THE VOICE

District 83 News & Events

SEPTEMBER 2016

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WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

All of us within the Toastmasters family "shine." Some of us shine a little "dimmer" than others – and some of us "burn with a hot glow." But we are all stars and we all shine.

For the new Toastmaster, you are just starting out, but as soon as you sign on the dotted line, you contribute to the shining glow of District 83.

When you have your first couple educational achievements completed, your glow has been magnified.

Then there are the "established" stars – people like Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46), and Paul Scharf, DTM 6, PDG – to name just two. These folks produce a red-hot glow that is felt by anyone they touch in Toastmasters.

I would like everyone to be a contributor to the District 83 glow.

So to everyone who is a member of District 83 Toastmasters – my theme for 2016-2017 is **"District 83 – Shining Stars."** This may seem a bit trite to some, but it is a basic principle I believe in. I think we can make this district shine so that we are seen as a district that cares about each and every member.

Paula Markert, DTM, District 83 Director

DISTRICT 83 FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5, 2016
DoubleTree by Hilton
Somerset, NJ

Conference Co-Chairs
Irene Freeman, DTM
Lynda Starr, DTM

Sign up on the district website: http://toastmasters83.org/

DISTRICT 83 NEWSLETTER TEAM

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	Sherri Rase, DTM
	Manny Reyes, ACB, ACS, Div. D
	Paul Scharf, DTM 6, PDG
	Lynda Starr, DTM

The Voice publishes online and via email in September, December, March, and June. We welcome your comments, contributions, and suggestions. The final deadline for the **December 2016** issue is **November 5th**.

Submit your opinions and thoughts on this issue to our new **Speak Up!** section and you may see your name in print. Selected submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

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SPEAK UP!

On Rutgers Toastmasters

I read through the June issue of the District 83 newsletter. There are a lot of encouraging stories in this issue and it makes me so proud to be a member of Toastmasters. What a wonderful newsletter! I would like to especially comment on "Rutgers Toastmasters Honored with University Award."

As the current President of Brunswick Toastmasters, I know how much time and effort it takes to run a club, especially when it is in danger of disbanding. Rutgers Toastmasters nearly disbanded two years ago. Fortunately, strong leader Kaila Lim, CC, came and saved the club. She grew the club from having 5 members to 14 members, and helped the club achieve President's Distinguished. This is the true Toastmasters spirit - Where Leaders Are Made. A true leader does not just give speeches. A true leader is born from a situation that needs a solution.

Best Regards,

Henry He, CC
Brunswick Toastmasters

MEET THE EDITORS

Eileen Inciong, CC, CL

Eileen Inciong joined Toastmasters in 2010 and has held various club positions since. She most recently served as the Vice President Education for Jersey Toastmasters Club. She is currently working to complete the Advanced Leader Bronze and Advanced Communicator Bronze. She continues to be an active member and club mentor of Jersey Toastmasters Club.

Eileen Kern, CC, ALB

Eileen Kern has been a member of Toastmasters since 2015. She is currently pursuing her Advanced Communicator Bronze and working through the *Special Occasion Speeches* and *Speeches by Management* manuals. She is the President of iCIMS Toastmasters, a corporate club in Matawan, NJ.

DISTRICT OFFICER TRAINING

DIVISION A

DIVISION B

DIVISION C

DIVISION D

IN THE LIMELIGHT: Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Club Officer Training at TLI

The importance of leadership and communication was a strong theme throughout the morning sessions at District 83's Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute. Club officers were introduced to the new "TRIO" – Paula Markert, DTM, District Director; Janice Buffalow, DTM, Program Quality Director; and Rachel Weiss, DTM, Club Growth Director. Participants got a sneak peek at the plan for Pathways (more information on Page 7), became prepared to create Club Success Plans, learned more about navigating and locating resources offered by Toastmasters, and enjoyed breakout sessions by role.

District Officer Training at TLI

The afternoon sessions emphasized teamwork and collaboration. Paula, Janice, and Rachel each provided a short presentation to help veteran as well as new Area and Division Directors succeed in their positions. Each Division Director met with their Area Directors to develop their Division Success Plans. Officers expressed gratitude for the lessons, advice and support from the team.

Find out more about the 2016-2017 District 83 Officers via the following site:

http://toastmasters83.org/district-leadership/division-area-governors.html

DIVISION E

DIVISION F

DIVISION G

DIVISION H

DIVISION I

IN THE LIMELIGHT: Toastmasters International Convention

by Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46)

Toastmasters International Conventions are a lot of fun to attend. I have been attending them since August 2006 and have just missed a couple of them. **It's fun for a lot of reasons: the friends you meet, the workshops you attend, the keynote speeches you hear and witnessing the World Championship of Public Speaking.**

You get to meet people from all over the world and spend time with close friends from your home district, friends from your Region, and friends you have made from faraway places that you see once every year at the Convention. Making friends at the Toastmasters Convention is easy as we are all Toastmasters and have had similar experiences in our clubs, so we already have a lot in common. I truly believe that in Toastmasters we not only improve our Communication and Leadership skills, we increase our self-confidence and also expand our circle of friends!

The convention is four days long starting on a Wednesday, with a fully packed agenda. Workshops are sprinkled throughout the four days. Wednesday morning is usually the Board of Directors Briefing and we get to learn what the Board is working on and upcoming changes. Wednesday evening is the opening ceremony, where you see the parade of flags with many Toastmasters dressed in their traditional clothes. This year we were entertained by the Water Coolers, a group based out of New York who presented a hilarious comedy about work, followed by a keynote by 2000 World Champion of Public Speaking, Ed Tate, DTM. **On Thursday were the semi-finals and, as we have close to 100 districts, there are were 10 semi-finals occurring at various times.** Our District Champion, Kevin Moulton, DTM, gave a heart-warming speech at the semi-finals, but unfortunately he did not place.

On Thursday evening was the Hall of Fame and it was an honor and privilege for me to receive my Region Advisor plaque from Toastmasters International President Jim Kokocki, DTM. Districts and Toastmasters who have achieved various awards go up on stage to receive them. On Friday we had the Golden Gavel luncheon; this year's recipient was Tony Buzan. Friday evening was the Candidates' Showcase where all the candidates for International Director and Officer positions are asked pertinent questions to help us decide.

This year, just a week before the convention, I was asked by our family friend, excellent Toastmaster and Leader Deepak Menon, DTM, to help out with his campaign. His campaign manager could not make it to the US. I agreed and I had another new experience being his floor manager. I learned a lot about what goes on in a campaign and, even with many strong candidates this year, Deepak was successful and he is now our 2nd Vice President!

On Saturday morning was the highlight of the convention with the World Championship of Public Speaking. The past few years the World Championship of Public Speaking has been won by Toastmasters from around the world for whom English is not their first language and that is an amazing feat! You can really see how gestures, body language, and vocal variety add impact to a speech. This was followed by the Annual Business Meeting where we elect our incoming officers. Unfortunately the system could not handle as many mobile devices as we had. The meeting stretched to six hours and the Region gatherings had to be cancelled. Finally, we had the President's inauguration and dinner dance. And before you knew it, the convention came to a close.

The International Conventions are traditionally held in North America during the third week of August from Wednesday to Saturday. Only once, in 2014, were they held outside North America in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **The next International Convention will be in Vancouver, Canada from Aug 23-26.** The four days will be jam packed with a lot of great experiences, I hope you will attend and have fun!

Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46), has also been recognized with the Presidential Citation. Learn more about her on Page 20!

Roastmaster Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS welcomes attendees.

Cyndi Wilson, DTM 2, presents Bill Hood, DTM, IPDD, with a carrot cake.

Paula Markert, DTM, District Director, welcomes new district officers.

NEWS IN BRIEF: District 83 Hail and Farewell 2016

by Su Brooks, DTM

The District 83 Hail and Farewell event took place on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the home of Bill and Roseann Hood in beautiful, Wanaque, NJ.

Once guests had driven up a steep hill to get to the event, Bill and Roseann, as well as Roastmaster of the event, Margarita Estrada, ACB, ALS, greeted us. A delicious barbeque with a pig roast buffet and tasty vegetarian options kicked off the afternoon's festivities. We enjoyed our meals overlooking the beautiful Ramapo Mountains while networking.

We were invited into the air-conditioned basement to cool off and enjoy the program of events. Margarita provided a hearty welcome and gave us instructions on how to say, "Yeeeehaaaaaah!"

Then Anne Gilson, DTM, PDG, thanked the outgoing officers for their service and installed the new Area Directors and Division Directors, saying, **"You will be our Shining Stars."**

After the officer installation, ten Toastmasters engaged in some lighthearted fun recalling memories (most of them true) and making up funny stories (some of them true) to practice their "roasting skills" while Bill Hood, DTM, Immediate Past District Director (IPDD), sat in the hot seat.

During the roasts, Brian Lin, DTM, PDG, informed us that, "One of my greatest accomplishments was getting my wife Sharon to join Toastmasters, and I think that is true of you and Roseann." He continued, "Maybe the cowboy hat is messing Bill up because he keeps calling Sharon 'Sue.'"

Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46) told us, "Now I can say all those things I've been saying behind his back." Bill said, "You may be a vegetarian, but you're full of baloney!" One of those 'things' inspired Radhi's conclusion: "You're a truly dedicated, caring Toastmaster."

Cyndi Wilson, DTM 2, finished up with the presentation of a gift: "Here's a carrot cake made from scratch. There are nuts in it because people drove you crazy."

After the roasts concluded, it was time for Bill to say farewell to the 2015-2016 officers. Bill stated, "We did some things that were different. Marketing ideas on buses and trains. We might have fallen short of achieving Distinguished status, but that's not the strength of your character. **When we go to Vancouver [for next year's International Convention], we need to be on that stage**." He also discussed how we are all different, but we learn from each other when we listen.

Next, Bill presented Paula Markert, DTM, District Director, with a spearhead from Texas.

Paula then welcomed the 2016-2017 district officers. Some highlights included, "**There's no such thing as a leader if no one is following.** Bill exemplifies the core values of Integrity, Service, Leadership and Excellence and follows them to the letter. Bill lets you fail. **It's okay to fail because it gives you the impetus to succeed**." Paula presented Bill with a few gifts including a clock, a plaque, and the book *Humble and Kind*.

Our Roastmaster of the Day, Margarita, thanked us for attending and concluded by inviting us to enjoy coffee and cake and join her in a hearty, "Yeeeehaaaaaah!"

Su Brooks, DTM, serves as the District Public Relations Manager for 2016-2017.

ROAST RUNDOWN

Participants included: Su Brooks, DTM; Janice Buffalow, DTM; Diana Caughell, ACB, CL; Dave Chapman, ACB, ALB; Eric De Vincenzo, CC; Anne Gilson, DTM, PDG; Brian Lin, DTM, PDG; Paula Markert, DTM; Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46) PRA; and Cyndi Wilson, DTM 2, PDG.

NEWS IN BRIEF: New Officer Welcome Ceremony

by Su Brooks, DTM

As part of the Hail and Farewell event, Anne Gilson, DTM, PDG, thanked the 2015-2016 district officers and read the job descriptions for the new officers.

The new officers in attendance each held the gavel and passed it to the next officer upon accepting the responsibilities for their office.

- Public Relations Manager Su Brooks, DTM
- Club Growth Director Rachel Weiss, DTM
- Program Quality Director Janice Buffalow, DTM
- District Director Paula Markert, DTM

As a district, we also share our appreciation for District Finance Manager Charles Ihnatolya, CC, ALB, District Administration Manager Mary Verrone, DTM, and District Logistics Manager Stuart Kramer, DTM, who were not able to attend the Hail and Farewell.

Congratulations to our district officers and thank you for your service!

DISTRICT 83 PERFORMANCE: How Did We Do?

The 2015-2016 Toastmasters year was an exciting one for District 83. While we didn't quite reach the Distinguished District level, we have a lot to be proud of—particularly the fact that an amazing **83 clubs reached at least the Distinguished Club level!**

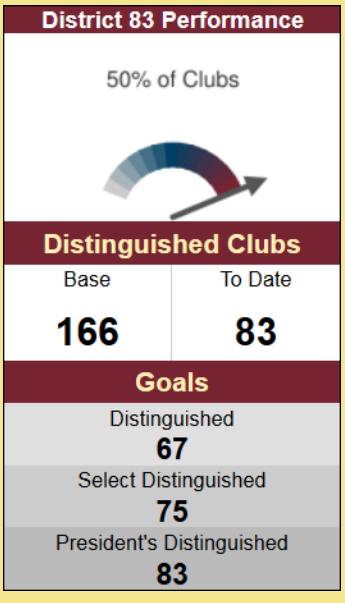
Here's a quick recap from Immediate Past District Director, Bill Hood, DTM:

What was our biggest challenge as a district?
It's the same for many districts across the world: member and club retention. A few other challenges included research for the new district website, our mid-year audit, and minutes of meetings. There were several other challenges but those were the biggest.

What was our biggest accomplishment as a district?
We had a lot of noteworthy accomplishments: New clubs and new members. The clubs, areas, and divisions that made distinguished or higher. Two great conferences. Awesome newsletters. We tested a new marketing concept and advertised on buses and trains. We came up with new incentives for the March Madness membership drive 20/20. And we launched the perpetual Club Newsletter of the Year award.

However, I'm not sure if they are really the biggest accomplishments when you compare them to how this organization has helped change people's lives.

What would you like to challenge us as a district to work on or achieve in the 2016-2017 year?
Keep working the plan. Communicate, over-communicate and communicate again in as many ways as possible. Start early; you can never be too early it seems.



District Goals (Distinguished)	Percent Complete
Paid Clubs: 171	94.70%
Membership Payments: 8664	94.20%
Distinguished Clubs: 67	123.90%

THE ROAD TO NEW PATHWAYS: Part One

Q&A with District 83 REP Chief Ambassador Antonio N. Figueroa, DTM

What is the Revitalized Education Program?
The Revitalized Education Program (REP) is designed to make the education program of Toastmasters closer to the real world needs of the members. There was recognition that the existing education program may not be as user-friendly as it could be, especially for new members. Statistics also showed that not enough members are earning educational awards or that they take too long in achieving them.

The new program is an effort to offer members improved opportunities to learn and grow. It will offer the following (Source: Toastmasters International):

- Learning paths tailored to personal and professional goals
- Earlier recognition and achievement awards
- New technological resources to improve speeches and support meeting roles
- Mobile access to educational materials (via smartphones and tablets)
- Expanded video and digital content to facilitate learning among the members of our global community.

On June 22, 2016, Toastmasters International released the official name of the new program – **"Toastmasters Pathways Learning Experience"** or **"Pathways,"** for short.

What is your involvement in Pathways?
My direct involvement came when I was appointed as Chief Ambassador for District 83 on January of 2016. As Chief Ambassador, my main responsibility is to spread the word about Pathways.

How did Pathways come about?
The Toastmasters Board of Directors in the 2010 Strategic Plan emphasized the need to revitalize the Toastmasters Education Program. The communication track hasn't been updated since the 1970s. Board committees were created and assessed what was being learned in the current program and identified any gaps in learning. Member surveys were conducted to validate member needs and requests. Working groups at World Headquarters worked on specific aspects in the development of the new program.

(Continued on Next Page)

The project was called the Revitalized Education Program (REP) during its development. As the project progressed, Learning Masters from the Districts were appointed to help in the development of the program and the relevant learning material. These Learning Masters offered valuable feedback to the Pathways team. Ambassadors and Chief Ambassadors were then appointed to help share the information as the program developed.

What will not change in the Education Program of Toastmasters?

Meetings will still be about **learning by doing, receiving peer evaluation, being mentored and learning at your own pace.** Public speaking is still the one thing that we are best known for worldwide and it will remain the cornerstone of Toastmasters. The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) recognition will remain the highest level of achievement within Toastmasters. All new members will still start with the Ice Breaker speech.

What will change in the Education Program of Toastmasters?

The Toastmasters education program will experience major changes. In general, there are 5 learning levels in Pathways: **Mastering Fundamentals, Learning Your Style, Building Skills, Increasing Knowledge and Demonstrating Expertise.** Spread over those 5 levels will be 10 learning paths with prescribed and elective projects. Each learning path progresses sequentially from Level 1 to Level 5, advancing in complexity.

Pathways will have a profound effect on the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). The educational goals of the DCP will be adapted to the new recognition system of Pathways. In the same vein, the requirements to achieve the DTM designation will also be adapted to the new program. The members will have access to The Base Camp. Previously known as Virtual Learning Environment, this is an online home base for the education program. It will contain projects, resources, transcripts, tips, and tools. It is also the place where Base Camp Managers will track and approve member progress. Thus, under Pathways, members will earn recognition earlier and more frequently.

What are the outcomes expected with the implementation of Pathways?

Chief Operations Officer of Toastmasters International, Sally Newell Cohen declared that the desired outcome for Pathways is **"to give members a more robust, skill loaded program that is interactive, more engaging, more technologically advanced and customized to their goals."** I personally hope that with the new program, members will refocus on their personal development, become more excited about the program and increase their commitment to achieving their goals.

When will this be implemented?

The new program will be rolled out by region **starting in early 2017**. It is expected that full implementation will probably take longer than one year. Regions 8 and 9 will be the last two regions where the project will be implemented. **As part of Region 9, District 83 will be among the last districts to implement Pathways.** The rollout will involve the District Trio, the Club President, VP Education, and the Secretary. About 60 days before the rollout, additional training will be provided to all involved.

I urge all members who might have questions to not hesitate. **Let us know your questions.**

Antonio N. Figueroa, DTM, currently serves as the REP Chief Ambassador of District 83. He served as the Region 9 Advisor in 2013-2014. He has also been serving District 46 and District 83 in various positions for many years. He may be reached at anfiguroa@yahoo.com.

Toastmasters
Pathways

Further information on the **Toastmasters Pathways Learning Experience** can be found on the Toastmasters International Website at

https://www.toastmasters.org/Resources/Pathways

FEATURED ARTICLE:
Confessions of a Conference Co-Chair

by Lynda Starr, DTM

I have a confession to make. It was not love at first sight for me and the District 83 conferences. I attended my first conference in May 2010 when I was a club president. Then-incoming District Governor Tom Somers, DTM, asked me to be an area governor. While I found the business meeting interesting and had the chance to learn about the district, the election process was a bit stressful.

Hooked on the Conference: I did become an area governor. **To support the district, I attended the Fall 2010 conference and since then I've been hooked.** I attended the conferences following that. I became the District Public Relations Officer in Spring 2013 and the Conference Publicity Chair, my first foray into the world of the conference committee.

Great Opportunity: After working on Publicity for three District conferences, I then took on the challenge of Registration Chair. This was quite a big and yet satisfying job. Registration begins at the previous conference with the early bird registrations and continues through the current conference. The busiest times are with the initial early bird registrations, the times right before price increases, and the week prior to the conference when there are many registrations to be processed. During the conference, the team of registration volunteers handles onsite registrations and welcomes attendees. **It was a great opportunity to meet and welcome everyone to the conference.**

Step Up to Success: For the Spring 2016 conference, I took on the job of co-chair along with Olga Berejnaia, DTM. Selecting a suitable theme was crucial to the District Conference as these simple words propel people to attend the event. Substantiating the selected theme, "Step Up to Success", we worked with Education Chairs Karen Rittweger, DTM, and Janette Alexander, DTM, to choose the workshop presenters. **Monthly planning meetings at the Clark Library in New Jersey were always fun, especially with a terrific and hardworking committee to support you.** Such was the case with any conference with which I was involved in.

The day of the conference was expectedly busy and exciting. Olga and I oversaw all activities and kept the agenda on schedule. We were thrilled to be thanked for our efforts by Paula Markert, DTM, then District Program Quality Director. Likewise, we were proud to show our appreciation for our hardworking committee.

Fall Conference 2016: Plan Your Dreams: I took on the task of co-chair for the Fall 2016 conference along with Irene Freeman, DTM. **When we announced the theme for the conference, "Plan Your Dreams," at the business meeting in the Spring Conference, it was thrilling to see how excited people were as they rushed to sign up.** It is the district's policy, when possible, to have one conference co-chair take on the task for two conferences in order to have a sense of continuity among the chairs. I am just as excited about the Fall conference as I was for the Spring one. I am currently enjoying working with Irene and the current committee; many of whom were also involved in the Spring conference. New chairs are bringing in a fresh perspective. I'm sure, as with the Spring conference, as we get closer, the butterflies will start fluttering within me. I will again wonder why I worry when in the end, I'm certain we will have a great Fall conference.

Chance to Develop Leadership Skills: Being a co-chair is a big responsibility that takes up time for meetings, phone calls and emails. However, it is a great opportunity to further hone speaking skills, whether running the committee meeting, or speaking at the business meeting or at the conference. **It provides the chance to develop leadership skills such as managing chairs, solving problems, managing deadlines, and overseeing details.**

I am taking advantage of this chairmanship to complete a High Performance Leadership (HPL) project and am encouraging my fellow committee members to do the same, as they work toward accomplishing their Advanced Leader Silver awards.

So while I did not initially love district conferences, it has been a case of "famous last words." I would not have traded the opportunities I have had. I encourage fellow Toastmasters to attend a conference**. Plan your dreams and attend the Fall District Conference in November 2016.** See which pieces appeal to you and take on volunteer roles. You will be glad you did!!!

Lynda Starr, DTM, is a Co-Chair for the Fall Conference.

COMMUNICATION: Using Your Toastmasters Powers for Good

by Sherri Rase, DTM

Toastmasters have super powers. Just consider everything you are learning or have learned in your CC Manual – Organize Your Speech, Get to the Point, Research Your Topic – don't you wish some of the Presidential candidates were Toastmasters too? **In this world that seems constantly vacillating between beauty and tragedy, how can we as Toastmasters use our considerable super powers for the greatest good?**

Ask any VP of Education who will tell you that you don't have to work your way through your advanced manuals in any particular order and that you can work on many levels of your education at one time. Consider selecting all of your advanced manuals at once, organizing the various speeches (that also don't need to be done in order) to make an impactful experience for your club members. Here's an example from my own experience.

I began working with New Jersey Peace Action in December 2015, using my Toastmasters skills for outreach and member development. I began work coordinating their ad journal for their annual dinner in April 2016 where one of their honorees would be Shigeko Sasamori, a Hibakusha or survivor of the nuclear bombing in World War II. Shigeko was only 13 years old and less than a mile away from the blast when it happened. Unprotected, she was outdoors and suffered burns over her face, shoulders and upper body. She has since undergone many reconstructive surgeries. **For 40 years, she has told her story wherever someone would listen, so no one ever need suffer what she did ever again.** Why is this important? Two reasons – first, I'm writing this article on August 6, 2016, it is 71 years since the bombing of Hiroshima, and second, meeting Shigeko and hearing her story changed my life.

I rolled up my sleeves to help an organization and the experience ended up shaking my foundations. I was working on the Storytelling advanced manual and I understood rhetorical devices and the power of personal experience. **It takes a lot of preparation to separate facts from feelings.** Yet Shigeko integrated them so perfectly that as she spoke at the dinner to 200 people, she had us rapt. We were in the palm of her hand, reliving that experience with her. While Shigeko has had 40 years to perfect her delivery, she never came off as rehearsed. Her heart shone through every word. That is how to use a Toastmasters' powers and skill for good.

The past few months have been dreadful on many fronts. The June 12 shootings at Pulse Night Club in Orlando, the killings of Alton Sterling July 5 in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile July 6 in St. Anthony, the bombings and unrest in Turkey and Baghdad, Brussels and Paris. Rather than tossing up our hands and saying, "What can we do?", put on your cape, prepare your speech, and start build bridges. Speak at places of worship and community groups. **Change people's lives as a Toastmaster.**

Sherri Rase, DTM, is a Staff Writer for The Voice.

DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTERS:

Congratulations to recent DTM award recipients!
(Source: Toastmasters International)

- **Stephen Anthony Delia**
- **Thomas F O'Brien**
- **Linda L. Isaacs**
- **Catherine Ruiterman**

QUOTABLES

"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

- **John C. Maxwell**

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

- **Rosalynn Carter**

Lory Nunez, CTM, ALB, AD

LEADERSHIP: The Evaluator as a Servant Leader

by Lori Nunez, CTM, ALB

You listen to the speech. You jot down notes. Then you deliver your 3-minute evaluation speech. It's pretty straightforward.

Or is it?

Evaluations are opportunities for servant leadership that are available to ALL Toastmasters.

S. Chris Edmonds, author of the book *The Culture Engine*, defines servant leadership as "a person's dedication to helping others be their best selves at home, work, and in their community." When we make our evaluations about the speaker and not about us, we become servant leaders. **And in the process of looking beyond ourselves and focusing on the speaker, we deliver more effective and impactful evaluations!**

We need the E.I.E. in our evaluations -- **Empathy, Interest, and Encouragement**.

Empathy

The most effective evaluations are those that will make an impact on the speaker. **To make an impact, you have to establish a connection.** You put yourself in the speaker's shoes. You relay that empathy through your vocal variety, through eye contact, and through stories that make the speaker feel that you understand or at least made an effort to understand how he or she is feeling. Is it his Ice Breaker speech? Is she the Toastmaster of the Evening and a speaker at the same time?

A little bit of empathy goes a long way in establishing trust. **When the speaker trusts you, she is more open to your comments and you have a better chance of making an impact.**

Interest

Your job as an evaluator starts before the speaker speaks. If you have time before the meeting, talk to the speaker. Aside from the project goals, ask the speaker what he would like you to focus on. Read the previous evaluations in his manual. This will give you a sense of the speaker's strengths and weaknesses. Even after your job as a speech evaluator ends, if you hear the speaker again in another speech, make sure you interact with her and bring up points you feel are appropriate.

If we show genuine interest in our speaker's Toastmasters journey, we become part of that journey. Our speaker will be better and we will feel fulfilled as evaluators.

Encouragement

As a speaker, the best gift somebody can give me is when he tells me how my speech made him feel or think. So, how did that speech make you feel? What message did you take away from the speech? Tell the speaker in a positive way. In addition, well thought-out recommendations presented as friendly suggestions can be very encouraging. They give the speaker specific action items he can work on for future speeches. Tell the speaker what he can accomplish and give him reasons why you believe he can do it. After the meeting, connect with the speaker. Ask if he has any questions or if he has any feedback on your evaluation.

If we make the speaker feel that someone is really listening, that someone cares, and that he has made an impact to his listeners, he will be encouraged to better his craft.

E.I.E. - Empathy, Interest and Encouragement in evaluations are opportunities for servant leadership that can have lasting positive effects for both the evaluator and the speaker.

Lory Nunez, CTM, ALB won the District 83 Evaluation Speech Contest in May 2016. She is the Area Director of Area 71. She continues to be an active member in Jersey Toastmasters Club, where she served as Club President from 2014-2015.

CLUB HIGHLIGHT: Reaching “Perfect 10”

District 83 had a number of President’s Distinguished Clubs last year that achieved all 10 of their club goals. Over the course of the year, this newsletter will share information about some of those clubs and their advice for achieving club goals.

Open Door Toastmasters
with Karen Lambert, CC, ALB

Open Door Toastmasters has made President’s Distinguished every year for the past decade. Last year’s club president, **Karen Lambert, CC, ALB,** shared the following details about the club’s success:

Open Door has always been a motivated, involved and successful club, with a track record of DTMs and District level involvement from many members. We had more than 15 new members this year, and several of those new members were the ones who achieved not only CC, but CL in their first year!

The action plan for the 2015-2016 year was to go above and beyond to achieve not only DCP but help driven members get timely and appropriate recognition for their achievements. As VPE the year before, I was very close, but we just couldn't quite get that last point [to reach “Perfect 10”]. It was therefore my mission to always go "above and beyond" for this year.

My inspiration was hearing about a club that achieves each year to not only reach DCP once, but TWICE each year. I think that it may take some work and dedication, but this is a great goal for our club. I look forward to helping the current president also achieve a Perfect 10 - as we already have a CL and are near another CC for the 2016-17 year and it is still July!

Midtown Toastmasters
with the 2015-2016 Club Officer Team

Midtown Toastmasters has made President’s Distinguished every year since 2007-2008. Some of last year’s club officers shared the following insight about reaching “Perfect 10”:

Speak-outs. **Speak-outs are off-the-schedule meetings that allow more members to deliver and evaluate more speeches.** A club of this size usually has its speaking roles filled quickly for regularly scheduled meetings. These additional meeting allow more opportunities for the club to achieve those “one more,” and “two more” goals necessary to achieve that esteemed “Perfect 10.” - **Louis Turenne, ACB, previous VPPR**

What obstacles keep members from earning CC awards? **Our meetings were on hold for 1.5 months because our club was impacted by the strike of Verizon union workers.** A lot of our members work for Verizon, and they were serving our customers during this challenging time. - **Camille Brennan, CC, previous VPE**

Assistant roles and succession planning – this strategy helped greatly in having other leaders step in when officers had other priorities as well us keep us going when we were in Emergency Work Assignment. - **Tezeta Roro, CC, ALB, Immediate Past President**

Why stop now? We have been a President’s Distinguished club since 2007-2008. I have been President of Midtown (twice) and VPE (three times) and I am determined to see this club hit President’s Distinguished 10 consecutive years (this year 2016-2017). **We have a great group of dedicated individuals which keeps our meetings lively and with the needed energy for us to continue hitting our target goals.** - **Erika Karp, ACS, ALB, previous SAA**

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

AROUND THE DISTRICT:
Power Talkers Meets District 83's 20-20 Challenge

by Linda DeLap, CC, VPPR of Power Talkers

Each year, District 83 offers its 20-20 Challenge: a $100 TI Gift Certificate to clubs with 20 paid members registered by March 20. In March 2016, Power Talkers Toastmasters Club took action to meet the challenge. All members (22 at that time) received a message informing them of the goal and asking them to bring dues payment to the next meeting. The club treasurer distributed status reports, and officers reached out to members who had not yet paid. After the goal was reached, Club President Raphael Kleinmann, CC, CL, stated, **"I am proud to be amongst energetic, committed, and driven individuals who are seeking to advance their leadership and communication skills."**

With that same spirit, **Power Talkers Toastmasters Club achieved President's Distinguished status for the first time in its 22-year history.** The club's 2015-2016 VPE, Vanessa Day, CC, ALB, encouraged members to meet educational goals, carefully tracked their progress, and organized extra meetings to provide more speaking opportunities.

Club members celebrated a noteworthy year with a "New Year's party" marking the end of one Toastmasters year and the beginning of the next one. At the club's final meeting of the 2015-2016 Toastmasters year, Club President Raphael Kleinmann, CC, CL, briefed members on the club's achievements, awarded certificates to the officers, and closed by observing, **"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."**

VISIT POWER TALKERS

Power Talkers Toastmasters Club #5163 is a community club and always welcomes new members.

The club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays in Public Meeting Room 142 of the Morris County Library from 12:15pm to 1:15pm.

For more information, email the club at powertalkerstmc@cs.com or visit the club website at http://powertalkers5163.toastmastersclubs.org/

MEET POWER TALKERS

POWER TALKERS' 2016-2017 CLUB OFFICERS

VPPR Linda DeLap, CC
SAA Jeanette Fredericks, DTM
President Raphael Kleinmann, CC, CL
VPM Greg Lombardi, CC
VPE Anita Hoffman, CTM
Secretary Jason Sanders, CC
Treasurer Stacy DeAlto, CC

2015-2016 Club VPE Vanessa Day, CC, ALB, and Club President Raphael Kleinmann, CC, CL, display a report that illustrates Power Talkers' President's Distinguished status.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Fall Conference:** November 5 *Somerset, NJ*
- **Division Speech Contests:** October
- **Area Speech Contests:** September
- **Smedley Award Membership Contest** August 1 - September 30
- **Collect Member Dues:** September
- **Member Dues Due:** September 30
- **Area Director Club Visits** July 1 – November 30

For more information on these and other events, visit the District Website:

http://toastmasters83.org

CLUB UPDATES

Welcome New Clubs!

- **Club 121**
- **Gold Coast Advanced Toastmasters**

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

AROUND THE DISTRICT:
Jersey Toastmasters Celebrates 20 Years

Jersey Toastmasters Club recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in July 2016. The club thrives upon diversity and sense of community. With a dynamic and supportive membership, the club has achieved the enviable distinction of being a Distinguished Club or better for the past 20 years. It is also the proud home club of many district-level officers.

GRAB YOUR AUDIENCE: With Your First Few Lines

by Paul Scharf, DTM 6, PDG

People won't remember what you say, as much as they'll remember what they see, hear, feel, taste, and smell.

Consider the following two openings:

- "Imagine you are sitting at the ball game and you see the ball…."
- "The fans are standing, you feel the stand vibrating, the smell of hotdogs permeates around, you hear the sound of the crack of the bat and you see the ball...."

How many of the five senses are in the first opening line? How many are in the second opening line?

Reread the opening of your next speech. Did you just make a statement, or did you get your audience to perk up as they heard at least three of the five senses in your opening lines?

If you don't grab your audience in the first line or two, the rest of the presentation could be an uphill battle. When you start with a number of senses in the beginning, the rest of your presentation will probably be exciting, powerful, and even uplifting. Use many of the senses in your opening lines and you will **grab your audience**.

DISTRICT OFFICER HIGHLIGHT:

with Paula Markert, DTM, District Director

How did you find out about Toastmasters International and decide to join a club?

We attend church with Arnold and Irene Card. Arnold frequently mentioned Toastmasters from his previous work in industry, and he raved about how good it was for people to really learn how to speak correctly. When he decided to look into a program, I was interested. I did a lot of training for Boy Scouts and decided that something to hone my skills would be a good investment of my time.

What drew you to the District Director role this year?

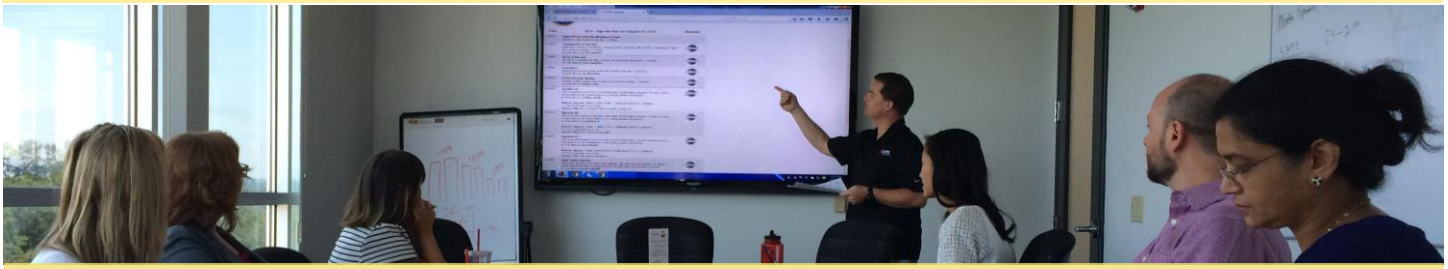
I never dreamed I would have the role I have this year – and many thanks to the people who put their faith in me to do a good job. A few years ago I spoke with Fran Okeson, DTM 18, PDG (46), – she was the push that I needed to run for a district office – and it was a real push. I am not a politician so I believe that my acts and attitude should influence whether people think I can do a job. Her push edged me into the district officer arena and now I am here.

What is your most significant accomplishment in Toastmasters?

My most significant accomplishment in Toastmasters is not an accomplishment of my own. A few years ago, I met a new Toastmaster in my home club, Open Door, whose name was (and still is) Karen Lambert (now ACB, ALS). I offered to be her mentor. I have watched a somewhat “uncomfortable in her own shoes; not too confident” person grow to be a self-sufficient, well-accomplished speaker who is willing to step up and tackle anything thrown at her. I am privileged to have her still call me her mentor/coach/confidant.

How has Toastmasters benefited your life?

Many of us can answer this in relation to work – I can give more polished presentations, I don’t feel nauseated when my boss calls on me at meetings, etc. Toastmasters did all that for me – but I have benefitted most from the friendships I have made in Toastmasters. I was touched when one Toastmaster in Open Door, whom I hadn’t seen for a while, said “I’ve missed you.” This is how Toastmasters has benefitted me most.



KEEPING THINGS INTERESTING: Is Your Club Ready for a Backward Meeting?

by Disna Weerasinghe, CC, ALB

As Toastmasters, we should help each other to learn how to improvise. Improvising helps us to improve our listening, speaking, and impromptu skills while having fun in doing so. For any club that would like its members to practice improvising, consider having a backward meeting. It is a fun way of learning essential speaking skills.

I first heard about a backward meeting when the members of my former Toastmasters club, Cerner Toastmasters in Malvern, PA, decided to hold one. I remember how it became the members' favorite meeting. For those who want to try backward meetings, here is how we did it.

We started the meeting by ending it.

Yes, you read it right. The president hit the gavel, stating, "Thank you all for attending. We now adjourn the meeting." I remember the puzzled look on a newcomer's face that day. He whispered to me "Oh! Was I late for the meeting?" I assured him, "No, you are not; this is our backward meeting." While Alex, the newcomer, was settling on his seat to observe this strange meeting, our general evaluator gave an improvised evaluation of the meeting that had not yet happened.

He made rather strange comments about the evaluations that hadn't yet happened. For example, he commented, "Susan, when you were evaluating Leeann, you constantly fiddled with your hair. It was very distracting." Then he turned to the Toastmaster of the Meeting, Brian, and said, "Susan and Brian, I think instead of bowing at each other, you should use handshakes. That is the proper way of greeting someone at a Toastmasters meeting."

Next, it was evaluators' turn to improvise.

The evaluators started to give suggestions to the speakers who had not yet spoken, based partially on the comments from the general evaluator. When Susan came to the podium to give her evaluation about Leeann's speech, she and Brian bowed to each other, then Susan started to fiddle with her hair during her evaluation. Susan commented on Leeann's habit of scratching her head during the speech and about Leeann's habit of pacing. Susan said that she would like to see Leeann moving purposefully during her speech and not pacing.

Then the speakers presented, having already heard their evaluations for the day.

When Leeann came to the podium to give her prepared speech "Green Acres," she constantly paced and sometimes scratched her head. I hope you get the idea now. Everyone who participated in the backward meeting had to listen carefully to hear their cues before they improvised their own actions.

The beginning, or the end?

At the end of the backward meeting, the Toastmaster of the Meeting explained that this was not a normal meeting and asked new members how they felt about the backward meeting. Alex, the newcomer, shared his ideas:

"In the beginning of the meeting, I thought the people at Toastmasters were really quite strange, but by the end of the meeting, I had figured out what was going on. After realizing the backward set up, I was impressed with how members handled their speeches and improvised. They incorporated phrases, outlandish gags, and even mistakes into their speeches. One speaker interjected more UHs and another speaker interjected "Awesome applesauce," all while maintaining (or purposefully breaking) the flow and original content of their prepared or table topics speeches."

A backward meeting may improve your club members' speaking skills, challenge your club members to come out of their shells, and improvise stories as they see fit while having fun. Your club members will still be able to do their prepared speeches while learning to ad-lib based on the suggestions they hear. They will practice combining their experience as an evaluator, a speaker and a table topic master. To do this, they will have to listen carefully and hear their cues, then give their prepared speeches with added impromptu segments.

Fellow Toastmasters, is your club ready for a backward meeting?

Disna Weerasinghe, CC, ALB, is the Area 42 Director and a member of Brunswick Toastmasters.

HOW-TO CORNER

How Do You Stay Motivated To Achieve Educational Goals?

Develop a New Skill Every Meeting

Track and Field Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens (1913-1980) said, "We all have dreams, in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort." **My dream is not to become a professional speaker and inspirational leader overnight but through the Toastmasters program every week I work piece by piece on a new skill that will get me there one day.** Also, seeing the progress and accomplishments of my fellow Toastmasters at every meeting also encourages me to strive forward for myself.

Rachel Nuber, ACS, ALS
Division I Director 2016-2017
Germinators Toastmasters Club
Toastmasters Member for 9 years

Born a Toastmaster

My name is Felix and I have been a Toastmaster for over 6 years. I have held many positions including Treasurer, VPPR, President and Founder, and I am currently Area Director for Area 44. Some might say I was born to be a Toastmaster. **Those who know me well would say I was born a Toastmaster.** As it so happens, both of my parents are active members of the Toastmaster community and encouraged me to participate as soon as I was finished with college.

My journey began after graduating from Rutgers University in New Jersey. My dad wanted to me to join the club that had helped him build the confidence to speak at my sister's wedding. I learned a lot from my home club, Brunswick Toastmasters, from some of the most knowledgeable in the entire district. I held two e-board positions where I got behind the scene looks at how to run a successful club.

A couple of years later I decided to start my own corporate club where I work. As Founder and Past President (2014-2015) of DPC Toastmasters, I am proud to say that in its second year of existence the club became President's Distinguished. I was able to do this all while going for MBA at night.

I guess you could say I was born a Toastmaster. I say I was destined to be a Toastmaster.

Felix Volyand ACS, ALS
Brunswick Toastmasters & DPC Toastmasters
Toastmaster Member for 6 years

Encouraging Friend

I never thought I would finish my CC when I first joined Toastmasters. I was one of those people who had a horrible fear of public speaking and joined the club at my job (at the time) to learn to get over that. I might still be at CC speech #6 or so if I hadn't talked to a friend of mine at work, who happened to be our club VP-Education and who encouraged me to keep going. The rest, as they say, is history. **That's what's so great about what we do - we have club officers, friends, fellow members all around us who want us to keep learning and growing and succeed.**

Anne Gilson, DTM, PDG
Toastmaster Member for 10 years
Talk of Monmouth & Smedley's Speakers Advanced

For our next issue, let us know:
How Do You Prepare to Give a Speech?

Email us:
eileen_inciong@yahoo.com & eileenkern83@gmail.com

CLUB BEST PRACTICES: Not Just Another Meeting

by Lelet McGorry, CC, CL

Do you find that some officer meetings go longer than necessary? And, at the end of those meetings, do you feel like you leave with a longer To-Do list that will take additional time to complete when you get home? Do you wish you would have less work to do after each meeting?

Like most of you, our club has utilized several traditional forms of meetings such as meeting in-person, teleconferencing, and Skype. **By changing our format to a "working meeting," we've found that our meetings are more fun, interactive, and productive.**

What Is a Working Meeting?

The "working meeting" is just that, a meeting where much of the work is done during the meeting. **Rather than talk about tasks that need to be accomplished and compiling to-do lists to take care of after the meeting, we began working on the tasks during the meeting.**

Here's how it typically works: We meet in-person, just like a traditional meeting. This could be at a restaurant or an officer's home. We bring our favorite snacks, our laptops, the agenda, and a collaborative and fun spirit.

Just like a traditional meeting, we begin with the agenda. We briefly discuss the agenda and determine which items can be done independently and which require input from the group.

Then, we begin working, individually or collaboratively with another officer, on specific actionable items from the overall agenda. During this time, we are mindful of using our time efficiently, since we have a designated time for the meeting to end. We are free to ask questions and receive input from the other officers throughout this working time.

Towards the end of the meeting, we gather together and summarize the work we've done and determine if any items need to be followed up on outside of the meeting.

A "Working Meeting" Example

At one working meeting, one of our goals was to train our new VP PR and VP Membership. We began by having a brief discussion of the role and specific responsibilities of the positions. Then, since it was a working meeting, the work began.

With our computer, WIFI, projector, and printer easily accessible, we began navigating the club website. We added new members into the roster so they would receive a welcome letter and sign up for meeting roles. As questions came up, we were there to address them and the new officers were able to act on it immediately.

Why It Works

Effective Club Leadership relies on many factors, including each officer's commitment, consistency, and energy. **It is important to sustain a level of enthusiasm and vitality throughout the required one year term of office and beyond.**

One way to accomplish this is to make the officer's work less overwhelming and more efficient. For us, the "working meeting" accomplishes this.

Do you want to leave more time in your hands after an officers meeting? Do you want to feel energized and empowered to do more beyond your officer term? Experience the difference in a working meeting.

Lelet McGorry, CC, CL, served as President of Jersey Toastmasters Club from 2015-2016. She led the club to achieve President's Distinguished Recognition in 2016. She continues to serve as a club mentor.

Jersey Toastmasters Club Officers 2015-2016

Margaret Flory, DTM, PDG (46)

Frances C. Okeson, DTM, PDG (46)

NO LIMITS TOASTMASTERS

welcomes members with or without disabilities. The club has an award-winning CTV show, "Toastmasters in the Community," in its 12th year.

To learn more, contact Club President Fran Okeson, DTM 18: frantotten@verizon.net

DISTRICT HISTORY: Presidential Citation Recipients

by Fran Okeson, DTM, PDG (46)

Before District 83 was created, several members of our former District 46 received one of Toastmasters International's highest awards, which wasn't even listed in the Product Guide. It was called the "Presidential Citation." I became aware of it in 1999, but my story will come in its proper order.

MARGARET FLORY, DTM, PDG (46), PID (1994)

I had the pleasure of meeting Margaret Flory many years ago at a District 46 Conference. She was held in high esteem by everyone who knew her.

Her insight into people was amazing, and I found myself watching how she dealt with situations that arose while always looking serene and professional. The recipients were not told who nominated them nor for what reason they received the award. They are forever a part of Toastmasters International and District 46 and 83 history.

FRANCES C. OKESON, DTM, PDG (46) (1999)

When I received my letter from California announcing that I would be receiving an award in Chicago at the annual Toastmasters International Convention in August, I didn't know what it was all about. My son, Peter, told me to look it up in the "Product Guide" and see what it was. There was no mention of the award in the catalogue, so I called Headquarters for information.

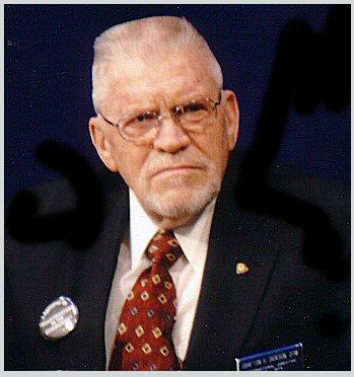
When I mentioned my name, the switchboard operator congratulated me and told me it was a special honor award. She then switched me to someone in the office who explained what it was, but not what I had done to receive it.

The following year, when I was checking in at the hotel for our District 46 Spring Conference, I heard a voice coming from the lobby restaurant and went over to say "hello" to Past International Director Fran Gedra, DTM. Fran smiled and congratulated me on my award. She explained that she had nominated me for chartering the No Limits Toastmasters club the year before for "people with developmental disabilities and people with 'special needs.'"

I got the idea for the club because I was a Foster Home Provider for adults with disabilities for many years and sometimes took my clients to meetings with me. For seven years, fellow Toastmaster Joan Maurizio, DTM, and I held meetings at the South Beach Psychiatric Center one Friday a month and at the Carmel-Richmond Health Care Facility on another Friday for the seniors who lived there.

(Continued on Next Page)

Robert Share, DTM



Grafton Dickson, DTM, PDG, PID

Radhi Spear, DTM, PDG (46)

ROBERT SHARE, DTM (2002)

Bob Share was the Area Governor for the five Toastmasters clubs that met in the World Trade Center and on September 11, 2001, his role took on a life of its own. The first plane had struck the North Tower before he emerged from the subway that day, and he was standing half a block from the WTC plaza when the second plane hit the South Tower.

What happened after that was a credit to his overall goodness and the realization that he was still the Area Governor even though he had no area to govern. His work started at that fatal moment which changed history.

Bob guided his clubs to find new locations for their meetings and he assisted in finding missing Toastmasters. One of his mentees in Talk of the Towers, Peter Feidelberg, and Peter's wife perished on 9/11, and Bob reached out to Peter's family with sympathy and support. Bob contacted the District 46 Governor who, after calling California, provided funds to send Bob and several other members of Talk of the Towers to attend Peter's memorial service, where Bob delivered one of the eulogies.

GRAFTON DICKSON, DTM, PDG (46), PID (2006)

Grafton Dickson was a gentleman of the old school. He exuded confidence and enjoyed taking fledging Toastmasters under his wing and setting them on the right course. He had a delicious sense of humor that caused people to smile as he walked toward them—not knowing what he'd say, but relishing the anticipation of how he would say it. His wife, Hertha was usually at his side enjoying his funny demeanor as much as anyone else.

Part of Grafton's claim to fame was that he was a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors in 1974 who voted to permit women to join Toastmasters.

Past International President Dilip Abayasekara, DTM, AS, once wrote, "Grafton, you served in leadership positions for Toastmasters International honorably and well. Then you made it your business to encourage and support the leaders who came after you. You never lost your enthusiasm for Toastmasters. That joy in you has always been a tonic for my spirit."

Grafton received his citation for his 50+ years of service to Toastmasters International.

RADHI SPEAR, DTM, PDG (46)

Radhi Spear is a Toastmasters' Toastmaster, a "go-to" person who always makes time to talk to and advise other Toastmasters. Her smile is contagious and the sparkle in her eyes can brighten a dreary day.

When the time finally arrived to split District 46 into two smaller, more manageable districts, Radhi led the temporary "Top 5" through the transition period. The team consisted of Radhi as the Governor of both halves of the district, with Elaine Rogers (LGET) and Mary Neff (LGM) for District 46 east of the Hudson and Paul Scharf (LGET) and Brian Lin (LGM) for District 46 west of the Hudson. Both halves had to be distinguished for the district to be recognized. Under Radhi's leadership, District 46 was distinguished that year.

FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

This article has described the five members of District 46 who earned the Presidential Citation and became members of District 83. For the most part, we had never heard of the Presidential Citation until we received a letter from Toastmasters International advising us to attend the International Convention in August and receive this prestigious award from the organization's President. The plaque reads, **"For outstanding contributions to Toastmasters International and its program of Communication and Leadership."**

YOUR VOICE: My Problem with Perfection

by Manny Reyes, ACS, ALB

Nobody is perfect!
I've heard this expression over and over again since I was young. I believe this statement is true. There are seven billion plus of us, and there are seven billion plus ways to look at a situation, an object, or an outcome. Everyone is entitled to his opinion.

An opinion has nothing to do with reality, rules of physics or math, and it doesn't have to be proven. It will exist in the imagination or perception of everyone, and that is that. So why is it that when it comes to speaking in a Toastmasters club meeting, people can be hesitant in sharing their views.

I may be wrong, but I believe that many people are afraid of public speaking because they are under the impression that what they say needs to be perfect. This belief holds so many people back. Weeks, and months pass, and in rare cases, even years will pass from one speech to the next. But why?

For some, it may feel as dangerous as swimming in a pool with sharks because they think people will laugh at what they say. But that is not true. It is only in the mind of the person who perceives that others will not appreciate or value what he has to offer to the rest of the club.

As Toastmasters, we need to create the right environment to allow people to grow and thrive, without the feeling that they have to be perfect. Let's do away with perfection and practice getting better at what we do best--speaking and growing leaders every single day. I encourage people to be courageous. Let's fail every now and then. Geniuses have referred to these failures as experiments with adverse outcomes. It's finding out that doing things in a particular way doesn't give the expected results. This just means it's time to move on and try something else.

I struggle with being funny or telling jokes. I love to defend my views. But I feel I am in my element when I talk passionately and pursue ideas that at times may not be popular or embraced by everyone**. I love to describe my views since I can only see the things in front of me through my eyes, and I understand that other people may be looking in the same direction and seeing an entirely different color paint.** That is the beauty of diversity and freedom. I value it when people show emotions and allow others to see who they are and what life is all about to them. I practice that all the time. Whether you like my speech or not, it is entirely up to you. It only represents my views and interpretation of my reality. I just merely enjoy the moment and the opportunity to have others listen to my ideas.

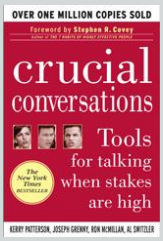
Imagine living in a world where we are bound to see things the same way, understand and behave the same way. There will be no geniuses, boredom, shine nor wit. Everyone will use the same color, listen to the same music, eat at the same time, and exercise the same way. That is not my kind of ideal universe.

No two Toastmasters have to agree on the message of the speech, but we all have to accept that we are here to serve—to help those around us to find their voice, the route to their destination. But by all means let us not aim for perfection. Instead, commit to speaking out and sharing ideas. I am convinced that every one of us has something to teach the rest of the world. **When we go home and keep all the splendor and shine of our thoughts to ourselves, we do a disservice to others.**

The next time you speak, express yourself and shine! Expect no judgment. Godspeed.

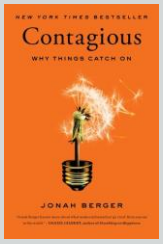
Manny Reyes, ACS, ALB, is currently the Division D Director.

A LEADER IS A READER



Crucial Conversations by Kerry Patterson, et al. empowers anyone to communicate especially when the stakes are high. The tools are practical and easy to follow for anyone who's been delaying to talk to a difficult boss, stubborn friend, co-worker, or family. It makes all conversations an opportunity to find a solution instead of compounding a problem.

Eileen Inciong, CC, CL



I recently read *Contagious: Why Things Catch On* for a work book club. Wharton marketing professor Jonah Berger provides accessible anecdotes and strategies for everyone who's ever wondered why some stories go viral and others don't.

I learned a lot as a storyteller (and a marketer)! We all need to sell our ideas—learn what catches on.

Eileen Kern, CC, ALB

ADVANCED CLUBS IN DISTRICT 83

There are currently seven advanced clubs in our district (yellow boxes) and three more are forming and expected to charter soon (gray boxes).

Map courtesy of Talk of Monmouth and Northern Stars (July 2016)

CONTACTS FOR CURRENTLY-FORMING ADVANCED CLUBS

Revolutionary Toastmasters:

Janette Alexander, DTM: jalexan@solixinc.com, 973-581-5302
Dee Rincon, ACB: dee_rincon@yahoo.com, 973-366-5596
Randolph, NJ area

Space to Speak:

Linda Friedman, DTM: linda@hunterdonsharedspace.com, 814-360-1950
Mike Rutkowski, ACG, ALB: mrutkowski01@comcast.net,
33 Rupell Road, Hampton, NJ
1st and 3rd Mondays; 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Speaking out of the Box Toastmasters Club:

Rachel Weiss, DTM, Club Growth Director: D83RachelW@gmail.com
Mahwah, NJ area

PHOTO CREDIT

The photographs in this issue were provided courtesy of:

Brian Lin, DTM, PDG:
Pages 1, 10, 15

Toastmasters International:
Pages 2, 7 (top of page), 8, 21

Eileen Kern, CC, ALB:
Pages 3 (top photo), 16 (photo of Dave Gambrill, CC, ALB, and iCIMS Toastmasters Club)

Su Brooks, DTM:
Page 3 (Area Director photos), 4 (last photo), 5, 6

Rebecca Marzec, ACS, ALS
Page 4 (first four photos)

Stuart Kramer, DTM:
Page 12 (Open Door Toastmasters)

Collection of Midtown Toastmasters:
Page 12 (Midtown)

Suzanne Gilman, ACB, ALB:
Page 13 (all photos)

Collection of Eileen Inciong, CC, CL:
Page 14

Rick Jackson, ACB, ALB:
Page 17 (photo of Debbie Yang and K-Toast Club)

Isagani Tubera, CC:
Page 18

Collection of Fran Okeson, DTM 6, PDG (46):
Pages 19, 20

Writer/Editor photos provided by the individual.

CLUB NEWSLETTER CONTEST 2016-2017

Does your club have a newsletter? If so, consider entering our newsletter contest! If not, consider creating one. While providing club information, the newsletter team may earn credit toward goals in the Competent Leader manual. We have provided the opportunity for as many clubs as possible to enter and participate.

Contest Criteria:

- Must use current Toastmasters International logo.
- Must include correct Toastmasters International branding standards (i.e., colors, use of logo, fonts, images, design devices, etc.)
- May use Toastmasters International templates or your own layout.
- Minimum of two pages; no maximum number of pages.
- Your club must be in good standing.
- Maximum one entry per club.
- Issues dated between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 are eligible.
- Deadline for submissions: **July 15, 2017**.
- Submit a PDF to d83newsletter@gmail.com

Results will be announced at the District 83 Fall 2017 Conference.
There is a perpetual **Club Newsletter of the Year** award, a 27" trophy with the winning club and year engraved on one of the smaller plates. The winning club will take possession of the trophy at the Fall Conference and return it to the District at the Spring Conference.

CLUB NEWSLETTER CONTEST: EVALUATION CRITERIA

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS
Does the newsletter include educational articles, recognition of member and club achievements, and promote participation in Toastmasters activities?	25
Is the newsletter informative and entertaining?	25
Does the content appear to be well-complied?	20
Does the text follow the rules of grammar? Is it free from typos?	10
Is the layout attractive?	10
Do the graphics/images provide a logical connection to articles or other valuable information?	10

Judges will be selected from outside the district. ***All District 83 clubs are invited to submit.***

District 83
http://toastmasters83.org/