



## The Voice

District 83 Newsletter  
January 2014

*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](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com). Photos are welcomed!

### **Merck Toastmasters Celebrates 40 Years!**

On October 26, 2013 Merck Toastmasters Club #260 celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> year as a chartered Toastmasters International club. Many years back a small group of enthusiastic employees Philip G. Steinhauser, Richard “Dick” White and local Toastmaster Maurice Zirrieth decided to start Merck’s own corporate Toastmasters Club. Our Club’s long history had begun on October 12 of 1973 after it was officially chartered and J. Richard White delivered his first keynote speech at the club’s celebratory charter dinner. Philip, Dick and many early club members were so grateful to Merck & Co for allowing them to house our TM club and for absorbing some of the operational cost that they took the Toastmasters benefits to the local community and to the various pharmaceutical organizations. In this extended forum and with the help of the newly improved communication and leadership skills club members shared their professional knowledge, expertise, and their career journeys.\*

For many years Merck Toastmasters Club continued its success and consistently earned Distinguished, Select, and even President’s Distinguished Status. A special notice goes to one of our member’s Mark Mendonca, who had earned his Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award while a member of our club.

As a club we are very proud of many members who over the years have represented us and took winning places at the Area and Division competitions, served as the Area Governors, greatly contributed to the District leadership by helping organize and run District Conferences, conducted Educational Workshops, organized and hosted some of the Toastmasters of Pharmaceutical Industry annual meetings, Youth leadership programs and many other local events. As a club we draw our strength from the wonderful and diverse members who currently represent 17 different countries with the wide range of talents and cultural backgrounds. This variety enriches us as a group and allows learning from each other.

Today we are a dynamic and vital club of 30+ very active members that come from many different areas of the company, such as Finance, Merck Manufacturing Department, Global Compliance, Safety, Intercompany Center of Excellence, Medicinal Chemistry, Clinical Drug Development, Biology Discovery and Global Development Process within Merck Research Laboratories.

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While Merck Toastmasters Club #260 is not the only club within our Global Company (we have many around US and around the world), we are definitely the oldest. Time had shown that when a group of dedicated people puts their minds and efforts together – the results continues to benefit many even after 40 years. In 2013 with pride and gratitude we celebrate all the Learning, Growth, Achievement, Leadership and Excellence that was founded by those who came before us and by dedication of those who will join and lead us in the future!

To celebrate the 40 years as a chartered club with Toastmasters International a luncheon was held at Bertucci's Restaurant in Woodbridge. Attendees and guests were able to enjoy a variety of Italian dishes and desert. During the luncheon a photo slide show was shown in the slide show were pictures of Toastmasters from the early years of Merck Toastmasters Club #260. During the luncheon current members discussed how they knew some of the members from the early years of our club. Members also spoke about how Toastmasters has helped them overcome their fear of speaking in public, but the most important thing they were able to take from Toastmasters was the friendships they were able to develop. An impromptu table topics became part of the luncheon were members and guests talked about their experiences and benefits they gained from Toastmasters. Here is to another 40 years to the Merck Toastmasters Club #260 club.



40 Years in the making!

\*Source: The Rahway Reporter Volume XVII No. 7 Oct-Nov 1973.

## Red Bank Toastmasters Celebrates 15th Anniversary!

On Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, after 1,365\* speeches, the members of Red Bank Toastmasters celebrated the speech club's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

According to Rebecca Jean Marzec, Club President, "The event was a great success in large part due to the quality of the speeches delivered that night by Cathy Scott, Dave Cashour, Miguel Hernandez, and Bill Atkins. I lost a few hours' of sleep energized by our celebration and anticipation of our upcoming Holiday party, Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at The Red Oak Diner from 6:30 to 9:30 pm."

"We would also like to thank Riverview Hospital for generously providing a meeting place for Red Bank Toastmasters", noted Bill Atkins, the club's Vice President of Membership.

Dave Cashour won Best Speaker for his 10<sup>th</sup> speech toward his Competent Communicator award, "Put Your Speech in the Cloud." Larry Lynch won Best Evaluator for his evaluation of Miguel Hernandez's speech, "Living the RV Lifestyle." Wendy Huang won Best Table Topics for an impromptu speech about the zoo.

Red Bank Toastmasters meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Riverview Hospital in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor cafeteria. Guests are welcome.

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If you would like more information about Red Bank Toastmasters please contact Larry Lynch at 732-996-3695, email [lynch.larry88@yahoo.com](mailto:lynch.larry88@yahoo.com) or visit [www.redbanktoastmasters.com](http://www.redbanktoastmasters.com)

\*Estimate based on 26 meetings per year x 15 years x 3.5 speeches per meeting



## **Fall Conference Unites, Educates and Informs District 83 Toastmasters**

The morning was bright and sunny as Toastmasters gathered at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Edison. After mingling at breakfast, the conference, themed "Corporate Opportunity/Public Invitation," officially began. The logo for the contest was designed by Michelle "Glod" Feingold of South Street Toastmasters. The morning started with the first-timer and repeat-attenders sessions chaired by Jaclyn Lee and Joel Remde. First-timers introduced themselves and tested their Toastmasters knowledge while the repeat-attenders chatted about issues important to them.

Toastmasters stepped up to share their knowledge and expertise as workshop presenters for professional, personal and club development. The sessions included: Isaak Gelbinovich - "What's your Story?"; Julian Hernandez - "A Cruise to Distinguishedland;"; Bismark O. Del Villar I - "Barriers to Innovation;"; John Connor - "Art or Science?"; Njeru Nthigah - "Rule your Destiny;"; and Pamela Winter - "An Attitude of Gratitude."

In the afternoon, after the business meeting, the excitement rose for the Humorous and Table Topics speech contests. Congratulations to Humorous Contest winner Meri Freedman. Meri had the crowd laughing with her speech on why she wants to be a man in her next life. Marguerita Estrada, who earned second place, entertained with "How to win friends and influence people—the Latino way." Third-place finisher Brian Cort gained many chuckles with "Weeds." Congratulations, also, to Table Topics Contest winner George Corrado. Gary Tully finished second and Patrick O'Halloran, third in the Table Topics competition. The table topics question, presented by contest chair Willie Markert was, "What does excellence mean to you?" and all the participants had great responses.

The dinner was a definite highlight of the day, led off by the Parade of Banners and introduction of clubs that chose to participate. Arlyce Andersen warmed up the crowd, inspiring District 83 to be Big, Bold and Bodacious! Immediate Past District 83 Governor Pam Winter announced Division Governor of the Year – Asha Thomas Mathai; Area Governor of the Year - Genevieve Jones; and Toastmaster of the Year - Fran Okeson.

Pat Johnson, Toastmasters Past International President (2010-2011) was the keynote speaker and was truly inspiring. Her message in text and song was how important other people are in Toastmasters and our everyday life and that we should never be afraid to ask for help. She talked about several people who have been great influencers/mentors for her.

A great thank-you to conference chair Bill Hood and co-chair Paula Markert, the entire committee, volunteers and district governor Cyndi Wilson and LG-Education and Training Anne Gilson for a successful event. The Spring Conference will be May 17-18, 2014 at the Hyatt Morristown.



**Arlyce Andersen**



**Pat Johnson, Keynote Speaker**



**Parade of Banners  
Pat, Cyndi, Bill, & Anne**



## **Children are our Future: Toastmaster's Youth Leadership Program**

In District 83, we emphasize the many prongs of Toastmasters, namely mutual development of speaking and leadership skills, alongside community involvement and nurturing the skills of the leaders of tomorrow. The Youth Leadership Program helps young people to develop speaking and leadership skills and perhaps sets the stage for future Toastmasters membership. Theresa Yarosh, DTM is District 83's Youth Leadership Coordinator and explains the program and her involvement.

Her initial participation in the Youth Leadership Program began when a group of mothers of homeschooled children contacted one of the clubs in Area 23. These mothers were concerned about how their children communicate and more importantly learn to communicate. The concern was rooted in the fact that today we are utilizing technology as well as slang and this is taking its toll on true face-to-face communication. Theresa noted it was a very rewarding experience to work with a group of children ages 9 to 11.

The Youth Leadership Program is ideal for elementary through high school students and organizations such as church groups and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Parents also participate and many may choose to join Toastmasters to improve their own speaking and leadership skills.

According to Toastmaster's International's website, Youth Leadership helps young people build their communication and leadership skills so they may become tomorrow's leaders in business, industry and the community. Via eight sessions, participants develop their speaking and leadership potential through practical experience. Each Youth Leadership program group is limited to 15 to 20 people, with a maximum of 25 although Theresa suggests smaller groups are preferable.

A local Toastmasters club serves as sponsor and provides the materials (available from Toastmasters.org and the leaders for the program. There is a coordinator who leads the program along with an assistant coordinator who can also fill in if the coordinator is not available. Each dedicate a few hours a week for preparation and about 1-2

hours for each session. The sessions include prepared and impromptu speeches along with evaluation. The students benefit from the sessions and many high schoolers see it as a good way to prepare for the all-important college interview.

Area 62 governor Tyrone Johnson and District 83 treasurer Steve Delia have also participated as coordinators. Steve worked with his and other home schooled children and Tyrone, is assisting two members of Essex Toastmasters as they work with a Montclair Girl Scout troop, which will also lead to a Gavel Club. (Theresa explained that a Gavel Club is ongoing while the Youth Leadership is only eight sessions.)

At the end of her talk, Theresa called on District 83 to introduce Youth Leadership Programs as "our duty as Toastmasters and to the future of the United States," which she said is being "hindered by reliance on technology which compromises ability to effectively, lead, persuade and influence." She volunteered to speak with clubs on the Youth Leadership Program.

For more information on the Youth Leadership Program, please contact Theresa at [tyarosh@verizon.net](mailto:tyarosh@verizon.net)



**The 2014 Newsletter Contest is Coming!**  
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**Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The District 83 Newsletter Contest begins on January 15th and runs through March 15th. Below are the official rules:**

- Only one submission per club will be accepted
- Submissions must be sent by 11:59 p.m. on March 15th. A submission sent (or received) at 12:00 a.m. on March 16th will not be accepted. Do not be tempted to wait until the very last second to press the 'send' key. It is not worth the stress! Please remember that there are no exceptions to this rule in fairness to those who managed to press their 'send' key on time.
- Submissions may be sent in any format that is compatible with the Window environment. I know you want to show me your new, fancy computer programs but if I cannot open it, I cannot judge it. It's that simple.
- Newsletters from past contests will not be accepted. I may be many things, but short on memory is not one of them. I am like the proverbial elephant that never forgets. Whether you won or lost, you must submit an entirely different newsletter. Preferably one that is within the last month or two.
- I cannot stress this enough. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**Entries will be judged in the following categories:**

1. Best club goal. What does your club hope to accomplish before June 30, 2014?
2. Best interview of a club member
3. Best 'ah ha' moment from a newbie
4. A humorous Table Topics response that you cannot forget

**Please send your submissions to [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com)**

**The winning club will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate for Toastmaster supplies and the honor and privilege of seeing your masterpiece posted to the District 83 website. Good luck everyone!**

**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](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com)

