



# The Founder

[www.foundersdistrict.org](http://www.foundersdistrict.org)

WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE

June 2013

## Toastmaster's Achievements

A Self-Monitoring Process

## 75th Anniversary

Arcadia Hoyt Curtis  
Toastmasters Club

## Flap Your Wings And Soar

by Harry Yan

## Contributions to Education

Avis French Awarded  
By OCBoE

# "Undeniable"

Mun Ng Wins 2013 District Speech Contest



# From Our District Governor **VICTORIA DOTSON, DTM**

Good bye!



## **"Goodbye, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night..."**



As the 2012 - 2013 year comes to a close, many are getting ready to say good-bye to our current officer positions. Others are planning for the coming year.

Last year, when I was elected District Governor, I promised to do everything I could to ensure the success of the District and our members. I have been fortunate to be able to build on to and to continue the hard work of those who have come before me. If it were not for their dedication and leadership, I would not be able to say with confidence that WE ARE A SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT!

Building a successful district, division, area, or more importantly club, does not happen in one year – or even two or three years. And it doesn't take just one person. The old adage about it taking a village and a child is true for Toastmasters. I would like to add that if it weren't for those who came before us, even that village would not have succeeded.

It's important to build a tradition of succession leadership. If you're elected to a club officer position, don't just look at your term in office and what you want to accomplish now, but look to the next term or even three, four terms down the road.

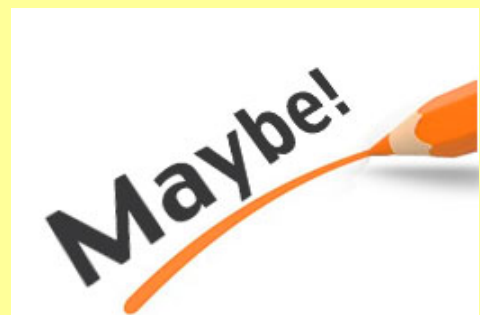
- What do you want to do next?
- What is your goal for this journey?
- Where do you see your club in the coming years?

The same is true for the areas and divisions.

- Who do you see now that you feel would make a good leader in the coming years?
- Do you have someone in mind to follow in your footsteps for next year?
- What are your next steps towards reaching your goals?

By taking a look around you and your fellow members, you can start encouraging and guiding those you feel would make good leaders. You can be their mentor, friend and official nag; you can teach them and show them what leadership is in Toastmasters. Hopefully, you will start the tradition of succession leadership that will ensure that your club, area or division will be successful in the coming years.

As our terms come to a close—I'd like to remind everyone that you're not done yet—let's think about the future of Founder's District. We are where it all began, so let's make sure that our current and future members are just as successful as we've been this past year. Let's continue the traditions of leadership and usher in another 80 years of triumph.



The story is a familiar tale for most Toastmasters who remember the moment they realized they needed to join a club and improve their public speaking skills.

# Mun Ng's UNDENIABLE Journey

by Dan Cossack, DTM



At an elevation of 6,700 feet and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest, Big Bear is populated with more than 44 resorts. It is a popular Southern California retreat location.

During the 2010 winter it was also the beginning of a journey for Mun Ng. Mun was working as a footwear designer for Oakley, whose corporate headquarters are in Foothill Ranch.

Speaking to a large group of coworkers, Mun's manager turned to him and asked, "Would you like to say a few words about this product?"

The circumstances may be unique, but the story is a familiar tale for most Toastmasters who remember the moment they realized they needed to join a club and improve their public speaking skills.

A few months later, Mun joined the Possibilities Unlimited club that meets at Carrow's Restaurant in Mission Viejo. The warm and inviting atmosphere made joining the club easy.

Members were surprised by his emotional ice breaker speech where he talked about being a perfectionist and working for a designer at a large sportswear organization.

## Mun's journey slowly begins

Between 2011 to 2013, approximately 800 Founder's District members completed their Competent Communicator award. Mun was not one of them; however, he managed to make it halfway through the program. (An artist simply cannot be rushed.)

Finally, after two years of slow but steady progress, the Possibilities Unlimited members knew Mun was ready for competition. They put pressure on him to complete enough speeches to qualify for the International Speech Contest.

Mun drew inspiration from his own experiences growing up with his family who had immigrated from China in 1979 during a period of financial uncertainty.

Although Mun's parents only earned a high school education they expected him to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities offered to all Americans. They practically demanded he become either a doctor or lawyer; careers that provide comfortable wealth.

However, Mun's passion was art and he had his heart set on art school.

He was torn: "Should I give up on my dreams or lose my father's favor, a father who only wanted the best for me?"

It was an impossible dilemma to resolve until Mun realized what was undeniable and he focused on his art.

## Winning contests

With club members Valerie Ojeman, Gayle Larkin and Richard Daugherty coaching him, Mun won the club contest. He quickly proceeded to the Area Contest. Being his first time at an Area

*Continues on page 6*

# TOASTMASTERS ACHIEVEMENTS: A Self-Monitoring Process

by Maria McHolland

It is undeniably obvious that when the “Learn by Doing” principle is applied, individuals make huge improvements.

A few months ago one of my fello club members asked,

“Maria, does anyone ever fail a speech?”

This long-time member had observed numerous speeches and multiple club leadership performance roles. I thought her question was quite an astute observation and answered, “Not really. Toastmasters is a self-monitoring process.”

This led to a conversation about how effective the “Learn by Doing” process is and whether or not there should be more strict guidelines. We also discussed whether a “pass/fail” approach would create better communicators.

We focused on the fact that there are many important messages for people to share or get out to the world. Toastmasters speeches have enlightened me about political views, multiple cultures, charitable organiza-

tions, cornea harvesting, and

Henna tattoos, to name a few diverse subjects. Becoming an effective communicator remains crucial to effectively sharing that knowledge.

## Does anyone ever fail?

I believe setting, monitoring and achieving goals are important for progress and growth. I also believe that enjoying the journey, changing directions at times and challenging oneself along the way is important for the knowledge to stick and get reinforced.

In my view, there have been times when club, area, division and district goal achievements have gotten in the way of abundant individual development.

That might sound contradictory to some people. Whenever a club reaches President's Distinguished status, for example, I don't recall hearing “and

the members have become more effective communicators and leaders as a result of the hard work done to achieve that club status.” All of the DCP achievements are wonderful accomplishments as well as the individual Toastmasters designation achievements.

It is undeniably obvious that when the “Learn by Doing” principle is applied, individuals make huge improvements. It is also very important that individual club members don't lose sight of their personal journey.

Here are suggestions or reminders for your consideration:

## Determine your personal communication goal.

Do you have an important message to share that will help others? Do you really want to be as effective as possible in delivering that message? Is your goal to be comfortable talking to a

*Continues on next page*

a stranger? Do you want to become a paid professional speaker?

**Could you do better?**

Be truly open to suggestions for improvement even after you have worked really hard on a speech; yet, could you do better?

**Don't rush with projects.**

Take the time you need to work on your projects. Don't rush through your manuals to help achieve a higher or bigger goal if you are not personally benefitting from that rush.

**Understand manual objectives.**

Read and study your project objectives and the skill you are practicing. Understand the Competent Leader manual project objective before tossing your manual to someone at the last minute (or after the fact) to evaluate you as general evaluator, table topics master or grammarian, etc. (Yes, I have done that.)

**Feedback is a gift.**

Ask your mentor and/or evaluator to provide honest, constructive feedback on whether or not you achieved the goal of each project. Could you do better? Should you repeat that project?

The Toastmasters program is for you. Choose your goals and work at your pace to achieve those goals. If you feel like repeating a specific manual or project within a project before moving on ... do it if that helps you achieve your goals.

It really is up to you, the Toastmaster, to self-monitor your progress and decide on the best course of action as you enjoy your Toastmaster journey.



**FOUNDER'S DISTRICT  
NEWSLETTER TEAM**

**Public Relations Officer**  
Dan Cossack, DTM

**Editor, Design and Layout**  
**Editor in Chief**  
Robin M. Itzler, ACB, CL

**Photography Chairs:**  
**Photography Chairs:**  
Richard Daugherty, DTM &  
Linda Daugherty

*Special thanks to*  
Dan Cossack, DTM for cover

*All member photos are copyrighted  
and cannot be reproduced  
without written permission.*

**Mission of the District**

We build new clubs  
and support all clubs in  
achieving excellence.

**Our mailing address is:**  
1000 South Coast Dr., #H-103  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
USA

**Visit us at:**  
FoundersDistrict.org

**Visit us at:**  
**FoundersDistrict.org**



# Flap Your Wings and Soar

Miss Jones, an elementary school teacher asked her class this question. "There are thirteen birds on a telephone line. Seven decides to fly South. How many birds are left on the telephone line. Little



Bobby in the back of the room raised his hand and shouted out, "thirteen!" Miss Jones wondered where he learned his math. "Why do you think there are thirteen birds left, Bobby?" Little

Bobby beamed and answered with a smile, "My Daddy always told me deciding to do something is not the same as doing it."

There are so many things we want to do and even decide to do, but it never gets done. Good intentions never gets things done. It is not what we want or decide to do that makes things happen. It is what we do.

If a bird really wants to go somewhere, it's got to point itself in the right direction, jump off the wire, flap its wings, and keep flapping until it gets where it wants to go.

So often we think of giving a prepared speech,

inviting a friend to Toastmasters, doing a High Performance Leadership project or starting a new club, but it doesn't get done.

As you look back over the last Toastmasters year, ask yourself, "What are the things I really want to do? Am I willing to do what it takes to get what I want?" If the answer is "yes," don't just think about doing it or even decide to do it. Take the first step to do it and then pursue it. In the end, we either do or don't do. Make the time to do the things you truly want to do and should do. Jump off the wire, flap your wings and soar.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Harry Yan is a Distinguished Toastmaster and has been a member of Toastmasters for 11 years. Harry is currently serving as the Lt. Governor Education & Training. He is also the founder and member of the "FCBC FV (First Chinese Baptist Church Fountain Valley) Speech Club," Club No. 870344, and the club adviser for the "Irvine Lunchtime Toastmasters," Club No 219. Both clubs were President's Distinguished last year.



## Mun Ng's Undeniable Journey

*Continued from page 3*

Contest, expectations were not high. He would have to beat some exceptional speakers.

The judges loved that speech as Mun won the area contest and proceeded to the Division G Contest where he would face even tougher competition. The members of Possibilities Unlimited stood by their star performer as it appeared more members from club 7368 attended the division contest than any other club.

Mun appeared to be in shock as he accepted the trophy with his head in the clouds. He would soon learn that he will be on stage competing against last

year's International Speech Contest winner, Michael Masotto, as well as other gifted speakers.

The 2013 Founder's District Spring Conference was held on April 20, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel in Cerritos, California. The winner of the International Speech contest goes on to compete against 89 competitors in the semi-finals at the Toastmasters International Convention in August.

It's a life changing experience just to have made it this far, but to win is something extraordinary, especially for someone like Mun who has never competed before.

To his surprise, he won with his speech, "Undeniable."

You can watch the full interview with Mun Ng on Founder's District TV: [www.foundersdistrict.tv](http://www.foundersdistrict.tv)



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Daniel Cossack, DTM** Daniel is a software engineer and semi-professional photographer in Irvine, CA. He joined Toastmasters in 2005 and is currently serving as the Founder's District Public Relations Officer. He is also a big fan of TED Talks and is involved with the independently organized TEDx Youth organization in Irvine for the last two years to promote the youth conference in Orange County.



# Outstanding Contributions to Education

by Avis French

**F**or years, I have talked and written about the opportunities for public service within our local community. The speaker skills, the time management skills, the project management skills that I learned from participation in Toastmasters can all be used to benefit local service organizations and educational institutions.

On May 16, those opportunities culminated in my being presented with the **Outstanding Contributions to Education** award by the Orange County Board of Education.

The nomination was written by members of the Orange County Academic Decathlon. In the nomination, they mentioned my work over the years with the Orange County Academic Decathlon, the scholarship programs in which I have participated, the variety of speaking and academic competitions that I have mentored, and the support I have given to local school districts.

In presenting the award, Dr. Ken Williams, Board President, said, "It is our honor to recognize the outstanding work of Avis French, which has included help-

ing recruit speech judges for the Orange County Academic Decathlon. Her work has been instrumental in the success of student academic competitions and we are grateful for her service."

Representatives of the following organizations attended the presentation and helped me celebrate the event:

- Orange County Academic Decathlon
- Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation
- Saddleback Valley Unified School District
- Coastline Regional Occupational Program
- Toastmasters International
- National Management Association
- Rotary International

I appreciate the attendance of Dr. Frances Stein, DTM, and Norman Stein, DTM.

It has been my joy over the years to work with all these organizations and their members and with all the educators and



students that I have been privileged to meet. I am grateful for the recognition for my "body of work" represented by this award.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

National Member of the Year 1995. She was awarded the Dr. Peter Harman Community Service Award presented by the Management Team Association of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District in 2004. She is also the Toastmasters Founder's District Gene Beckwith Memorial Award recipient for Fall 2009.





# 2013 Founder's District Spring Conference



← Penny Lambright, Recipient of the C&L (Communications and Leadership) Award.

↓ LouAnn Fredrick, DTM - Conference Co-Chair



↓ Ligia Molina, DTM - Conference Co-Chair



↓ Edith Alson ACS/ALB, Recipient of the Roy D. Graham Award, presented by Harry Yan DTM, Lt. Governor Education and Training



↓ Lorie Briscoe DTM, Division B Governor, and Jill Briscoe ACB/ALB, Area B6 Governor







↑ Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo DTM, Regional Advisor. Wes Hoover DTM, Immediate Past District Governor. Eileen Hope DTM, Past Founder's District Governor, District 5 Public Relations Officer

↓ Randy Garcez DTM, and Silvia Swigert DTM, District Sgt At Arms, Recipients of the Gene Beckwith Award, presented by Bob Hudack DTM, Past District Governor, and Victoria Dotson DTM, District Governor.







↑ Daniel Cossack DTM, Public Relations Officer, Recipient of the Homer Award, presented by Victoria Dotson DTM, District Governor

↓ Winners of the Table Topics Contest, from left to right:  
 Renee Asolas from LA County Orators finished in third place,  
 Louise Hyland from Rancho Speech Masters Toastmasters, first place,  
 Erica Beggan from the OCCN Speakers Forum, second place.





Marie Hulett

[not pictured]

(Watermeisters Club), Winner of the Public Relations Achievement Award and the Diamond Web Award



↑ l-r: Winners of the International Speech Contest:

*Second Place*—Amy Oakes of the Pasadena Presbyterian Church Toastmasters took second place with her speech entitled, "When PTSD\* Comes Home."

*First Place*—Mun Ng of Possibilities Unlimited with his speech entitled, "Unbelievable."

*Third Place*—Gary Penn from the OCCN Speakers Forum with his speech entitled, "Carrots, Cupcakes and Coffee."

\*PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder



↑ Hiram Araoz (Union Bank Toastmasters in Monterey Park), Winner of the Founders Film Award

↓ It was a packed ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel in Cerritos.



# Arcadia Hoyt Curtis Toastmaster Club's 75th Year has Begun!

by Sujata (Su) Kori, M.D.

**T**he Arcadia Hoyt Curtis Toastmasters Club's year-long 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration began on Saturday night, May 11, 2013 with a dinner extravaganza at the Arcadia Embassy Suites.

Celebrating both its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and earning the "President's Distinguished" club designation for the year 2012 and hoping to be in 2013 as well, the evening's festivities were an astounding success for members and guests.

The club also celebrated that it has two members serving as district officers:

- Peter Geissler – Division Governor
- Ely Tolentino, DTM – Area Governor

## Celebrating in style

Past Club President Peter Geissler was the master of ceremonies and kept the event moving along at a fun-filled pace. Club Secretary Jennifer Du led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Lynn Keesham, CC and Ely Tolentino, DTM created festive decorations that put everyone into a celebratory mood. Sergeant-at-Arms Peter Ferris, who called the dinner meeting to convene, designed the two club banners.



I presented awards to our two honorary co-chairs: Elliott Murphy, DTM, and current Area Governor, Ely Tolentino, DTM, both longtime club members.

Elliott's speech included personal memories about our club founder, Hoyt Curtis. Club officers Jason Jiang, William Soehartono and Henry So gave "the Toast" advanced speeches.

Past Club President, Aaron Rose, CC, CL introduced guest speaker, Don Johnson. By popular request, Don gave the speech that won him the World Championship of Public Speaking title, delivering it as perfectly in 2013 as he did in 1989.

The club was honored to have Founder's District guests attend:

- LGM/LGET-Elect Linda Ulrich
- Division B Governor Lorrie Briscoe
- Area Governor Jill Briscoe
- Area Governor Michelle Bender
- District 52 Assistant Division D Governor Pam Au (registrar)

Out-of-town guests who flew in just for this special occasion were:

- Past Club President Vic Andresen, DTM – Washington State
- Past Club President Jean Andresen, DTM – Washington State
- Past Vice President Public Relations Raghu Rao, CC, CL – Bay Area

Henry So was accompanied by his wife and colleagues from work as guests for this event.

Our thanks to photographer Michelle Bender for immortalizing the evening's festivities with her camera. If you missed this very well-organized event, which had most guests and members socializing and taking photos right until the program concluded, we invite you to attend future events that will be taking place throughout the year.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sujata (Su) Kori's has a degree in Medicine and is currently working in clinical research field. She has worked at academic institutes (USC & UCLA) and in private research organizations.

Su joined Toastmasters in April 2011 noting that it has taught her public speaking and leadership skills. She speaks at various scientific research organizations and is a board member in a community health clinic in Los Angeles. Su enjoys working with different non-profit organizations and assisting in organizing community fund raising events and activities. She can be reached at: 626-315-8842 .

