



# The Voice

## District 83 News & Events

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### WORDS FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Our members come to Toastmasters for different reasons, ranging from overcoming fear to improving speaking and/or leadership and for networking opportunities. These can be accomplished in a club setting where it is a safe, supportive, encouraging environment.

What lies ahead for each member? A world of learning, training and development! All

three elements are intertwined in the Toastmasters Program. Training describes the overall improvement and education within an organization; it is specific with quantifiable goals. Training can also be defined as an event. Development concentrates on the broader skills that are applicable to a situation such as decision making, leadership skills or goal setting. Learning can be described as the process to obtain new knowledge, skills, values, competencies or abilities. Learning is a long-term process which is driven by you and not by the training. Each member is offered the process of learning at each club meeting with feedback (you must bring your manuals).

What are the benefits? Your biggest benefit is achieving what you have set out: overcoming fear, settling your nervousness in front of crowds, improving your speaking techniques, or getting to the level of DTM. Another benefit: you are not doing this alone. Each member will be assigned a mentor upon joining. If a mentor is not assigned, request one! Your mentor will help guide, motivate and encourage you toward the goals you have set.

Together, you will design your own training plans; each individual will not learn or develop at the same pace; be patient; be realistic; communicate; and don't get frustrated.

What about club, area, division or district leader? The training, learning and development continues but with additional quantifiable goals focusing on the club, area, division and district. Each leadership group must attend two training sessions each year. Each leadership group has its own group of mentors to help guide its members toward meeting their goals. Each leadership group participates in the success of the District.

Training in the world of Toastmasters is more than an event, it is learning and developing skills, values, competencies or abilities with the opportunity to practice and receive immediate feedback. My challenge to every member is to make the effort to seek out learning, reflect on what you have learned, know failure is an option, but most of all, HAVE FUN!!!



## How to Guide a New Club to Success

By Lynda Starr, DTM, District 83 Club Growth Director

Whether in business, athletics, education or Toastmasters, a mentor is a trusted advisor or counselor. Starting a Toastmasters club is like having a baby. Through the chartering process or pregnancy, there is anticipation and excitement combined with a little anxiety as to whether it will all go smoothly. Once the club is chartered or born, the parents do not say, "Good luck; have a good life, you're on your own." Instead, they nurture, teach and guide their baby through to adulthood and even beyond. With a Toastmasters club, this is where the mentor comes in to share his or her expertise to guide the club toward success and excellence.

Members of new clubs will have questions on how to develop a speech topic, how to conduct Table Topics, and how to do an evaluation, for example. Fortunately, the Toastmasters website, <https://www.toastmasters.org/> has many great resources, including the [Successful Club](#) series of presentations that the mentor can present or use as information source. Mentors can also check with their area directors, division directors or with me. It is important for both the mentor and club members to keep in mind that the mentor is an advisor, not the commander in chief of the club, and a good mentor will sit back and let the members run the club, stepping in when help is needed. As the saying goes, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach a man to fish and he eats forever," meaning that a well-mentored club will be a successful one.



As club growth director for District 83, it is part of my role to appoint one or two mentors per new club for at least a six-month term. The chartering club may include the mentor on the charter forms or I can notify Toastmasters within 60 days of chartering. At the end of the six months or as agreed by the club and mentor, the club signs off on the mentor and submits the form to world headquarters noting that the mentor has completed the term of service.

The mentor should attend as many club meetings as possible in order to observe what is happening and after the meeting, meet with the club officers to discuss what the club is doing well and areas for improvement, much like what the general evaluator would do. Here's a tip: it is best to work on one club issue at a time in order to not overwhelm the members with many items that need to be changed. The mentor can join the club, but it is not a requirement. In some instances, where the new club is a closed corporate one, the mentor may not even be able to join. The mentor should also explain the Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) and help the club work on its Club Success Plan. The mentor can work with the club secretary and/or treasurer and Vice President-Education on how to submit new members, dues and educational awards on the TI website. The mentor encourages club officers to attend district training and fill in any gaps. It is the mentor's goal to have the club remain at 20 members or greater at the one-year mark and to be a distinguished club. Conducting a Moments of Truth session with the club helps to assure a quality club.

While having a mentor obviously benefits the club and helps the mentor to achieve Advanced Leadership Silver and Pathways credit, there are additional benefits for the mentor member. I am a strong believer that the best way to learn something is to teach someone else. As a mentor, the member will gain improved communication and leadership skills, will learn more about the Toastmasters experience and process, and gain the satisfaction of helping others. In a short time, the new club will quickly move from crawling and babbling to running and speaking in full, clear sentences that work together to create terrific speeches, evaluations and Table Topics.

Please reach out to me if you would like to be a club mentor or to learn more.



## Excitement for the District 2018 Spring Conference

By Janette Alexander, DTM, Spring Conference Co-Chair

My Fellow Toastmasters, if you have never attended one of the district's conferences you just don't know what you are missing! On May 12 & 13, you will be immersed into the world of Toastmasters and will realize there is so much more out there than just your club. Toastmasters is a huge family! We want you at this annual reunion. This spring the theme is "embrace change" and it is apropos as our district will be rolling out the new education program, Pathways.



### Here are some reasons you should think about attending:

**Pathways** will be featured on both days of the conference. On Saturday there will be a plenary session covering an overview of Pathways. Learn about the basics of the new education program and hear some of why and how the program will help you achieve your goals. On Sunday morning there will be another session where you will be walked through one of the 10 paths. You'll be able to share the experience of a real-life member and walk away with an understanding of how the new education program could work for you. It's a great chance to hear firsthand about the operations and navigation of Pathways.

There will be a choice of 6 different **workshops**, 3 held on each day of the conference. These workshops will encompass the areas of personal, professional and club development. Each of the workshop presenters are at a professional level and had to go through an audition in order to be selected to take part in the conference. Past district conference feedback has always rated the workshops highly for take-away value.

Attend the district **business meeting** that will be held on Saturday morning. Learn about what the district is doing for you and your club. New district officers will be elected so you will have an opportunity to vote (if a club President or VPE, or district officer) and often meet and hear from the candidates. Watch your district and officers in action.

Hear and be inspired by the **keynote speaker, David Brooks** who was the 1990 World Champion of Public Speaking. David has more than 30 years of speaking and training experience and is anticipated to deliver memorable presentations. He will do an opening speech as well as a keynote address at dinner on Saturday.

The conference is a great place to **meet and network** with the extensive membership of District 83. Do you need advice, have questions, or want an opportunity? You will meet Toastmasters with varied backgrounds and levels of experience, many who are professionals in their fields. This is your chance to make something happen!

Use the conference experience as support for your **job development** plans. Corporate club members often have Toastmasters as part of their work development goals. Some job development goals could be public speaking and presentation skills, leadership and organizational skills. Did you know that you can use the conference expense toward off-setting your taxes? Speak to your tax advisor.

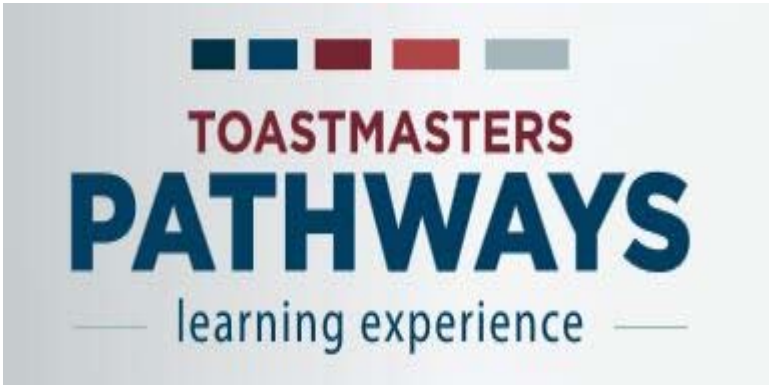
Watch and hear the **District Speech Contests**. The International Speech Contest will be on Saturday and the Evaluation Contest will be held on Sunday. Support all of the contestants by your attendance and root for your favorites. You will be amazed and dazzled by the quality speakers our district offers. Perhaps it will inspire you to enter a contest yourself.

Are you still on the fence post for attending? I can tell you that the Renaissance Hotel serves excellent food so all of the meals will be terrific. Now what more can I say? The current rate for the conference is \$155 and this is good through March 31<sup>st</sup> when it will go up to \$165 during April. Register online at the district website [tm83.org](http://tm83.org). You will not regret attending.

I hope to see you there!

Renaissance Hotel, 515 US Highway 1 South, Iselin, NJ 08330

Ask for special conference hotel rates.



### Pathways Insights: What Should We Expect?

By Jeanette Fredericks, DTM

**Editor’s Note:** How is the Pathways Program affecting Toastmasters members whose districts have already converted to the new curriculum? *The Voice* asked two Toastmasters outside of District 83, specifically focusing on the online assessment exercise our members will soon be taking. Their identities and responses follow.



**Mary Cornwall, DTM** is a current member of Moon Toastmasters Club and a former member of Bayer Toastmasters, both serving Pittsburgh, PA. She is District 13 Club Growth Director, has served as an Area Director, District Finance Manager and District Audit Chair. Mary was named Toastmaster of the Year (Bayer Toastmasters), and was recognized by District 13 as Area Director of the Year and Toastmaster of the Year.

**Deneen O’Shea, DTM** currently serves as District 38 Coordinator and Pathways Guide. She has been a Toastmaster since 2011 and is about to earn her second DTM. A member of NorthEast Philly Toastmasters, she has held all club offices and served in numerous district leadership positions. Deneen joined Toastmasters to improve her networking conversations as a Public Adjuster, but has found great joy in assisting others to find their voice and the leader hidden within them.



**1. How long ago was this program rolled out in your district and what has been the overall experience with it so far?**

**M. CORNWALL:** Pathways has been active in our District for two and one-half months. Overall, there has been a lot of hype and enthusiasm around the new program. Ironically, most members don’t fully understand what Pathways exactly entails, but people have embraced the idea that it will be good and so are being enthusiastic in order to help it succeed.

**D. O’SHEA:** Our Guides started their trainings October 1, went live Oct 31, 2017. Overall many are just now starting to look at it. The few who have started seem to be excited, but most are still working the “old” program. Many state they are in no hurry. A handful are now rushing to finish their DTM so they are not entering Pathways yet. There is a corporate club that estimates 50% have taken the assessment and chosen a path, one member has given the icebreaker, and the club is planning an “all ice breaker” meeting to help initiate the process.

**2. In preparation for the rollout in District 83, members will be instructed to take the online assessment to guide our journey into this new curriculum.**

**A) How long does this exercise run?**

**M. CORNWALL:** The assessment takes about 10 minutes to complete.

**D. O’SHEA:** There are about 25 questions; however they are really quick and easy so, with a good internet connection, maybe 10 minutes.



### **B) Did this assessment leave you eager for or wary about the inevitable changes awaiting members?**

**M. CORNWALL:** The assessment questions are fairly repetitive. The initial question asked you to select three areas that are of key interest to you. Lo and behold in the end, those three areas are the three paths that the application recommends for you. Answering the assessment questions merely ranks them as to the highest suggested of the three. I did not find the assessment overly helpful and could have chosen my path simply by the path name vs. going through the assessment.

**D. O'SHEA:** I found the assessment left me eager but with more self-questions than anything else. I answered the questions as to where I am today; but, as the results popped up, I found myself reflecting and considering that I would best be served by picking a path based on my 5+ year goals, not basing my choice on where I am today. So with that in mind I did not pick one of the "best" matched paths that was suggested from my assessment.

### **3. How is this assessment structured to determine a member's future Toastmasters educational path?**

**M. CORNWALL:** It seems to present the same questions regardless of a person's answers. In other words, everybody gets the same questions, which are:

#### **ONLINE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

Select three topics you are interested in learning about from the list below.

1. Which of the following topics is most related to the personal and professional goals that brought you to Toastmasters? [The 10 Paths are presented.]
2. Learning about \_\_\_\_\_ will help me significantly in my personal and/or professional life. [The three Paths you chose in question 1 are presented.]

The following questions are answered via a "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree" scale:

3. I know how to respond because I am perceptive and attentive to others' behaviors.
4. I am flexible enough to adapt to others' communication styles.
5. I am generally cautious about accepting new ideas.
6. I show my understanding of others by reflecting their feelings back to them.
7. I feel relaxed while giving a speech.
8. Ordinarily, I am very calm and relaxed in conversations.
9. I often initiate conversation with people I don't know well.
10. While speaking, I am aware of how others are reacting to what I say.
11. Once I set an interpersonal communication goal for myself, I know the steps to take to achieve it.
12. I adapt my communication behavior to meet others' expectations.
13. I show my involvement in conversation both nonverbally and verbally.
14. I am not sure what to do with my hands while giving a speech.
15. I use a wide range of behaviors, including self-disclosure and wit, to adapt to others.
16. Working in a team is a good opportunity for me to understand myself better.
17. I seek out new ways to do things.



### ONLINE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS [continued]

18. Engaging in a group discussion with new people makes me nervous.
19. I am reluctant to adopt new ways of doing things until I see them working for people around me.
20. I prefer to be a team member rather than a team leader.
21. In conversation, I talk about things which are of interest to both myself and the other person.
22. I like to get involved in group discussions.
23. I seek out leadership opportunities.
24. I make eye contact with my audience while presenting a speech.
25. While giving a speech, I get so nervous I forget facts I really know.

The application then presents the three paths that you originally chose in question #1, highlighting the “Best Match” of the three.

**D. O’SHEA:** You answer questions on fear/comfort of speaking, leadership goals and such. From that data the program suggest the three closest ‘matches’ to your assessment answers and current comfort levels.

However, it was suggested to me that it’s best to read the overview on ALL paths offered, and then go back and re-read the three suggested ones. This will give members a better feel for what path they can get more value and growth out of. This process is what I used. It’s very important to note that if a member is 100% sure he/she wants No Leadership projects, currently there is only one path that is only communication/speeches. All remaining paths have leadership tasks and projects mixed in.

**4.** This assessment process will take place in the middle of many members’ reach toward the next higher level of our current educational structure. Do the skill sets we gained through current Toastmasters training assist in the determination of our pathway in the new program?

**M. CORNWALL:** I’m not really sure how to answer this question. What our club did was to take one meeting in which:

- one person presented all the details of the Traditional program;
- one person presented all the details of the Pathways program’
- The two people then facilitated a Q&A session with the club’s members;
- The two people then asked members to decide what goals they personally wanted to achieve by the end of the club year. Depending upon where they were in their journey, some chose Pathways, some chose Traditional, and some chose to finish the educational goal they were currently striving toward in the Traditional, then abandoned that to move to Pathways.

**D. O’SHEA:** I would say yes, I believe that the experience I have gained in my previous speech and leadership projects helped me evaluate the paths based on my confidence level and my future goals and allowed me to pick a path that I likely would not have years earlier. Additionally, I will be completing the “old” program awards I am currently in the process of. I find it exciting that members enrolled at the time of rollout have the added benefit of completing awards in BOTH programs, at no additional cost. In today’s world, having the benefit of no additional monies but all,



the additional award[s] that can be achieved and placed in a resume, framed on a wall or noted on social media links, is a big bonus.

#### 5. Will Pathways impact Toastmasters meetings?

**M. CORNWALL:** No change in that between traditional vs Pathways.

**D. O'SHEA:** Currently I would say no. They do focus by Level Three on Table Topics, Toastmaster and Evaluator; and there is a place in the computer to track some other roles, but nothing yet that indicates there is a benefit to this tracking. I have suggested to my clubs that they start some form of "in club" acknowledgement program, creating a certain percent of meeting roles needed to be met, then annually give "club" letters or certificates of acknowledgement.

#### 6. What final comments would you share with us as District 83 prepares for the New Pathways Education Program?

**M. CORNWALL:** What your District Leadership is currently doing regarding reaching out to Districts who have already begun the process is fantastic. It seems that even though some roll-outs have occurred, the current roll-outs are going through the same pains as we did in that little to no information is provided prior to the roll-out. Keep engaging with the members of Districts that have already rolled-out so that you can benefit from their learning experience as well as any training they may be pushing out. Good luck to your District. I wish you nothing but success.

**D. O'SHEA:** I believe this new program layout will spark members' interest and give new members a better and clearer path to DTM, if that is recognition they want to achieve, and in a much faster time than many Toastmasters have in the old program. A big benefit may be the program's ability to greatly strengthen clubs that have weak or no mentor programs. The online resources walk the member through project by project, and there will no longer be clubs that only use the CC manual. The Paths also get the members to evaluate speeches and mentor much earlier, which will build confidence faster. The last piece of advice is to remember Mr. Smedley's words, "We learn in moments of enjoyment." This change is coming, there is no stopping it. Enjoy, learn and grow from the process, keeping the meetings fun and applying a little work and leadership. The rest will fall into place.

### PROCEDURAL POINT: Election of Officers

"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*

As club officer elections will soon be held, we are reminded that parliamentary procedure allows for a simplified voting protocol **if there is only one nominee for each office with none made from the floor**, as follows:

*After the nominations are finalized, the presiding officer asks for a motion to instruct the secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers as presented. A second to the motion and vote of the assembly are required.*

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



## Tips: What Is the Proxy Process?

By Paul Scharf, DTM6, PDG

The prime purpose of the Credentials desk is to ensure that all clubs have a voice in selecting and voting for District Officers, approving club realignment issues, and/or conducting any business that may be brought before the District during the business meeting of our conferences.

Each Club is entitled to two (2) votes. The Club President or Club Vice President of Education must sign in at the Credentials desk **to ensure that a quorum of clubs is represented**. If the Club President or Vice President of Education is not present or is President or Vice President of Education of more than one Club that person may provide a WRITTEN PROXY to any club member in good standing to sign in in lieu of themselves.

The proxy must state the Club name, Club number, the name of the individual carrying the proxy, and the date. A Club President, Club President of Education, or proxy holder may sign for both club voting ballots. Additionally, a District Officer may carry one additional voting ballot (NO PROXY PERMITTED).

**Under no condition may any one individual carry more than three voting ballots.**

At the 2018 Spring District Conference, the election of District Officers will take place during the business meeting. The Credentials desk will open on Saturday morning at 7:15 AM and will close at 9:05 AM. At 9:05, the Credentials Co-chairs will determine if a quorum of clubs is in attendance.

The Proxy Authorization for the conference is available on our District Web Site ([tm83.org](http://tm83.org)).

Club Presidents and/or Vice Presidents of Education should act on these proxies as quickly as possible to assure that their clubs have a voice in conducting the basic District 83 business and the election of district officers.

Credentials questions should be addressed to the Credentials Co-chairs:

Margaret Flory, [m.e.flory@att.net](mailto:m.e.flory@att.net) and/or Paul Scharf, [1964sps@gmail.com](mailto:1964sps@gmail.com)

Congratulations to the following newly completed DTMs!

Bill Atkins, DTM  
John Connors, DTM





## CLUB NEWS:

### Essex Toastmasters Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Jonathan Godin, ACB - Club Secretary



What an amazing Essex Toastmasters **60th Anniversary** Celebration we had last month! Between current members, former members, guests, and guest speakers, we had nearly 50 people attend this monumental occasion. There were far too many highlights to succinctly share in this post, but to characterize this celebration as inspirational, energizing and emotionally moving only begins to describe the atmosphere of the event.

Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia kicked off the festivities with a short speech. "As an elected official, I understand the importance of

being confident in one's public speaking skills. Like many other skills, public speaking is honed throughout the course of one's life, and I commend Toastmasters for providing adults of all ages materials and strong teaching resources with which to improve their public speaking skills," said the mayor. In addition to the mayor's opening remarks, former club presidents and members recognized the club's past awards, reputation within the District, challenges faced, and growth along the way, while toasting to the next 60 years.

Our club truly fosters a positive and encouraging atmosphere where individuals are provided with the opportunity to develop skills and become part of a supportive and diverse membership group," said Essex Toastmasters President Oscar Marin (shown right).

Thank you to all who attended and made this incredible evening come to life in a way that will last for the next 60 years!



Club Pres Oscar Marin

*"To succeed in life, you need three things:  
a wishbone,  
a backbone,  
and a funny bone."*

*Reba McEntire*



## CLUB NEWS:

### On the Road with Carpe Diem

By Irene Freeman, DTM, Club VP-PR

Have you ever wondered how to add variety to your club meetings? We often think about changing up “Table Topics” or having “theme nights,” but have you ever thought of going “on the road”? This is just what we did on December 28<sup>th</sup> when our Carpe Diem Toastmasters club visited the Sunrise Senior Living facility in Morris Plains NJ.

It all started when our club President Mendy Brafman proposed the idea as a community outreach and membership drive effort. The thought was intriguing for two reasons, the first being that we had “never done this before.” The stronger reason was to connect with our community to give back through giving of ourselves and also spreading the word, through example, about all the good things that membership in the Toastmasters organization could provide.



*FranWard*

Lucky for us, one of our club members and club Sergeant-at-Arms, Fran Ford, was also enthusiastic about the event and agreed to be the contact for us. She is very familiar with the facility, as her mother is a resident. In true Toastmasters form we asked her to be the Toastmaster for the meeting, and in true Toastmasters form, she accepted. Fran coordinated our event with Karen Bowman, the Sunrise facility’s Activity Volunteer Coordinator.

The facility provided a one-hour meeting time in their Activity Room. We developed a modified agenda to accommodate the facility’s requests and also to make the meeting more interactive with the guests.

Toastmaster Shaun T. Hayes was our Guest Greeter.

Nine of our club members were able to participate, along with sixteen residents.

Toastmaster Santosh Joshi presented a speech on Nikola Tesla, providing highlights of his life story, his passion for his work, his collaboration with Thomas Edison, and his many useful inventions.



*Mendy Brafman (l) and Govind Yadav (r)*

We had an expanded Table Topics session led by Toastmaster Govind Yadav. Govind (right) posed questions to us about positive thinking and improving our lives. It was very heartwarming when the guests willingly participated. Some needed encouragement, especially after we volunteered them to speak, but they were all very gracious to accommodate our requests.



*Joyce Quinn (l) and Veerappan Muthiah (r)*

Following the speakers, Toastmaster Veerappan Muthiah led us through the “Evaluation” portion of the meeting. Toastmaster Joyce Quinn provided Santosh with an evaluation of his speech and Toastmaster Narendra Pondugula (not pictured) provided the Timer’s report.



Our club leadership felt that it was important to expose the guests to these assessments to provide a flavor of the learning approach of the Toastmasters program and to show the constructive and supportive manner in which feedback is given.

In looking at the faces and postures of the guests during the meeting we felt that we were very well received and through speaking afterward with several club members I had the impression that our club participants also very much enjoyed the experience. When speaking with Fran after the meeting, she mentioned that we were invited back. We will definitely consider returning to the Sunrise facility and will also be scouting other community locations for the future.

## **Welcome New Clubs!**

Dr. Reddy's Speakers 1/10/18

Eaton Crums 2/26/18

*"There cannot be a crisis next week.*

*My schedule is already full."*

*Henry Kissinger*

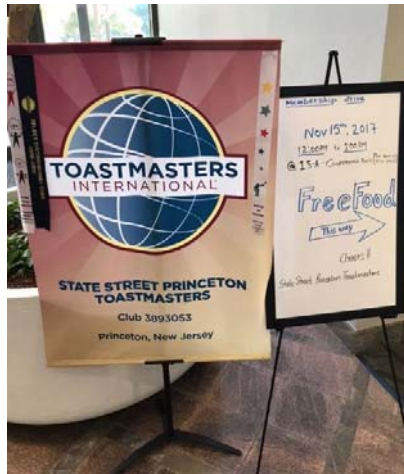


## Club News:

### Open House at State Street Princeton Toastmasters

By George Bertele, ACB/ALB

State Street Princeton Toastmasters Club held a potluck membership drive on November 15, resulting in a successful membership invitation to ten guests. Many club members participated in the drive, bringing their favorite food to share at the potluck meeting.



Toastmaster Digvijay Parmar, officer of the day, welcomed all guests and introduced George Bertele, ACB/ALB as the Toastmaster of the meeting.

Toastmaster Rathan Dasari presented his third speech from Competent Communicator manual. Entitled "Keystone," he presented the story about how keystone spices play an essential role in balancing the ecosystem and, among other facts, referred to how Yellowstone National Park became "a perfect balance in the ecosystem of the park when park management decided to reintroduce wolves to the park twenty years ago."



George Bertele provided an introduction to Toastmasters, its membership benefits, meeting flow, and educational process, touching on the competent communicator and competent leadership manuals.

A Table Topics session was also conducted, with food as the focus. Toastmaster Purush Rachabattuni and Guest Laura Descoteau were selected as best Table Topics speakers - congratulations to both of you!

State Street Princeton stages two membership drives each year. In early 2017 one of those drives resulted in eight new members, and this latest was also successful. George states that, "Whether we just continue to get the word out, or we get guests to return for another visit, or get new members, we definitely find membership drives like this to be worthwhile."



Anup Kesari presents table topics awards to Dr. Purush Rachabattuni and guest Laura Descoteau.



Everyone enjoyed the international potluck!



## How-To Corner:

### Training Your Successor

By Su Brooks, DTM 2, VPE, Red Bank Toastmasters Club

As a club officer, one of the most important tasks you can take on halfway through your term of office is to begin to identify and train your successor.

In many clubs, elections for the 2018-2019 term will not take place until May 2018. Some clubs have uncontested elections, whereas others have more than one candidate on the ballot.

Hopefully you have not been taking on everything yourself and there may be someone whom you have identified as a strong candidate to serve as your successor.

Club Officer Training took place during December, January and February. Some officers invited and encouraged next year's potential leaders to attend



one of the training events and participate in one of the breakout sessions. Whether they attended training or not, they could review sections of the Club

*Leadership Handbook, available as a digital download, to learn more.*

Current officers can emphasize that serving as a club officer helps develop their leadership skills and helps the club. This term of service can be applied to one of the components of an Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB) award, OR a 12-month term can be credited toward a component in a future Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award in Pathways, the new educational program beginning on May 15, 2018 in our District.

Current officers guide their successors by inviting them to one or more club officer meetings during this Toastmasters year. Sometimes these meetings are all business whereas others combine club business with socializing and a meal.

Janette Alexander, DTM, shared some valuable information about training successors. She stated, "I

suggested at an officer training I gave that an officer may want to have a back-up person for when he or she may not be available. This covers the officer and at the same time serves to pre-train a successor. I think this is a good tip and something that few people do. It does make the succession process much easier."

After club elections take place, it is crucial for the incoming and departing officers to hold a meeting with as many of the participants as possible. This is the ideal time to go over best practices, what worked well and what could have been handled differently. It is also a good opportunity to pass along any club materials, if appropriate.

In addition to the group meeting, meet one-on-one with your successor. Prepare an agenda and talking points in advance.

Perhaps you took all these steps and your successor cannot fill the role due to a move across the country, for example. In some cases your club might have a new member who is interested and available.

Emphasize that your successor may have questions and that you are available to help with the transition. Encourage the new officers to attend the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) in June to get their new Toastmasters year off to a great start.

After providing the support, encouragement, advice and training, remember that your successor may have a totally different leadership style than you and may decide to fulfill the roles and responsibilities in a different way than you approached the role.

Help the District Officers identify strong leaders who might be interested in taking on a District Leader position. Start the conversation soon since District Officer roles are often filled quickly. A person might have to wait an entire year before appointed to a role required for an Advanced Leader Silver (ALS).

Now is a great time to start to avoid scrambling at the last minute and to make sure your successor has all the tools and resources available to get off to a great start for the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year.



## **VOICE OF EXPERIENCE #1:** **“You’re Obviously Intelligent, But You Don’t Use Your Brain Well”**

By Margarita Estrada, ACS, ALB



As you read the title of this article, what comes to mind? Intriguing, isn’t it? Using our brain well in our personal, family, business, and social life determines how we use our past to give us a purposeful present, and our present to propel us to a powerful future.

This comment 1) acknowledges intelligence; and 2) challenges us to use that intelligence to see the whole picture of a situation so that we can benefit our world and ourselves. The question is, How do we erase habits that have been ingrained and influenced by nature and nurture, and create new thinking processes that bring us value?

Walking is one of my favorite pastimes! To ensure a successful walk, I make sure that 1) I have the proper equipment (a pair of good walking shoes and clothing appropriate to weather); 2) healthy snacks (otherwise, I’ll be tempted to go to the nearest Dunkin’ Donuts to get a chocolate glazed donut to reward myself); and 3) location (safety is important).

However, I still struggle with THE LAST SPEECH! Yes, I have one speech left to become a DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER, the ultimate achievement! Why am I encountering so many stumbling blocks?

In this “using my brain well” journey, I discovered that I “use my brain well” only when I enjoy the task (sound familiar?). In order to conquer THE LAST SPEECH, I knew that I had to find out why I have taken so long to finish this goal. I came up with many excuses – Toastmasters has lost its luster, or I was exhausted. What I discovered was very profound. I was embarrassed that it has taken me this long to become a DTM. If I just pushed it aside, I would never have to deal with it. However, as I saw other Toastmasters become DTMs with fewer years than myself, it nagged me to no end.

Confronting the “ugly” was important. The key to switching our thinking patterns is to challenge our brain to see the “ugly” as simply an obstacle that must be conquered. Maybe it’s learning a new technique, purchasing items that will make our challenge easier to conquer, or surrounding ourselves with people who have encountered our challenges and succeeded.

For some of you, delivering your Ice Breaker speech is your nerve-wracking step toward conquering your fear of public speaking. You come to a meeting and, at first, it seems easy enough; however, life happens! Using your brain well, you can 1) get a notepad to write down ideas; 2) discuss your fears with your mentors; 3) create solutions (breathe, repeat a comforting phrase, such as “Everyone here is my friend,” or creating index cards with words that trigger response) to conquer each fear.

Using the word “No” effectively is using your brain well. “No” allows you the time and space needed to pour all your enjoyment into the task at hand. Say “No” to your cell phone, email, social media, or appointments when completing the tasks at hand. Say “No” to those messages that tell you that you can’t deliver a speech, and tell yourself, “I’m confident!” even if you’re sweating bullets.

Using your brain well means that you have the capacity to understand and realize that you cannot achieve your goals without a strong team that can support, and most importantly, be honest with you as you work toward your endeavor.

The opening title of this article was actually a comment told to me by a former boss. He added, “You don’t seem to look at the whole picture. Before you comment, write, or make a gesture, think about who the players are in the scenario and whether they add to or detract from the purpose. It’s part of using your brain well!” It was very powerful advice that I have never forgotten.

I will become a DTM this year because I see the value of the designation. It is the beginning of more goals to achieve, more worlds to conquer.



## VOICE OF EXPERIENCE #2:

### All Aboard: The Train to Somewhere

By Fran Okeson, DTM19

As the Area 64 Director and a club officer in all five Toastmasters clubs on Staten Island, my focus on the theme of training club officers is probably very different from other clubs in other Areas around the District. "They" say that you can't re-invent the wheel; "We" say: we can try!

Because our primary challenge is membership building, most of our club officers keep their positions from year to year (We do rotate our President and Vice President- Education annually since Presidents can only serve one year at a time). The training team consists of past district officers. We have at least three training sessions; they are hosted by our clubs and are open to all.

At this time of the year, we review what we've learned in the preceding half-year and discuss what we want to change. Our train stops at all seven "officer stations," but stays at one station longer if more time is needed. The outgoing officer will then spend extra time with that incoming person.

The Vice President-Education (VPE) station is the most complicated. Agendas need to be set up, speakers and evaluators need to be assigned and all members must have an equal opportunity to present speeches in a timely manner. Planning four contests is a big part of the VPE's responsibility.

The Vice President-Membership might ask members to leave their extra Toastmasters Magazines on public transportation, in beauty parlors, doctor's offices, etc.; carry flyers (self-developed or TI-downloadables) about the different programs we develop in our clubs and offer to share your ideas with other club officers.

Vice President-Public Relations is my position for all our Staten Island clubs. After each meeting, I file the report on SILive and let readers know that guests are always welcome to attend and observe our meetings. I add my contact information and let the club president know about any guest who will be attending the next meeting. I invite guests to give the last speech in the training on the Internet Advanced Manual which must be evaluated from the camera. That speech is usually done on our No Limits club's CTV show, "Toastmasters in the Community."

For the most part, the club Secretary handles the paperwork for the club. In the past, we always kept all agendas, programs, club newsletters, etc. Now, with so many people using computers, records are kept on the computer to be pulled up when needed.

The other difficult position is the Treasurer's role. Every six months I send an email to all Area members announcing dues are being collected by the Treasurer either at meetings or through the mail. We do not collect any additional monies.

The final station is for the Sergeant-at-Arms. This officer usually arrives early, sits near the door to greet everyone, hands out the agendas and makes sure the room is cleaned up after the meeting.

Every station on this train is important, and everyone can step up to help mentor other officers along the way. If you are interested in becoming an officer, let it be known. One thing we Toastmasters aren't is mind readers.

Next stop: "New Beginnings" - All aboard!





## Speak Up!

### Women's March Morristown - Toastmasters Skills in Action

By Sherri Rase, DTM

2017 was a year of great change in the United States and around the world. Last year's Women's Marches happened around the world, mobilizing millions of marchers from diverse backgrounds and agendas with one purpose – making equality in action as well as words. One man said "Women may march all they want as long as they're home in time to cook dinner." I suspect his dinner had a little something extra that evening. Many like him thought last year's march would be one and done.

Those naysayers could not have been more wrong.



Organizers for the 2018 Women's March began early. Nationally, the decision was made to move the march around to different locations, and in New Jersey that decision was made as well. Last year the marches happened in the nation's capital and, for NJ, in Trenton. This year's New Jersey march was held in one of the cradles of freedom, Morristown in Morris County, on January 20, 2018. Washington's troops wintered in Morristown, and revolution has been part of the scenery for about 300 years. There were two stages this year – the Rally began at Morristown Town Hall on South Street, and marchers proceeded to the Green where another stage was set up. Everywhere you looked, Toastmasters' tenets were in play.

Toastmasters has four pillars of belief by which we chart all that we do – **integrity, respect, service and excellence**. The Women's March planners used every one of these pillars in planning their event. I volunteered to work; and, when I submitted my request, the volunteer coordinator got back to me immediately – showing respect for my time and service. I was kept informed every step of the way, receiving detailed instructions closer to the day of the event, as well as reminders the evening before. This displayed excellence and a great deal of integrity. When our word is our bond and we make good on it at every turn, trust is built. My time and contribution were valued, and I felt that.

On the day of the event, I showed respect for the organizers by showing up early and doing whatever tasks needed to be done. I let them know where I had experience so they could deploy their resources to the greatest effect. I had the opportunity to be part of the volunteer contingent helping control the crowd and had a ringside seat for some excellent speeches.

Leading off, Elizabeth Meyer, the march's founder and co-leader, hit all the bases for me. She spoke of the myriad of women represented from all walks of life, all cultures, all orientations and levels of experience. She thanked everyone for being out together to march for their individual causes, as one body of like-minded people seeking change. She also commented on how in addition to there being many more women at this year's event, there were more men out to support equality in the groups represented. Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty welcomed everyone to town and opined that, while they had expected about 6,000 people, they had clearly underestimated. The group ultimately numbered about 15,000 strong, and over the course of the entire day there were no incidents of violence and only one medical emergency.





Toastmasters, consider how like our meetings this event was run. There was a purpose, an action and a limit to the timing for the meeting. Each activity was advertised and well-articulated. The speakers were given particular timing, and each one took only his or her share, or less. Ultimately, the meeting was well-organized, ran on time, achieved its purpose and people left with an experience that was enlightening and encouraging, with strong growth potential.

Elizabeth Meyer's final words to the crowd prior to beginning the March in Morristown were to her daughters. She asked them to look at the group before them and know that wherever they were, they have a voice; and, like these women before them, they have an obligation. When you see something wrong, speak up and make it right! As I take this experience forward, I'll model this behavior for future generations. It's all about integrity, respect, service and excellence in action



## Dates To Remember

March 1-31, 2018	Area International Speech and Evaluation Contests
March 1-31, 2018	Club collection and submission of membership dues
April 1-30, 2018	Division International Speech and Evaluation Contests
May 2018	Election of club officers
May 1-10, 2018	District Conference proxy decisions
May 12-13, 2018	District Conference, Iselin, New Jersey
June 1-30, 2018	Reporting of all member achievements to TI for DCP credit

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## CELEBRATIONS: 1Q2018 Anniversaries

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Join Date</i>
<b>30 Years</b>			
Heiser	Carolyn	Bergen Toastmasters	1988/03/01
<b>15 Years</b>			
Peralta	Manuel	No Limits Toastmasters	2003/03/01
<b>10 Years</b>			
Kim	Sung	Bergen Toastmasters	2008/01/01
Maitra	Saikat	Art Of Speaking	2008/01/01
Delia	Stephen	ETHI-Comm Club	2008/02/01
Demer	Glen	Open Door Club	2008/02/01
Wilson	Cecilio	Toastmasters en Español Club	2008/02/01
Hodge	Robert	Open Door Club	2008/03/01
O'Gorman	John	Solix Toastmasters	2008/03/01
Pankow	Jennifer	Speakers of the House	2008/03/01
<b>5 Years</b>			
Barone	Nicole	Conquerors Club	2013/01/01
Davis	Brenda	IEEE Live Wires Club	2013/01/01
Deb	Soma	IEEE Live Wires Club	2013/01/01
Everett	Jason	Essex Toastmasters	2013/01/01
Maksimovic	Irena	Opportunity Seeking BMS Club	2013/01/01
McCormick	Peggy	Selective Leaders & Speakers	2013/01/01
Rajda	Mitsu	Morris Toastmasters	2013/01/01
Spellman	Kellen	Bergen Toastmasters	2013/01/01
Figueroa	Zoila	Wayne Toastmasters	2013/02/01
Herzfeld	Lena	Gateway2 Toastmasters Club	2013/02/01
Howard	Aurelia	Union City Club	2013/02/01
Kanda	Arvind	Art Of Speaking	2013/02/01
Patel	Damini	Solix Toastmasters	2013/02/01
Rogers	Maggie	Munich Re Toastmasters Club	2013/02/01
Schneider	Jared	ETHI-Comm Club	2013/02/01
Tremml	Karl	Old Bridge Toastmasters	2013/02/01
Wong	Namrata	TM of Westfield Club	2013/02/01
Zeglarski	John	J&J Raritan I/T Toastmasters	2013/02/01
Brizzi	Edith-Jean	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01
Faxvaag	Bjornar	Valley Toastmasters	2013/03/01
Hafeez	Julie	Freehold Phrasers Club	2013/03/01
Haszel-Kre	Trisha	Essex Toastmasters	2013/03/01
Jackson	Brenda	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01
Krishnamu	Kali	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01
Munsch	Tamara	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01
Servilio	Kathleen	Hunterdon Speak Easy Club	2013/03/01
Sevchuk	William	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01
Tun	Kimberly	Munich Re Toastmasters Club	2013/03/01
Walli	Mujib	The Toast of RMS	2013/03/01



***Does your club have news you'd like to share?***

***Send your article ideas or stories to the editors.***

Submissions should include:

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

**Contact your Editors:**

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**Submissions for the June issue are *Due May 12.***

**District 83**

**TOASTMASTERS  
INTERNATIONAL**