



## The Voice

District 83 Newsletter  
September 2011

**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!

### AT&T Bedminster Club Celebrates 35th Anniversary June 16th

By Brad Taylor

The AT&T Bedminster Club 344 had a wonderful evening celebrating the club's 35th anniversary on June 16th at Ciao Bello Ristorante in Somerville. Attendees included outgoing and incoming club officers, members, and even two club guests who wanted to be a part of the festivities.

Special guest, District Governor Tom Somers, was on hand to offer a few words of praise and encouragement. Tom, along with club Secretary/Treasurer Bob Snook, awarded the outgoing president, Gina DeNoia, a Toastmasters champagne flute.

An entertaining and humorous speech was spontaneously delivered by new member, David Larsen. Ruthann Disotell, outgoing VP of Public Relations, saw that all present received a special award document, commemorating his or her contribution to the club that year.



## **Murray Hill Speakers Club & Cosmopolitan Toastmasters Club Celebrates 55th and 50th Anniversaries on June 13, 2011**

The two Murray Hill Toastmasters Clubs, Cosmopolitan Toastmaster and Murray Hill Speaker's Club (MHSC), celebrated the 55<sup>th</sup> and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries together on June 13th at the Alcatel Lucent Buildings. About 60 people participated in the event.



From right to left-Brian Cort, Rebecca George, Amanda Salvarani, Jane London  
Photo by Baosheng (Bob) Li

Hosted by Brian Cort, VP of Membership from both MHSC and Cosmopolitan club, the event was filled with laughter and received high participation from the audience. Maria Mantoudakis from Cosmopolitan Toastmasters Club delivered her humorous speech "It Was The End." Jeff Webb, a seasoned musician, played the birthday song at the event. Amanda Salvarani, President of MHSC, gave a fun Roast Speech. Rebecca George, President of Cosmopolitan Toastmasters Club, hosted the Table Topics. Baosheng (Bob) Li did photoshooting for the event.





Club members were offered birthday hats made from magazines created by Jane London, VP of Public Relations at MHSC. Jane also made paper flowers with tissue paper and real tree branches. “This hand-crafted ‘timer’ was made from boxes and then painted with ink made from fresh flowers. The theme of this event was “sustainable”, which also symbolizes that our clubs’ continue to grow in a sustainable way,” added Jane.



### About the Toastmasters' clubs:

The **Cosmopolitan Toastmasters Club** was chartered in February of 1956, and is one of the oldest clubs in Northern New Jersey. Originating in Whippany, the club served the employees of AT&T and Lucent Technologies, as well as members of the local community, as they strived together to become great orators and leaders. In June of 2009, Cosmopolitan said farewell to its distinguished home of 53 years and moved to the Alcatel-Lucent Murray Hill location, where with another club, MHSC, continue to thrive and

The **Murray Hill Speakers Club (MHSC)**, founded in May 1961, is older than most of its current members and intertwined with the rich history of Bell Labs. This Toastmasters club has always been located in the Murray Hill complex and for years supported all employees including the Bell Labs community of engineers and scientists. Nobel prize winning scientists roamed these halls and may have been, at some point, members of our club. The club was originally a closed corporate club for AT&T and Lucent employees only and in 2001 opened its doors to outside members which provided a broader audience and new perspectives enriching the club member's experience. During the last six years, MHSC achieved Distinguished Club status for four years, Select Distinguished Club status for two years, and President's Distinguished status in 2010.





## **Art of Speaking Celebrates 9th Anniversary**

**June 11, 2011**

Art of Speaking celebrated its 9th anniversary on June 11, 2011, with much fanfare and pomp. A regular club meeting turned into something truly memorable, commemorating not just the club's anniversary but a celebration of the club achieving "Perfect 10" DCP status, along with the election of new club officers for the next year. The tone of the meeting had been set with the following invite sent to all club members:

**If Toastmasters were a game of golf, AoS is on par,  
With the best clubs in the Districts - near and far.**

**On the DCP front, the club earned a "Perfect 10",  
But its the members who achieved their speaking 'Zen.'**

**It is time now to celebrate our ninth anniversary,  
Lauding all who began their journey in this speech nursery.**

**Accept this invitation to reminisce this year's joy ride,  
Come celebrate this moment, with your fellow Toastmasters alongside.**

Members were treated to an anniversary cake and other refreshments. Area 42 Governor, Sanjay Agrawal, opened the business part of the meeting by explaining the importance of electing club officers. He then conducted the elections as per the parliamentary process, resulting in a complete slate of officers for next year.



**Toastmaster Vikram Polavarapu opened the educational part of the meeting and served as Toastmaster of the day. There were four prepared speeches, including a "Status Report" from the "Speeches by Management" Advanced Speeches manual, presented by the club President, Surya Avantsa. He discussed the club's DCP report which aptly tied into the theme of the meeting.**



**Guests were formally welcomed and given a chance to introduce themselves. They seemed visibly impressed by the genuine interest level and keen participation of all the club members present. The agenda did not include a Table Topics session to provide time for club elections. Division D Governor, Hitender Mittal, served as General Evaluator and called on the evaluators to provide individual feedback for the speakers.**



**The meeting finished on a high note with everyone feeling satisfaction for the accomplishments in the year gone by and excitement for the new year with a new set of officers.**

**Interview with Anne Gilson  
Area C Governor 2011-2012**

**What do you hope to achieve in your new role?**

I would like to see all of Division C's Area Governors (at least) Distinguished. We have a great team in place and I believe that it can happen.

**What compelled you to become involved in the District as an officer and why do you continue to pursue District Officer roles?**

I had been an Assistant Area Governor in 2009-2010 and knew I wanted to move up into the Area Governor role. I followed that up with a tremendously successful year as Area 15 Governor, and was ready for a new challenge for this coming 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](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com)