



The Voice

District 83 Newsletter
June 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!

New Jersey's Midtown Toastmasters Celebrates 30 Years

In September, Toastmaster International President Michael Notaro visited Midtown Toastmasters club #4722 in Basking Ridge, N.J., to congratulate the club for its 30th anniversary. Notaro also presented an award to Verizon Communications for its continuing sponsorship of Midtown and other Toastmasters clubs. On hand to receive the award for Verizon was Human Resources Senior Vice President Connia Nelson.

But celebrating the 30th anniversary is only part of the success story behind Midtown Toastmasters. The Midtown club was chartered in September 1981 when Verizon was based in New York City. The club attracted many new members over the years, including Bruce Gordon who eventually became CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP).

In 2006, when Verizon moved its operations center from New York to New Jersey, the club reconstituted itself with a new member base.

The new membership reignited the Toastmasters spirit resulting in some amazing accomplishments. Since 2006, numerous members of Midtown Toastmasters have served in leadership roles outside their club including Area Governor, Division Governor, District Lt. Governor-Marketing, District Lt. Governor-Education & Training and District Treasurer.

As the saying goes, "But wait! There's more!" Since relocating to New Jersey, the Midtown club also has earned the prestigious *Triple Crown Award* for four consecutive years! The Triple Crown Award is bestowed upon clubs that reach all ten of its annual goals, thus earning the President's Distinguished Club status; and going beyond those goals to achieve certain membership growth targets. Earning this award in any one year is a great accomplishment – but earning it four years in a row is unheard of!

The Toastmasters spirit is alive and well in Midtown Toastmasters.





Why Enter Toastmasters Contests?

By Carla Ulbrich

I always wanted to be a trophy wife. I'm lying. I never wanted to be a trophy wife. But I do like being a wife who wins trophies! Twice a year, Toastmasters holds speaking contests. One might ask, "Why compete?" I might ask "Why not?"

This is the second time I've entered the contests, and both times, thanks to the guidance of my fellow toastmasters, my speaking ability and confidence have grown tremendously. Here's why I hope more toastmasters will compete in the next set of contests (coming again this summer!):

- 1) Another opportunity to speak. The more you speak, the better you get!
- 2) Chance to win trophies! You, too, can be a trophy wife (or husband)!
- 3) If you advance, you get to speak in to a new crowd in a new place. Also, you may get very helpful feedback (now that 3 people have told me to get my hair out of my face, I finally got a haircut...)
- 4) Up your game. It's much harder to become the best speaker in the division, or the district than it is to become the best speaker in your living room.
- 5) Represent your club.

I am grateful to my club for participating, and thus allowing me to participate. Not just because I like being the wife with trophies; I am becoming a better speaker every time I do this- and isn't that why we are all Toastmasters?

Carla Ulbrich is the VPE of Somerset Toastmasters.

Storytelling Toastmasters Club #8143 Hold Speech Contest

The Storytelling Toastmasters Club held it's speech contest on Saturday, March 10, 2012.



The winners are flanked by our club members: Jason Velante, Jr., the winner of the Evaluation Contest and Linda Bogner, the winner of the International Speech Contest.

Brunswick on Brunswick Bowling Tournament

The excitement was high, the pins were dropping and the ball kept spinning down the lane as members of Brunswick Toastmasters and their families flexed their muscles at Brunswick Zone. There were a few gutter balls, shouts of STRIKE!!!! and some disappointment as sometimes the STRIKE!!!! never materialized.

Members who often gave speeches or acted as timers and ah counters, were now selecting balls, measuring their steps, repositioning their feet, releasing the ball and hoping to get a good score. There were shouts of Oh!! and Ah!! as the pins dropped one by one. Sometimes they didn't drop!!

Members competed against each other and the winner, Praveen Kumar Giri with a score of 332 was crowned "Brunswick Bowling Champion" by club President Sandy Scharf. The competition was tough and members could be seen practicing their form, and follow through all during the tournament. Some tried different balls, different positions, fewer steps, more steps: anything to get a better score.

"Brunswick on Brunswick Bowling Tournament" was organized so members and their families could get together outside their regular club meetings to socialize and have fun.

The club located in North Brunswick, has been distinguished for the past 10 years and has a very active membership. The club boasts a vibrant mentoring program, membership kits for guests who join the club, and Icebreaker mints for those who complete the Icebreaker project. Pictured below is Club President Sandy Scharf flanked by the winner Praveen Kumar Giri on the left and Emilia Voyland (most Improved player) on the right.



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

