



The Voice

District 83 News & Events

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WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Toastmasters year of New Beginnings. We are looking forward to more opportunities in education, communication and recognition. There will be more training opportunities for all of us through webinars, mini-workshops and our future new program, Pathways. We are promoting the idea that every Toastmaster this year achieve "One Level-up." This means everyone achieves his or her next educational award this year. Watch for our District Speakers Bureau; it's a great way for our members to have more speaking opportunities. If every member achieves

their next level up; your club will achieve distinguished status. In turn, District 83 would be in a position of becoming Distinguished or better.

One of the cornerstones of Toastmasters is communication. This year, we want our members to "LIKE – COMMENT – SHARE" more while using Facebook and Twitter; remember to like District 83 Toastmasters Facebook and Twitter and join in the fun. We've created a Blog on our TM83.org website and would like every club to submit a Club Showcase as we have many hidden treasures in our district.

Sit back and enjoy the rest of "The Voice," District 83's newsletter. I look forward to watching each of you grow and become better communicators and leaders of District 83.

*Nothing builds self-confidence and self-esteem
as accomplishment.*

Thoreau



Meet Our District Officer – Program Quality Director, Manny Reyes, ACG, ALB

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

1. What is/are your major goal(s) for District 83 within the scope of your new assignment?

As the new Program Quality Director for District 83, my number-one goal is to add value to the Toastmasters Experience of each individual member. I want to introduce the concept of **Adding or Moving One Level Up** on their current Toastmaster Award level.

2. Using both leadership skills and knowledge, how do you hope to achieve it/them?

My plan is working together designing an effective Toastmaster's educational plan at all levels -- Club, Area, Division, and District. We need to take accountability for each other to create a personal success plan. Starting at home, each Toastmaster should set goals and conduct a self-assessment of where he or she is in their communication and leadership experience today. How far have you gone from your point of departure and how much farther do you need to go to arrive at your ideal point? By taking measure of where you are today, you will be able to plan where you are going in the next twelve months. When each member works their plan, the results are going to impact the entire District.

3. How will you motivate others within the district to meet the challenges ahead and help achieve district goals?

I have put this concept in previous meetings to my listeners this way: If you were on a swimming team, you know first, that you need to practice in the water; and second, if you are not swimming you are sinking. It's that simple! If you are in a communication and leadership organization, you are not there to be a spectator but to be an actor, taking an active part of the action. Consider the effect of coming to a club meeting to see what others are doing and feel left out because you are not contributing and are not receiving feedback. You may find that you are stuck. Alternatively, consider speaking and taking a role. Even if you don't do it right, you are moving in a forward direction and, with the help of the club, can course-correct and find the best path through trial

and error. Don't try to be the best in the whole District, but be YOUR best every time you practice and grow in your plan. To help our members gain value, as Program Quality Director I am going to promote and double the marketing strategy by focusing on the current best practices that we have (e.g., Officer Trainings based on the Divisions' needs, workshops, conferences etc.). I will also add training modules oriented in guiding our members in the direction of achieving their next level up, whatever that means to our members. This could be in their communications, leadership or in any career or professional way that may be influenced by getting feedback and support from Toastmaster's clubs and members.



I want members in our District 83 to interact with each other, create networking opportunities where a member of a club can ask for help from a member of a totally different club or can be mentored by another person in a different part of the state. By getting to know each other during these networking sessions, live or via webinars, we are going to extend the Toastmaster family and experience to a new level and maybe even consider crossing the line of our District to make the exchange even greater and more rewarding. While this sounds aspirational, I have started already, and the first Part 1 Module of **New Beginnings: Planning for Success** was conducted on Saturday, July 29, 2017. These educational modules are not the end of the journey but the first step in the direction I have stated above. In a few weeks, I am planning on doing some webinars or YouTube videos that should be the complement, kind of a second wave of efforts, to the **Add or Move One Level Up** campaign. We all are going to make it by taking one single step at a time. Let me close with this anonymous quote. "To succeed in getting to the top, we have to take the stairs since there is no elevator."



Meet Our District Officer – Club Growth Director, Lynda Starr, DTM

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

1. What is/are your major goal(s) for District 83 within the scope of your new assignment?

I believe that it is important to aim high. Aim for the stars and you may hit the moon! Therefore, my major goal is to achieve President's Distinguished District. This means that at least 50% of our club base achieves Distinguished status, net membership payments grow by at least 8% and net overall club increase is at least 8%. Specifically, this means to add about 20 clubs or 2 per month, adding about 700 membership payments or 350 members, and for 85 clubs to become distinguished. A district that has achieved 50% of its membership and club goals by December has a strong likelihood of achieving success so this is also a goal. The district performance reports available on the Toastmasters International website are terrific tools to track your club, area or division's performance and plan for success.

2. Using both leadership skills and knowledge, how do you hope to achieve it/them?

This will be a team effort led by me and my team; Club Extension Chair Subhash Harmalker; Club Quality Committee Chair Anne Gilson, and Club New Source Research Chair Lisa Pantano plus district officers, and every member of District 83 who needs to take advantage of all that the organization offers and to act as an ambassador talking up Toastmasters. I will have "Ask me about Toastmasters" buttons that I want members to wear and to be prepared to tell friends, families,

coworkers, and anyone who asks, about what they have gained from Toastmasters in terms of leadership and communication skills, invite that person to a club meeting, make them feel welcome and perhaps they will join.



Club growth is not only about new members; it is also about retaining members and making sure that they value their Toastmasters experience. Members need to work the program and manuals, and be rewarded and supported for their accomplishments. If the club officers and members fulfill their roles, the club will succeed as will the area, division and district.

3. How will you motivate others within the district to meet the challenges ahead and help achieve district goals?

I will lead by example and also help my team and fellow members to feel good about Toastmasters, their tasks, and offer them the guidance they need to achieve success. We are working on podcasts, webinars and in-person sessions, including one on Saturday, September 23 at the Clark Library on club sponsoring, mentoring and coaching.

Tips: Why do Toastmasters shake hands at the lectern? By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

In many parts of the world, an extended hand and a smile toward another are gestures of welcome and friendship, and so it is in Toastmasters. When introducing a speaker, the Toastmaster shakes hands with that individual to effect a smooth transition at the lectern from president to presenter. As a visible sign of welcome, it transfers authority from the Toastmaster to the speaker and, for the same reason, is repeated after the speech when the Toastmaster returns to the lectern. In fact, the lectern should never be left empty. The lectern reins should be handed off from speaker to speaker.

The audience should applaud the speaker from seat to lectern and, after the presentation, back from lectern to seat. This custom demonstrates courtesy, appreciation and respect for the work and effort involved.



Member Spotlight Feature Article:
INTERVIEW WITH STACEY GREENE

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

[Editor's Note: Stacey Greene was the first-place winner of both the 2017 District International Speech Contest and the 2017 Evaluation Contest. She represented District 83 at the 2017 International Speech Contest in Vancouver, BC, Canada this August and won third-place honors among a field of nine Round 1 semifinal contestants.]

How long have you been a Toastmaster and which is your home club?

I have been a member of Toastmasters since 2009. I began first in District 38 (Philadelphia) but joined District 83 after I received new employment in New Jersey. Currently, my home club is Gateway 2 Toastmasters of Newark, New Jersey.

Why did you join Toastmasters?

I have always valued feedback that would allow me to grow. I was initially attracted to join Toastmasters because of the instantaneous and constructive feedback program. I hadn't realized prior to joining Toastmasters how much of an art there is in providing meaningful opinion. Will it be memorable, relatable and applicable? Much of the growth that I can attest to in Toastmasters can be directly linked to the feedback I have received and shared. For example, one Toastmaster once shared with me at the onset of my Toastmasters journey that I often end normal sentences with my voice going up (as if to ask a question). This is not the kind of feedback that one usually receives in one's personal or professional life. That one feedback helped me to be purposeful when I speak, to end with an exclamation mark instead a question mark. Furthermore, I joined after witnessing how other Toastmasters artfully delivered masterful evaluations.

Is this spring's set of contests the first you have competed in (club level upward)? If not, in how many other years did you compete?

International Speech – I first competed in 2010/2011; however, my journey at that time ended at the Area level. At that time I felt I had told my story and had nothing else to share. As we can see now, that was not the case.

Evaluations – I competed in 2011/2012 and came in second at the club level. The winner was not available to compete at Area so I competed and won. In preparations for the Division level I immersed myself with YouTube videos of past winners. The winners I saw were boisterous, loud and animated. In so doing, I devised a plan to mimic their style and delivery as this I thought was the winning formula. In that contest, I placed second. The lesson learned at that point was that it is okay to learn from others but it is important that I remain true to myself. This lesson took me to competing for the first time this year in District 83 in both Evaluations and International Speech and the rest is in the history books.

Did you use the same speech for all 2017 competitions (club through district)?

The word "same" is subjective in this regard. Throughout the levels, I utilized one core message of living a life that is authentic to you. However, the stories, lines and delivery evolved and changed with each level. With that said, the speech I delivered at the district level was completely different than the one I gave at the club level but the core message has remained unchanged.



You described your passion for dance and wove graceful movement into your speech. Have you found dance and speech a natural blend for a Toastmaster speech subject?

A background in dance has assisted me greatly in understanding the dynamics of stage presence and performance needed in delivering a speech. It has also given me great awareness with respect to body language. These attributes could be obtained through other art forms and areas of life as well. Therefore, I believe, with some creative ingenuity, any aspect of life can be blended into creating a memorable speech that all audiences including Toastmasters can enjoy.

Every contestant feels a degree of apprehension before presenting. How did you overcome yours?

Ha, that little guy, "Apprehension," is still dancing with me. Whenever he tries to take the lead, a piece of advice someone once gave to me comes to mind: "Everyone sitting in that audience wants you to do phenomenally so give them a phenomenal presentation that only you can give." I repeat this word of advice every time I am about to take the stage. It helps to calm my nerves and get into a rhythm that is uniquely my own.

Did you prepare for the semifinal contest any differently than you did for those at lower levels?

Every preparation conducted throughout the levels has prepared me to move forward to the world championships. I progressed with the same strategies and tools utilized previously, with one difference: practicing with a larger audience reaction in mind. The reaction from a larger audience is often longer than that of a smaller audience. I therefore had to allocate sufficient time for such reactions while ensuring to keep within the stipulated time limits.

Describe the mood that pervaded among contestants during the semifinal briefings.

Friendly and exciting. We did not seem to be competing against each other, we agreed we were there to enjoy the adventure and learn from it. We joked and even exchanged contact information.

What was the most memorable part of this entire experience?

As I indicated before, I moved to District 83 from another district so I didn't know very many members here. During this series of contests I had the opportunity to meet many other members from other clubs as well as the district leaders. Everyone has been so very supportive and friendly, and I am grateful for my widening circle of Toastmaster friends and acquaintances.

Do you plan to compete in Toastmaster contests in the future?

The overwhelming and heart-warming support provided by Toastmasters within District 83 has been tremendously inspiring. It would be a welcomed opportunity to continue to give back to my club and district in some way. Additionally, there is growth gained both personally and professionally every time a speaker presents in a contest. You grow by competing with the best of the best and by testing yourself; this is how we make dreams a reality. Although I plan to take a rest from competition for now, I would absolutely consider competing again in the future.

We're now in the initial round of fall contests. What advice do you have for speech contestants at any level?

Just be yourself. Be proud of who you are. What you have to share cannot be shared in the same way by anyone else. There is someone in the world who needs to hear YOUR story. So what are you waiting for? This is as great a time as any to Dance your DANCE!



Janice Buffalow receiving award

Toastmasters Convene in Vancouver, British Columbia

By Lynda Starr, DTM

In his convention program greeting, Toastmasters International CEO, Daniel Rex wrote, "this is a time to celebrate and enjoy your achievements." Like any of the international conventions, this year's 86th annual convention in Vancouver, British Columbia was truly a celebration of success, whether or not your contestant won the World Championship of Public Speaking, your district was distinguished or your candidate was elected.

As club growth director for District 83, I, along with district director Janice Buffalow; and program quality director, Manny Reyes, met with International candidates and attended district officer training before the official beginning of the convention. Meeting with the candidates enabled us to be better able to vote intelligently and the training provided a chance for self-introspection, meeting fellow officers internationally and in our assigned region 9, and learning how to best serve District 83.



On Wednesday, August 23, the convention began with the Parade of flags and Janice was the flag bearer for Jamaica and Pat Johnson, past international president and host district convention chair held the Canadian flag. I had goose bumps during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. The feeling continued when the Canadian and Australian national anthems played for the host country and home of international president, Mike Storkey.



Janice with the Jamaican flag

Every minute of the convention was a fun learning experience, but I will hit on the highest of the highlights.

Erin Gruwell received the prestigious Golden Gavel award, which is presented to an individual who exemplifies excellence in the fields of communication and leadership. Erin is best known for her book, *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*. The book was followed by the

critically acclaimed movie, *Freedom Writers*, starring actress Hilary Swank as Gruwell. After the success of *Freedom Writers* movie and invitations for her students to speak, she formed a Toastmasters club to help them build their speaking skills. Erin also created the Freedom Writers Foundation through which she instructs educators on her teaching methods. She's also a motivational speaker who travels the globe sharing her powerful message to vulnerable and at-risk youth.



Erin Gruwell & Lynda Starr

Anne Gilson, DTM and past district governor, and I had a chance to meet Erin after her speech and she was one of the sweetest women you could imagine. She was the one being honored yet she made everyone visiting with her feel special.

District 83 was fortunate to have two contestants in the semi-finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking. Stacey Greene, ACB/ALB, Gateway 2 Toastmasters, represented District 83 and Mario Lewis, ACS/CL, Impact 21 Toastmasters, represented District 46. Stacey spoke on the power of the dance and Mario asked if the audience pays attention to its 'check engine light.'



Stacey Greene, semi-finalist in the center with Dave Chapman, Mario Lewis, Janice Buffalow, and Anne Gilson

As mentioned above, Manny, Janice and I met with the candidates to prepare for voting at the business meeting. The voting went smoothly and we are very excited that Radhi Spear, DTM and member of AT&T Middletown Toastmasters, was elected Region 9 International Director. Richard Peck, DTM and former Region 9 International Director, was elected Second Vice President. The new Toastmasters International president is Balraj Arunasalem, DTM, of Sri Lanka, Lark Doley, DTM was elected

International President Elect and Deepak Menon, DTM, First Vice President. We wish all the elected officers a successful term. It was exciting to see the new officers dressed in formalwear and inducted into their roles just prior to the President's Celebration and gala dinner.



Richard Peck addressing the business meeting.

It was a great convention and as always a terrific opportunity to meet new Toastmasters friends, have time to hang out with existing friends and learn more about this great organization.

Congratulations to the following newly completed DTMs!

Su Brooks
Tonia Robinson-Lloyd
Narendra Pondugula

Toastmasters Membership Building Contest: the Smedley Award

On-going now, this contest runs from August 1 – September 30. To win this award your club needs to add five new, dual or reinstated members to your roster within the contest dates.



Lessons Learned at the Toastmasters International Convention

By Manny Reyes, ACG, ALB
Program Quality Director



What a difference a year made!

Last year when my fellow Toastmasters were attending the International Convention in Washington DC, the last thing on my mind and to-do list was to attend this Convention in Vancouver.

I didn't know I was going to move into the ranks of the District 83 Trio and was very happy with the stories and anecdotes that everyone was sharing with me at the time. But, as they say, sometimes we don't know what is waiting for us around the corner. It all started with an idea that I could bring some change and decided to compete for one of the top positions. And those present at the 2017 District 83 Spring Conference know what transpired from that step forward.

By the end of May, when I knew I was going to train to become a better District Officer, I started to prepare myself for the occasion, but going from the District Conference to the International Convention is not a step that one takes every day. The scenarios are so different and the number of attendees is, to coin a phrase, like day and night.

The pace of the training and activities are non-stop and one has to be disciplined to be able to accomplish the most of what is expected. The Convention Center at Vancouver is the closest you can expect to an Airplane Carrier with three floors of large aisles and meeting rooms everywhere. Between my training, sharing best practices and networking with other Toastmasters Trios, the hours passed quickly. I made a lot of new friends and I have had conversations about different ways of conducting business and putting our members first; the exchange of information was awesome.

On Monday, August 21, after a warm welcome by Immediate Past President Mike Storkey and a few words from CEO Daniel Rex, there was an introduction to all District leaders in this meeting. There was a lot of inspiration and motivation shared with us. Then, they presented a Toastmaster's pyramid that has on the top the essence of our organization: 375,000 members. Moving downward were Club Officers (112,000 in total), Area and Division Officers, then the District Officers, Regional Advisors, International Directors, two Vice-Presidents, President-Elect, President and finally CEO. This chart was a complete inversion of what corporations do with their pyramids, another testament that our organization is different and is a members-first institution. It was a very interesting first meeting where I learned about the composition of the International Board of Directors and heard from most of them. It was a humbling experience since these leaders do all they can to benefit our members and are really dedicated to serving our membership as the most valuable part of their role.

One of the comments from the Immediate Past President that resonated with me is that DTM is the equivalent to "Dedicated To Mentor." No member should be left behind, and everyone in Toastmasters should be doing his or her best to ensure that members find what they came looking for. While there are no magic potions or silver bullets, we can all do our part to listen and guide others who are less experienced in their journey. Think about



this the next time a guest visits your club. Sit with that person and explain what is going on throughout the meeting. Growing others is how we grow ourselves.

During the week that I was in Vancouver, I had the opportunity to speak to International Director candidates. They all were very knowledgeable and willing to listen to understand the needs of our Districts. It was eye opening since I have now been connected with a different part of the organization that works to make things happen for everyone. I am not saying that we are not going to have challenges and continue to find weak points in our chain, but knowing and understanding the rules of the game will hopefully make us better players. In the days ahead I hope to convey to our members what I have learned and perhaps some of us may become better Toastmasters.

Lastly, Radhi Spear, one of our Distinguished Toastmasters in District 83, was elected International Director for Region 9, the one we are all members of. Her vision is one of transformation and innovation. Radhi has vast experience in many areas besides Toastmasters; we are most fortunate to have her as a member of our own district. I listened to most of the International Candidates and as competent and passionate as they were, the confidence and determination in Radhi made her extremely appealing. I asked her challenging questions about working with corporations and demonstrating that we are valuable players in the job market and employee development, and her answers were succinct and without ambiguity or vagueness. The one value this International Director brings is honesty and not excuses; she is ready to put into practice her knowledge. I can't wait to see the results of her tenure.

I see a year ahead full of innovation and changes as we get closer to the new Toastmasters Program, Pathways. The time is now to decide where we want to be a year from now and how to get there. Regardless of the hurdles and obstacles that you sense in front of you, just take one step at a time. Even the tallest trees need time to reach their highest points and potential. Patience is a virtue that can take you places. Just plant the seed and wait; you will be amazed.

Recap – Hail & Farewell held July 22, 2017

By Janette Alexander, DTM

Each year the district takes time to recognize the out-going officers and welcome in the new ones, hence the "hail & farewell." If you have never attended the event it is a heartwarming time. The program this past July included awards for the Areas and Divisions, recognition of special accomplishments, induction of the new district officers and the hi-light was the roasting of the out-going District Director, Paula Markert. It was great fun when aside from being roasted, Paula was decked out in amusing attire. This was just a diversion from the sad feelings of losing a great leader! It was a time of mixed sentiments as the meeting ended with the unmistakable feeling of excitement for the coming year.



Anne Gilson with Paula Markert



Awaken Your Power to Lead: Leadership and Communication

By Dave Chapman, CC

Life has value. As a Toastmaster and a leader, your life has exceptional value. Being a leader offers you exceptional opportunities *and* exceptional responsibilities, both to yourself and to others.

As you consider the possibility of attending this year's **District 83 Fall Conference on November 18**, I offer for your consideration a good goal for every Toastmaster: Each of us should strive to find and live our unique purpose in life with integrity and energy, as Toastmasters schooled in the resources and skills of leadership and communication, so that we can help others find and live their unique purpose.

Can participating in the Toastmasters experience help you find a new job?

Absolutely.

Can participating in the Toastmasters experience help you assume and competently execute greater responsibilities at work and in your personal life?

Of course.

But I assert that the Toastmasters experience can do much more than this.

To be a Toastmaster is to be an example of dignity, courtesy, empathy and integrity in every aspect of our daily lives. And sometimes, in the face of terrible personal challenges, Toastmasters gives us all a new and renewed understanding of that most important word, courage.

We learn how to lead, but we also learn how to follow, how to be a positive, constantly encouraging and contributing member of a team. We learn how to argue and win a debate of ideas, but we also learn how to express our gratitude to the person who introduces us to some new aspect of the human experience.

From a talk on botanical gardening to the history of the construction of the mighty Brooklyn Bridge, from a simple reflection of what we did and learned last summer to the often tragic but always inspiring story of how women won the franchise, how they became true citizens of their countries and our world, to be Toastmaster is to be informed, intelligent and inspired.

Our Fall Conference is a time of gathering, a time to learn, to laugh, to renew old friendships, to inspire and to be inspired. It is both a time of thanksgiving and a time of giving of ourselves, of our gifts, our ability to listen and to critique with skill and kindness.

Meet your peers, meet your friends, bring your heart and your soul to one of the great experiences we share as Toastmasters – a District Conference. Meet and learn from our leaders and from those who tell tales with words of magic, heart and hope. Extend your skills in expressing yourself to new levels of joyful exhilaration. Learn how to think with greater precision and to speak with greater depth of feeling. Learn how to express all that you think and all that you are, as you may have never done before.

Come to the Fall Conference, the gathering of the best of District 83, and awaken your power to lead.



Date:
SATURDAY November 18, 2017

Location:
~~DoubleTree~~ Somerset
200 Atrium Drive, Somerset NJ 08873
(732) 469-2600

Cost:
Current Registration Price is \$70 per person



Club Highlights

Smedley's Speakers Advanced Toastmasters 20th Anniversary Celebration

By Fran Okeson DTM18, PDG46

What happens when too many members want to give speeches at the next meeting and all the available slots are already taken? You might do what I did twenty years ago when Richmond County Toastmasters which chartered in 1976 and had a roster of 39 members with speaking spots for five or six members at each meeting. Someone told me to start an Advanced club. In two days, I had a list of 22 members for the new entity on Staten Island, an advanced club!

To join an advanced club, a member must already be a member of another club. Advanced clubs have the advantage of having seasoned members who can mentor newer members and try more creative meeting agendas. I used the twentieth anniversary of the Smedley's club for my 37th HPL project and planned it with my fellow club officers for the past four months. One of our members, Dr. Dilip R. Abaysekara DTM, AS, PIP sent a special greeting to his fellow Smedley's members which was printed in the souvenir program. We also received greetings from another member Nick LoBue DTM, PDG46 who now lives in Georgia. Nick followed me as District 46 Governor in 2002.

Finally the big day arrived and everyone had something to bring to the event. I asked all the speakers to give speeches around the theme: "What I'd like to tell you about myself that you don't already know." In a couple of cases, it was an eye-opener! We had some good laughs and a couple of tears were wiped away, but a great time was had by all.



The HPL & Program



Club Officers - Standing: Ken Raftery (VPE), John Weibel (Treas), Joan Maurizio (VPM) and Emily Cohen (Sec & SAA) Sitting: Fran Okeson (Pres & VPPR)



The Cake!



AnneMarie & her wooden shoes



Speak Up!

Be the Voice of Reason During Election Season

by Sherri Rase, DTM

We all remember the divisiveness of the recent election cycle. While we are all hungry for change, it is possible to agree to disagree with someone in some ways, while agreeing with them in others. Rather than salting the earth and losing friends, there are several ways that Toastmasters may take the high road during the upcoming election cycles in New Jersey and beyond.

One of the greatest skills we have as Toastmasters is our dedicated listening ability. We are trained listeners who become adept at hearing the logic in people's words. Further, we are expert researchers. We put the best facts into our own speeches and we are able to tell Informative Speeches from Tall Tales.

The analytical skills we develop are also part of our Toastmasters tool bag. These are among our most important tools in assessing the facts and separating the wheat from the chaff. Every part of whom we are as Toastmasters, especially our candor, will be brought to bear come November.

Finally, our values as Toastmasters are what will help us RISE. Slightly out of Toastmasters order, creative license dictates that when we show Respect, when we bring our Integrity to the fore, exercise and promote Service, our Excellence shines through. Come, RISE with me during the upcoming election season and together, we can make the kind of change that makes us proud.

District 83 Summer TLI held June 24, 2017

By Janette Alexander, DTM

Are you curious about the TLI session? What is it and what happens? TLI is short for "Toastmasters Leadership Institute" and there are typically 2 sessions held by the district each toastmaster year, a summer and a winter session. These are sessions where the district officers receive training and in our district there are usually club officer training sessions held in tandem.

You may ask, "Why should I attend a TLI if I am not a district officer?" If you are a club officer, you might opt to attend the club officer training and get it out of the way since the TLI kicks off each training season. Another, even better, reason to attend is that you will be able to meet and see your district officers in action. Aside from the actual training, there are information sessions about what is going on in the district. At the summer June TLI, the newly elected trio each addressed the attendees and outlined their plans and intentions for the coming New Year. There was also updated information about the new Pathways educational program.

Look out for the announcement in December for the winter TLI and consider attending. You won't be disappointed if you do.



Club Best Practices

By Su Brooks, DTM

Club Success Plan and Trained Officers

At the June 2017 Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), District Director Janice Buffalow, DTM emphasized the importance of the creation of a Club Success Plan, along with having trained officers. The Club Success Plan enables the officers to create their road map for the Toastmasters year. Trained officers learn about their jobs, and network with their peers in other clubs.

The Distinguished Club Program

Successful clubs strive to attain the goals set out by Toastmasters International in the categories of Education, Membership, Training and Administration. Recognition for Distinguished, Select Distinguished and President's Distinguished Club is based on the number of goals attained at the end of the year as well as the membership. At TLI in June, Club Growth Director Lynda Starr, DTM stated, "You have the work the program."

Moments of Truth educational module

It is good to conduct this at the beginning of the Toastmasters year. The presenter does not have to be a club officer. In our clubs, we determine if there is a member working on an educational award who needs to present toward a communication or leadership award.

Meeting Structure and Location

Club meetings often follow a predictable structure in the same location. However, members like to have fun and do something different. The frequency is up to you. Some examples include a backwards meeting, a theme meeting, a meeting outdoors or at a restaurant, a Table Topics meeting, a Speakout, and a multi-club meeting to celebrate an occasion.

Greet Guests and Take Care of Existing Members

Making guests feel welcome at your meetings is an important part of whether they decide to join your club. Once they join, you will want to make sure they participate right away. However, continuing to nurture your established members is key. The club's Vice President Education and the person's mentor can work with the member to find out what they want to do next. Their goals may not be your goals. Their timetable might not be your timetable, so be respectful.

Membership and Marketing

Get the word out about how great your club is when you hold an Open House. Consider a booth, tent or table at a community event or a business expo. Bring in guests who will be excited to join your club.

Mentoring

Some of the strongest clubs have successful mentoring programs. The Mentor Coordinator works closely with the Vice President Education to ensure everyone makes progress. At the June TLI, Program Quality Director Manny Reyes, ACG, ALB, challenged us, "Move one award forward for each of us." Mentors can help encourage a member take the next step.

Looking Ahead

Clubs that follow these best practices, work the program, take care of their members as well as participate in Area, Division and District contests and District conferences will enjoy success and place themselves in an excellent position to reach their goals.



Club News

What Exit? Club Achieves Select Distinguished in Charter Year

by Sherri Rase, DTM

What Exit? is a club founded by Susan Chrusciel and Swathi Karamcheti from a desire to share the club experience with one another. Though both were very involved in several other clubs, they didn't have one where they met together. Taking a page from an old joke of New Jersey natives, "You're from Jersey? What Exit?," the club was named and born.

Drawing members from as far south as the Jersey Shore and as far north as Bergen County, **What Exit?** is a centrally located club that currently meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The agendas have been chock full even in the Summer, so there are plans for expansion to an additional Saturday to accommodate members and guests.

Chartered just this past September in 2016, **What Exit?** garnered a rare achievement for a brand new club - **What Exit?** became a Select Distinguished Club in less than a year of being chartered! Swathi competed in the Area Contest taking first in Table Topics in the Fall! This meteoric rise is due in part to the variety of members at all degrees of the Toastmasters education experience from brand new members through several DTMs. We all have so much to learn and to share, that already **What Exit?** is a beautiful family. Come visit and see why!



What Exit? meets every 3rd Saturday in Edison, NJ at the Minnie B. Veal Recreating Center, with special summer space at Clark Public Library for July and August only. If you visited us Saturday August 19, Exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway to Clark Public Library, we held our Club Contest and there were roles for people working on their Competent Leader degree. For more information, please contact **What Exit?** President, Susan Chrusciel at d83susan@gmail.com.

Advanced Club Revolutionary Toastmasters begin meetings

By Janette Alexander, DTM

The advanced club want-to-be **Revolutionary Toastmasters** has started holding meetings. The club will serve the western regions of the district and plans to charter as soon as 20 members can be attained. The first meeting was on August 15th and the club will meet every first and third Tuesday evening from 6-7:30pm at the Randolph Township Public Library, 28 Calais Rd, Randolph, NJ. If you have completed 6 speeches and are interested in refining your speaking skills please come join us and contact Dee Rincon at dee_rincon@yahoo.com. We need members and would like your help to run an open house!

New Club! Mizuho Toastmasters Club in Jersey City chartered 8/21/17



How-To Corner:

Serving as Club Contest Chair

By Emilia Volyand, DTM - District Chief Judge & Janette Alexander, DTM

Have you been thinking of tackling the job of contest chair to finish off your Competent Leader manual? Congratulations! Just thinking about this signifies that you may be ready to take it on. The key to a successful contest is good preparation. Don't worry, there's plenty of resources available to you. Keep in mind that an important element is time. Starting early is very helpful! Each Toastmaster year there are two waves of contests. Begin by finding out when the next contest season begins. You can find this out by looking at the district calendar which is posted on the district website. There are usually two speech contests in each wave, so the next thing is to find out exactly which contests will be run.

After you've decided which wave of contests you'll tackle, you'll need to study! Read the contest rule book (be sure to have the current one). Pay particular attention to the sections for your contests. Seek help if you don't understand anything. Try to imagine scenarios where things could go wrong. A good resource is "Conducting a Quality Contest" that provides step-by-step details on everything. You can find this document under the 'contest aids' on the district website. Speaking with last year's club contest chair is also helpful.

Your district chief judge learned all about contests by jumping right in as co-chair for a district conference contest! Lucky for her, she had a co-chair (her husband Alex). Your newsletter editor also organized a district contest. With club contests, there isn't usually a co-chair but you will find that your chief judge will act as your right-hand man/woman. One of your first actions should be to

recruit a reliable toastmaster (preferably someone with judging experience) to serve as your chief judge. If you don't have anyone with experience, fear not as you can ask a toastmaster from another club to help you. Remember, you are never alone as a Toastmaster! Speak to your Area Director for assistance if you need to. Reaching out for help is a great way to meet other toastmasters. If you are short members with judging experience, encourage club members to enroll in judges training that the district offers.

The recruitment of judges is usually delegated to the chief judge but let him/her know there is help for them. The district chief judge keeps a list of accredited judges. It's a great idea to use one of them as your tie-breaker judge. Don't forget that you and your chief judge will need to keep the identity of the voting judges secret and this can be tricky at the club level.

You'll soon discover that there is a fair amount of paperwork involved in contest. You will need to print out eligibility forms, ballots for the judges, and recording forms for the timers and ballot counters. There are also certificates for all of the winners along with all of your helpers and contest participants. Lastly, there is an official form for notifying the district of your contest winners. All of this for each contest! Whew!

Does this seem overwhelming? Please don't be put off. Allow enough time to make it all manageable and you will find the experience a rewarding one, especially when you've completed that CL. If we could do it then so can you!



A Handy Tool for District and Club Leaders - DCP Generic Outline

by Fran Okeson DTM19, PDG46 (2001-02)

I have been using this DCP Outline for many years and find it a wonderful way to keep track of my six clubs on Staten Island (as a club VPE) and as the Area 64 Director. Twice a year I can file my Area Visit reports by looking at my DCP outline booklet and know who's doing what and who needs a bit of nudging to complete some personal goals. I hope this helps.

Area:	Club Name:	Club No:
	2017 - 2018	Distinguished Club Program Checklist
Goal # 1:	Two CCs	
Name:	(1) _____ (2) _____	
Goal # 2:	Two more CCs	
Name:	(1) _____ (2) _____	
Extras:	_____ _____	
Goal # 3:	One ___ ACB, ___ ACS, ___ ACG	
Name:	(1) _____	
Goal # 4:	One more ___ ACB, ___ ACS, ___ ACG	
Name:	(1) _____	
Extras:	_____ _____	
Goal # 5:	One ___ CL, ___ AL, ___ DTM	
Name:	(1) _____	
Goal # 6:	One more ___ CL, ___ AL, ___ DTM	
Name:	(1) _____	
Extras:	_____ _____	
Goal # 7:	Four new members	
Name:	(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____	
Goal # 8:	Four more new members	
Name:	(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____	
Extras:	_____ _____	
Goal # 9:	(At least) Four club officers trained:	
(Summer)	_____	
(Winter)	_____	
Goal # 10:	One Semiannual Dues Report _____ and One Club Officer List _____ sent in on time	
Extra Club Achievement:	High Performance Leadership Project	
Name:	(1) _____	
Project:	_____	
5 - 6	Goals achieved = "Distinguished"	
7 - 8	Goals achieved = "Select Distinguished"	
9 - 10	Goals achieved = "President's Distinguished"	
	(must have at least 20 members or a NET growth of at least 5 new/dual or reinstated members by June 30, 2012)	
Compliments of:	Area 64 Director Fran Okeson DTM 19, PDG 46 (2001-2002) District 83 High Performance Leadership Advisor ~ 2008 - present (H) 718-984-1339 or (E) frantotten@verizon.net	

Contact Fran for a full- size version: frantotten@verizon.net



Celebrations for July August September 2017

Anniversary	Join Date	Name
20	8/1/1997	Anne Swartz
20	8/1/1997	Jean Cramer
15	7/1/2002	Aileen Walter
15	7/1/2002	Uchenna Obicheta
15	8/1/2002	Virginia Van Genderen
15	8/1/2002	Michael Hrazanek
15	9/1/2002	Mary Verrone
15	9/1/2002	Jeffrey Duquesne
10	7/1/2007	Molly Brummer
10	7/1/2007	Kevin Conroy
10	7/1/2007	Virginia Malik
10	7/1/2007	Kevin Robertson
10	7/1/2007	Prabhakar Muthuswamy
10	7/1/2007	Miriam Ryvkin
10	8/1/2007	Perarasu Irusan
10	8/1/2007	Karen Spiecker
10	8/1/2007	Jessi Spencer
10	8/1/2007	Randi Sumner
10	9/1/2007	Sandin Feuss
10	9/1/2007	Daniel McMillan
10	9/1/2007	Eric Lansey
10	9/1/2007	Nisha Aidasani
5	7/1/2012	Laura Newton
5	7/1/2012	Kristine Scheufele
5	7/1/2012	Tania Campbell
5	7/1/2012	Rafael Victor
5	7/1/2012	Michael Locke
5	7/1/2012	Manal Maher
5	7/1/2012	Simeon Limhanyong
5	7/1/2012	Ashok Khandelwal
5	7/1/2012	Hanna Masse
5	8/1/2012	Barbara Smith
5	8/1/2012	Pamela Olsen
5	8/1/2012	Richard Gomulka
5	8/1/2012	Shahieda Dasilva-Porter
5	8/1/2012	Greggy Argilagos
5	8/1/2012	Julius Mutuku
5	8/1/2012	Martin Donohue
5	8/1/2012	Jason McGeough
5	9/1/2012	Victor Martins
5	9/1/2012	Kareem Edwards

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Page 7	Dave Chapman & Anne Gilson
Page 8	Lynda Starr
Page 9	Manny Reyes
Page 10	Sherri Rase
Page 12	Bill Atkins, Fran Okeson, and others



Dates to remember

Area Level Contests throughout September
Workshop on Sponsoring & Mentoring Clubs September 23rd
Pay Member Dues by September 30th
Deadline for Smedley Award September 30th
Club Officer Training due by September 30th
Division Level Contests throughout October
Semi-Annual Reports due by October 1st
Fall Conference November 18th

Does your club have news you'd like to share? Send your story to the editors.

Contact your Editors:

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Submissions for the December issues are Due November 5th.
Article Ideas are welcome!

District 83

TOASTMASTERS
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