



The Voice

District 83 News & Events

JUNE 2019

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WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The Look Ahead

By Manny Reyes, DTM – District 83 District Director



Fellow District 83 Toastmasters, I hope these lines find you well and as inspired and motivated today as we were last year when we started to work on the concept of ProACTIVE EmPOWERment. The year has gone by so fast that, if I were to consider the transition into the district leadership role as if relocating into a new home, many of the moving boxes would still need to be unpacked.

Every year the District 83 executive team starts with a myriad of ideas, hopes and targets, kind of a blueprint of what should be the pillars and supports of the incoming leadership lineup. However, same as happens to the family's head or any directing board, as the plan unfolds, ideas that looked achievable turn out to be harder and eluding. At the same time, hurdles that seemed hard to reach aren't as difficult to conquer as one has thought. The trick is never to stop moving forward and to understand that "Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome." -- Arthur Ashe

We all come to Toastmasters International with an idea, an intention, but soon discover that, more than communication, this organization is about leadership and cooperation among diverse and multicultural views and trusts. Toastmasters is the bedrock upon which everyone starts building who they want to be. As has happened to me, as you move up the ladder or advance along the road, the view changes. Every new vantage point can offer a new and innovative perspective.

Some members join our clubs with the idea of advancing themselves personally and developing themselves intellectually; and they decide to remain onboard because, like me, they find more joy in helping others and seeing others reach the top of the ranks. Region 5 Advisor and Past District 83 Governor 2013–2014 Cyndi Wilson, DTM5 described it like this: "Leading is more than having people follow you; it's standing in the middle and running with the pack, and it's standing



behind and supporting someone else when they are given the opportunity to lead. The leader becomes the trainer, and the trainer becomes the student.”

Recently I heard a writer and podcaster say that, after finishing a book, he takes time before starting the next one. Sometimes this writer takes a long time and works on other kinds of projects to the point of feeling as if he is no longer a writer; then he allows himself to feel that he is starting to write again for the first time. How can we translate this idea to leadership?

While I was thinking on this, a line of Pitbull’s song *Back in Time* comes to mind: “To understand the future, we have to go back in time.” Remember your first time at a club meeting? What attracted you then? What was so magical and enticing that kept you coming back for more?

In my case, listening, observing and acting: **Listening** to the stories, the anecdotes and the sharing from other members of what they were struggling to overcome and where they were hoping to be in the future; **Observing** how club members transformed themselves from hiding in the back of the room to taking their place at the lectern and running an entire meeting, having to face their fear of leading from the front; and finally **Acting**, allowing me the opportunity to step up and serve on the club executive board, serving the club to make it the best it could be by attracting and retaining like-minded visitors who aligned their values and aspirations with those of my club.

As we start a new Toastmasters year, take some time to PLAN what you want to do and where you want to go, remembering Stanford University Professor Carol Dweck’s “Five 5 “Ps”: Proper planning prevents poor performance. Find PURPOSE in everything you do, letting your Why be more important than anything standing between you and your goals. PRACTICE every day and understand that a little success on a daily basis allows you to reach for higher markers. Finally act on PERFORMANCE, taking the time to identify your own key performance indicators; e.g., achieving one level up in your educational awards, helping your club to distinguished status, and making your District 83 one of the top in the world of Toastmasters. This mixture of taking one step after the other, focusing on the end goal and avoiding distractions are a sign that you understand and practice the core values of ProACTIVE EmPOWERment; it is your commitment to serving others and becoming your best.

Moving forward is not a way, but the only way to success. Some hurdles may slow you down, but don’t let these stop you. When you know where you are going, every step in the direction of attaining your goals is worthwhile. It is important that you talk the talk, walk the walk and enjoy every day, lifting others as you advance. Keep working on your plan, believe that you can do anything you want and step up to lead when the time comes. Compromise, deliver and progress day after day; and in due time, as Zig Ziglar used to say, “I will see you at the top.”



District Quality Director's Message **A Look to the Future through the Rear-View Window**

By Lynda Starr, DTM - District Program Quality Director



Marshall McLuhan, a media scholar, uses this phrase to connote using the past to view the future while stressing the importance of moving forward and not dwelling on the past, albeit learning from the past.

As we approach the end of the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year and my term as Program Quality Director (PQD) for District 83, it's time for a look back.

The year began with goal setting and Manny Reyes, our District 83 Director explaining his vision for the year, marked by the tagline of "Proactive Empowerment," meaning being inclusive and providing members with the tools they need to become leaders and meet their goals. I challenged myself and everyone else to "try something new." As PQD, it has been very easy to experience new things, even if it meant stepping out of my comfort zone in some cases. For example, as a district we introduced the Recognition and Celebration events in November and February, the former with an out-of-district keynote speaker and the latter with a homegrown speaker. For 2019-2020, we need to help members to become accustomed to these events and share the fun with others. Congratulations to the over 400 members with educational achievements, including 19 DTMs; we expect even more in the coming year as we continue the transition to Pathways.

This was the first year of the District Annual Conference, complete with four district contests. The District Executive Team (DXT) will decide shortly how/which contests will be conducted for 2019-2020. Thank you to Anne Gilson, District 83's first Destination DTM chair, who is helping members on their goal to completing a DTM on the traditional educational program. A big thank-you goes to Janice Buffalow, the District Pathways chair, who has been busily visiting clubs to do Pathways orientations in addition to the District-wide in-person sessions. The Pathways journey is just beginning and will prove to be as rewarding as the "old" program.

Individually, I have tried many new things, including driving to new places, from Pearl River, NY, Jersey City and Bayonne to Middletown, Old Bridge, and Holmdel; several times I faced the fear of inadvertently entering the Holland Tunnel or landing on Staten Island. On a more positive note, I was a contest interviewer, made numerous Pathways introductory speeches, finished two level-ones in Pathways, and practiced the wisdom of Solomon to solve some challenges.



We were honored to have had incoming 2019-2020 Toastmasters International President Deepak Menon visit the district in May, serve as our D83 conference keynote speaker and conduct our officer installation for the DXT and newly elected division directors, as we all tried something new with these district roles.

2018-2019 has been a great year for District 83 as we work to reach distinguished status as a district in the homestretch of the year. Thank you to all the officers and members for your dedication to personal and district goals this year. A special, heartfelt thanks to the DXT: Alex, Subhash. Margarita, and Janette, for

keeping up with your own responsibilities and pitching in wherever needed. Thanks to my close partners William and Manny, who, through many phone calls and in-person chats in parking lots, diners and Panera Bread, demonstrated how teamwork can make the dream work and taught me how to be a leader as I prepare to be the District Director for the best district in the world.

Have a great summer, and we'll see you at the TLI and officer training and other events in the coming months.

It's great to be a Toastmaster.

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**The mind, once stretched
by a new experience,
never regains its original dimension.**

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
American Jurist



District Club Growth Director's Message

See You at TLI

By William Markert, ACB, CL – District Club Growth Director



TLI, TLI, what is a TLI? TLI stands for Toastmasters Leadership Institute, and it is a multi-faceted club and district officer training session. District 83 will be holding its TLI on June 29, 2019. The training will be conducted at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, Pluckemin, NJ. Training will be focused for two separate groups. District officer (division/area directors and appointed officers) training will be conducted on Saturday morning from 8:30 AM–12:00 N, and club officer training will be conducted from 1:00 PM--4:00 PM.

You may still be wondering, what exactly is the TLI all about? The TLI is your opportunity to learn about your roles and responsibilities for the upcoming Toastmasters year. There are a number of goals we hope to accomplish at the TLI. While the training material is different for the district officers as opposed to club officers, the goals are the same:

- You will be encouraged to plan for the coming year, applying effective leadership concepts;
- You will help your club and the areas/divisions/district succeed in attaining their goals by working together as a team;
- You will learn about the distinguished club and district programs and how that is changing with the implementation of Pathways.

During the club officer breakout sessions, you will gain a practical understanding of your roles and responsibilities. After the training, read and review the applicable training materials which are available on the Toastmasters website:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/~media/E51A693193F749AE91FD79F6DB839534.ashx>

What should you expect to learn at the TLI? For club officers, there will be several general sessions in addition to club officer role-specific training. We will discuss club quality and techniques for improving the value proposition for your club's members. For the club presidents, vice presidents of education and secretaries, there will be a Pathways base camp manager's session prior to the role-specific training.

For district officers, there will be sessions on developing successful teams, enhancing club quality, conducting quality speech contests and the area/division/district success plans. Our goal is for District 83 to be a President's Distinguished District for 2019-2020. To accomplish this, the district success plan needs to focus on that goal, and the division and area success plans need to be aligned with the district



success plan. We all need to work toward the same goal. There will be time allocated for division and area directors to meet and start outlining their plans.

I believe that everybody wants to be successful in life. Success in your professional, personal and volunteer life requires planning and work. If we want to be successful, we need to equip ourselves with the tools for success. In addition, it will be fun and offer a chance to meet your peers in the same and other officer roles. That is why I encourage all club and district officers to attend the TLI.

See you there!

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

June 29, 2019

**Pluckemin Presbyterian Church
279 US 202
Pluckemin, NJ 07978**

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8:30 AM – District Officers

1:00 PM – Club Officers

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Register at <https://www.tm83.org>



2019 District 83 Annual Conference Transforming the World with Words

By Sherri Rase, DTM – Social Media Strategist



The first weekend in May marked a special time for District 83 Toastmasters. It was our very first singular Annual Conference. Toastmasters International determined that all member districts will now host only one conference per year so Conference Chairs Jennifer Pickett and Bin Zhao, ACG, ALB had their work cut out for them. Fortunately, they had a host of veteran committee chairs to help them create a magnificent event. Imagine: all four contests in the annual cycle in one big weekend, and our leadership teams all proved more than equal to the task.

Arguably, the biggest coup in the district was landing incoming 2019-2020 Toastmasters International President Deepak Menon, DTM as our keynote speaker and weekend guest, and after moments in his presence it became clear he will serve us brilliantly.

Deepak's whirlwind tour of District 83 began with a visit to several clubs where he was whisked immediately upon alighting from his flight from New Delhi, Thursday May 2. He was band-box fresh and energetic; and, considering the time difference, this was remarkable. Friday brought another whistle stop club tour leading to the DTM Reception Friday evening; then, the first of four contests--Table Topics--was held. (See Contest Results, page 9.)



District Director Manny Reyes receives a standing for his leadership the past year.

Saturday was a great day! From breakfast through the business meeting, we were buzzing like bees, and our top district officers led us confidently through the maze of protocols.

We had a cavalcade of candidates vying to lead the District into 2019-2020, over which District Director Manny Reyes presided. (See Election Results, page 9.)

Deepak gave a brilliant speech before the business meeting, speaking to us of service, risk as well as reward, and the importance of becoming more deeply involved in district leadership.



Our parade of banners, always a highlight, followed.

The afternoon included workshops, networking and the International Speech contest; and soon we were queuing up in the main area, selecting dinner companions and preparing for Deepak's keynote.



Deepak Menon began and ended with the story of his involvement in a club in India where, initially, Toastmasters clubs were few and far between. Consider the size of India when Deepak joined; there were fewer clubs in the entire country than there are in one county here in New Jersey. When Deepak made his Area Governor visits, plane travel was often involved! While originally reticent about joining, he quickly saw the brilliance of building community one club at a time. Watching people grow, sharing the love of mentoring and the energy exchange between mentor and protégé were brought to life in a different way through the experience of a Toastmaster who transformed our world here as he brought our worlds together. We were able to see that many of our struggles are the same, and it is our differences that make us beautifully unique.



Many of us felt we could listen to Deepak's wisdom all evening, and truly his theme all weekend was Transforming the World with Words. His actions and interactions spoke of his ability to bring people together.

Sunday had the final two contests—Evaluation and Humorous Speaking; and the contest chairs, judges, organizers, contestants and audience were treated to a perfect storm of the breadth and height of District 83 expertise.

Deepak took us into his heart, and we took him into ours. When worlds come together, we may all Transform our World with Words.

Deepak Menon addresses conference at business meetings.



DISTRICT 83 2019-2020 OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS:

District Director Lynda Starr, DTM

Program Quality Director William Markert, ACB, CL

Club Growth Director Michelle Tropper, DTM

Division A Director Janette Alexander, DTM

Division B Director [open]

Division C Director Dave Chapman, DTM

Division D Director Kadian Grant, ACS, ALB

Division E Director Peggy Seymour, ACB, ALB

Division F Director Donna Walters, CTM, ALS

Division G Director Belvin Armenion, ACS, ALB

Division H Director Srinidhi Dasaka, DTM

Division I Director Egidijus Bartkus, CL

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2019 DISTRICT SPEECH CONTESTS RESULTS

PLACE	INTERNATIONAL	EVALUATION
1 ST	Oscar Ocasio #	Paul Ireifej
2 nd	Danielle Ulao	Kyle Krom
3 rd	Maggie Huang	Sherri Rase
PLACE	HUMOROUS	TABLE TOPICS
1 st	Michael Matera	Bill Hood
2 nd	John Carey	Bruce Rule
3 rd	Nandita Dsouza	Lisa Campanella

Oscar's contest speech was videotaped and will be judged in June as part of the Regional Quarter-Finals to determine if he will advance to the Semi-Finals at the international speech contest in August.



DISTRICT 83 CONFERENCE PHOTO ALBUM



[left to right]: Top three district officers Manny Reyes, Linda Starr, and William Markert prepare for the business meeting



Good food shared with great companions!



Conference attendees pose for a photo after dinner.



District 83 Annual Conference

Five-Visit Club Tour with Deepak Menon

By Janette Alexander, DTM – Administration Manager



Fellow Toastmasters, what a sweet treat it was to have the incoming 2019-2020 President of Toastmasters International as our keynote speaker for the District 83 conference. Even sweeter, Mr. Deepak Menon, DTM had time in his busy schedule to spend a few extra days at our district, so the executive team rolled out the red carpet and took him on a tour of clubs!

It began on Thursday late afternoon of May 2, when Deepak arrived at JFK Airport and was graciously met by Will Markert, ACB, CL, our Club Growth Director, and transported for a quick dinner, then off to a *Northern Stars* (Club #1) meeting at 7:00 PM in Basking Ridge. At this point Deepak had been in transit for more than 24 hours! We were all amazed at how alert and interactive he was during the meeting. He shared how he reluctantly started out with Toastmasters and then became smitten. After the meeting, he was checked into the APA Hotel in Woodbridge to rest. (When I saw him the next day, he told me he had slept soundly. No surprise there!)

Friday was a visit to the *Frontline Speakers* (Club #2) in North Brunswick at noon to celebrate the club's fifth anniversary. A lunch was provided by the club, and the corporate sponsor for Frontline--Boehringer Ingelheim--was presented with a lovely crystal trophy to thank them for their great support for the club and the district. Once again Deepak made himself available for a short Q&A. Later that evening there was the DTM Reception at the hotel, followed by the Table Topics speech contest.



[left to right] Frontline Speakers visit:

Janette Alexander, Will Markert, Rahdi Spear, Lynda Starr, Deepak Menon, Peggy Seymour, Kyle Krom, Manny Reyes, Janice Buffalow, Begonia Reyes

Saturday and Sunday were all about the district conference. Deepak attended all the events and made himself available to everyone. He has a wonderful, friendly nature and was so easy to speak with. We were honored to have him as keynote speaker where he discussed the importance of being a risk taker and allowing members to spread their wings and fly. It was an honor to have him conduct the installation



of the officers elected earlier in the day at the business meeting. He brought the audience to laughter when he told Will Markert, the newly elected Program Quality Director, that he would be the mother of the district; and Lynda Starr, newly elected District Director, that she would be the father of the district.

After the conference, it was a full Monday as the club visits resumed with a visit to *AT&T Middletown* (Club #3) for a noontime “fireside chat” that was cozy and intimate. Deepak related how he began in the only club in New Delhi, India, and rose through the ranks in the club and district. He saw it begin with just seven clubs in India to now over 1,000. After the club meeting, it was off to the *Indo-Asian Community of Edison* (Special Event) for an exotic Indian buffet luncheon. This invitation was arranged by contacts of Public Relations Manager, Margarita Estrada. The community was very proud to host Deepak as a fellow countryman who rose to such esteemed heights as president of a great international organization. Deepak explained about Toastmasters and why it is so relevant today by telling a story about a friend’s shy daughter who also reluctantly got involved with Toastmasters and later had a very successful career.

Finally, there was an evening visit to a *Celgene Toastmasters* (Club #4) meeting in Summit at 6:30 PM. Deepak spoke about leadership, the importance of the club “wow factor” and was very inspirational. What a day!

All things must eventually come to an end, and so it was on Tuesday, May 7--Deepak’s final day with us. There was one last club visit to *RB Germinators* (Club #5) in Montvale at 10:00 AM. The club provided continental breakfast fare, and Deepak presented another Toastmasters Club appreciation trophy to the Reckitt Benckiser R&D Site Director, Chris Jones, who spoke about the company’s support of its Toastmasters Club and shared belief in its mission. The meeting closed with some open Q&A with Deepak, and everyone left with warm and fuzzy feelings.

RB Germinators Visit:

Club members and officers, district officers and Deepak Menon [front row, 3rd from right]



Some of the district executives took Deepak out for one last lunch, then to the train station (Deepak was to visit his daughter in Boston). I said my goodbyes, well wishes and even gave a little hug to our wonderful soon-to-be leader. He hopes to make another visit sometime in the future.



District 83 Public Relations

It's That Time!

By Margarita Estrada, DTM–District Public Relations Manager



By the time all of you read this issue of the newsletter, you will have selected your club officers and are possibly in the process of transition. As a district leader, serving District 83 as its Public Relations Manager has been a joy! I was blessed with an awesome team that I thanked during the business meeting this past May and, because some of them were not present that day, I would like to take the opportunity to thank them again:

Tom Somers:	Webmaster
Shelby Holliman-Carley:	Blog Editor
Su Brooks:	Social Media Strategist
Swathi Karamchetti:	Social Media Strategist
Sherri Rase:	Social Media Strategist
Jeanette Fredericks:	Newsletter Editor
Bob Bugai:	Photographer
Bruce For:	Photographer
Will Markert	Photographer
Club VPPRs	

Realizing that it's time for me to let go, catch the breeze, and fly, I've already started training our incoming 2019-2020 Public Relations Manager, Jenna Barone, member of Clifton Toastmasters (more on Jenna to come in our blog). I'm so excited for her, and I know she will bring ideas that will take District 83 public relations to the next level.

Both club and district successions are not easy because we become attached to the work (even though it's hard, and at times takes more hours than we'd like); however, growth happens when we share our knowledge with others, when we're willing to be transparent and, most importantly, when we serve as mentors. As I said before, Let Go! Catch the breeze, and Fly!

Here's some advice I'd like to give you, my fellow Toastmasters, so that you can be a successful club officer:

- 1) Be Proactive! Do the Research and find out all you can about how you can serve as a club officer! (The following link contains the club leadership handbook!)
<http://www.toastmasters.org/~media/E51A693193F749AE91FD79F6DB839534.ashx>
- 2) Now that you are armed with knowledge, accept the challenge.
- 3) Talk to your outgoing club officers and ask them if you can cross-train with them (prior to the first officer training in June), then think about...



- 4) the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), the first official training of the year planned by District 83 Leaders. Encourage those in your team to come, as well. Make sure that you...
- 5) Design a Club Success Plan (see Club Leadership Manual). This is important because you can track your success and understand what is working and what procedures need to change. Each club is different and has its own personality. What works for one club may not work for another. Ensure that...
- 6) Presidents, Vice-Presidents of Education, and Secretaries train in Pathways Base Camp. As Base Camp managers, members will come to them to approve their Pathways assignments!
- 7) Treasurers and VPs-Membership, ensure that, when members join the club, these officers immediately know when the dues are paid, so there is no struggle close to the due date (I have been through this experience, and it is stressful).
- 8) A COMPLETE AGENDA is the sign that a club has integrity, respect, service and excellence! That little piece of paper says so much!
- 9) Don't Wait! Information is Power! Visit the District 83 website, www.tm83.org and the Toastmasters International website, www.toastmasters.org. As an informed member, you are providing yourself with the best return on investment that you so richly deserve. Our social media platforms, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, are waiting for your participation.
- 10) Ask for help from District leaders! They serve you, the member. Together, you are a partnership that can move mountains, but you MUST utilize them.
 - a) To see full list of District officers, go to:
<https://tm83.org/index.php/district-officers/district-officers>

To all incoming officers, it's that time! This is your opportunity to put your own spin on outdated ideas!



Meanwhile, I'm letting go of the PRM role, catching the breeze, and flying to chair the District 83 Speakers Bureau!

Stay tuned for information on the next trials!



ProACTIVE EmPOWERment

Let's Take Inventory

By Su Brooks, DTM2 – District Social Media Strategist



Our newsletter editor, Jen Fredericks, DTM, challenged me to explore the topic, "What have you done to ProACTIVELY EmPOWER yourself or others during this Toastmasters year?" As we review the past 365 days, here are a few memorable topics.

Pathways Champion

After my official term as a Pathways Guide ended in 2018, Past District Director and District Pathways Chair, Janice Buffalow, DTM, IPDD, extended an invitation to me, as well as several other Guides and Ambassadors, to continue to help empower others in the role of a District Pathways champion. I had already invested time in learning about Pathways, so it made sense to continue training Toastmasters who already began the program, as well as provide assistance to those who were (and still are) in need of support.

I facilitated hands-on training sessions with other champions in Middletown, Iselin, Cedar Knolls, Neptune and Sayreville, NJ. We discussed how to log in and get started, as well as to navigate the different levels and information for Base Camp Managers.

Destination DTM workshop in May at Annual Conference

I presented a workshop to help Toastmasters determine if pursuing a traditional or a Pathways Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) fits with their goals. I created a series of blog posts on the District 83 website to supplement the workshop content for attendees. Others who were not able

to attend the workshop can benefit from the material posted.

DTM mentor for members of an advanced club

Last year, the members of my advanced club decided to have a DTM mentor support them while completing the speaking and leadership requirements. Our club Vice President-Education set up a DTM mentor program pairing mentors with members seeking advice.

I worked with one person who has since attained his DTM in the traditional program. Another person decided to complete an Advanced Communicator-Silver (ACS) and then begin Pathways. A third member has attained most of the communication and leadership achievements and plans to finish a DTM by the end of June 2020.

Sharing and reciprocity

Throughout the year, and especially during contest season, I shared information about additional speaking opportunities in different clubs, areas and divisions to help fellow club members pursue their traditional or Pathways DTM goals.



ProACTIVE EmPOWERment

I enthusiastically embraced Pathways and initially enrolled in two paths, Leadership Development and Presentation Mastery. As a stretch goal, I added a third path, Engaging Humor, as soon as it was released by Toastmasters International in order to renew and refresh my skill set.

A Toastmaster for 19 years, I finally decided to serve my club as Sergeant at Arms for 2018-2019, since I never held that officer role before. I am grateful for the support I received from fellow club members who held the role previously and my counterparts in other clubs.

We proACTIVELY emPOWER each other by sharing equipment, helping each other with room setup and trading information about best practices to provide a welcoming environment for members and guests.

Looking ahead

Review your own activities from the past year and identify your own list of empowerments and achievements as well as those of fellow club members. Although everyone's list will be different, those accomplishments are important to each person involved and will help further his or her own personal goals.

I encourage you to resolve to take on something similar in 2019-2020 as you renew your goals for the upcoming Toastmasters year.



Congratulations to our newest DTMs!

Dave Chapman
Fred Jacques
Nagarajan Narayanaswamy
Ainsley Reynolds



Club News

Mile Square Toastmasters “Hits the Pavement”

By Paul Paradise, ACB – Club President



Planning is everything! Mile Square Toastmasters sponsored a booth at the 2019 Hoboken Arts & Music Festival on May 19th -- a beautiful spring day! About one-third of the club volunteered to staff the booth in one-hour shifts from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM during the length of the street fair.



Toastmaster Claudia Gutierrez offers Toastmasters informational flyers to fair goers.

As many as 30,000 people attended the festival, which has been held in the spring and fall on Washington Street for the past twenty-five years. There were music, food vendors, and artists. Many people were surprised to discover there was a Toastmasters club in Hoboken! One woman, who had never heard of Toastmasters but is now interested in becoming a member, is running for City Council.

Seven newcomers attended our first meeting after the event, all of whom heard about Mile Square at the Arts & Music Festival!



Lisa Quint, ACS, CL displays Toastmasters materials used at the Hoboken Festival.



Richard Gabai takes his turn staffing the Mile Square booth.



Club News

Murray Hill Speakers Club Hold Successful Open House

By Brian Cort, ACS,ALB -- Club Vice President-Education



The Murray Hill Speakers Club held a successful open house on Thursday evening, April 4, 2019. We had five guests, most of whom said they planned to join the club! We will follow up with all of our guests to make sure they have the membership form and that all of their questions about joining are answered. We had publicized the Open House by an all-employee email at the location where we meet--Nokia Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey. We ordered pizza, and mentioned it in the email several times. It helps to promise food! It also helps to talk up Toastmasters:

"Toastmasters is a friendly and welcoming environment to practice your speaking and leadership skills! Come see how our club can help you to improve these important skills!

"For more information, see All About Toastmasters at <https://www.toastmasters.org/about/all-about-toastmasters>"

During the meeting, VP-E Brian Cort, ACS,ALB, gave an ice breaker from Collaborative Leadership Pathways, in which he spoke of the ways in which Toastmasters helped and surprised him by uncovering hidden leadership skills he never knew he had. Club Member Mangala Gunadasa, Pathways Level 2, gave an inspiring speech about mentorship from Effective Coaching, in which he described his excellent mentors, starting with Fran Okeson, DTM(x-many!). He illustrated the wisdom of a great mentor like Fran, who saw that getting up and speaking was exactly what he needed and encouraged him to do just that at every opportunity. During the Table Topics session, guest Craig Polk, future Toastmaster, gave a most beautiful and compelling Table Topics answer to "What was the best \$100 (or \$1) you ever spent?" He related how his daughter had once asked him for money while strolling through Bryant Park in New York City. Thinking that perhaps she wanted to buy something for herself, he recounted that she went straight to a nearby homeless person she had spotted and put the dollar in his hat.

After evaluations and role reports, the meeting concluded, and we all enjoyed the pizza and cookies and talked about membership!



[left] Murray Hill Speakers Club members and guests enjoy pizza and camaraderie after our meeting.

We are planning several more which we will publicize not only through email at our location, but also through the local press. As we are an open club, the majority of our members come from the community, and we want to continue that tradition. However, the community has to know we exist and where and when to find us. Open Houses are fun, and they work!!



Club News

Diamonds in the Rough Toastmasters Celebrates 15th Anniversary



By Seiji Shiraishi -- Club President

A huge thanks goes out to those who made our 15th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, February 21, 2019 an absolute success. All involved, from members of the planning committee to all the attendees, made it an incredible experience!

Our current Area Director, Kim Lambert, ACB, ALB, was the perfect person to kick off the celebration by telling personal and touching stories of her experiences as an active and founding member of Diamonds in the Rough.

As the Toastmaster, Joe Lauren, CC kept us entertained and engaged throughout the remainder of the meeting. A particularly memorable moment was when he described our club as an escape from the daily grind, and how we all leave happy after our meetings, even on the most stressful of days.

John D'Arco gave an impressive and enjoyable icebreaker speech. Congratulations, John, on your recent engagement and on your professional certifications! During Table Topics, Syarifa Galeb kept the meeting theme of "Celebration" relevant by asking questions about parties and significant milestones. How fun! As General Evaluator, Charlie Husni closed out the meeting by critiquing each role in a positive and nurturing way, consistent with Prudential's focus on inclusion and diversity. Melinda Kraus, a Prudential alumna and a founding club member, made a special guest appearance and even took part during Table Topics. Nice job, Melinda!



Joe Lauren and Kim Lambert



[left-right]: Syarifa Galeb , Guest Tessie Businelli, Yuko Inoue, Kim Lambert, Charlie Husni, John D'Arco, Joe Lauren, Club Alum Melinda Kraus

Thanks to those members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes: Rey Gambrell, another active founding club member who managed the special invitations to our esteemed guests; Cathy Rocco, who took care of the beautiful decorations and catering in the room; and Yuko Inoue, our photographer.



Club News

CARPE DIEM Holds Open House

By Joyce Quinn, IP1 – Club President

CARPE DIEM Toastmasters Club held an open house on Thursday, April 11, at the Morris County Library in Whippany, New Jersey.

This dynamic event served as a membership drive and a workshop for its existing members. The open house was announced using social media by inviting former members and friends, using an online invitation application and placing a press release in the *Hanover Eagle's* digital newspaper two weeks prior to the event.

The Open House was held with an organized agenda: Santosh Joshi, CC was toastmaster for the night, and Fran Ford, CC gave her award winning speech on "Preparation."



[above, left to right]: Dee Rincon, Guest Jessica Rancanelli, Margarita Estrada, and Warren Ruderman

Our guest speaker, Margarita Estrada, DTM, gave a speech/workshop entitled "Idea!" to encourage us to meet our communication and leadership goals. Her dynamic talk was well received and had the audience positively engaged.

Up next: Irene Freeman, DTM who led a fun and engaging Table Topics session, and everyone had an opportunity to participate. Warm thanks to Warren Ruderman, DL1 for bringing light refreshments and snacks for all to enjoy. Along with several guests, our Area Director Dee Rincon, ACS graciously attended.

[right]: CARPE DIEM members and guests enjoy refreshments and fellowship at the open house.



After the meeting was concluded, the guests related they enjoyed the meeting, learning more about our Toastmasters Club. Thank you, Margarita and to all the other members, for making this night a success.



Opinion Piece

From Toastmaster to Tiger: An EmPOWERment Story

By Lynda Wonski, DTM - Club Vice President-Public Relations



In May 2013 I joined the Jim Friend Toastmaster club after reluctantly

visiting for a few weeks. I felt very uncertain of my ability to learn since I had an aversion toward accepting criticism; but, like most people, eventually I grew into listening and hearing. From the very beginning I would bring my granddaughter, Ally, along with me to the meetings to help me as Sergeant at Arms to set up the room, arrange the chairs, and mount the flag. Ally was 13 years old when I first began my Toastmasters journey.

Over the years, I grew in my speaking and leadership skills. I became a dual member of Woodbridge Club, as well as its Coach and an Area Director in 2015. Ally remained my steady companion at my Toastmasters events, attending Woodbridge meetings and assisting me with baking and serving cupcakes and cookies. It soon became an ongoing joke that, if the club accomplished DCP goals, Ally's cookies would be the reward!

Ally then assisted me in the fall and spring club contests, helping me to decorate and bringing all of her home baked and food/drink items. She was a valuable asset toward my accomplishments. As summer 2016 approached, Ally became the Assistant Coordinator of my Youth Leadership Club at the Metuchen Library for a six-week program. She was a tremendous help in keeping it fresh for kids within her age range, as she was then 16 years old. Ally helped me complete my goals to obtain my DTM in 2016.

If any of you recall, Ally, was my *LIVE* visual aid in my Tall Tales speech contest at the 2017

district level contest. I couldn't have done it without her calming effect on me as I sat awaiting my turn, and she kept pointing to my notes on my lap to read so I would keep focused. She has a gentle manner that helped me control my nervous tension. I attribute this accomplishment to her tranquil spirit which affected me greatly toward getting up out of my seat. This experience brings to mind a quote by futurist author Joel A. Barker: "A leader is a person you will follow to a place you wouldn't go by yourself."



Last year Ally turned 18 and finally was able to join Jim Friend Toastmasters. She immediately signed up for the officer role of Sergeant at Arms. Since Ally had obtained a New Jersey Stars scholarship to attend Middlesex County College,

she remained in the area. In the beginning, she wasn't thrilled to be at Middlesex since she aspired to greater goals. However, while there, she met two very influential professors who shared her Christian values and whom she admired greatly. Ally pushed herself to fast-track through Middlesex by starting in the summer and taking courses straight through all the breaks to graduate in one year. In the meantime, she applied as a transfer student to various colleges, three of which were Ivy League universities. On May 7 she was informed that she had been accepted to Princeton University, and on May 10 she was advised that she was accepted to Yale University. Ally, being a New Jersey born-and-bred girl, immediately knew she wanted to stay in her home state and accepted



Princeton's full-ride offer. She will begin her journey in September 2019.

I like to think that Ally's Toastmasters journey played a part in her leadership skills, having been involved in such a wonderful organization. I'm glad that the past five years of her teenage life have exposed her to the terrific people in District 83.

If anyone has any contacts at Princeton, please email me at lyndaawonski@gmail.com. I would greatly appreciate it to enhance her

adjustment. Please do me another favor and keep Ally in your prayers as she studies mathematics with aspirations to be a college professor someday.

After she masters the initial challenges of life in the Ivy Leagues, we will no doubt visit Toastmasters Clubs in and around Princeton. This splendid organization has played too large a part in both of our lives not to do otherwise. Thank you, fellow Toastmasters, for providing such tremendous life learning experiences.

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Welcome New Clubs!

Sayreville	1/28/2019
Guardian - Holmdel	2/19/2019
iWIN – Florham Park	2/21/2019
J&J – New Brunswick	3/11/2019
Toastmasters at GEP	3/12/2019
Peapack Expressions	4/15/2019
G2-Toastmasters	4/16/2019
Holmdel Toastmasters	4/27/2019
Monsey Toastmasters	4/30/2019
NJTA Toastmasters	5/01/2019



CELEBRATIONS

Member Anniversaries – Second Quarter 2019

Join Date	Last Name	First Name
30 YEARS		
6/1/1989	Goldblatt	Phyllis
25 YEARS		
4/1/1994	Stokes	Ashok
4/1/1994	Crawford	Noel
20 YEARS		
4/1/1999	Schurzky	Kathleen
5/1/1999	Schaefer	Kenneth
5/1/1999	Schaefer	Kenneth
5/1/1999	Sen	Subhabrata
5/1/1999	Walters	Donna
6/1/1999	Ng	Michael
15 YEARS		
4/1/2004	Kang	Yibin
4/1/2004	Oehlkers	Kenneth
5/1/2004	Mosquera	Javier
6/1/2004	Card	Irene
6/1/2004	Dudis	Joe
6/1/2004	Markert	Willie
10 YEARS		
4/1/2009	Agullar Hernandez	Jorge
4/1/2009	Clerico	Jana
4/1/2009	Cohen	Maxine
4/1/2009	Husni	Charles
4/1/2009	Jain	Nikesh
4/1/2009	Koo	Shannon
4/1/2009	Marzec-Young	Rebecca
4/1/2009	Mertz	Wayne
4/1/2009	Owen	Tracie
4/1/2009	Phillip	Yvette
4/1/2009	Quirk	Dennis
4/1/2009	Roman	Ibis
5/1/2009	Bhatt	Rupal
5/1/2009	Kiederling	Kimberly
5/1/2009	Ma	Gimal
5/1/2009	Rutkowski	Michael
5/1/2009	Sylla-Samassa	Djadji
6/1/2009	Black	Andrew
6/1/2009	Jackson	Tonya
6/1/2009	O'Rourke	Annie
5 YEARS		
4/1/2014	Beaton	William
4/1/2014	Blavo	Selasi
4/1/2014	Burns	Noreen
4/1/2014	Chelfetz	Peter
4/1/2014	Duong	Thanh

Join Date	Last Name	First Name
5 YEARS (cont.)		
4/1/2014	Egan	John
4/1/2014	Fleurinor	Dan
4/1/2014	Galeska	Izabela
4/1/2014	Huang	Rose
4/1/2014	Krom	Kyle
4/1/2014	Lester	Paul
4/1/2014	Letendre	Laura
4/1/2014	Lombardi	Gregory
4/1/2014	Maltese	Rocco
4/1/2014	Matsoukas	Mikkel
4/1/2014	Moloye-Olabisi	Olajompo
4/1/2014	Newton	John
4/1/2014	Padivitage	Nilusha
4/1/2014	Pride	Hasan
4/1/2014	Reilly	Brian
4/1/2014	Reyes	Manuel
4/1/2014	Shub	Natalya
4/1/2014	Wasser	Louis
4/1/2014	Zhuang	Jinyou
5/1/2014	Liu	Fang
5/1/2014	Berkowitz	Mark
5/1/2014	Chahil	Gurpreet
5/1/2014	Dai	Tina
5/1/2014	Geller	Elizabeth
5/1/2014	Housman	Kressel
5/1/2014	Madda	Monica
5/1/2014	Marvel	Debra
5/1/2014	McCaffrey	Elizabeth
5/1/2014	Njallimackal	Jomson
5/1/2014	Riedmuller	Jessica
5/1/2014	Sheth	Sangita
5/1/2014	Taboada	Viriany
6/1/2014	Bertele	George
6/1/2014	Carson-Price	Sandra
6/1/2014	Chang	Linda
6/1/2014	He	Henry
6/1/2014	Hudgins	Keith
6/1/2014	Kalin	Lill
6/1/2014	Kumar	Shantanu
6/1/2014	Livera	Phyllis
6/1/2014	Navaid	Syed
6/1/2014	Preston	Kenneth
6/1/2014	Ramos	Elena
6/1/2014	Roubinchtein	Maria
6/1/2014	Sanders	Jason
6/1/2014	Singh	Gagen



3Q2019 Dates to Remember

6/29/19	TLI – 8:30: District Officer training ; 1:00: Club Officer training Clubs to complete Education Achievement (traditional and Pathways) requirements and submit applications to TI for DCP credit.
6/30/19	Deadline for clubs to submit 2019-20 club officer information for DCP credit
9/30/19	Deadline for clubs to submit their membership dues for 10/1/19 through March 31, 2020



Message from Your Editor:



It has been my honor this past year to serve as editor of *The Voice*, our District 83 newsletter. Our incoming District Director, Lynda Starr, has invited me to “renew my contract” for 2019-2020, and I look forward to continuing to bring you details of district operations and club activities that will help you attain the goals you set for yourselves and your organizations. Please continue to submit timely articles to the newsletter that help me achieve my own goals for the newsletter and for myself.

Jeanette (Jen) Fredericks, DTM



Contributors to this edition

Manny Reyes	Su Brooks
Lynda Starr	Brian Cort
William Markert	Seigi Shiraishi
Janette Alexander	Paul Paradise
Margarita Estrada	Joyce Quinn
Sherri Rase	Lynda Wonski

Photo Credits

Pg 1	Manny Reyes
Pg 3	Lynda Starr
Pg 5	William Markert
Pg 7	Sherri Rase, Bob Bugai
Pg 8	Bob Bugai
Pg. 10	Lynda Starr & Bob Bugai
Pg 11	J. Alexander & Frontline TMC
Pg 12	Erica Tripp
Pg 13	Bruce For
Pg 15	Su Brooks
Pg 17	Paul & Grace Paradise
Pg 18	Brian Cort
Pg 19	Seiji Shiraishi & Yuko Inoue
Pg 20	Narendra Pondugula
Pg. 21	Lynda Wonsk
Pg. 24	Jeanette Fredericks

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Your timely articles and club news are welcome!

Contact the Newsletter Editor:

Jeanette (Jen) Fredericks, DTM
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Submissions for the September 2019 issue are due August 15th

All submissions should include:

- author's name, photo (if desired), and achievement designation (ACB, Path.1, etc.);
 - achievement designations of all members mentioned in the article;
 - photos with captions and accreditation information.

District 83

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