



# The Voice

## District 83 News & Events

### WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

#### The Club – The Heart of Toastmasters

By Manny Reyes, DTM – District 83 District Director



As I think back to where my Toastmasters journey started, I can pinpoint it to my first visit to a club meeting at Brunswick Toastmasters. It all started the end of 2013. My first impressions—the way the meeting was conducted, the camaraderie, the laughter, and the fun while the club members demonstrated a genuine interest in helping one another—were all positive.

A challenge was directed at me by the Toastmaster *du jour*, asking me to answer a question and be part of the Table Topics session. These small but life-transforming moments were instrumental in awakening that part of me that knew this may be the trail, the passage, to a different place than the one I was finding myself stuck in, a door of opportunities with an unpredictable outcome that sounded at face value too good to be true. These unexpected realizations were the key that helped me in deciding to join not only the club, but this fantastic organization.

The Toastmasters journey starts and ends in The Club. Without the clubs, there will be no Toastmasters International, no regions, district, division or areas. It is there where the acorn will find the fertile ground to become an oak tree. The Club is the gate that opens a world of possibilities, the window with a view, the airfield that will prompt our dreams to take off and never look back. It is the beginning of finding who we will eventually become once above the clouds. We take chances, jump at 12,000 feet, taking as we fall back to the ground the

necessary self-correcting measures that will help us land in an ideally better place than when we started. From this new advantage point, we start the process over again.

### MARCH 2019

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The club meeting is at the heart of the Toastmasters experience. It is there where the growth and self-discovery engulf the hopes and goals that made us join. It is in this first hour or two that we start to soak in the potential and unstoppable force that puts our senses in motion towards pursuing a higher and brighter destination. Those first, second and third visits become magic moments, where one either commits to embarking on a new path or literally walks out the door in search of a totally different ground-breaking experience.

The club meeting is too important to be left to chance or to its own devices. It must be worked on and renewed day in and day out. This is what determines reaching Distinguished and beyond. Think about it: a Toastmasters Club has a mission, and everyone in the club should work to make that mission a reality. I know of clubs that have been around for decades, from five to over sixty years in our district, while others have been on the books for just a few months before returning to non-existence.

In my own experience I have concluded that some Toastmasters first join the club that is the closest to their home; but later, as the journey makes them think harder about the desired WIIFM (what's in it for me) outcome, some members end up joining the club that is the closest to their hearts, dreams, and aspirations. In other words, it is not the distance to the club that determines membership, but the quality of the club and the significance of belonging to one that is more in synch with the mindset and affinity that the member wants to experience.

As a Toastmaster, consider what your club is doing that makes your participation in it special to you. What makes your club meetings so appealing that you can't wait to come to the next meeting? What amount of growth are you experiencing every time you attend, and how are you contributing to make the club experience one of learning and understanding? Is your club giving you a sense of urgency to keep building and attracting more members to join your group? Growth doesn't take place in a vacuum but in the presence of diverse and collaborative frames of reference that construct the Better You.

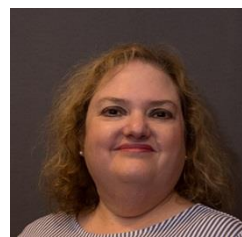
As you embark on the last four months of the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year, take time to assess where you are today from where you thought you should be by the end of the year. If your club is closer to Distinguished and if your educational awards are bringing you nearer to the next Pathways level (aka, one level up), you are on target. Even if it seems like a stretch to get there, don't withdraw. As in sports, participation is not about winning but playing and doing the things that will improve your performance and make your club experience a better one. Be ProACTIVE and practice EmPOWERment every day; no one can stop you but yourself. Decide that you will get to the finish line. Even if you don't cross first, every step you take will reinforce your mental muscle of self-discipline, and confidence. Keep on moving forward and, as motivational speaker Zig Ziglar used to say, "I will see you at the top."



## District Quality Director's Message

### Toastmasters Clubs To Wow Members in 2019

By Lynda Starr, DTM - District Program Quality Director



When one goes into Starbucks or another chain restaurant, one knows what to expect because the menu is the same, the décor may be similar and the level of service the same. Let's take the analogy one step further to Toastmasters. When one attends a club meeting, whether in New Jersey, California, France or India, the meeting will contain speeches, Table Topics and evaluations. This is not to say that each club should forgo having its unique culture in favor of a cookie-cutter approach. Some clubs are more sociable, others are more serious, and both are equally valid. Members select these clubs based on the club personality. The point is that a guest or member needs to be able to expect a quality, similar experience across clubs.

In 2019, International President Lark Doley has called upon all clubs to raise the bar to be **more uniform and top-performing**. She is calling this initiative the Wow!Factor and has set up three factors for the success of a club:

- Meeting club mission
- Members who come to learn and have fun
- Members are empowered to succeed

Throughout The *Wow!Factor* Project, clubs can learn how to continue their club's success or find ways to help the club achieve success through top-performing club meetings, improved member retention and strong leadership. There are three steps to the project.

**Step 1:** Do a deep analysis of your club. This is the time to be proud of your accomplishments, but also to be realistic about what needs to be improved. Utilize tools, such as the [Club Quality checklist](#) and [Moments of Truth](#), to fully assess how your club is performing. Find the gaps and areas of weakness. Other tools include the Better Speaker, Leadership Excellence and Successful Club Series. The checklist can also be found in the January 2019 issue of the Toastmasters Magazine. Moments of Truth asks clubs to evaluate their meetings based on the following factors:

- First impressions;
- Membership orientation;
- Fellowship, variety, and communication;
- Program planning and meeting organization;
- Membership strength; and
- Achievement recognition.

**Step 2:** Create a plan of action that can include an Open House, new marketing materials, new member orientation, ways to improve meetings, fellowship, club newsletter, etc.. Fill in the gaps to become 'the best club possible.' Be on the lookout for a kick-off video program that will encourage you to send in a video of your club's unique *Wow* experience using #wowfactor.



**Step 3:** Once your *Wow* factor is in full motion, keep it in motion! Have each member of your club re-assess individual goals. Re-assess your goals! Continually improve the club experience. Continually publicize when and where your club meets. Promote the mission of the club to share the benefits of Toastmasters membership. Retain existing members by supporting their personal and professional goals. Is your club the best example of The *Wow!*Factor Project? Are you personally an example of The *Wow!*Factor? Send in your video using #wowfactor! To submit a video entry, please email the Marketing Team at [marketing@toastmasters.org](mailto:marketing@toastmasters.org) for instructions and the Toastmasters International Digital Upload link.

To encourage clubs to participate in the *Wow!*Factor, District 83 is offering the following incentives:

**Step 1:** \$10 TI dollars; please send results of analysis to your area director who will review and send to the District Program Quality Director (PQD).

**Step 2:** \$10 TI dollars; please send plan and evidence of completion to your area director who will review and send to PQD. Other incentives such as Open House remain in effect.

**Step 3:** \$15 TI dollars, send video to District Public Relations Manager (PRM) and to [marketing@toastmasters.org](mailto:marketing@toastmasters.org)

Good luck with the *Wow!*Factor, and let's all work to have the highest quality clubs in order to attract and retain members.

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**You may be disappointed if you fail,  
but you are doomed if you don't try.**

- Beverly Sills  
Opera Star and Manager of the New York City Opera



## District Club Growth Director's Message

### How-To: Start a New Club

By William Markert, ACB,CL - Club Growth Director



Have you traversed the Toastmasters journey, finding yourself ready to start a new club but don't know how or where to begin? Relax! There are fellow Toastmasters and Toastmasters International resources available to help you! Your key resource from District 83 is Yours Truly, the Club Growth Director. I'm ready to help you.

Here are the six basic steps in the process for new club formation:

**1. Learn** all about Toastmasters Clubs by visiting several established quality clubs to observe their meetings, club climate and member experience. Speak to experienced Toastmasters who have been involved with new clubs to get advice, help and support.

**2. Decide** what kind of club you want to form: a **corporate** club or a **community** club.

The corporate club has a sponsoring organization that works together in supporting the club. Clubs can be closed (members are only from within the organization) or open (accepts non-employee members). The community club has membership open to all who wish to improve their communication and leadership skills.

#### Requirements for All Clubs:

- Minimum of 20 members (with no more than three "dual" club members);
- Club must meet at least 12 times per year;
- Regular meetings must be held in person (not virtual meetings);
- Members must give speeches in person and give/receive evaluations in person;
- Members must be afforded the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills.

**3. Request a club sponsor.** Contact your district's Club Growth Director ([william.markert@scouting.org](mailto:william.markert@scouting.org)) who will assign one to two club sponsors for your new club. Your sponsor(s) will help you build your new club by assisting with marketing the club (generating interest), organizing and presenting a demonstration meeting, and filling out and filing the necessary paperwork with Toastmasters International.

**4. Market your new club** by generating interest.

Corporate clubs should meet with the Director of Human Resources at the sponsoring organization. Work with your sponsor to prepare materials to explain the benefits and values that a club will bring. There is a host of materials available through Toastmasters International, including an informational chart and a marketing letter. When negotiating the club formation, you will need to determine whether the corporate sponsor is willing to provide any of the costs such as the charter and new member fees and/or dues. There are many types of arrangements, and your district can help provide an invoice if this is needed.



Next, you need to organize and conduct a demonstration meeting with your club sponsor for the corporate decision makers as well as for prospective club members. Your club sponsor can help get promotional material.

Community clubs need to work with their club sponsor to find a meeting location and 20 charter members. They also need to plan and conduct a demonstration meeting to educate the new members on the Toastmasters meeting process. The club sponsor can help find appropriate promotional material from the district or Toastmasters International.

**5. Charter** the new club once you have met at least the minimum requirements. There are seven forms that will need to be completed. Your club sponsor and the Club Growth Director will provide these to you and assist with finalizing and filing them. Additionally, your new club will need to **open a bank account** to manage the club dues. There are many rules regarding this process that the club sponsor, District Club Growth Director and Toastmasters International can help with.

**6. Celebrate!** The presentation of your club's charter marks the official debut of the new club. It typically takes anywhere from two to six weeks to get the charter once all the paperwork is filed with Toastmasters International. Your district's Club Growth Director will further assign the club one or two **club mentors** who will work with the club during the first six months. The club mentor is an experienced Toastmaster who will help create a quality club experience.

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### Welcome New Clubs!

**Mars Sweet Talkers – MTO 10/30/2018**

**eBCONversationalists 11/23/2018**

**Energy Speakers 1/15/2019**

**Find Your Voice 1/23/2019**





## 2019 District 83 Annual Conference

### Message from the District 83 Annual Conference Chairs



**Bin Zhao, ACG,ALB**



**Jennifer Pickett**

As the conference chairs, we are pleased to invite you to attend the 2019 District 83 Annual Conference on May 4 and 5. We guarantee you will have a fun-filled time while gaining new and valuable ideas!

**“Transforming the World with Words”** is the theme of the conference. The words we speak are the vehicles for communication, persuasion, and inspiration. They have the power to make an impact in our businesses and personal lives. The actions of others can be bent to your will when using the right words and delivery. Move that mountain! The conference can show you how. Toastmasters conferences are wonderful venues for us to learn to speak effectively, positively, and wisely. Through our words, we can transform the world!

The upcoming conference will consist of educational workshops, a keynote address, speech contests, the district business meeting, delicious meals, and other fun activities. There are three tracks of workshops: personal development, professional development, and club development. You will gain new ideas from the workshops, which will help you grow in your personal and professional life, as well as help nurture your club. The keynote speaker will be Toastmasters International President-elect Deepak Menon. You can be assured that his words will be remarkable and inspirational. There will be four contests: International Speech, Humorous Speech, Speech Evaluation, and Table Topics. All contestants are the winners of their club, area, and division contests -- the best speakers in our district. You will have the opportunity to not only be entertained, but to learn from all of them.

Know that our district conferences are always places for great networking opportunities. We encourage you to join us and take full advantage of this event. We know that you will learn new ideas, be inspired, make new friends, and have a great time at the conference. Toastmasters: where we learn to become better speakers, better leaders, and better people. **Through our words, we will transform the world!**



## **2019 District 83 Annual Conference**

### **Let's Get Out the Vote !**

**By Margaret Flory, DTM – Credentials Committee Co-Chair**



District 83 meets annually at what was formerly known as our Spring District Conference, now the District Annual Conference. It is important that every club have representation at this business meeting in order to conduct the important business of the district. This is one of the responsibilities of the offices of Club President and Club Vice President- Education (VPE).

At these business meetings, the district reviews and votes on district leadership (the District Director, Program Quality Director and Division Directors), club alignment within areas and divisions, and other matters important to effective district operations. Each club has two votes, ideally exercised by the Club President and VPE.

The Club President (or VPE) in attendance may cast both club votes. If the Club President or VPE is unable to attend the district business meeting, an alternate club member in good standing is appointed to represent the club. This is referred to as a "proxy."

The district must check that each person voting at the business meeting is entitled to a vote. That means that their club is in good standing, that the President and VPE indeed hold that office and are members in good standing. If a club sends a proxy to vote, a check is made to insure that person is a member of that club and is in good standing. No member can carry more than three votes.

So that the district leaders can plan effectively for the business meeting, they must know in advance who will be carrying the votes for each club. During March, Club Presidents and VPEs will receive an email telling how they are to inform the district the names of the members who will represent their club. There will be a few weeks for the club officers to determine which club members will be available to attend the meeting and vote.

There is no charge to attend the district business meeting, which will begin at 9:30 AM on May 4, 2019, at the APA Hotel Woodbridge at Exit 31 of the Garden State Parkway. Please make plans to come to this meeting and stay for the District 83 Annual Conference, which follows the business meeting. Registration for the conference can be made on the District 83 website ([tm83.org](http://tm83.org)).

Membership in Toastmasters International involves more than just showing up at club meetings and giving a speech now and then. Toastmasters membership is about being part of a supportive group of individuals in your District who share the common goal of improving their communication and leadership skills. Please be a part of the group effort to make the learning climate better for each Toastmasters member of District 83.





## District 83 Events

### Winter Celebration: Recognizing Success

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM – 2018-19 D83 Newsletter Editor

The second District 83 Recognition of Success events was held on February 23 at Cedar Knolls, New Jersey at which clubs and individual members were honored for having earned milestone awards. In addition to activities noted below, four winners of division-level humorous speech contests served as panelists to discuss humor; they also presented non-contest speeches as how-to examples of wit in speech craft.



(left): Margarita Estrada, DTM thanks Isaak Gelbinovich, DTM for his keynote speech on successful mentoring.

(bottom): Attending achievers of Distinguished Toastmasters and Triple Crown awards from July 1 through December 31, 2018 were honored.





## How-To Corner: Request Help Does My Club Need a Club Coach?

By Janette Alexander, DTM - District Administration Manager



Are you a club officer or club member who has noticed and worried about the membership health of your club? Have you witnessed a declining number of members and the impact this has had on your club meetings? Perhaps, despite efforts of the club executive team to stop the decline, the membership has dropped to below 12 paid members. Is there anything that can be done and what steps can be taken? The answer is YES, and there are some key steps to take!

You should know that your district will send help to your club. This only happens, however, if your club president sends a request for a club coach to the District Club Growth Director, William Markert ([william.markert@scouting.org](mailto:william.markert@scouting.org)). Once the director receives the request, he will select a coach from a pool of candidates, and your club will be informed. The coach is always someone from outside of your club so your club gets a neutral, fresh look at the club climate and dynamics. The coach will contact the Club President and arrange a visit.

No, the coach will not go to your club and boss everyone around, dictating what gets done! No, this is not an exercise meant to embarrass or reprimand anybody. The coach is tasked to help your club make an analytical assessment of where improvements can be made and to help set up a realistic course of action with attainable results. The coach arrives with a tool box (techniques) and troubleshooting guide, instructed to respect your club's own unique style. It is still up to your club to decide how and what gets done.

Do not be surprised that the coach may look hard at your club meetings. You'll be revisiting "the moments of truth." It comes down to holding quality meetings in order to have a quality club. This is a current push with Toastmasters International. Club officers will each review their leadership handbooks and get personalized tips on how to embrace their roles. This too will contribute to your club's quality.

Along with the club meetings, the club coach will emphasize service to members. The club's criteria for service reflects quality and reliability. When the perspective is around this, member retention is more likely. There is a club quality standards evaluation that the coach will assist in making. Additionally, the coach will help the club establish a membership-building culture so that, once membership strength is re-established, it can be maintained. The coach will explain the many Toastmasters Membership Contests. Retaining members provides continuity and assures a strong leadership base. When every member is responsible for keeping all other members satisfied and involved in the club, the result is member retention. Furthermore, recognizing achievements of the membership is a key component to having satisfied members. This recognition can be done at the meetings, at special ceremonies and by using newsletters, websites and social media. Your coach can help with all of these.

Know that the coach brings a depth of knowledge. He or she can tap the experience of many clubs and share that with everyone at your club. This is invaluable! When you call in a club coach, you are flexing the muscles of a great district! Let them work with and for you.



## **Toastmasters Education Achievement**

### **Destination DTM: Traditional or Pathways – Your Road to Success**

**By Su Brooks, DTM2 – District Social Media Strategist**



The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award represents the highest level of educational achievement in Toastmasters. You have until June 30, 2020 to complete a DTM in the traditional education program.

Determine how much progress you have completed to date and whether a traditional or Pathways DTM is realistic. Your Vice President-Education or mentor can help you decide. Requirements for a DTM in both the traditional and Pathways programs are described on the Toastmasters International website:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/education/distinguished-toastmaster>

### **Visualize success**

Create a tactile vision. A vision board with DTM in the center is a great reminder to help you achieve your goal. Place the vision board where you will see it every day. Reflect upon why you want to achieve a DTM. Your reasons could include any or all of the following:

- Increased confidence in speaking and leadership situations;
- Honing your skills to compete in speech contests;
- Improving your presentation skills;
- Opportunities for networking.



### **Leadership**

Now is the time to talk to current district leaders to let them know you would like to serve as a district officer for 2019-2020. You might not get the assignment/location closest to you and you may need to be flexible. To connect with the district officers, please review the list posted on our district website:

<https://tm83.org/index.php/district-officers/district-officers>

Talk to the District Destination DTM Chair, Anne Gilson ([D83Anne@gmail.com](mailto:D83Anne@gmail.com)) to arrange for a DTM mentor. Your mentor might be in a different club and be able to provide a unique perspective for attaining your goal. District officer roles for 2019-2020 are appointed to those seeking to complete their first traditional DTM before assignments are offered to those pursuing a Pathways DTM or a subsequent DTM. The same applies if you are seeking a role as a club sponsor, mentor or coach.



## Speaking

Your club (or clubs) might offer ample speaking opportunities for you to complete all the speeches and educational presentations by June 2020. However, if your club offers a limited number of slots, consider visiting other clubs to secure a spot on their agendas.

Clubs are always on the lookout to invite other Toastmasters to their meetings if they have challenges filling speaking roles on a regular basis. Talk to your Area or Division Director to learn about these opportunities. Talk to other Toastmasters at Area, Division and District events to make new friends and connections as well. Newly chartered clubs or those in the process of chartering might want to hear from experienced speakers.

Check out social media platforms, such as Facebook and LinkedIn discussion groups, and brainstorm with a Toastmasters friend for ideas to help each other succeed. Always have a pocket speech along with a speech manual or evaluation resource available for on-the-spot opportunities.

## Congratulations!

Celebrate the completion of your traditional DTM program goal. Walk the gauntlet at the Annual Conference in May 2020 to celebrate your success. Growth is not over yet. Plan your next steps as you embrace the Pathways learning experience.



### Congratulations to our newest DTMs!

Monica Helsel  
Paul Ireifej  
Danielle Mazza  
Frances Okeson  
Cyndi Wilson





## Pathways

### Jump!

By Margarita Estrada, DTM – Public Relations Manager



One of my favorite movies is *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

The movie opens at a book signing held by the main character, Frances. A man approaches her with life-changing news: her husband is having an affair. The next scene opens at her lawyer's office, signing divorce papers. She's confused, puzzled, wondering, why she was the last one to find out what everyone else already knew. Frances reluctantly starts the process of cleaning house, wanting nothing from the past except for a beautiful blue paperweight that brings her joy. Her friends fear that Frances is falling apart and offer her a trip to Tuscany, Italy. At first, she is reluctant about accepting their offer but, after staying in a hotel that has all the misfits you can imagine, jumps in!

She finds herself on a tour bus in Tuscany when suddenly she sees a house that for some reason peaks her curiosity. She jumps off the bus, walks toward the house, and caresses the sign in front that reads "Bramasole." Although the house is in bad shape, there's another couple who wants it, and a bidding war ensues. The owner of the home suddenly ups the price and says she's looking for a sign from above, 'Un Segno di Dio.' Lo and behold, a pigeon drops its sign on Frances, and she wins the bid! That moment begins the adventure that eventually leads her to find fulfillment of self; however, the foundation of that joy was formed by the incident that turned her life upside down.

This movie (by all intents and purposes considered a "chick flick") is a motivational speaker's dream come true. I'm surprised none of them have tapped into it! Let's look at it, step by step, and relate it to our Toastmasters journey.

### **Toastmasters life-changing event: Pathways**

**Symptoms: Confusion, puzzlement, apathy, fear**

#### **Step 1: Reluctantly clean house:**

We are struggling to "clean" the traditional program out of our minds and hearts. We know it's necessary to release it; yet, we want to hold it captive. Remember, just as Frances holds on to her beautiful, blue glass paperweight, we can hold on to the educational designation we attain by June 2020! That is ours, and no one can take it away.

#### **Step 2: Be aware of signs, and act on them:**

When your mentor says, "How are you doing in crafting your speech"; or "I feel it's a good idea for you to take on a leadership role at a meeting"; or "Maybe you should compete -- you have the potential to win," there's a reason for it. It's a sign that your mentor wants you to achieve your best potential. Just as Frances' friends send her on a trip to Tuscany, Italy, because they know she is falling apart (I need friends like hers), your mentor is that person who pushes you forward on your journey. Trust your mentor and jump!



### **Step 3: Look toward the sun:**

The name of the house Frances buys, Bramasole, means “yearning for the sun.” As a Toastmaster, your “sun” may be simply delivering your first Pathways ice breaker, or completing Level 1 in your chosen path. It’s a tough proposition when you’re not familiar with the system; however, you are familiar with delivering a speech and/or presentation. Connect with a Pathways Guide or Ambassador, or your Club President, Vice President-Education, or Secretary so someone can help you! It’s hard to ask for help, but it’s harder to stay in the dark. Decide to break through the invisible barriers and look toward the sun. Ah yes, Bramasole!

### **Step 4: Embrace the difficulties of transformation:**

Every time we deliver a message that changes a mindset or take on a role and give it our own spin, we will experience external change as we transform internally. Frances takes on an old, dilapidated house. There are many times when she questions her decision, but she presses on. As she experiences internal change, the house is also transformed. She grows with the house. Struggle is part of transformation! Get used to it and jump!

### **Step 5: Continue to grow and evolve:**

Frances has certain wishes she holds close to her heart: a wedding in her house, children, cooking for family. As she evolves, those dreams are achieved -- differently than what she expects (another couple gets married in the house, her friend has her baby in her house, and she cooks for those who are helping her transform her house and her life). As Toastmasters, what we first wish for ourselves may change as we transform and evolve. For some of you, the World Championship of Public Speaking may be your dream; for others it may be promotion at work; and for others it may be starting your own business. Toastmasters skills are transferable to all endeavors!

Remember, your journey never ends! Clean your internal house! Be aware of signs! Look toward the sun! Embrace the difficulties of transformation! Continue to grow and evolve!



**JUMP !**





## Member Highlight

### Joe Shuler -- A Titan of Toastmasters

By Sherri Rase, DTM



Joe Shuler has been a Toastmaster since 1965, which means that he has been a Toastmaster since before one-third to one-half of District 83 membership even existed. His wisdom and his wealth of experience create a rich and royal tapestry that he shares with people he's mentored and with whom he's shared clubs. Recently, I had an opportunity to sit down with Joe at the Heritage Diner in Hackensack, New Jersey. Incidentally, Joe is apparently Hizzoner of the Heritage – he seems to know everyone!

In his own words, "I have had continuous membership in Toastmasters International since on or before March 16, 1965 when I gave my icebreaker at Toastmasters Club #144 in Pittsburgh. My father was very active in the club." Joe's father, John, would practice his speeches in front of his mirror with Joe listening, fascinated.

When Joe graduated college, he was working for a newspaper and, with five months' notice, was called on by his high school alumni group to lead a business seminar based on his work as the managing editor. Where to prepare? What to say? He decided to join his father's club.

Joe worked hard to organize his speeches, learning it's not just what you say, but how you say it that makes the difference with attention and retention. Five months later, when the big day came for which he had so diligently prepared, he arrived to find a sign pinned to the door: "Seminar Cancelled." But was Joe disappointed?! Not a chance! It was too late – Joe was hooked!

Joe has many stories from Club 144 in Pittsburgh. They were very active, meeting every week, then going out afterward for cocktails. Joe joined in 1965 before women could join. (Note: women had some wily workarounds, but ultimately were allowed to join as full members in 1972.) When there was talk of women joining Toastmasters, one older gentleman at the happy hour afterward said, "That will never do – how would they join us at the bar afterward? What would my wife say"? Joe, then and now, thinks it's one of the best things to ever happen. "Women are far more organized. There was a lot of fear about change back then."

Joe has also seen a lot of change in the education program. "People like the book, the printed material starting for me with the CTM. Now that there is the Pathways program, they can't get used to going online, typing. But it's all about improvement of the program, and change will always happen."

Club 144 had some very accomplished members – one was a retired actor who provided inspiration and advice. Yet the best speech he'd heard was someone who worked for a TV station, but not as an announcer. The man spoke about his experience scuba diving in a frozen river, and the peril of the experience was so palpable, so compelling, that Joe remembers it as if it happened yesterday. "You thought you were under the ice with him, he was that good."



Joe continued: “After the experience with the seminar, I was active as an officer and later president of Club 144, until we moved to New Jersey in October 1968.” When we moved, I knew I had to find a local club. On arrival at my job in Manhattan, I joined Roughrider’s Toastmasters Club in NYC. A lot was happening in the 1960s. [In] 1965, the Vietnam War was beginning to heat up.” By 1969, the discussion was hot, and Joe’s Roughriders’ Toastmasters hosted a debate on the War, with peace-minded people wearing doves and warmongers wearing hawks that were small paper cut-outs pinned to jacket lapels. Joe can still lay hands on his in his archive.

“Many notable politicians and actors were members of that club. I still have the roster! I was active with them until July 1969 when I joined the Teaneck NJ Toastmaster Club,” Joe remembers.

What’s Joe’s favorite speech? “Never Fall in Love with a House,” was written about the first house he and his wife ever bought. They purchased what they thought was a sturdy little brick house with stained glass windows. They found it had turn-of-the- century electricity and heating; this made it a lot less charming. The previous owner said he’d left them some antiques. Turns out it was just bits and bobs of furniture – chairs and beds. Hence, never fall in love with a house – unless the inspector gives it a blessing.

Joe has hobbies other than speaking. He collects vintage metal lunch boxes, with more than 300 in his current collection. The plums of the group are on display in his office; and, if you are in North Jersey, you may see some on display at the local library. On the road selling newsprint, Joe had a great opportunity to start and add to his collection. He recognized the collectibles of the future; ask him about the Bee Gees sometime.

An avid photographer, Joe was the District Photographer for a number of years, first for District 46, then District 83, capturing the champions. Takes one to know one.



Joe has other mementos as well—true Toastmasters collectibles, like his first CTM manual! [See Page 17.] He has a commemorative plaque from 1965-1966 from his first club presidency that is truly reflective of that era. Perhaps the most compelling, in more ways than one, is a gavel so large it has a zip code! [See photo, left.] It’s a gift from the Bergen Toastmasters Club in 1974 to celebrate Mr. Toastmaster, the man who helped them charter the club, formed in 1972 when the Teaneck Club and the Paramus Club merged to form Bergen Club 2581. Joe says, “I have been president of three clubs, an area governor three times and a division governor in 1996. I have served as district photographer for about ten years and, at the present time, I am treasurer of the Bergen Club. I am an ATM-Silver and hopefully will be an ATM-Gold soon. I am proud to say there are no gaps in my Toastmasters membership,” and he’s still going strong.

Joe’s advice for new Toastmasters? “Don’t be distracted by Table Topics. Get your basic training and continue, using that structure. Follow the basics, stick to the book. Everything is there. Read about speaking, read about evaluating and THEN do it. Don’t get sidetracked by what’s easy—challenge yourself. Stretch yourself! If you don’t usually tell jokes, give it a try! Remember to write down the punch line, that’s all you need.





## Evaluation Guide

### SPEECH NUMBER ONE

## The Ice Breaker

DATE

3/12/65

SPEAKER

Joe Shuler

SUBJECT

EVALUATOR

Tom McHenry

Note to the Evaluator: You have been assigned to evaluate this speech, the speaker's first attempt before your club. He has been advised to talk about himself, his life, his hobby, his business or other personal interests. He is to introduce himself to the club. He was told to use notes if he needs them, and to forget his hands, or put them behind him, and to concentrate on telling his story.

Write your comments on this sheet, so that the speaker may have a permanent record of evaluation. He will keep your comments at hand as he prepares his next speech. Remember your own first experience as a speaker, and give this man the help you wish you could have had on that occasion.

In your brief speech of evaluation, be encouraging and helpful. Don't try to "pour it on" the speaker. Give him the best of it in every way consistent with the truth. Tell him how to do better.

Did he really put his story across? —

Definitely — nice easy style  
you have a nice casual presentation — easy to  
listen to

Did he introduce himself so that the club now knows him better? —

Could have  
told us more about himself — you dealt with  
one isolated incident — we'd like to know more about

What qualities in his material, or his personality, or his manner of speaking did you observe which encourage you to believe that he will become a good speaker by faithful practice?

Your voice is excellent — Will be a tremendous  
asset to you in speaking

What two or three specific suggestions can you give him that will help him to do better in his next attempt?

Try to become just a little more enthusiastic

Did you notice any conspicuous mannerisms or faults which interfered with his success? If so, list them. IF THEY WERE NOT SERIOUS, DO NOT MENTION THEM.

Excellent speech Joe — you're going  
to be a fine Toastmaster.

Time — Approx 10 sec

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BASIC TRAINING FOR TOASTMASTERS

### Joe Shuler's evaluation guide form for his Icebreaker Speech

"What do you like to do—what did you get the best grades in? Select something you like so, when you have a bad day, you are still on your own path. If you choose something that someone else is good at, you will never be happy. And if you're in a speech contest, never give a sad speech. It might be good, but you want to make the audience laugh."

Excellent advice for Contest Season from a Titan of Toastmasters.



## **Why I Love My Club - Viewpoint**

### **Northern Stars Advanced Club, Where “Dual Is Cool”**

**By Mike Rutkowski, DTM - Club Vice President- Membership**



I was thrilled when I earned my Distinguished Toastmaster award in 2017, and soon afterward I reasoned, "OK, what's next for me in Toastmasters?" Having just served two terms as an Area Director, I missed competing in speech contests, and I was also ready for a new speaking challenge. After visiting several other clubs, I joined Northern Stars Advanced Toastmasters and jumped in with both feet.

I was impressed by the diverse group of experienced Toastmasters at Northern Stars. Many were DTMs, and several had served as District 83 Executive Officers while others were newcomers having just completed the minimum of six Toastmasters speeches before joining. Today, some members are finishing their traditional education goals while others have embraced Pathways. A few members are also completing two different Paths which is another benefit of becoming a dual member.

We meet at Verizon Headquarters, just off I-287 in Basking Ridge, convenient for Central and North Jersey Toastmasters. Our meetings are fast-paced, with two to three prepared speeches and different evaluation formats for each speech. It is inspiring to see veteran and newbie Toastmasters working side-by-side and all learning from one another in real time. While following the traditional Toastmasters meeting format, we love to mix it, including some

theme-based meetings. We recently tried practicing and recording Toastmasters #MyWhy videos. Unless you volunteer to be the Topics Master, you never know what to expect for Table Topics. You may (or may not) win a prize for your impromptu speech mastery, but we guarantee it will be creative, challenging, rewarding and always fun!

Following each of the past four D83 Spring conferences, we invited the International Speech contest winners to visit our club in preparation for the World Championship of Public Speaking. Here is what 2018 International Speech Championship Mario Lewis, ACG,ALB said following his club visit:

“The members of Northern Stars helped to evaluate both of my international contest speeches last year when I prepared for the Semifinals competition in Chicago. Due to the advanced nature of their evaluations, my time with them was very helpful in the preparation process. The members provided thoughtful, constructive and actionable feedback that I could test and implement quickly. I will definitely go back to Northern Stars the next time I am preparing for a significant speech contest.”





**Members of Northern Stars Toastmasters celebrate their first-place wins in the 2018 Division B Speech Contests. Pictured left to right: Mike Rutkowski, DTM; Aida Murphy, DTM; Kimberly Chung, CC,ALB; Bill Hood, DTM (Table Topics winner); Sherri Rase, DTM (Humorous Speech winner); William Markert, ACB,CL; June Kellogg, ACB,ALB; and Brian Lin, DTM**

When asked about her experience, our Immediate Past Club President, Sherri Rase, DTM wrote:

"There comes the point in your first Toastmasters club where you realize you need more. An advanced club is exactly what I needed and when I visited Northern Stars - I knew this was *the one*. The combination of DTMs, district leaders and disciples of the art of speaking put us all on the same quest toward excellence! *Dual is cool*, when you step up to joining a second club, you more than double your world."

We cordially invite all D83 Toastmasters to visit our club on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (and sometimes 5<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at One Verizon Way in Basking Ridge. Please visit our website <https://northernstars.toastmastersclubs.org/> and click on 'Contact Us' to RSVP before your visit.

If you are seeking a new challenge or just want to meet some ambitious and enthusiastic Toastmasters, we might just be the right dual club for you!

## *In Memoriam*



**HingKui John Lee, ATM,CL**  
Northern Stars  
Speech Meisters



**Charlie Walter, DTM**  
BASF

**Where a beautiful soul has been,  
there is a trail of beautiful memories.**

**- Ronald W. Reagan  
40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**





## CELEBRATIONS

### Member Anniversaries – First Quarter 2019

Join Date	Last Name	First Name
<b>20 Years</b>		
3/1/1999	Cruikshank	Ed
<b>15 Years</b>		
1/1/2004	Nieradka	John
1/1/2004	West	Stephen
3/1/2004	Robinson	Monique
3/1/2004	Somers	Thomas
<b>10 Years</b>		
1/1/2009	Freeman	Irene
1/1/2009	Lewis	Mario
1/1/2009	Maharana	Anand
1/1/2009	Stewart	Shakira
2/1/2009	Cort	Brian
2/1/2009	Kumar	Akhil
2/1/2009	Kurokawa	Yoshiaki
3/1/2009	Acedieu	Ginel
3/1/2009	Alexander	Janette
3/1/2009	Justiz	Marc
3/1/2009	Luxenberg	Larry
3/1/2009	Murphy	Andrea
3/1/2009	Panarello	Lisa
3/1/2009	Spinella	Terri
3/1/2009	Zalepka	John

Join Date	Last Name	First Name
<b>5 Years</b>		
1/1/2014	Adebiaye	Adedotun
1/1/2014	Bustamante	Diana
1/1/2014	Chiang	Tiffany
1/1/2014	Chrusciel	Susan
1/1/2014	Dave	Samir
1/1/2014	Hargrave	James
1/1/2014	Krishnamurthy	Jaswanth
1/1/2014	Mishra	Pooja
1/1/2014	Panchedula	Venkatesh
1/1/2014	Perera	Ganga
1/1/2014	Petersen	Melissa
2/1/2014	Cordoba	Claudia
2/1/2014	Farrell	Devora
2/1/2014	Khalil	Icram
2/1/2014	Kumar	Narender
2/1/2014	Mitchell	Donna
2/1/2014	Prasad	Sumantha
2/1/2014	Turenne	Louis
3/1/2014	Bharadwaj	Jaishankar
3/1/2014	Doran	Maureen
3/1/2014	For	Bruce
3/1/2014	Gabai	Richard
3/1/2014	Passik	Scott
3/1/2014	Saur	Edward
3/1/2014	Sevak	Kandarp
3/1/2014	Sun	Heijen
3/1/2014	Wackerow	John



### **2Q2019 Dates to Remember**

<b>3/1 – 3/31/19</b>	<b>“Talk Up Toastmasters” Membership Contest</b>
<b>3/1 – 3/31/19</b>	<b>Clubs collect and submit membership dues</b>
<b>3/1 – 3/31/19</b>	<b>Area-Level Intl Speech and Evaluation Contests</b>
<b>3/15 – 4/20/19</b>	<b>Clubs Determine Proxy Holders to District Conference</b>
<b>4/1 – 4/30/19</b>	<b>Division-Level Intl Speech &amp; Evaluation Contests</b>
<b>4/1 – 4/30/19</b>	<b>Club Presidents appoint nominating committee for semi-annual and annual term officers.</b>
<b>5/1 – 5/31/19</b>	<b>Election of club officers</b>
<b>5/4 – 5/5/19</b>	<b>District Conference</b>
<b>5/1 – 6/30/19</b>	<b>Beat the Clock Membership Contest</b>



**Whether you think you can  
or you think you can't,**

**You're Right!**

**- Henry Ford, American Industrialist**



### Contributors to this edition

Manny Reyes	Margaret Flory
Lynda Starr	Su Brooks
William Markert	Bin Zhao
Janette Alexander	Jennifer Pickett
Margarita Estrada	Mike Rutkowski
Sherri Rase	Jeanette Fredericks

### Photo Credits

Pg 1	Manny Reyes
Pg 3	Lynda Starr
Pg 5	William Markert
Pg 7	Bin Zhao, Jennifer Pickett
Pg 8	Margaret Flory
Pg 9	Jeanette Fredericks
Pg 10	Janette Alexander
Pg 11	Su Brooks
Pg 13	Bruce For
Pg 14	Stock Art
Pg 15-16	Sherri Rase
Pg 17	Joe Shuler
Pg 18	Mike Rutkowski
Pg 19	Northern Stars TMC
Pg 20	Obituary Photos

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**Your timely articles and club news are welcome!**

### Contact the Newsletter Editor:

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### Submissions for the June 2019 issue are due May 15<sup>th</sup>

All submissions should include:

- author's name, photo (if desired), and achievement designation (CC, CL, etc.);
- achievement designations of all members mentioned in the article;
- photos with captions and accreditation information.

## District 83

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL