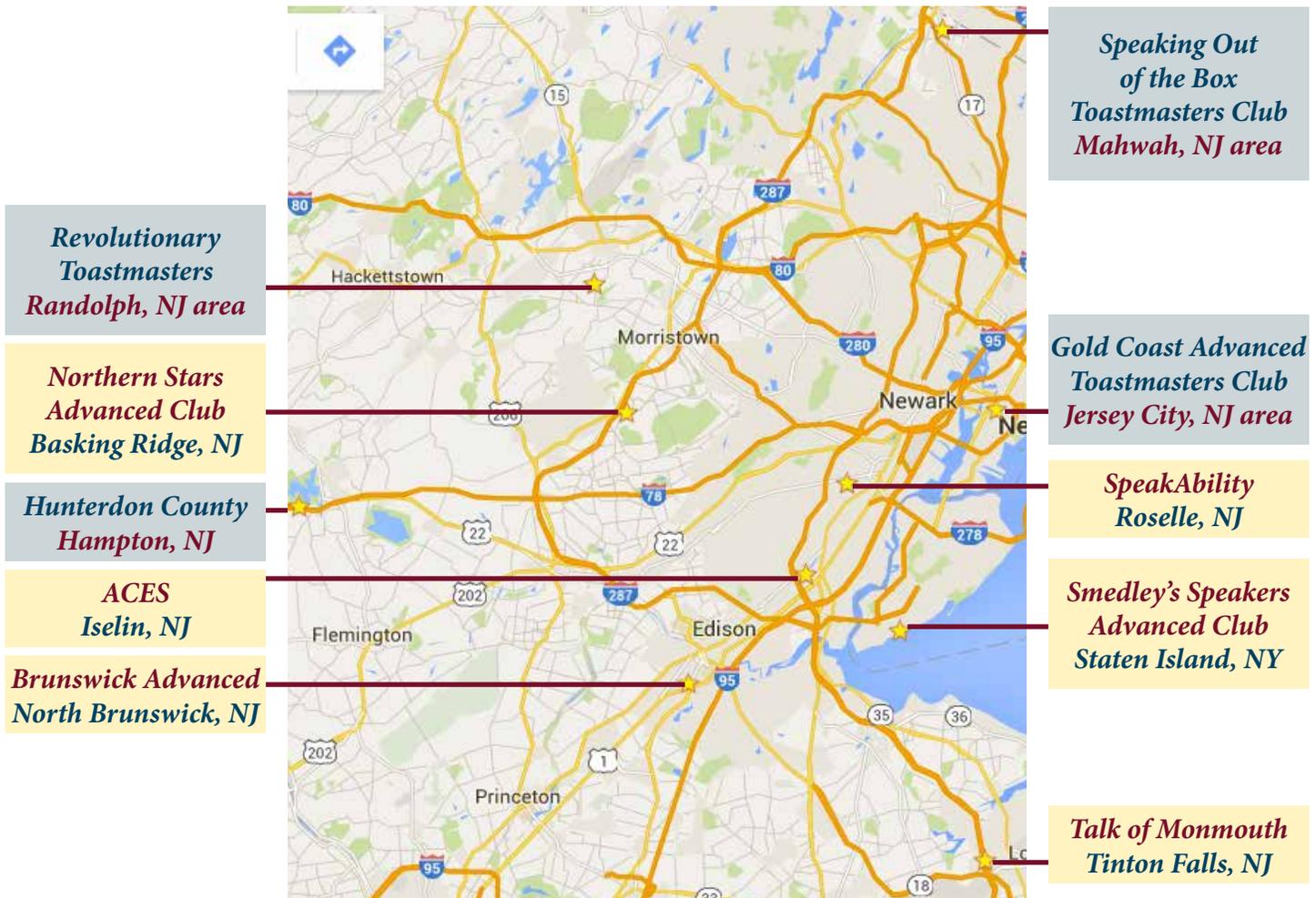
There are several resources available to you: use the Toastmasters website, Resource - Resource Library or Membership tab on Home page; contact other Toastmasters, e.g. other clubs, area directors, division directors, or club growth director. One more incentive, the District will reimburse your club up to \$50 towards your refreshments with approval of the district director before the event.

In District 83, we value each of you, and want to see every club succeed. Good luck with getting new members for your clubs!

Janice Buffalow, DTM, serves as Club Growth Director, District 83.

Looking for an Advanced Club in District 83?

Currently, there are six advanced clubs in District 83 (shown in yellow tinted boxes.)
Four more advanced clubs are forming and are expected to charter soon
(shown in gray tinted boxes.)



For more information about new clubs forming:

Revolutionary Toastmasters:

Janette Alexander, ACS, ALS, jalexan@solixinc.com, 973-581-5302 or
Dee Rincon, ACB, dee_rincon@yahoo.com, 973-366-5596

In Hunterdon County:

Linda Friedman, linda@hunterdonsharedspace.com or 814-360-1950. Location: 33 Rupell Road, Hampton, NJ (exit 12 E off 78 or Exit 13 W off 78) 1st and 3rd Mondays - 7:30-9:00 pm.

Gold Coast Advanced Toastmasters Club:

Tony Figueroa, DTM, 551-998-9988 or
Darnelle Richardson, DTM, 201-424-9090

Speaking Out of the Box Toastmasters Club:

Rachel Weiss, DTM: D83RachelW@gmail.com

Open House, Monday April 18, 2016



A Tribute to Linda Bogner, ACB, ALB

Linda Bogner R.I.P. — You leave us speechless.

“I was always told to sit down and be quiet. Now I am asked to come up and speak.”

– Linda Bogner, ACB, ALB

I have been very close to Linda. We want the Storytelling club to be the best club by making sure all our members are happy and accomplish what they want to achieve as speakers.

She was a very nice person and I was very lucky to be part of her life. As a Storytelling club officer, I encouraged her to get her DTM. She loved Toastmasters and I will always remember her for as long as I live.

– Lucy Kahn, DTM 2

Toastmasters was her passion. She loved Toastmasters and did everything to make the Storytelling club successful, traveling great distances to participate. She would even pick up members along the way to make quorum! She was happy doing it.

– Florecita Siazon, ACB

The Meyers family is heartbroken over this sad news. To know Linda was to love her.

Marty, CTM; Susan, and Andrew Meyers

Oh my God! Can't believe that our own ace storyteller and selfless organizer of our club is no more!! I liked her demeanor, tolerance and guiding nature.

– Chandrasserkar Venkataraman

Linda was an exceptional speaker and I took inspiration from her speeches and the way she led the club. I know she will greatly be missed for what she brought to the club and I will always remember her for her dedication.

– Uchenna Obicheta

I only met her a few times, but she spoke like a real pro and made me feel welcome when I joined recently as a new member.

– Martha Jewett

The club will miss her dearly.

– Louise Cluett-Thoresen, DTM

Linda was the matriarch of our club. Like a good mother, she only wanted the best for us members. Her pride shined with each of our speaking accomplishments. We cry tears for her loss and keep in our hearts her rich humor, encouraging smile and inspiration for our growth. RIP dear Linda.

– Fran Goodman, DTM

The first time I met Linda Bogner was at the 2010 Spring Conference. She was competing, and presented a speech titled “I Jumped Out of a Perfectly Good Airplane.” I would come to

learn that this speech was the embodiment of her spirit and sense of adventure. I would also later learn that she was one of those members who could always be counted on to help when needed. She volunteered at a number of district conferences and was the Spring 2014 Registration Chair. Linda brought a smile and a can-do attitude to every task she set out to do. I am proud to say that she served District 83 as an area governor last year, achieving Select Distinguished Area status. We will miss you, Linda. Thank you for your service to our district.

– Anne Gilson, DTM, IPDG

I'm not sure when I met Linda, but I remember her initially from speech contests and her creativity and humor. Once I met her, I realized her dedication to Toastmasters and in the last two years as an area governor, we became friends. Great memories of spending time with Linda at the International Convention in Las Vegas.

– Lynda Starr, DTM

Linda can be remembered for her wry humor and for her commitment to Toastmasters. While she was only with our club for about a year, she was involved at the district level, and she was in at least one other club that I'm aware of.

– Donna Hook, DTM

I enjoyed working with Linda serving on the district conference planning committees during the past few years.

– Su Brooks, DTM

Omg! It is shocking! What a tragedy! We will miss you, Linda all the rest of the days of our lives.

– Jason Velante

Below: Toastmasters and friends enjoy the afternoon at District 83's Gratitude and Greetings event in Edison, NJ on July, 25, 2015. Pictured left to right, Lynda Starr, DTM; Lucy Kahn, DTM 2; Anne Gilson, DTM, IPDG; Janice Buffalow, DTM, Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS; and Linda Bogner.



Top Ten Reasons to be an Area Director, other than the ALS

By Rebecca Marzec, ACB, ALS

We may look at the area director position as another box to be checked on the way to the Advanced Leader Silver award or as a nice line item on a resume. However, the area director position comes with a rich experience of learning and leadership. Below are 10 reasons to consider an area director position, although there are probably at least 10 more. Thanks to current and past area directors for their insight.

1. Networking—you will connect with other Toastmasters outside of your club.
2. Time Management Skills—Area Director is work-intensive. However you will learn how to better manage your time so that you can relax in between visiting clubs and scheduling contests and officer training sessions. “I learned how to be persuasive, approachable and punctual during my term as AD.” —Swathi Karamcheti, ACG, ALB
3. Hanging out with Cool People—As an AD, you are invited to the District Executive Council (DEC) meetings. You will be part of the inner circle that determines the direction of the district during the year.
4. Increased Leadership Skills—You will of course gain leadership skills, and it can be a challenge. “The opportunity to stretch yourself as a leader.” —Anne Gilson, DTM, IPDG
5. Making an Impact—You will be in a position to make a meaningful impact in your clubs and perhaps in the lives of your members. You will be the one persuading them to achieve their goals. “Helping other members succeed.” —Anne Gilson, DTM, IPDG
6. Management Training—“Finding a way for your area to become Distinguished means putting on your thinking cap.”—Jim Samuel, DTM 8, PDG (46)
7. Learning Your Personal Leadership Style—“You’ll have a deeper understanding of your leadership style as you lead your Area Executive Council.”—Bill Hood, DTM
8. Increased Speaking Opportunities—“Even if your club has become your comfort zone, addressing another club full of people you don’t know is a new public speaking challenge.”—Jim Samuel, DTM 8, PDG (46)
9. “Smart service through impact empowerment with an action plan, one person at a time.” —Lynda Wonski, ACG, ALB
10. Paying it Forward—“There is no good reason to serve as an area director other than getting your ticket punched for your ALS unless you want to give to, and not just take from, Toastmasters.”—John Connors, DTM

Rebecca Marzec, ACB, ALS, serves as Division D Director for District 83.

DOES YOUR CLUB QUALIFY FOR A CLUB COACH?

By Janice Buffalow, DTM

Does your club have 12 members or fewer? Do you want to grow your club? Is your club willing to accept help from someone “outside” the club? If you’d answer yes to any of the above, there is a club coach waiting to be assigned.

How does our club get a club coach? Your club president sends a message to the club growth director (CGD) (janicebuffalow@msn.com) asking for a club coach. The CGD will assign two club coaches with approval of the club president and registers the coach(es) with Toastmasters International. Approval is sent to the CGD, who

notifies the club president and coaches of the approval.

To date, five clubs have stepped forward to ask for help and are on their way toward becoming charter strength and distinguished. Are you ready to take the next step?

If you are interested in having a club coach or being a club coach, contact your District 83 club growth director (janicebuffalow@msn.com) today!

Janice Buffalow, DTM, serves as Club Growth Director, District 83.

Evaluate to Motivate!

By Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS

How you feel when a speech evaluator gives you feedback is directly determined by how the evaluation is delivered.

According to Webster's Dictionary online, the definition of evaluate is: to judge the value or condition of (someone or something) in a careful and thoughtful way.

When a new Toastmaster delivers their first speech, The Ice Breaker, we must ensure that the end of this definition, 'in a careful and thoughtful way', is adhered to. When an evaluation is delivered in a thoughtless manner, it discourages a person who was once enthusiastic to improve their public speaking skills, and causes the person to be silent or in the worst case scenario, to never come back to your club.

Which bring us to the definition of motivate: to stimulate (someone's) interest in or enthusiasm for doing something.

Using the above-mentioned case, if a speech evaluation is delivered to motivate the speaker, that person will feel that they were cared for, and welcome suggestions in the future. This will then increase the value of their words, their self-esteem, and the quality of your club.

One of my favorite modules from the Successful Club Series is Evaluate to Motivate!

According to the module, an evaluator must help the speaker by:

Providing immediate feedback.

Supportive commentary and helpful suggestions reinforce positive speaking behaviors as well as assist in focusing on areas that need work.

Offering methods for improvement.

An evaluator can offer a new perspective. This perspective will allow the presenter to recognize and then solve any difficulties within the presentation.

Building and maintaining self-esteem.

As the presenter's speaking improves from speech to speech, more self-esteem will be gained.

How do we do this?

- First, if possible, have a meeting or phone conversation with the speaker to talk about the objectives of the speech.
- Second, deliver three strong points that communicate the skills that the speaker already possesses. This approach sets the tone and promotes openness to your suggestions.
- Third, deliver, in a careful and thoughtful way, skills that the speaker can improve on. Use "I" instead of "you." For example, rather than say, "You were all over the place," say, "I feel that you need to move with purpose," then give example how the speaker can do that. There is always something that even the most experienced speaker can strengthen.
- Fourth, close with positive statements, such as, "Congratulations on delivering your Ice Breaker speech. I look forward to seeing you deliver more speeches." If possible, encourage the rest of the members of your club to applaud the speaker.

Besides the benefits to the recipient of your evaluation, strong evaluation skills will generate a positive view of your personal and professional life. You will be able to balance situations by weighing the negative and positive points and make sound decisions. Please remember it is an evaluation, not a criticism.

The next time your Vice-President of Education asks you, "Would you like to serve as an evaluator for Jane Smith?," bring your Competent Leader Manual (projects 1, 2, 3, and 8) so that you can receive credit for serving as a speech evaluator, and

say, "Yes, I'm ready to Evaluate to Motivate!"

Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS is a staff writer for The Voice.

Besides the benefits to the recipient of your evaluation, strong evaluation skills will generate a positive view of your personal and professional life. You will be able to balance situations by weighing the negative and positive points and make sound decisions. Please remember it is an evaluation, not a criticism.

Don't Blame it on the Pen

By Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46)

When I was a young girl many years ago, pens gave us many problems in the classrooms. When I was in the third grade, we used a wooden pen with a metal nib at the end. Each desk had an inkwell on the top right corner for us to dip the pen into the ink. Sometimes, if you didn't shake the pen enough, it would drip ink drops across the desk. Later, we used fountain pens. Sometimes, they would leak in our white uniform pockets and make a mess. Then along came the ballpoint pens that the boys would use as weapons. Usually, by the time we started school, we knew how to print most of the letters in the alphabet and could print our name. Some of the letters were a bit shaky and others were crooked, but they were still legible.

Fast forward to today's world...we hardly use pens anymore. We fill out forms. People don't write letters to friends anymore, they type letters on a computer and sign their name. Most people can't read the name, but it seems to remind them of a name they used to recognize a long time ago when people valued their signature and were proud to sign their documents. While we may not be writing as much as previously and we may not have a favorite pen, handwriting is still a useful tool and it is often used at Toastmasters meetings.

When you are asked to evaluate a fellow member's speech at a Toastmasters meeting, write legibly so your impression of the speech can be studied later. If your penmanship is so sloppy, the speaker can't read it or even try to improve his/her next speech. If it's really that bad, you might wonder why the VP Education no longer assigns you the role of evaluating that particular speaker. The speaker probably asked not to have you as an evaluator. What's the point if the speaker can't read your comments?

As a final note on the subject of penmanship...when filling out contest forms and club officer training forms, make sure that all your information is legible. Make sure that your whole address is listed, including apartment numbers and zip codes. Use BLOCK letters and try to use black ink. In this busy world we now live in, people don't have the time to follow up on every paper that hasn't been reviewed by the writer before being turned in to the person in charge.

Remember, don't blame the pen; blame the hand that holds the pen!!

Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46), serves as a staff writer for The Voice. She can be reached at frantotten@verizon.net or (718) 984-1339.

TOASTMASTERS TIPS

By Paul Scharf, DTM 6, PDG

Are you proud of your educational and/or leadership designation? Then you should wear your badge to ALL Toastmasters events. When a guest visits your club and sees some or many of the members wearing their educational and/or leadership designation they could get an impression that this is a pretty good club.

Wear your designation on your right side. When you meet and shake hands with the person, he/she has a much better chance of seeing your name from the right side than from the left side. Try it.

Welcome New Clubs!

Shoremasters

Ocean Township
Division F, Area 62
Club 4879969
Chartered 2/10/2016

Ortho Club

Raritan
Division C, Area 31
Club 5107100
Chartered 2/22/16

Figures of Speech

Somerset
Division D, Area 44
Club 5350032
Chartered 03/22/16

Youth Leadership Program 2.0 Reboot

By Maxine Cohen, ACS, ALB

What happens when you've been tirelessly running a successful Youth Leadership Program (YLP) for three years and students still want more time behind the lectern and more training to bring their speaking and leadership skills to the next level? This is exactly what happened to Park Toastmasters – Youth Leadership Program (Toastmasters YLP), sponsored by Park Toastmasters of Ramsey, New Jersey.

Back in 2001, Bonnie Williams, ATM-B and her husband, Harmon M. Williams, ATM-S, co-coordinators of Toastmasters YLP offered the standard eight-week YLP program every fall. They had received high compliments about the program from both the teens and their parents but, over time, found that their graduates were eager to hone their skills even further.

According to Harmon, the answer to this demand was simple.

"[You] use the skills and tools learned at Park Toastmasters (PTM) Club meetings to coordinate and build two eight-week YLP programs, one directly modeled from the original YLP coordinator's program guide and the other, an intermediate program, which you develop using the same YLP program principles." The additional intermediate YLP program, which was offered each spring, allowed graduates of the YLP introductory program to expand their leadership and speaking skills by challenging them to make longer speeches and to take on more advanced leadership roles. Harmon notes that the two-step program, an introductory YLP class in the fall and an intermediate YLP class in the spring, worked almost seamlessly for about 11 years.

Bonnie agrees that the program ran very smoothly until 2012, when a few students noted they wanted more than the two-step YLP program offered. The decision was made to allow the more experienced graduates of the 16-week program to combine with the less advanced students in the introductory and intermediate YLP programs. Harmon proudly states, "We now offer up to a 32-week YLP program. When a teen desires to continue to improve their communication and leadership skills, they can go through the introductory and intermediate YLP programs and continue to take the program again as an advanced student through our [revised] introductory and advanced program." This combination of introductory, intermediate and advanced YLP program became an instant hit with both teen members and their parents. It continues to run successfully today. According to Bonnie, "In our current introductory YLP program we now place about four-to-five advanced students who have graduated from our two-step [YLP] program. These students are asked to prepare for more demanding roles, such as speech evaluator, general evaluator

and toastmaster. They also deliver longer speeches that are more in keeping with the regular Toastmasters program."

Maxine Cohen, ACS, ALB, a member of Park Toastmasters Club (PTM), recently had the privilege of visiting PTM's YLP. The class consisted of four advanced students along with 12 introductory students who were taking the class for the first time. According to Maxine, "This was the fourth week of the eight-week introductory YLP program and all the students were already very gifted." Maxine observed that, "the meeting agenda parallels our [Park Toastmasters] meeting agenda and includes all the same roles found at a Park Toastmasters meeting." She said she was very impressed that the impromptu speakers all spoke on topic and that none of the teens passed off the question or changed the topic. Maxine commented, "I was

most impressed that this is only the fourth meeting and every Ice Breaker speaker was thoughtful, understandable and organized. Toastmasters YLP should be proud because the Ice Breaker speeches I heard today were as good as Ice Breaker speeches given at my club."

Lorene Cox, CTM, CL, is a member of Park Toastmasters and has assisted Harmon and Bonnie in running the YLP for more than five years. She commented that she gets "tremendous satisfaction in witnessing teens who transform into more confident speakers and

leaders through the revised two-step program." She notes that by the time the teens are in the intermediate YLP program, they are running the meetings themselves and delivering effective, challenging and longer speeches without referencing notes.

According to Harmon, Toastmasters YLP has successfully graduated over 200 students, all of whom are members of The New Jersey Home Schoolers Association (NJHSA). The inception of Toastmasters YLP can be credited to Carla Abrams, Director of the NJHSA and Frank Lomonico who posted publicity flyers in the Ramsey library for Park Toastmasters Club. Back in 1998, Carla saw a need to provide young people with public speaking skills and contacted Frank to petition Park Toastmasters to start a Youth Leadership Program. Bonnie and Harmon continue to see a strong need for improved communication and leadership skills for all youth. As such, they have offered to train other Toastmasters clubs that are interested in starting their own YLP program. If you are interested in learning more about starting a YLP program through your Toastmasters club, email Bonnie at bonnie34@optonline.net.

Maxine is the 2015-2016 District 83 Finance Manager.

Maxine is also VP-PR and web administrator for Park Toastmasters Club in Ramsey.

"I was most impressed that this is only the fourth meeting and every Ice Breaker speaker was thoughtful, understandable and organized. Toastmasters YLP should be proud because the Ice Breaker speeches I heard today were as good as Ice Breaker speeches given at my club."

Excellence in 5-7 Minutes – An Hour Later

By Sherri Rase, ACS, ALB

Recently, we turned our clocks to “Spring Forward” and gain an extra hour of daylight. While we rue the “missing” hour of sleep, we gained an hour of daylight when we can most enjoy it. How DID Daylight Savings Time (DST) come about? Let’s turn our vision back to find out.

The United States was founded in a time when most people were making their living from some aspect of working the earth – farming, livestock and other agrarian pursuits were determined by the rising and setting of the sun. The time to rise was when the sun did and work for the most part had to be done by the time the daylight waned. An exception was the aptly named, very bright, Harvest Moon as an example that is so bright it permitted farmers to work after the moon rose as well to get that harvest in.

The Industrial Revolution brought about many world changes, not the least of which was people’s perceptions of time. In fact, it was Germany that first utilized Daylight Savings Time during World War I to conserve fuel. The first observance began May 1, 1916. It was such a useful idea that the rest of Europe soon followed suit. The United States was slower to act and of course established legislation, the Standard Time Act of March 19, 1918. This established the time zones we know today and at that time, DST began March 31, 1918 and went back to standard time on October 27 that same year. Ralph Smedley founded Toastmasters officially in 1924, so from the very beginning Toastmasters learned to accommodate time. Think about the importance of the timer role so that we are cognizant of our time used, gain a feel for what one-to-two minutes feels like and to be respectful of our fellow Toastmasters’ time.

The idea of changing the clocks met with some resistance, as change often does. After the war and despite President Woodrow Wilson’s veto, Congress abolished this portion of the law. Thereafter, DST was observed locally until World War II when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt instituted year-round DST that was known as “War Time” on February 9, 1942. This year-round observance was in effect until Sunday, September 30, 1945. Afterward, many states east of the Mississippi adopted DST for the summer, but there was no federal law on the books until 1966 when Congress responded to pressure from the transportation industry that was frustrated by the lack of consistent observance. The resulting Uniform Time Act of 1966 established the observance as beginning on the last Sunday in April and reverting on the last Sunday in October.

Winds of change were blowing in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Toastmasters admitted our first female member Helen Blanchard (under the nom de guerre “Homer” and Toastmasters officially admitted women to membership in 1973. However, not all of the changes were this positive. On the other side of the coin, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) created an oil embargo that changed the way the United States looked at energy. OPEC forced Congress’ hand and similar to its origin, it enacted a year-round observance of DST beginning January 6, 1974 and running through April 27, 1975. This was the source of a great deal of controversy. Many of us who were in school at that time walked there in darkness or semi-darkness that had our parents concerned for our safety. Amended in October 1974 to return to Standard Time from October 27, 1974 through February 23, 1975, when DST again became active. After the expiration of the trial period, the timing established in the Uniform Time Act of 1966 was restored.

Making a good thing better, Congress extended DST in 1986, by amending the Uniform Time Act, so it began the first Sunday in April and continued through the last Sunday in October. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended DST even further, taking effect in 2007. These are the standards we know today where DST begins on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November. While in some ways, “losing” an hour during the throes of Area Contest season puts a monkey wrench in the works in one way, it’s a pleasure to have that extra hour of sunlight at the end of the day when we greet our Toastmasters colleagues at locations around the state and need to find the various libraries and other contest venues.

While area contests are now behind us, and division and district contests stand before us, Toastmasters in Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands do not observe DST. Most other Toastmasters in the United States, its territories and commonwealths do. This means that while we here are a little sleep hung-over now, Toastmasters around the world remain committed to excellence in 5-7 minutes so join us in celebrating the extra hour of light.

Think about the importance of the timer role so that we are cognizant of our time used, gain a feel for what one-to-two minutes feels like and to be respectful of our fellow Toastmasters’ time.

20/20 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE AWARD

By *Bill Hood, DTM*

The district introduced a new incentive this year as approved at the Fall Conference by the District Council. \$100 TI certificates for any club that pays membership dues for a minimum of 20 members by March 20 for the April-to-September time period.

The certificates will be awarded during the business meeting at the Spring Conference on May 21. If the club President or VPE are not able to attend please have send a club member with the proxy. This way the club will receive the award and have representation. If no one from the club is able to receive the award at the business meeting, then it will be handed to their area director.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 46 clubs that achieved 20/20 status.

Club Name	Apr. Ren.	Club Name	Apr. Ren.
Opportunity Seeking BMS Club	59	Bayer Toastmasters Club	24
Brunswick Toastmasters Club	51	T and M Toastmasters	24
Ridgewood Toastmasters Club	43	Charter 01/04/16	
TM of Westfield Club	40	Citco Speaks	23
IEEE Live Wires Club	40	Morristown Toastmasters	21
Red Bank Toastmasters Club	37	Fairleigh Early Birds Toastmasters Club	21
BD Speaks Club	35	Solix Toastmasters	21
Midtown Toastmasters Club	33	Gateway 2 Toastmasters Club	21
Mars Chocolate Sweet Talkers	33	Speeches Are Us	21
Freehold Phrasers Club	31	Speakers of the House	21
Shore Speakers Toastmasters Club	31	Diamonds In The Rough Club	20
Speak-UPS Toastmasters	30	Merck Club	20
BASF Toastmasters Club	30	Essex Toastmasters	20
Open Door Club	28	Power Talkers Club	20
ETHI-Comm Club	28	Jersey Toastmasters Club	20
DP&C Toastmasters	28	Munich Re Toastmasters Club	20
AT&T Middletown Club	27	Conquerors Club	20
DTCC Toastmasters North East	27	Speak and Lead Toastmasters Club	20
Art Of Speaking	26	Germinators Toastmasters Club	20
Blue Expressions Club	25	Merck Achievers Toastmasters Club	20
Speech Meisters Club	25	Old Bridge Toastmasters	20
Hunterdon Speak Easy Club	25	J&J Piscataway Speakers	20
The Toast of RMS	25	Ortho Club	20
Picatinny Club	24	Charter 02/22/16	