

FOUNDER'S DISTRICT

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

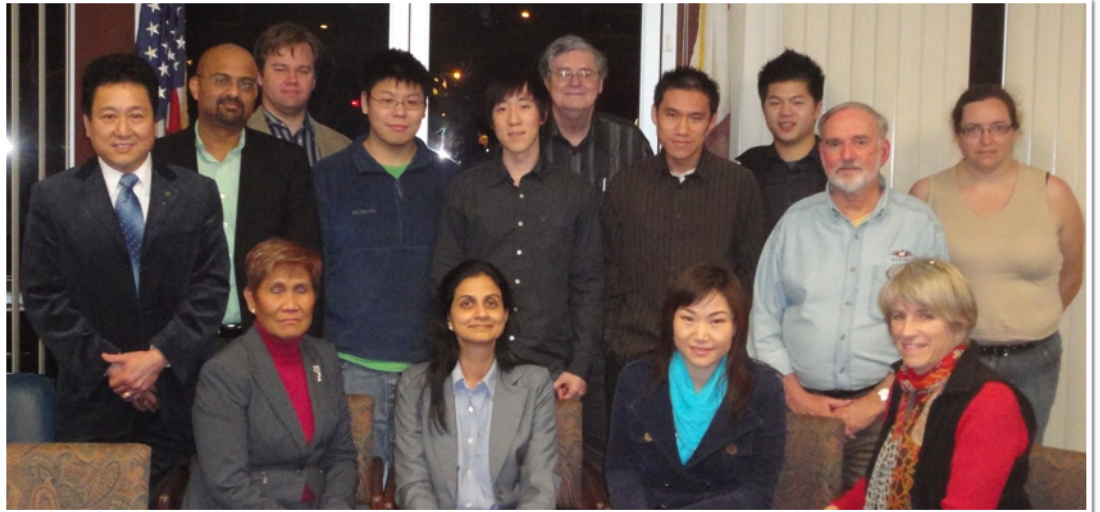


FOUNDER'S DISTRICT OFFICERS JOURNAL MARCH 2012

A model of success:

ARCADIA HOYT
CURTIS CLUB

By Raghu Rao, CC, CL



CLUB MEMBERS MET FOR THE SPRING TABLE TOPICS CONTEST HELD ON FEB 20.

When the new officers got elected in June 2011, we had a membership of 12. The club was in need of infusion of energy and enthusiasm, and that is exactly what our new President, Peter Geissler, provided us. Before our term started, we met to decide what our DCP goal would be for the coming year.

Surprisingly, we agreed to aim for "President's Distinguished" club - a goal this club never met before. (Since July 2003, this club has only achieved "Distinguished" Club once and that was under consistent ISC contestant & Club President Carl Walsh, ACB.)

Membership retention and development was our top priority, as we knew we could only attract and keep members by offering top quality meetings. We created a club success plan that included a number of open house programs with top-notch guest speakers. We added an additional monthly meeting to our schedule. Also, needed was a more permanent, professional venue where the club could meet more frequently.

We made the beautiful Arcadia Chamber Of Commerce our new meeting location. VPM Su Kori really got the ball rolling with our first Open House last November. To date, we have had three Open Houses - each with top speaking talent - Lance Miller, the 2003 World

Champion, and Accredited Speakers Terry Mayfield and Karen Twichell.

Many of our members hold corporate jobs and want to excel as presenters in their office environment. To create future leaders, we need to re-focus on the leadership program, we made Ely Tolentino, ACG/CL our Leadership mentor. We bought a brand new projector to enable our members to use visual aids more effectively. We also upgraded our website, signed up on Facebook, and joined a Meet-Up group (in a joint project with Pasadena 6 Club that JC Santiago initiated), got a new gmail address, and ended our toll free 800-number.

All of our club officers work hard, but we couldn't have gotten this far without our great VPE, Aaron Rose, CC, CL. So far, three of our members have attained the new "Distinguished Member" status. Aaron Rose, CC, CL has been leading the Youth Leadership Program every semester for the past two years and Carl Walsh, ACB has been helping him.

Not only are we at the cusp of doubling our membership within eight months, we are on track to be a President's Distinguished Club by end of March at the latest - quite an achievement from where we started! Our next big event will be our 74th Anniversary Celebration/

Officer Installation on May 14, when our guest speaker will be Alfred Herzing, DTM/PIP.

Several of our members volunteer outside the club. Our members are on the District Demo Team, trained as Judges and Chief Judges, and serve as the Division B New Clubs/HPL, and PR Chairs, Three of our members (including Michelle Cheng, ACB/ALB) are Club Coaches at two clubs in Division B. When the lead for the Methodist Hospital became dead, our club took it over and were able to sponsor their first Open House there on February 20.

What's next? We are planning to achieve all ten DCP goals as quickly as we can and we will continue to educate our members to be proficient working with Power Point, videotaping club members' speeches, helping our district by starting a new club, and most important of all, continuing to enable our club members to achieve their public speaking and leadership goals!

This has been a transformative year for our club members as they strove to new heights, and thereby attracted guests to come and join our club. We look forward to having an exceptionally good 2012 and beyond.



A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER'S DISTRICT OFFICERS



WES HOOVER
District Governor

We are the prisoners of history. Or are we? ~ Robert Penn Warren

My fellow Toastmasters, History can tell us many things; it can show us where great achievements had their start or where mistakes were made. I believe, we can learn many things from our study of the past, but that it can in some ways hold us back... I hold to a different philosophy. **Rather than studying history, I prefer to make it.**

We are now entering into the home stretch... the final dash to close out what can be a successful year, and in doing so make history by leading Founders District to Distinguished status for a second straight year. Something that to my knowledge has not been done. We have our work cut out for us, because "History" tells us that we are projected to come up short on several key goals set for us by Toastmasters International.

Our main challenge as we close out the year is membership, as I mentioned "History" projects us to be short... Which is why I choose to focus on creating history. Thanks to all of you and your dedicated efforts we are moving ahead, and building momentum, and I know that we can overcome this challenge

Starting March 1st and running through May 31st 2012, is a new incentive program titled **Make your Club GR8.**

Any club that signs up 8 new members between March 1st & May 31st will receive a set of Timing Lights from the District. Clubs that achieve this really have a reason to celeb8.

So what does this all mean? Simply stated, Founders District is strong this year... I'm asking that we all do our best... That is all that we can do. By each of us doing our best, we can take Founders District to Presidents Distinguished, **WE CAN MAKE HISTORY!**

As Alex Haley once stated... **History is written by the winners.**



VICTORIA DOTSON
Lt Governor Education & Training

I am constantly amazed at everything that I've learned in Toastmasters. I'm awed and humbled by the myriad of wonderful people in the organization that have helped me to learn and grow; to be a better speaker, leader and member. Do you find that you feel the same way? Are you wondering if there is a way that you can return the favor and be an inspiration for new members?

Well, there are plenty of chances for you to take up the gauntlet and to help your fellow members. You can always volunteer to be an officer in your club(s). If you've been the President or the VP Education you and are looking for a new leadership challenge, how about volunteering to be an Area Governor. There's also the upcoming Spring Conference and/or LACE, where we are always looking for members to help out in various ways. If you're interested in expanding your growth opportunities, Founders District wants YOU! Contact any of your District Leaders to find out how to sign up for these volunteering opportunities.



HARRY YAN
Lt Governor Marketing

Be Prepared to Soar - When opportunity knocks, are you prepared to seize it? People often miss key opportunities in life because they were unprepared to take it. It may be that stepping stone to a big leadership position, a pivotal point in realizing a dream.

You can be prepared by investing in Toastmasters. Make it a point to come to every club meeting and volunteer to speak. Commit to giving manual speeches and serve in a meeting role regularly. Volunteer to mentor a new member and serve as a club officer or a committee member. We are now looking for District leaders to serve in the new Toastmasters year which begins in July. Move outside your club by serving as an Area Governor or in a District office or chair. All of these activities will significantly enhance your communication and leadership skills so you will be prepared to soar when the next opportunity lands at your door.

"People who soar are those who refuse to sit back, sigh and wish things would change." They "get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, they make them."



NEEL SIROSH
Public Relations Officer

"We learn best in times of enjoyment", once said Dr. Ralph Smedley, the founder of Toastmasters International. There are so many ways to have fun within the Toastmasters environment, while learning and growing in the process. For example, we can create a brand new club website within 1-3 hours by using FreeToastHost2.0 (<http://toastmastersclubs.org>) or Google (http://www.google.com/sites/help/intl/en_GB/overview.html). Or, prepare a fun press release for an upcoming open house and get the attention of the

editors of local publications (<http://www.toastmasters.org/PRCorner>). If one needs help with calling the editors, the project 'Making Cold Calls' (2261 Persuasive Speaking manual) may give useful tips. Or, how about 'Closing the Sale' project in The Successful Club Series? Learn all about the philosophy and approaches of branding, by leafing through the Toastmasters International Brand Manual (<http://www.toastmasters.org/vbp>). We can put all our learnings into practice by putting on a Speechcraft (check <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/856467142> for the recording of a Founder's District webinar on Speechcraft by Alfred Herzhing, DTM, PIP with Dan Cossack, DTM). Learn all about planning, marketing and executing a fun event by putting on a Speechcraft. The opportunities are endless to have fun, and develop career enhancing skills within and beyond our clubs. Enter your club websites and/or newsletter in the public relations contests for 'Diamond Web Award' and/or 'Founder's Globe Award' by sending your entries to Colette Gardner, DTM, PDG at proawards2012@yahoo.com.



Founder's District Events



The demo meeting at the Bank of America in Pasadena on March 1, 2012 drew a large crowd. 66 people completed a survey indicating an interest in joining the new club, Pasadena Voices.



Tiger Woods Learning Center Demo



On The Dot Toastmasters club held its charter ceremony on February 22, 2012. Club President Tonie Pruitt was presented the club charter certificate by District Governor Wes Hoover and a proclamation by the Mayor of Monrovia, Mary Ann Lutz. On The Dot is the fifth club to charter in the city of Monrovia.



We had a very successful Marketing Workshop at the Southern California Edison complex in Rosemead on February 18, 2012. There were over 85 people in attendance. Workshop speakers were Past International President, John Herzing, Past International Director Richard Snyder, Region 10 Advisor Joyce Persichilli, Past District Governor and International Director candidate Lois Sicking, and Lt. Governor Marketing Harry Yan.

LACE Training at Biola University, Jan 2012

By Victoria Dotson, DTM

In January we had our bi-annual Leadership and Communication Education (LACE) sessions – one at Biola University and one at Chapman University. We had a fantastic turnout to both events with over 400 members attending each one! Thanks to the hard work of each of our volunteers, but especially Diane Beall, the response to LACE has been overwhelmingly positive. This year we took the opportunity to introduce some new classes and I am very excited to say that they were a success! I look forward to working with Diane again in planning for the June LACE sessions and hope to see ya'll there!



TI Board Meeting 2012



What counts most with Meryl Streep? You can count on the same thing in Toastmasters

By Dr Frannie Jordan Stein, DTM

On Academy Award night, February 26, 2012, Meryl Streep accepted her third Oscar, for her role in *The Iron Lady*. She said “The thing that counts the most for me is the friendships and the love. . .the old friends and the new friends. . .and the sheer joy we have shared working together.”

Yes, Meryl, I have the same feeling about Toastmasters. Working with my fellow Toastmasters, sharing tasks together, we are greater than any of us apart.

The list of valued friendships gets fuller, as we extend our activity beyond our club, serving as Area Governors, Division Governors, District Chairs and Officers, contest volunteers, participants in LACE training (Leadership and Communication Education), and attendees at Spring and Fall District Conferences.

A favorite camaraderie bonus of Toastmasters is the “Constructive Hanging Around Time” (CHAT) that

takes place following Toastmaster events. It involves fellow Toastmasters who are eager to “hang out” after working together in meetings, contests, trainings, workshops, new club demos, and conferences. Way beyond public speaking and leadership is the worthwhile experience of brainstorming, sharing ideas and getting to know each other, while breaking bread together and feeling that warm sense of wellbeing that comes from fellowship.

There is a German word that describes what happens at “Constructive Hanging Around Time.” It is called *gemutlichkeit*, and refers to warm cordiality and congeniality.

Meryl Streep calls it “the sheer joy we share working together.” Thank you, Meryl, for saying it so simply and clearly. It is what counts most with me in Toastmasters: the friendships and love and the sheer joy we share working together.



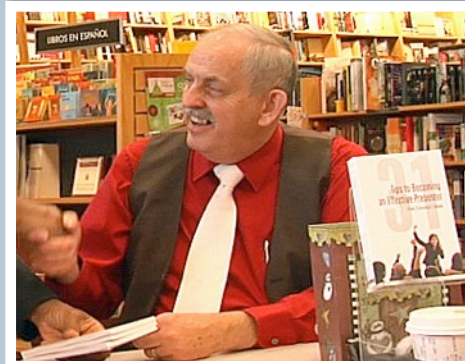
Standing, from left to right, Jack Schmidt, Chris Gregory, Wendy Lam Tran, Art Lim, Eleni Christianson, Norm Stein, Christine Lee, Seated in front, Frannie Jordan Stein, KimChi Nghe.



ev3 Toastmasters club held a very successful Open House on Feb. 10, 2012 with over 30 people in attendance. Many visitors indicated an interest in becoming a member.

Be Authentic - Speak from your Heart

By Frank S. Adamo, ACS/AL
Communication Skills Specialist and
Published Author



What are some of the most compelling speeches you hear in Toastmasters? For me, it's the new icebreakers. Many of them may be unorganized. Few have the body language and vocal variety we expect from seasoned Toastmasters. Some may simply read their speeches. Yet, they touch us with their stories because they speak from their hearts.

In one of my workshops, I had a Vietnam veteran read his speech. That was his assignment. He took us back through the window of time to his days in Vietnam. As he was ending his speech with “I don't know if God is in church, but he is in war,” everyone was in tears because he was authentic. He spoke from his heart.

We come to Toastmasters to become better communicators and leaders. We learn to organize our speeches; to feel comfortable when speaking; to add vocal variety; and to use gestures and body language as we move out from behind the lectern. Then we learn to add humor, to entertain, to tell stories, and much more. All of this makes for much better and more effective speeches. Yet, as we learn the techniques to improve our speaking skills, we tend to forget to speak from our hearts.

Sometimes those who have been coached by well-known professional speakers tend to emulate their coaches—so much so that they tend to perform for, rather than converse with, their audiences. That's when these speakers lose authenticity and thus they don't embrace their audience.

Discover how to organize your speech, to vary your voice and to use proper gestures and body language. Learn all the techniques provided for us through Toastmasters—however, never, ever forget to be authentic and speak from your heart.

Service is a stepping stone for greatness

By Dr. Patricia Adelekan, DTM Founder's District Journalist Chair

there for me and encouraged me to develop skills and talents. His older sister, Stephanie, with whom he lives, today, in Laguna Beach, California, has always been supportive and encouraging and still is. "We are a close family," he delightfully declared.

Through the help of his family – especially his father and many other people, Stephen is a graduate of Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts and has developed many talents and skills. His interests include photography, athletics, road and mountain biking, swimming, stand-up paddle-boarding, snowboarding, hiking, cooking—and now Toastmasters. Today he operates his own company—Stephen's Photography, and serves as a volunteer in his community—Laguna Beach.

As for Toastmasters, he feels that the TM experience can help him formulate his message in a supportive and positive environment. "I can bring my authentic self to Toastmasters and share my experiences and, also be an example and inspiration that Toastmasters is for anyone," he exclaimed.

Stephen exudes a "possibility thinking" mindset and the expression: "Can You Hear Me Now?" He believes that effective communication is absolutely necessary to convey his message and to advocate for kids who are hearing impaired. "Service in this manner is indeed the stepping stone to greatness—where he sees himself going."

Stephen plans to reach his goals by speaking, writing, video productions and the use of social media. He says he has some tools and other suggestions to help other deaf children develop and use the "gifts that God has given them."

He mentioned Helen Keller who was both blind and deaf and who accomplished much and became great, leaving an impressive legacy. Because of her blindness and deafness, Helen Keller had to "dig" a little deeper to gain the substance of a thing." In her case, she, too, utilized self-help and the help of Ann Sullivan, her nanny and many others to accomplish much in her life.

All attendees at the Golden Seniors on-the-Move Toastmasters club that day felt they received a special treat: the speech and sharing by Stephen Kozowyk.

Stephen is a member of the New Port Beach Toastmasters Club No 231 in Founder's District.

"You might like to interview a LACE attendee named Stephen Kozowyk," suggested Neel Sirosh, the Founder's District PRO Chair. I emailed Stephen to set up an interview. When, he called me on the phone to confirm the Sunday January 15, interview date he asked, "Can you speak slower, my computer is transcribing your voice (to writing) so that I can read what you are saying?"

"What?" I thought. "He's hearing impaired? Nobody told me." I slowed down and gave him the address to the Golden Seniors Toastmasters meeting for the interview. At the meeting Stephen intrigued and pleased us all with his optimism, charisma and self-introduction.

"I went to LACE," he explained, "in order to improve my speaking and leadership skills to motivate and influence others with a hearing impairment - and their parents. Parents and kids must have hope, faith and believe that this condition (hearing impairment) is 'a stepping stone for greatness'. It is an opportunity to develop the special gifts inside the person."

Stephen explained that he wanted to reach schools, nonprofits, counselors, Toastmasters and all humanity to help serve the needs of the hearing impaired, too. They could provide assistance and grants to help buy hearing aids and other equipment needed to help "kids" with hearing impairments succeed in life and to attain their greatest potential. Parents, he maintained, are the "special chosen ones" to help develop the child's greatness—and, their own greatness) by serving, being patient, understanding and supportive.

Stephen was born deaf in Boston, Massachusetts in 1972. "My parents were my first encouragers to be a success," he says. They were always



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Mission of the District

The mission of the district is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by: Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.

Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.

**Our mailing address is:
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IT'S ALL ABOUT THEM

By Richard Daugherty, DTM

When I began my education in public speaking with Toastmasters International back in 1999, it was all

about me. What skills could I gain? What confidence could I build? What fears could I conquer? This was to be expected. Nearly everyone who begins a course of study is doing so with self interest as the driving force.

What happened not too far along in the course of my studies was not expected. I came to realize that in fact it's not all about me.

Initially, my education involved overcoming stage fright and building basic speaking skills. Becoming comfortable with and working closely with a small group of like-minded people on a weekly basis slowly but surely helped me in both of these areas.

Added to the mix were basic leadership skills - helping to conduct meetings and holding various club officer positions. I learned the basics of project management and delegation, and was moderately successful at this without too much pain. I had established a comfort level and was settled in for the long haul.

The unexpected part in all of this began one evening when a very experienced Toastmaster from our district visited our club. She spoke with me after our

meeting, and based on her observation of my skills suggested that I take on a leadership role outside of the club environment. After my initial objections were addressed, I warmed to the idea, thinking to myself about how much more important I would be - again placing self at the forefront.

Not too many weeks into my year-long experience as an Area Governor, a change began inside me. I slowly became aware of the fact that I was nothing special, but rather my message was all-important. My passion for the Toastmasters educational program was affecting those to whom I spoke. People's lives were being changed for the better as a result of my efforts. And in the process, my public speaking skills and confidence gained a significant boost.

Accepting a position of leadership at the district level confers another responsibility upon a Toastmasters member - we are expected to train less experienced members who have accepted positions as club officers. Becoming a trainer of club officers solidified and intensified the changes in me, and removed all but a small amount of self-interest from my motivation as a member of Toastmasters.

I now freely and humbly offer my services to any part of the organization that needs me. My reward (there's always a bit of self-interest in everything we do) is knowing that I'm helping

others to gain the same skills and confidence that brought me to this level.

Speaking with passion and a desire to be helpful has a tremendous positive effect on a public speaker - it reduces nervousness. The fear we experience as new speakers comes from our expectation that we will embarrass ourselves in some way. If you're passionate about your subject and have an intense desire to help your audience members improve their lives, the focus of your attention and energy will be on them and not you.

As an extreme example, if you're getting everyone's attention to evacuate a building because of an impending disaster, will you care at all about how you look or sound? Probably not. Since your focus is entirely on the building's inhabitants and their welfare, your jitters magically disappear! You can apply this same principle to your efforts at public speaking. Get your mind and your heart completely focused on delivering the very best content you possess to your audience in any way that you can, and you won't have time to think about yourself.

If you're struggling with fear and worrying about how you'll look or sound, change your focus. Forget about yourself and concentrate on helping your audience. They'll appreciate your sincerity and you'll rest easy knowing you did the right thing. Because in the end, it's all about them.



From Tragedy to Triumph *Betty Dietz, DTM (SpeakEZ, #8771)*

In 1998 I briefly chatted with a friend who had just attended a Toastmasters (TM) meeting at the Huntington Beach

McDonald Douglas campus, now Boeing. She stirred my curiosity. The next week I visited SpeakEZ, Club 8771. I was scared stiff about speaking a word in the club. I usually sat in the back of the room, wishing no one would notice me. A couple of months later I hesitantly joined this club.

Toastmasters has helped me overcome my feelings of not being good enough. The first two-three years I felt like my heart would beat uncontrollably whenever I gave a speech. Speaking before an audience was a grueling and painful experience. I wondered why I was torturing myself in participating each week. But I have hung in there for the past 12 years.

I developed a writing skill. My fourth speech from the Competent Communication manual entitled "From Tragedy to Triumph" was published in The Orange County Register, December 7, 2000. I spoke about my experience in

witnessing the bombing of Pearl Harbor as a four-year child. I am now on a journey of self discovery while writing a book.

I enjoy speaking at Rotary Clubs and churches in the area. I have learned leadership skills while being president of my club for a couple of years as well as filling in most of the officers' roles. I earned my DTM in 2007. I love mentoring new club members. Being the oldest senior in my club, I am empowered by young club members who keep me on my toes. I'm not ready for the glue factory. My goal in TM is to continue to change, grow and avoid stagnation.

What I learned from doing 10 speeches

By Natalie King-Bhagat, CC

Fellow Toastmasters: have any of you been in group therapy? Well, for those of you who haven't been in group therapy I would like to say that you may not have realized it but you are going through a similar technique to group therapy here at Toastmasters.

In group therapy Members are encouraged to give **feedback** to others. Feedback includes **expressing** your own feelings about what someone says or does. **Interaction** between group members are highly encouraged and provides each person with an opportunity to try out new ways of behaving; it also provides members with an opportunity for **learning** more about the way they interact with others. It is a **safe environment** in which members work to establish a level of trust that allows them to talk personally and honestly. Group members make a **commitment** to the group.

When people come into a group and interact freely with other group members, they usually recreate those difficulties that brought them to group therapy in the first place. Under the direction of the group therapist, the group is able to give support, offer alternatives, and comfort members in such a way that these difficulties become resolved and alternative behaviors are learned. The group also allows a person to develop new ways of relating to people.

During group therapy, people begin to see that they are not alone and that there is hope and help. It is comforting to hear that other people have a similar difficulty, or have already worked through a problem that deeply disturbs another group member.

See the parallel? Okay, so I came to Possibilities Unlimited with a desire to improve at communicating and overcome my social phobia/ antisocial isolation.

Mulling over my icebreaker sent me into a **psychoanalytical spiral**. Well, can you imagine what **ten speeches** has done for my neurosis and self analysis? I don't know how many times in the past year I've asked myself: Why am I doing this? I don't want to sell myself. I spent half of my life trying to be invisible, unnoticed. Why do you want to make yourself vulnerable standing in front of them giving a speech? What do I talk about? Thinking to my self the night before my speech, why are you doing this to

yourself – so many times I wanted to pull out of giving my speech. The whole weekend before, I would spend most of my time deciding when to email the Toastmaster that I wouldn't be doing my speech. I never did, and thankfully I've come out on the other side of ten speeches and a year and a half at Toastmasters pleasantly changed. Though there is still more work to be done. Advice I learned not to take about public speaking: Being yourself – Well not your shy, insecure, self-conscious self. If I was myself I'd never have gone to the lectern



Toastmasters Club Possibilities Unlimited, Mission Viejo

once, never mind ten times. – No public speaking is a skill you have to practice and learn – like acting it is a discipline. By joining Toastmasters we embarked on a **Journey to improve:** You have to train to overcome each hurdle.

At Possibilities Unlimited we have a group of unique supportive and real people. I've heard some interesting, funny and heart-wrenching stories which have helped me grow and learn. Watching people be Toastmasters of a meeting, give evaluations and table topics has helped me grow and learn as a speaker.

The power of TM - If you follow the course you develop and learn:

- 1. How to listen** - In the leadership manuals one of the first lessons is listening... this is the key to communication and life. Listening is important to communicating in work, play and relationships. At Toastmasters we are educated in the basic skills of life. No matter what stage you are in at Toastmasters, Toastmasters listen and support each other.
- 2. Team work** - Toastmasters teaches you how to get along with people, communicate, improve life and bond together.
- 3. Discipline** Getting that speech prepared and rehearsing. Any accomplishment involves discipline.
- 4. Self confidence**
- 5. Leadership skills**

- 6. Communication skills** that can be used in daily life.
- 7. Mentorship skills** - A phenomenal toastmaster, Dr. Pat Adelekan, DTM told me something rather profound. We are all mentors and role models whether we are aware of it or not. Someone is watching us and learning. Be it at TM, work, home, school, - our peers, our children, our spouse, our co-workers. Everyone is a leader whether you like it or not. Someone is watching you and learning from you, as a parent, spouse, friend, co-worker... take on the leadership role.

- 6. An education with practical application** which we can use in everyday situations.
- 7. The difference between Criticism and constructive Evaluation** - Constructive evaluations in the evaluation forms are two fold – empower the person writing them to help someone develop self confidence and build self confidence in the recipient. Evaluate others speeches as well as your own to develop critical thinking. It will also help you improve.

- 8. Being magnanimous and a role model:** Dr Pat also said, "You need to learn the basics. Go through the manuals, read them carefully; the speeches build on each other. Practice and repetition. It's like your multiplication tables - if you miss out on a set of tables you lose out on those basics. The world is open to so many learning opportunities. Find a mentor and then become one. Also give back and share (so many DTMs still do). Toastmaster's is about **team building** - Building a better quality of life, peace and harmony through communication. Toastmaster's teaches you how to get along with people, communicate, improve life and bond together."

TM is very sophisticated educational technique where one gets to decide ones own education... and exactly how far you want to take it – there is a lot more once you get through your first two manuals. Toastmaster values can be incorporated into everyday life.

I'd like to thank all the club members at PUTM for my improvement and for being role models and my support team without whom I would have never got to my CC.

To all those new to Toastmasters I encourage you all to commit to the Journey to improve. Let the learning begin – Come up to the lectern – You'll be glad you did.

Communication of Ideas

By Douglas A. Bowers ACS, ALB Founder's District Treasurer

I am an unapologetic advocate for the power of ideas.

They have been the currency of our development as a civilization. They have served to create life in us.

Consider these four ideas, which have proven to be the most powerful ideas in the last 1000 years of man's civilization.

In 1200 A.D. it became accepted that people had rights and status apart from those of the King. The ideas in the Magna Charta where to find their way into our Declaration of Independence.

Recall the idea that words could be cheaply printed and distributed to anyone who could read or be read to. Guttenberg's idea of movable type gave life to the Renaissance.

Consider the idea of the transistor that has made all modern electronics possible and allowed businesses to flourish. Consider how much less would be the color of our lives without that idea.

Think of how radically life has changed in just the last twenty years with the idea of being able to electronically send a paper to a college around the world for them to review and comment on, Berners-Lee and the internet.

But ideas don't have to be large to be important. Consider the thought expressed as "Son I love you, please come home safe."

Ideas unexpressed pass into history. Our cemeteries are full of ideas that never got heard, ideas that passed from their vintage, alone and forgotten.

It is the expression of and sharing of ideas that gives them life. Without that coherent expression, ideas never blossom; they never become a part of us and we a part of them.

That coherent expression is formed and practiced in our clubs. Speech after speech, meeting after meeting, we learn, we grow, we enrich each other.

What better way is there to experience and live the powerful expression of ideas than among friends at our local Toastmasters Club.

Few efforts are as important!

From our club experience, both as listeners and speakers, we train each other to be spreaders of our own ideas in the work place and in the community. This sharing makes it possible for others to learn from us and for our ideas to spread.

It is then when the real magic happens. Our expressions ignite in others, a willingness to absorb and expand on our thoughts by adding their own to ours. This commingling of ideas, expands their depth and breadth beyond any single thought. As a result, we are all better off.

Few efforts go so far as to create a greater good!

Founder's District Spring Conference

Celebrate the Spirit of Success at Founder's District Spring Conference on 4-5 May, 2012!

Join us as we recognize your achievements and learn effective ways to build stronger clubs at a special reception on Friday evening.

How to Register

To register for an unforgettable experience, visit the [Founder's District](#) website, which will be updated as more information becomes available.

About the Event

On Saturday, Lance Miller, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, will be our keynote speaker and workshop leader. In his keynote presentation, "Losing My Way to the World Championship," Lance will address how he got the most out of being in Toastmasters. He will walk us through many of the lessons learned by pushing himself and making mistakes in Toastmasters and how this led to his success in both winning the World Championship of Public Speaking as well as success outside of Toastmasters. Afterwards, Lance will address practical steps to finding speaking messages within you that are connected to you and what you believe in. You will learn practical steps that anyone can use to discover inspirational and motivational messages hidden within all of us. The highlight of the conference will include the International Speech and Table Topics competitions with the top competitors in the District. Complete the celebration and Spirit of Success at our District Business meeting and festive luncheon. See you all there!

Founder's District Division and Area Governors July 2011- June 2012

<i>Division A</i>	<i>Siri Payakapan</i>	<i>Division B</i>	<i>Ligia I. Molina</i>	<i>Division C</i>	<i>Wendy Lam-Tran</i>	<i>Division D</i>	<i>Silvia Swigert</i>
Area A-1	Dan Cossack	Area B-1	Chris Christman	Area C-1	Zaida Richard	Area D-1	Eleni Christianson
Area A-2	Jason Brady	Area B-2	Grace So	Area C-2	David Lehman	Area D-2	Norma Brown
Area A-3	Jens Hudson	Area B-3	Ramona Oakes	Area C-3	Ken Maxfield	Area D-3	Ed Smith
Area A-4	Karen Rodriguez	Area B-4	Windy Fetterly	Area C-4	KimChi Nghe	Area D-4	Deven Shah
Area A-5	Vincent Vo	Area B-5	Lorrie Briscoe	Area C-5	Kim LaMarche	Area D-5	Connie Haddix
Area A-6	Linda Shields	Area B-6	Linda Ulrich				
<i>Division E</i>	<i>Krish Krishnamurthy</i>	<i>Division F</i>	<i>Neshat Motallebi</i>	<i>Division G</i>	<i>Sushma Rajput</i>	<i>Division H</i>	<i>Trey Stroud</i>
Area E-1	Patricia Adelekan	Area F-1	Phil Hall	Area G-1	Kevin Graham	Area H-1	Julie Chan
Area E-2	Jennifer Elam	Area F-2	Chris Porter	Area G-2	Robert Acosta	Area H-2	Chandra Molleti
Area E-3	Ursula Bell	Area F-3	Mary Conway	Area G-3	David Vu	Area H-3	Glenn Yasukochi
Area E-4	Marie Trinh	Area F-4	Min Tang	Area G-4	Nigel Blackwell	Area H-4	Justin Woodward
Area E-5	Barbara Covell			Area G-5	Robert Acosta		