



TOASTMASTERS

INTERNATIONAL

The Voice

District 83 Newsletter
"Better You, Better World"
June 2010

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!

Tom Somers, ACS, CL District 83 Governor-Elect A Leader With a Plan

How long have you been a member of Toastmasters?

I joined Toastmasters in March 2004. My home Club is Brunswick Toastmasters in New Brunswick, NJ

Why did you join Toastmasters?

I joined Toastmasters in order to overcome my fear of public speaking, to network and improve my communication skills in general.

What compelled you to become involved in the District?

After I was a member of Brunswick Toastmasters for a while I was asked me to be the Sergeant-at-Arms and that was when my leadership took off. I discovered that improving leadership skills also helped improve my communication skills and there is a great benefit in that. When the opportunity to further enhance my leadership skills presented itself in the roles of VP Education and later of President, I gladly took on those roles. When the Area Governor role opened up in the old area 95 District 46 in New Brunswick, I took that role because of the

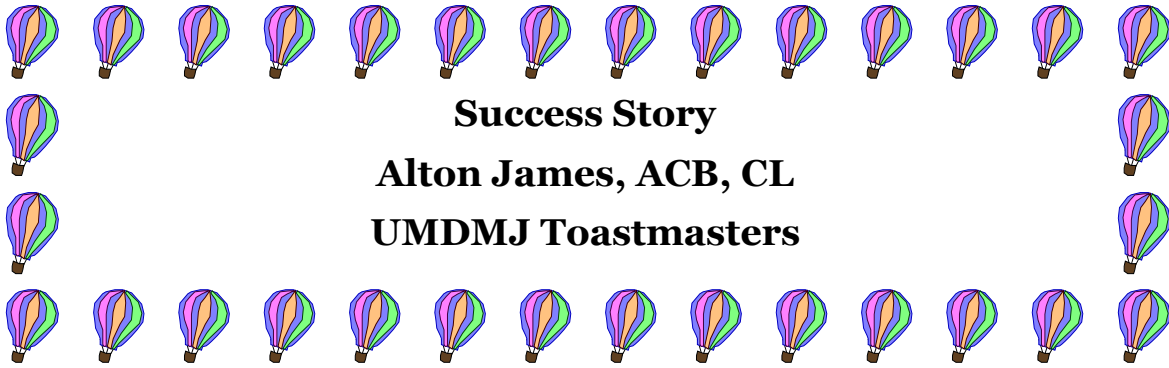
value of leadership. This was followed by positions as Division Governor, Lt. Governor of Marketing, followed by Lt. Governor of Education and Training.

What are your plans as the new District Governor?

My plans are to achieve Select Distinguished status for our District and to be one of the top 12 Districts in the world. I hope to continue to build leadership skills and to get more of our members involved in leadership by working with the new Area and Division Governors.

My theme for the 2010-2011 year is: **Toastmasters – Achieving Greatness Together. Dedication, Determination and Desire**





Success Story
Alton James, ACB, CL
UMDMJ Toastmasters

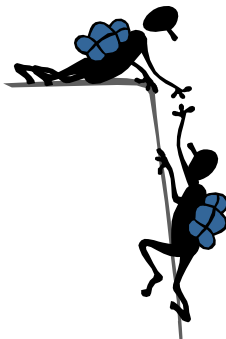
I joined because I was petrified of speaking in public and I decided I had to get over it. At the time I worked at UMDMJ in Newark, where they had an outreach program to talk to kids about science and medicine and I thought that being in front of a group of kids was a great place to start. It turns out it was the most difficult audience to get in front of because kids get bored easily and become antsy and start to ignore what you are saying. An adult will sit quietly when bored, but children are a different story. A friend joined Toastmasters and encouraged me to join and it has done a tremendous help. Now whenever I see a microphone or a lectern I am ready to speak! I have been a member of UMDMJ Toastmasters in Newark, NJ for 6 years and am currently serving as club Secretary

Toastmasters has helped me in my job at the hospital in many ways. I needed to go to meetings with upper management and Toastmasters helped me to overcome fear and gave me confidence to speak up. In the past, I would silently sit in meetings and would not volunteer to speak, no matter what the forum. Even if I did not know the correct answer, it gave me the courage to say that I would find the answer and get back to the person. This confidence has also led me to receiving a promotion. After 28 years started at UMDMJ I got promoted in 2005 to Assistant Administrative Director of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. I worked in this capacity until my retirement in 2009. I stayed home for 5 months and then decided I had to do something now I am a real estate agent. I had my license for quite a few years and decided to use it full time.

Toastmasters has also helped me in this job since I need to conduct buyer interviews, give presentations, and conduct one to one conversations. Being a member of Toastmasters has also taught me to be a good listener which helps me in both my personal and professional life.

At the recent spring conference, a new member asked me how long I have been in Toastmasters and I replied that it has been 6 years. They looked at me with wonder and said, "And you are still here?" implying that I still had not learned yet how to speak in public.

Toastmasters is not a destination! It is not a goal you achieve and then quit. There is always something new to learn or some skill that needs sharpening. Some people who become very good speakers continue with the group in order to give back to the club that has given them so much.



Shore Speakers Toastmasters #7478

Celebrates 10 Years

Shore Speakers Toastmasters chartered in April 2000 with the help of Richard Jarosz networking a local chamber of commerce. The first year Shore Speakers achieved the Perfect 10 in the Distinguished Club Program. Since charter we have received several other awards.

Shore Speakers overcame many obstacles and challenges over the past ten years. We have lost our meeting place several times, and at times membership was down to about two or three people. In 2007, due to the help of John Steinhilber, Richard Jarosz (charter members), Tom Somers Lt. GET, and many dedicated members, our club today is an active club. There were many thin threads that kept the club surviving. Many previous members were not able to continue membership due to personal, business or scheduling priorities. While they were active, they kept the club moving forward.

In the past some people thought Shore Speakers was a dead club. Many thought the survival of the club was mysterious or a miracle. While others agreed they were surprised to see the club still active. We call it tenacity; like trying to cut a weed, but the weed keeps growing back.

Shore Speakers club encourages the Competent Communication Program and is implementing the new Competent Leadership Program. Many of the speeches presented range from informative, leadership, and inspirational speeches to funny and personal stories.

Ours is an open club that focuses on an atmosphere that is friendly, comfortable, positive, and supportive. Most members are business owners or work in small businesses in the area although the club welcomes people from all backgrounds. Shore Speakers believes Toastmasters prepares people for real life.

Shore Speakers had their 10-Year Anniversary Celebration Meeting on Monday April 19, 2010. It was a great success, with many guests and visitors attending the meeting. Richard Jarosz showed his creative skill in being the host for Toastmaster Jeopardy. There were contestants answering questions about the history of Shore Speakers and Toastmasters. The game show kept everyone informed and entertained.

President, David Zimel CC

VPE, John Steinhilber ATMS, CL

VPM, Tom Somers LGET, DTM, CL

VPPR, Richard Jarosz CTM, CL

Treasurer, Perry Weyser

Sergeant-at-Arms, Teri Sciamareli

The Storytelling Toastmasters Club Has Been Busy!

The Storytelling Toastmasters Club of Roseland captured the gavel on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Pictured from left to right: NYLIM Group's President: Don Osmanski and Storytelling Club President Nick Demonte.



Storytelling Toastmasters also hosted a bowling social at Boonton Lanes in Boonton, NJ on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Pictured are Storytelling Toastmasters from left to right: Alex Nazario, Bruce Goldman, Linda Bogner and Jason Valente (seated).



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

