



The Voice

District 83 News & Events

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WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Many of you have heard there are changes coming and wonder if you should continue working on the current program or wait for Pathways. The answer is simple ... "Don't Wait!!!" Education is a continuous process and what we learn today will help each of us tomorrow. Pathways' current schedule is before the end of the 2017-2018 Toastmasters year. Stay-tuned for more information to come out as we are looking for help – Pathways Ambassadors and/or Pathways Guides. For those of you interested in one of these

roles, please contact District 83's Chief Pathways Ambassador, Tony Figueroa, or the Program Quality Director, Manny Reyes.

In parallel, one could ask why are you going through the program again just to get another DTM? The answer is simple ... "To continue to practice and get better!!!" I can hear a second answer in my other ear, "To Level up one!" Both are correct answers and encourage all of us. I am currently working on my third CC because I want to encourage new members to keep working on their first CC. More importantly, I want to keep improving my foundation skills found in that manual because I'll need them as I move into Pathways. If you need help on your journey towards getting your DTM, contact our District's Destination DTM Coordinator, Ruby Scotland.

Education is an everyday part of our lives. Don't be afraid of the future. Embrace it. Don't stop working on the current system as you will have two years to complete your DTM. If you need someplace to give a speech, check with other clubs in your neighborhood or check out the District's Help Wanted page.

I look forward to seeing your name on the Educational Achievement listing very soon.

Confidence is contagious. So is lack of confidence.

Vince Lombardi

In Memoriam



Paula Markert



George Corrado, Jr.

Where a beautiful soul has traveled, beautiful memories remain.



Feature Article:

The Fundamentals of Pathways

By Janette Alexander, DTM and Tony Figueroa, DTM, Pathways Chief Ambassador

Pathways is the new, updated and modernized education program for Toastmasters and it is coming to the district in 2018! It is a tailored program that will provide the opportunity to develop skills relevant to both your personal and professional goals. The exciting part is that it is self-tailored. This means you select your own path and goals. Educational materials will primarily be online but you can get paper copies for an additional fee, if you desire. Club meetings will remain the center of your development experience.

Pathways features 10 paths instead of the two current educational tracks of communication and leadership. We will be losing the old designations such as CC, CL, ACB, etc. The only designation that will remain is the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). Each of the paths will have 5 levels of increasing complexity. Recognition will come as virtual badges and certificates as you earn them.

The 10 Learning Paths:

- Motivational Strategies
- Presentation Mastery
- Leadership Development
- Innovative Planning
- Visionary Communication
- Strategic Relationships
- Dynamic Leadership
- Persuasive Influence
- Effective Coaching
- Team Collaboration

The 5 Levels:

- Level 1: Mastering Fundamentals
- Level 2: Learning Your Style
- Level 3: Increasing Knowledge
- Level 4: Building Skills
- Level 5: Demonstrating Expertise

Each path has required and elective projects. A path is completed when 14 projects (10 required and 4 elective) are finished across the 5 levels. Each project includes at least one speech.

With so many new choices, how do you decide which path is right? Toastmasters International has an **online assessment tool** that looks at your skills, interests and goals to make recommendations for the three best paths for you. This is a recommended first stop before selecting which paths to undertake!

Since the program is largely online, each member will access his or her Pathways using “**Base Camp**.” Using this portal will give you access to learning tools, videos, interactive quizzes and activities, feedback and recognition. In Base Camp you will also be able to work on projects, track your progress, view badges and certificates and connect with club members. Each club will have a Base Camp manager, usually the vice president of education (or the club president or secretary). The Base Camp manager will be responsible for approving speeches outside the club, verifying level completion, tracking member progress, and verifying project completions for members using printed materials



The computer requirements you'll need to ensure faster downloads:

Computer: 1 GB of RAM, 1 GHz Processor
Display resolution: 1024 x 768
Network and connectivity: 5Mbit/s (recommended: 8Mbits/s)
Browser with TLS 1.1 or higher enabled
Pop-up blocker disabled
JavaScript enabled

Base Camp compatible browsers:

Microsoft Edge
Internet Explorer Version 10.0 or higher
Chrome 22.0 or higher
Safari Version 7.0 or higher
Mozilla Firefox Version 23.0 or higher

The changes to the core educational program will impact the requirements for the Distinguished Toastmaster designation as well as the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). Under the DCP, there will still be 10 goals (six educational and four non-educational) but the particulars change to accommodate the new requirements. For example, the fifth Pathways DCP goal—one member completing Level 4 in a learning path—will earn your club the same amount of DCP credit as the current fifth goal: one member earning a CL, ALB, ALS or DTM. During the transition period (see below), clubs will be able to choose goals between the use of the Pathways criteria, the current criteria or a mix of goals from both programs.

The new requirements to achieve DTM are:

Complete two learning paths.
Serve as a club officer for 12 months. (If your club has six-month terms for officers, you can fulfill this requirement by serving as a club officer twice, but you don't have to do it in consecutive terms.)
Serve as a club mentor or coach.
Serve as a club sponsor or conduct a Speechcraft or Youth Leadership program.
Serve as a district officer for one year.
Complete the DTM Capstone project. (Members are required to create a project of their own design, in which they demonstrate the skills and expertise they have gained.)

Your regular membership dues cover the cost of your first path; however, if you choose the printed materials option for your path, there is a \$25 printing fee. The **cost for an additional path is \$20**, and if you elect to work in printed materials, the \$25 printing fee also applies. If you are working in one path and decide to switch to another path, you do not need to pay an additional \$20 as long as you make the exchange within 30 days of the original purchase. The \$25 fee you pay for a path with printed materials is not refundable. Take note: you can always print out copies of the Pathways materials on your own, at no charge. If you are enrolled in Pathways online, you can print out any of the materials on Base Camp.

There will be a **two year transition period** beginning when we roll out the program in District 83. During this time, the current program will run simultaneously with the Pathways program. You still have time to complete a DTM under the current program if you are midstream in the process! Additionally, the district will deploy numerous **Pathways Guides** to visit each club to offer support and guidance. You will be getting more information soon from our District 83 Program Quality Director, **Manny Reyes**, and the District 83 Pathways Chief Ambassador, **Tony Figueroa**. We are one of the last districts being rolled out so we have the advantage that all the kinks have been worked out, and that we can look to the experiences of our predecessors.

This article only covers the basics of the Pathways program. Please visit and explore the Toastmasters International website **www.toastmasters.org** for additional information and instructional videos.



Keeping the Commitment

By Lynda Starr, DTM, District 83 Club Growth Director

Legendary Green Bay Packers head coach Vince Lombardi had the ability to motivate his players and much of his inspiration can be applied to Toastmasters and daily life. On the subject of commitment, he said, “How committed are you? If you are an athlete, are you the first one at practice, and the last one to leave? If you are part of an organization—are you making sure that your efforts are helping the entire organization? Are you willing to jump in and help others even when ‘it is not my job?’ Are you willing to do whatever it takes to be successful?”

As Manny Reyes, our program quality director says, “If you join a running club and you’re sitting on the bench, you’re in the wrong club.” This is similar to what I have often said about Toastmasters. Joining Toastmasters will not make you a better speaker, just as joining Weight Watchers does not automatically mean you will lose 10 pounds or watching the Super Bowl, will make you a champion quarterback—you have to work the program. Working the Toastmaster program takes commitment. Fortunately with the manuals, educational paths and the Toastmasters promise, we have a roadmap to maintain our commitment.

The Toastmasters promise states:

As a member of Toastmasters International and my club, I promise

- To attend club meetings regularly
- To prepare all of my projects to the best of my ability, basing them on the Toastmasters education program
- To prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments
- To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations
- To help the club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow
- To serve my club as an officer when called upon to do so
- To treat my fellow club members and our guests with respect and courtesy
- To bring guests to club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers
- To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters education and recognition programs
- To act within Toastmasters’ core values of integrity, respect, service and excellence during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities

Showing up at meetings is not enough. One has to be ready to participate whether as a speaker, evaluator or timer and be committed to fulfilling these roles fully. Attending meetings helps you as a member to learn and grow and it also aids fellow members in their journeys both from feedback provided to them and given to you and other members. All members, and especially officers, have a responsibility to be positive, welcoming and supportive. Have you ever gone into a store and had the employees ignore you? That is the same feeling members and guests experience when attending a meeting at which members do not reach out.

Members need to maintain their commitment and sometimes it takes an extra push, similar to a booster shot, when work, family, stress and other commitments get in the way of meeting attendance, working on a speech, or fulfilling a club officer role such as sending thank-you emails to guests. This year, District 83 is conducting a four-part series with the aim of connecting and motivating Toastmasters in District 83 to work on a personal success plan. Attendees learn firsthand from the experience and best practices of other members, who have found solutions to problems many of us encounter in our own journey. Keeping the commitment was covered in the second session on Purpose. The remaining modules include Preparation and Practice and they will provide a fun booster to keep your Toastmasters commitment strong. After all, the success of your Toastmasters experience, your club and the district each depend on the C-word; that is Commitment.



The Value of Toastmasters Contests

By Manny Reyes, ACG, ALB, District 83 Program Quality Director and Janette Alexander, DTM

When speech contest season arrives, do you ask yourself “Why should I participate?” I reminisce to my earlier years when I first became a Toastmaster in 2014. I struggled with understanding how a contest would help me to become a better speaker. After all, I joined because I wanted to get a promotion at my job! My boss kept telling me that I needed to improve my communication skills. Fellow Toastmasters, believe it or not, putting yourself out of your comfort zone may be just the thing to push you to the next level!

If you have completed your first three speeches from the Competent Communicator manual, then you are ready to take on the challenges of a contest! Trust me. My first experience was to enter a Humorous Speech Contest. I was fearful about embarrassing myself but I got over it. Take your experience from doing regular club speeches, apply it toward a contest, and you will be amazed at how much you’ve learned and where your skill level is. Contests help you check where you are in your learning path.

I was also fearful of failure. Michelangelo, the Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet of the Renaissance born in Florence, had many paintings and sculptures that were failures. Where would we be had he just given up? Michelangelo himself said “Perfection is no small thing, but it is made up of small things.” The big secret is that failure can be your friend because it is a way to learn so much. Contests also give you a realistic appraisal of your skills. You’ll know exactly where you need more work! It also teaches us to lose gracefully. If you’ve been in a contest and didn’t win, then by all means, go after it again!

Becoming a confident leader and communicator doesn’t come easy and, while participating in a contest may seem alien and divorced from the formal setting of work, what a contest teaches is how to be creative and use your skills. It’s a valuable way to accelerate your growth as a speaker. It demands that you think differently and sometimes even do things that you wouldn’t consider otherwise. Public

speaking is not an innate attribute but a nurtured solution that we create for ourselves. We become what we think and act, and the key is to practice, practice, practice. Advancement won’t happen without acting and taking risks.



Division I Fall Contest: Rachel Nuber, Division I Director, Jenny Scott Second Place Tall Tales, Patty Loud First Place Tall Tales and Table Topics, Kellen Spellman Second Place Table Topics and Rachel Weiss, Chief Judge

Yes, you can learn from being a spectator. Even when not competing, you can learn from observing the contestants’ efforts to convey their messages along with the way they construct, present and deliver their final speech. Think, however, how much more you can gain by manipulating the dynamics and combinations of words, body movements and vocal variety on your own material, yourself. What you walk away with can be applied to every phase of your life.

One other area that speech contests bolster is your self-esteem and a little limelight when you do a great job. It’s very gratifying when you use all that you’ve learned at all of those club meetings. Getting a positive response from an audience is quite the kick. You will walk with confidence. Best of all, it is fun! This spring take the plunge for the 2018 International and Speech Evaluation Contests!



Member Spotlight:

Meet Our Region 9 International Director – Radhi Spear

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

Editor's Note: Radhi Spear, DTM is a charter member of AT&T Middletown Toastmasters in District 83. She was elected International Director from Region 9 at the August 2017 International Toastmasters Convention in Vancouver. A Toastmaster since 2000, she has held high-profile leadership positions within most levels of the Toastmasters community.

Radhi earned a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology, is employed as a software engineer at AT&T and participates in corporate resource groups. She was the keynote speaker at the District 83 2017 Fall Conference on November 18, 2017.



1. Within our clubs, we hear of and meet leaders of higher Toastmasters levels; namely, area, division and district. However, the Region is not part of our usual conversation. What function does that Toastmasters level serve and what will be your specific functions?

This question reflects the common misconception that International Directors (IDs) operate at a regional level. IDs serve **all** Toastmasters not just their regions.

The Region Advisors (RAs) support the district leaders in their own region to fulfill the district mission of building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence. The Region Advisor position was created in 2010. Until then the International Directors mentored and guided the districts as well as worked on strategic planning for Toastmasters. With the creation of the Region Advisor position, the board of directors became a totally strategic board. I used to be a Region Advisor for Region 9 from 2015 – 2016.

2. How do you see your role as an ID? What are you responsible for?

As an International Director for Toastmasters I will be serving as its ambassador. I work on developing organizational strategy and policies based on the needs of the members and in keeping with the mission of Toastmasters. IDs also approve and oversee the budget and other financial matters. In the board room I use my professional skills as appropriate to work on my assigned committee to support the strategic direction of the organization. Outside the board room, I visit the districts as needed, collaborate with the Region Advisor to keep abreast of the successes, challenges and concerns of the district and refer any substantive issues back to the board.

3. You were elected an International Director from Region 9 among other candidates. You have obviously campaigned for such a post. What was your message on the campaign trail?

Election as an International Director from Region 9 is not like being elected to Congress and representing constituents only in your region. As previously stated, we work together to further the cause of **all** Toastmasters. My message was that I would work hard to promote Toastmasters and help even more people discover their potential.

4. Toastmasters is inaugurating a new Pathways Education Program that will completely change our mode of training. While Region 9 is currently scheduled to be one of the last to be converted to the new process, what, if any, responsibility will you have in its introduction?

Pathways is a result of our previous strategic plan, and it is now being implemented. The brand new Pathways program is a result of member feedback, to give members what they want. Our education program has been



modernized, there is a renewed focus on leadership with real world applicability, more flexibility and greater access. This program can be tailored to suit each individual's needs. I am very excited about Pathways and on my visits I would answer any questions members may have, and would enthusiastically promote this historic new program.



5. District 83 is your home district. Will your new responsibilities and schedule allow you time to “come home again” to attend many of our district functions?

I, of course, made an official visit to D83 during the fall conference on November 18th. World Headquarters coordinates all the ID visits. My role is to share the organization's message; Talk with members and leaders about Toastmasters programs and their experience; Identify and encourage leaders at all levels, talking about leadership roles at the district and international levels. I will also help with marketing; Lead new club marketing visits; Lead organizational recognition visits; Participate in media events; Mentor district leader; Review progress in the Distinguished District Program, providing suggestions and feedback, discussing personal leadership opportunities, and reviewing how they are functioning as leaders and interacting with and leading their team.

6. Is there a particular message you would like to bring to members of District 83?

Our organization has helped millions of people better their lives over the past 90 years, and we are always striving to improve. Toastmasters is a safe and nurturing environment for our members to learn and grow. I would urge all our members to regularly attend and participate in their Toastmasters clubs to pursue their personal goals. There are so many opportunities in Toastmasters. This is one of the best investments in yourself! Enjoy your Toastmasters journey!



ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED 11th Edition

By Ainsley Reynolds, DTM, District Parliamentarian and Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

"Where there is no law, but every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty."

Henry M. Robert

Parliamentary procedure's purposes are to expedite business, maintain order, and insure justice and equality for all. If the guidelines are followed, the results are courtesy and justice; one order of business at a time; the rule of the majority and the rights of the minority.

Toastmasters clubs in the United States and Canada have adopted Roberts Rules of Order as its parliamentary authority for its deliberative sessions, and members should have a general working knowledge of its basic principles to use during club business meetings. To that end, *The Voice* will print correct wording that should accompany main and tabled motions, elections, and other matters to help members in these processes in their club meetings.

We will cover only one motion in each issue. The first will be a simple main motion:

1. **Member A¹:** "I move that....." [announce the proposal in a wording intended to become the assembly's official statement of action].
2. **Member B²:** must say "I second the motion", "I second it" or "Second"
3. **Chair:** "It is moved and seconded that (or to).... [restate the motion]. Are there any questions/un-readiness?" [indicates that the motion is now open for debate]"³
4. After debate has ended (all recognized questions answered or addressed), the **Chair** calls the question to the floor for vote. The **Chair** will ask for those in favor to say Aye/Yes, raise a hand, or another suitable method determined by the chair/constitution (i.e. paddle/card).
Then the **Chair** will ask for all those opposed to say Nay/No, raise a hand, or another suitable method determined by the chair/constitution (i.e. paddle/card).
Whichever method is used for voting, the **Chair** or **Sergeant-at-Arms** must be able to clearly tally the votes. Then **Chair** inquires if there are any abstentions (a person who doesn't vote **for** or **against** the motion). (This situation will to be discussed in future issues.)
5. After the votes have been tallied by the **Chair** or **Sergeant-at- Arms**, the **Chair** will announced that the motion has passed or has been defeated/failed.

Footnotes

1. *Maker of the motion must be recognized by the chair*
2. *It is not required to be recognized by chair to second a motion*
3. *When asking a question regarding a motion, you are limited to stating that you are for or against the motion or asking for clarification of the motion. You can't debate another person's statement for or against the motion.*

For more information on Robert's Rules of Order, please refer to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 11th Edition



Tips: Why Does a Speaker Address the Toastmaster, Members and Guests Before Presenting? By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

As Toastmasters, we are interested in the art of speaking, which carries several obligatory courtesies. Addressing both the person who introduces you and your audience is one of them. It is an inclusive gesture, acknowledging everyone within earshot of your message. It establishes a personal contact and is followed up with strong eye contact and gestures that enhance the message transmitted to the listener.

Acknowledging those to whom we are speaking is carried out from the most to the least formal of communication:

- * Deliberative and corporate bodies ("Mr. Chairman/President,");
- * Media "fireside chats" ("My fellow Americans,");
- * Family interaction ("Honey, will you please")

Humans need acknowledgement. We as skilled speakers satisfy that need each time we address our audiences.

Club News:

New Club University Heights Toastmasters (formerly Toastmasters at NJIT)

By David Liptsyn, CC, CL

Area 81's newest and fastest growing club, University Heights Toastmasters, has reported 27 member dues paid for the Oct-April dues period and 13 new members acquired in Fall 2017. University Heights Toastmasters was chartered in May 2017 and is off to a healthy start.

As the club's president and Area 81 Director, I saw a clear need for Toastmasters at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Our institute has brilliant analytical thinkers with a strong focus on science, engineering, and math. However, soft skills are often overlooked at the students' expense. Their extraordinary capabilities may go unnoticed if they cannot communicate or lead effectively. I had experienced firsthand the benefits of Toastmasters at Summit Toastmasters and decided to charter a new club at NJIT so that other students could benefit.

The club is located in the heart of Newark's burgeoning "University Heights" area, with institutions such as NJIT, Rutgers, Essex County College, and New Jersey Medical School in its vicinity. It is open to students, staff, faculty, and professionals in the surrounding Newark area and has recently changed its name to "University Heights Toastmasters" to more accurately reflect its demographics and to welcome students from other Universities besides NJIT.

I encourage Toastmaster members to visit the new club to see what all the buzz is about and experience the unique environment of a student-led club. With such rapid progress, this is definitely a club to keep an eye on in the coming years.



Spring Conference 2018 – HELP WANTED – BECOME A COMMITTEE CHAIR!

By Ruby Scotland, ACS, CL

Greetings Fellow Toastmasters! In just a few days, 2018 will be here. That means we will be setting our goals for the New Year. I have some suggestions for you. Learn a new skill. Put a current skill into practice. Challenge yourself this upcoming year by being a part of the 2018 Spring Conference.

The annual Spring Conference is a great educational and networking event. There will be nine workshops, a keynote address by the 2015 World Champion of Public Speaking, the district level International Speech Contest and Evaluation Contest and hours of opportunity to connect with enterprising professionals from the NJ/NY area. As a conference attendee, there is the potential to learn so much. But as a committee chairperson, there is a *guarantee* to expand your skillset, have practical application of your existing and newfound skills and an opportunity to add measurable results to your resume.

There are 11 committee chairs positions open for Toastmasters looking to put their skills to practical use. Which role is right for you? Remember, Toastmasters has a manual for practically everything so you will receive guidance on your role. You will be part of a team, each person supporting the next. If 2018 is your year to take on a new challenge, consider one of these chairperson roles. Contact Spring Conference Co-Chairs Janette Alexander (jalexan@solixinc.com) or Ruby Scotland (ruby.scotland777@gmail.com) with any questions.

Chairperson Role	Pre-Conference:	At the Conference:
Registration	Needs a super-organized person to monitor the incoming registrations and maintain the master registration spreadsheet. Provide updates to other conference teams on regular basis.	Needs a dynamic person to lead a team of 3 to 5 people who will be the first to meet & greet the guests. SAA on steroids! Happy, smiling, orderly
Education	Organize 9 workshops including auditions. Secure proctors for each workshop. Provide publications team with workshop info for the program.	Lead a team of 20+ people (speakers, proctors, AV, etc) to deliver 9 high quality workshops
Facilities	Work with all teams to determine needs for conference room setup, meal rooms, common area table requirements. Learn about hotel facilities coordination.	Act as liaison with hotel staff. This role needs a detail oriented, 'knows how to get things done' type of person. Good people skills. Calm under pressure. Quick thinker. Adaptable, Flexible.
Advertising	Needs a creative person with advertising skills. Goal oriented person with a specific \$\$\$ target in mind. Learn negotiation skills and how to close the sale. Work with a team of 3 or more people to secure advertising space for corporate & community clubs plus promote sale of ad space to businesses and TM entrepreneurs.	All the ads will be placed in the conference program and online.
Contests	Promote participation in contests at club/area/division level. Work with division directors and division contest winners to ensure contestants are informed of how the District contest will be run.	Conduct professional quality Intl Speech and Evaluation contests.
First-Timers	Needs FUN/ENTHUSIASTIC person to help first-timers feel comfortable at the conference. Work with a team of 3-5 people to guide first-timers thru day 1 of conference.	
Hospitality	Work with a team of people to circulate throughout the conference answering questions from attendees. Social person with great people skills. Lead a team of 5- 9 volunteers.	
Parade of Banners	Contact every club in the district and have them submit a picture of club gathered around their club banner. Organize the VIRTUAL parade of banners.	
Publications	Detail oriented person with good computer skills to design a creative and interesting conference program. Printing of programs is time sensitive so this chairperson must be deadline driven.	
Videography	This is a great role for an entrepreneur with video experience to film the conference workshops, contests, keynote address to create an exciting record of the Spring Conference. The resulting product would be made available to members for purchase.	
Volunteers	Every committee needs volunteers. This role solicits volunteers and then assigns them to the various committees as requested. Needs an organized person with good communication skills.	



Club Highlights: Solix Toastmasters Club Holds an Open House

By Doris Whitney

The Solix Toastmasters Club held an open house on Tuesday October 17, 2017 during a regularly scheduled meeting time as part of a membership drive. Announcements were made two weeks prior to the event two ways: First, with an article on our company's intranet which shared the benefits of membership and second, with a companywide email blast. The day before the event a reminder email was sent.

The club's meeting agenda was full with participating members filling all open roles. We even had a fairly new member participate for his first time in a podium role by providing the "Word of the Day." Seasoned members provided informative and entertaining speeches geared toward motivating and encouraging newer members and potential new members toward better public speaking. Our guests participated in the Table Topics discussion and found it a satisfying experience. The meeting concluded on time and we enjoyed light conversation with each other along with cake and fresh fruit. One guest joined on the spot making the open house a success!



Club Speech presentation



Club President Scott Pless explains the benefits of Toastmasters



The Cake



Friendly conversation



Speak Up – Opinion: The Russian Nesting Doll

By Margarita Estrada, ACS, ALS

During the Spring Conference, I asked District Director Janice Buffalow what the Fall Conference would entail, and she said, “It will be different, a much smaller scale.” No one had an idea about the theme, who would present workshops, who would be the keynote speaker. It was a surprise that was closed, waiting to be opened like a Russian nesting doll.

As the details became known, all became clear. Dave Chapman would be the Conference Chair, the theme would be “Awaken Your Power to Lead.” There would be host tables (I was honored to lead one of them), where experienced Toastmasters would have conversations about a myriad of subjects. We would have a continental breakfast and lunch, and of course, the Tall Tales and Table Topics Contests!

My experience started as a comedy of errors! Working on autopilot, I went straight to the area where the spring conference was held and wondered, “Where is everybody?” Mario Lewis, Cyndi Wilson, and Lucita Kahn, joined me, as well. Suddenly, the maître d’ passed by and said, “The Toastmasters group is on the other side!”

What a wonderful surprise! The room was gorgeous, airy, with views of the hotel garden. The host tables were already set up and ready to go! We had so much fun! I believe that everyone there learned something new during the experience at each host table. The photo booth was a cool idea, and the food was excellent.

Ruby Scotland did an excellent job in organizing the speech contests. It was a wonderful surprise to see the video of each contestant (with fireworks), and having them sit as a group for photo ops. It was a welcome change from the usual, “How long have you been a Toastmaster, etc.”

I cannot close without mentioning the memorials for Immediate Past District Director, Paula Markert, and Toastmaster George Corrado. The memorials were beautiful and poignant. We miss them both very much. Willie Markert, Paula’s husband, was presented with the Paula Markert RISE Award, to be given to a Toastmasters who has, despite insurmountable odds, achieved their goals. It was a very emotional moment for everyone present.

I didn’t know until after the event that this would be our last fall conference. I must admit that this saddens me because this means that an opportunity for members to showcase their gifts, talents and abilities would now be lost. However, because of this change (and Pathways next year), members will be forced to step outside the security blanket of their clubs, and use their skills for the benefit of mankind, and that’s a good thing!

Congratulations to the following newly completed DTMs!

**Fran Okeson
Qingmei Hong**



How-To Corner #1:

Plan to Achieve Your Speaking and Leadership Goals

By Su Brooks, DTM 2

In order to achieve your speaking and leadership goals, you begin by creating your plan. With the help of your mentor and club Vice President Education, you execute your plan. Along your journey, keep your commitment to your plan, and be prepared for possible obstacles and come up with solutions.

Look at a calendar and determine when you want to achieve your award. Then, work backwards to set realistic milestones to achieve this. Can you reserve space on your personal calendar and the club's agendas? Discuss your plan with the club VPE and your mentor to determine if it is realistic and achievable. Pay attention to/be aware of club protocol for signing up for roles as well as the needs of others. In your quest for personal achievement, do not take up all of the speaking slots and prevent someone else from speaking. Balance out speaking roles with opportunities to serve in other meeting roles including Toastmaster, General Evaluator, Speech Evaluator, etc.

For your overall plan, do not wait until the last minute. Anticipate possible obstacles and build that into your plan. For example, I had everything completed for an Advanced Communicator Gold Award EXCEPT for the mentoring requirement (mentor a member with the first three speeches.). I had mentored a member who had delivered two speeches and could not renew. I started all over with another new member. This cannot be rushed; her timetable is not necessarily your timetable. I had to wait until the following Toastmasters year to complete the award.

Many clubs do not cancel meetings unless there are extreme circumstances. Occasionally we encounter snowstorms, power outages, floods and other extreme weather. You may become sick, have to work late or travel for business. A missed meeting may result in a delay in your plan.

You may need additional speaking and/or leadership slots. Partner with other clubs to see if they need help to fill a role. Sign up to be a backup speaker or fill a hot seat role if your club uses these roles. These are great for clubs with a large number of members.

If you are a member of a corporate club, check out a local community club or advanced club (if applicable) near where you live to see if you can speak or perform a role as a guest at one of their meetings. Some clubs often fill all meeting roles regularly where others may have regular or last minute vacancies you may be able to fill. Networking with fellow Toastmasters at training, contests and conferences is a great way to meet people from other clubs who could inform you about these additional opportunities.

Talk to your mentor and club VPE about scheduling a Speakout, even if it would take place in addition to the regular meeting schedule but possibly a different day, time or even a different location. You could possibly build some creativity and fun into the program with a meal or a theme.

Set up a special event if you need to facilitate a longer educational module and cannot easily fit it in during a regular meeting. Libraries, community centers and houses of worship may have meeting space available. Partner with another Toastmaster who may need to present his or her module and make a morning, afternoon or evening out of it.

For some leadership roles, advance planning is important. Around April, let current district leaders know if you want to serve in an appointed position for the following Toastmasters year. Also, plan ahead to secure a position to sponsor, mentor or coach a club. Speak with district leaders and inform them of your interest and availability.



Helpful Hints

Carry a small notebook or some index cards and jot down speech ideas when you encounter something interesting to use in a speech. Or, use your smartphone or tablet to capture those ideas with a voice message or digital notes. When it's your turn to present a speech, you can refer to your list of ideas.

Match up your upcoming speech and leadership projects, ideas and meeting dates. Be flexible, though, if something comes up.

For officers, make the most of your officer training and find out what other clubs do to help their members succeed. Also, District 83 plans educational sessions throughout the year to help you plan and learn more.

Try to have pocket speeches at the ready to fill in as opportunities arise even if you aren't scheduled to serve as a backup speaker. Bring your manuals with you even if you aren't scheduled to fill a role on the meeting agenda.

Following these guidelines, making a plan, executing the plan and being flexible when encountering obstacles, you have set yourself up for success for your Toastmasters educational and leadership goals.

Su Brooks, DTM 2, serves as the Vice President Education at Red Bank Toastmasters.

How-To Corner #2:

Meet New Friends and Earn Your DTM

by Sherri Rase, DTM

Many Toastmasters from around the world have the same complaint – “It’s really hard to get a speech scheduled at my club. The Speaker opportunities are blocked out several months in advance! How can I ever keep my club Vice President of Education happy if I don’t get a chance to do a speech?” Well my friends, the answer is simple. Just like bamboo, we branch out!

There are a hundred plus projects that will take you from newly minted Toastmasters, just having paid your dues, to a full-fledged Distinguished Toastmaster or DTM. While it may sound self-serving, and to an extent it is, as Toastmasters we should do nothing unless we get credit for it. Here are a few tips and tricks to get you from start to finish while meeting new friends.

First, let’s discuss the basics. Your VPE will love you forever if you bring the manuals you are currently working on to your meetings. Every! Single! Meeting! When you have your manuals with you, you are prepared for anything and everything! Plus, it gives you an opportunity to serve in any way that becomes necessary. We all have had a meeting where someone is delayed or has a work or family situation comes up, so we have a chance to do something great for the club. But, what about those speaking opportunities, not just the meeting roles?

Scheduling speaking can go in cycles of difficulty, or sometimes it is just the hazards of being in a club that has a lot of enthusiastic and interesting people! That said, when you are a Toastmaster, you are welcome to attend and often to speak at other Toastmasters clubs! Let that sink in. A new Toastmaster who has recently added Northern Stars Advanced to her clubs of membership first came to visit and speak at the invitation of one of the long-term members. She regaled us with stories of how on her extensive travels for work and pleasure, she seeks out the local Toastmasters club to see whether she may attend their meeting. This way, she gets to experience the familiar rotation of Toastmasters with a flair! There are several fine advanced clubs in District 83 with another in the making for members’ convenience. Each club has a different culture and, whether you’re visiting California or Canada or Kuala Lumpur, there are often opportunities to write to a club, request a meeting and offer to speak. If they need a role or a speech, you will be prepared!



A quick aside – whatever manual, whether CC or advanced or the new Pathways program when it comes, be sure to have at least one speech in your back pocket. If you are working on your CC then have the next one in the cycle ready. Plus, whenever you've got at least six of your CC speeches in, start preparing for your next steps by selecting the cycle of Advanced Manuals you will pursue. You can do your HPL at any time, so don't feel your journey needs to be linear. There are many paths to the goal, and if you want to hear more about the Spiral of Achievement, let me know.

You've got your speeches prepared now, right? You've outlined your path to the goal of DTM and you know when you want to make your walk. How do you get it done? You schedule it all out. Most of us work better with a deadline involved, even if that deadline comes from within. Visit the Toastmasters International site and the District site – for us it is TM83.org – and see which clubs are in your regular paths. In population-dense New Jersey, you will find several! Plus you may find a club that speaks to our heart that you will want to add. You may start out as a guest in a club and want to add it to your roster along with your original club! Many people start that way and end up with more friends.

Finally, when you've got six of your CC speeches in, consider joining an Advanced Club. When you join an Advanced Club, you are investing in yourself. Where else can you get the kind of management skills and leadership development, as well as excellent coaching for your speaking challenges for under \$200 a year? No one offers the practice in giving and receiving thoughtful feedback that we do at Toastmasters, and District 83 has a full and rich roster of clubs for all reasons and all seasons. Branch out, schedule your next several speeches with your VPE and consider meeting, doing roles and perhaps speaking at other clubs. New people haven't heard your material yet, and you have a wealth of experience to share while you encourage other people to share theirs! If you are currently in a holding pattern with your current club while you schedule a speech two weeks, a month or more in advance, then consider reaching out to your neighbors. While you're there, make your VPPR happy too and extend an invitation to your home club. Toastmasters have an opportunity to bring the world together, and we do it one masterful leader at a time. What are you waiting for? Visit TM83.org and open a whole new world.

Welcome New Clubs!

USGA Toastmasters 11/3/17
American International Speakers 11/15/17
WakeFern Toastmasters 12/4/17
KPMG Toastmasters 12/7/17



Celebrations for October November December 2017

Anniversary	Join Date	Name
30	11/1/1987	Charles Castiglioni
30	10/1/1992	Paul Scharf
25	10/1/1997	Margaret Flory
20	10/1/1997	Rita Reisman
20	10/1/1997	Karen Rittweger
20	11/1/1997	Ernest Daw
20	11/1/1997	Nicolas Marcattili
20	10/1/2002	Kevin Moulton
15	10/1/2002	Yogesh Shah
15	10/1/2002	Wilton Thomas-Hooke
15	11/1/2002	Neerja Purang
15	10/1/2007	Poonam Gupta
10	10/1/2007	Paul Kiell
10	10/1/2007	Maureen Marsales
10	10/1/2007	Robert McCleish
10	10/1/2007	Rachel Nuber
10	10/1/2007	Cheryl Siddell
10	10/1/2007	Rachel Weiss
10	11/1/2007	Valery Glemaud
10	11/1/2007	Traci Jackson
10	11/1/2007	Tom Meyer
10	11/1/2007	Lucy Pavlik
10	11/1/2007	Ainsley Reynolds
10	11/1/2007	Nim Sonaike
10	12/1/2007	Leigh Hueston
10	12/1/2007	Jill Ussher
10	12/1/2007	Cindi Wilson
10	10/1/2012	Melinda Applegate

Anniversary	Join Date	Name
5	10/1/2012	Michelle Bartron
5	10/1/2012	Uma Bruen
5	10/1/2012	Jana Casey
5	10/1/2012	Xiaodong Chen
5	10/1/2012	Alejandro Concha
5	10/1/2012	James Cosenza
5	10/1/2012	William Davenport
5	10/1/2012	Ken Irvine
5	10/1/2012	Ila Kasofsky
5	10/1/2012	David Lingg
5	10/1/2012	Ellen Oxild
5	10/1/2012	Lakshmi Ponniah Sevalai Perumal
5	10/1/2012	Arvind Purohit
5	10/1/2012	Balamurugan Rangasamy
5	10/1/2012	Tezeta Roro
5	10/1/2012	M. Patricia Rosas
5	10/1/2012	Hemu Shere
5	10/1/2012	Joe Testa
5	10/1/2012	Justin Vierling
5	10/1/2012	Daniela Villacres
5	10/1/2012	Nirav Vora
5	10/1/2012	Jianxiu Zhao
5	11/1/2012	Peter Harkin
5	11/1/2012	George Humphrey
5	11/1/2012	Partha Nandi
5	11/1/2012	Ray Reyes
5	11/1/2012	Vanita Rodriguez
5	11/1/2012	Paula Steen
5	12/1/2012	Stacy DeAlto
5	12/1/2012	Mangala Gunadasa
5	12/1/2012	Cynthia Lysek

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Photo Credits

Pg 1 Janice Buffalow
 Pg 2 Brian Lin & Corrado Family
 Pg 6 Manny Reyes
 Pg 7 Toastmasters International
 Pg 8 Robert Bugai
 Pg 12 Doris Whitney



Dates to remember

Jan- Feb	Club Officer Training
Feb - Mar	"Talk Up Toastmasters" Membership Contest
Feb	Club Level International Speech and Evaluation Contests
Feb 3	DEC Meeting
Mar	Area Level International Speech and Evaluation Contests
Mar 24	X-Press-U Marathon
Mar 31	District Reports due to Toastmasters International

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

Contact your Editors:

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**Submissions for the March issues are Due February 5th.
Article Ideas are welcome!**

District 83



******* *Happy Holidays to All!* *******