



The Voice

District 83 Newsletter
December 2012

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 Toastmasters You Keep 5th Anniversary Celebratory Meeting

March 22, 2012 – The Toastmasters You Keep celebrated their 5th anniversary by holding a special meeting with food, refreshments and fun! Charter Members (both past and present), new members, current members and even guests from District 83 (Area 25 Governor, Pam Upadya and Lt. Governor of Marketing, Cyndi Wilson) helped commemorate this auspicious occasion.

Current VP of PR, Frank Ranu, took the reins on planning the entire event in January and used this experience to complete his High Performance Leadership (HPL) manual with the help of his HPL Committee that consisted of Don Osmanski, Lois Steward and Jamila Ritter.

Club President, Jenifer Ridilla, kicked off the meeting by unveiling the club's new banner and updated club posters. Charter Member and past President, Lois Steward, delivered an excellent speech outlining the club's five-year history.

We were then treated to an inspirational speech about the importance of completing the Competent Communicator (CC) manual by Ken Quann. Practicing what he preached, Ken completed his CC when he finished his speech. Ken's speech also gave the club their fourth CC for the year which helped The Toastmasters You Keep become a Select Distinguished Club. The club is on track to become President's Distinguished before the end of the Toastmasters year in June.

The special surprise of the meeting occurred when we were able to “Skype” in our club founder, Steve Lord, via web cam from North Carolina for a “virtual” Table Topics session. Past and present members participated in this highlight of the meeting and everyone had a great time.

The meeting ended with Area 25 Governor, Pam Upadya, presenting a 5-Year Achievement certificate from Toastmasters International and of course—cake!

This meeting was a huge success and couldn't have been possible without all those that contributed to making the meeting one of the most memorable ones for The Toastmasters You Keep.



No Limits Toastmasters

By Fran Okeson

No Limits Toastmasters was chartered as a club for people with Down Syndrome, Developmental Disabilities and People with Special Needs. The club meets three times a month in various venues around Staten Island, New York. To assist in this mission, several Toastmasters from other clubs have joined No Limits as dual members to assist the members with their goals.

At times, when the need arises, members visit homebound Toastmasters as part of the club's mission to bring the Toastmasters program to members who can no longer participate actively at their regular club meetings. For many years, No Limits members met with fellow members at the South Beach Psychiatric Center on Staten Island. Several members have advanced into the other clubs in the Area and are progressing very well. From time to time, they participate in the cable TV show/meetings our club conducts. People often ask how did No Limits get its name? For more than thirty years, my family and I shared our home with disabled adults and seniors who could no longer live on their own. On occasion, I took my clients to my Richmond County Toastmasters meetings. One night, one of the clients asked why my friends could speak at the meeting and he couldn't. I then contacted a friend who had adopted four sons who had Downs Syndrom. We held our first meeting at my home, then moved our meetings to her house. It was more convenient for all concerned.

As we progressed with the Toastmasters program, I asked several of my Toastmasters friends to come and help me conduct a contest. It was very successful and the idea of chartering a club for disabled members became a reality. Members worked toward their CTM award and I read a poem about "No Limits." We chose that concept for our club name. There are no limits to anything you desire if you stick with it and are guided by others to achieve your goals. In 1999, I received a Presidential Citation in Chicago from Toastmasters International President Terry Daily for chartering the club. Could I have done it by myself? NO!!! I had a dream and with others' help, that dream became a reality.

Over the ensuing years, we have grown to accomplish many new things. Our members have conducted “Youth Leadership Programs” more than 30 times and have conducted more than 25 “Speechcrafts” in the community. Last year, we hosted a day at the Staten Island Yankees Ball Park and twenty Toastmasters and friends came out to see our Yankees lose the game. Last month, 22 Toastmasters and friends watched from a lovely air conditioned suite and cheered on the Yankees as they won over the Brooklyn Cyclones by a score of 12-2.



A Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Toastmaster:

Have you missed the District 83 newsletter over the past several months? There is a simple reason for this—lack of material! While I am more than willing to publish your articles and pictures, I first need to receive them. Please check out the following page for how you can send your articles to me for inclusion in future newsletters. I also am asking that you do not send in your club newsletters since I am looking for original material to print and not simply items that have already been published and distributed.

While I have your attention, I will be starting another club newsletter contest in January. Details will follow in an e-mail to your club's Vice President of Education. If I do not have your VPE's name, the e-mail will also be sent to your Area Governor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season. May we all have peace in the new year.



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

