District 83 Toastmasters

Starting a Toastmasters Club: Overview

Type of Toastmasters Clubs

Toastmasters clubs meet at corporations, churches, colleges, community centers, government agencies, hospitals, online, and even in restaurants. In addition, they can serve as a personal development resource in learning the soft skills for employment centers, expanding companies, and underserved communities,

Basic Charter Requirements:

1. At least 20 people over the age of 18
2. A designated meeting location (for in-person or hybrid clubs)
3. Host a Demo meeting to introduce prospective members to the Toastmasters experience.
4. Completion and submission of all required new-club forms to Toastmasters International World Headquarters, which includes the one-time charter fee payment of $125.00, plus state tax.

The Club Growth Team is on hand to help you every step of the way to bring your club to charter. For assistance, contact **Annette De Mendonca, DTM – Club Growth Director** at *tm83annette@gmail.com*

Online Specialty Clubs

Non-traditional clubs can be exciting and innovative, blending the traditional Toastmasters meeting format with a unique twist. However, the key to long-term success is sustainability by creating a club that consistently attracts new members and retains existing ones.

In-person clubs naturally benefit from networking and camaraderie built through face-to-face interactions. Online-only clubs must be more intentional in creating that same sense of connection. Specialty clubs help bridge this gap by offering a focused interest that draws people in, such as podcasting, writing, cooking, bilingual communication, shared culture, or book discussions. These themes give members a reason to gather, learn, and grow together, while still benefiting from the traditional Toastmasters meeting structure and strengthening their leadership and communication skills.

To maintain ongoing engagement and ensure your specialty club thrives, consider enhancing the traditional Toastmasters agenda with elements that highlight your club's theme.

Ideas for Sustainability and Continued Interest

1. Establish a clear **vision** for your club.
2. Define a **mission** or **purpose** that reflects your specialty.
3. Create **specialty-specific roles** in addition to standard Toastmasters roles (Toastmaster, Speaker, Evaluator, Table Topics Master, General Evaluator, Ah-Counter, Grammarian/WOD, Timer).
4. Align Table Topics with your club's specialty to reinforce the theme.
5. Add a **specialty activity** to your agenda, such as a training segment, learning module, demonstration, or interactive exercise.