

**TOASTMASTERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

# The Founder

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

JUNE 2015



Founder's District  
**Trio-Messages**

**To SPLIT  
or not  
To Split**

Midson-Short  
**WINS AGAIN!**

L.A.C.E  
NEWS!

Founder's District  
*Photo Contest*  
**WINNERS**

Meet the  
Division Directors

**...and  
MORE!**

**Founder's District:  
The Birthplace of Toastmasters**



District Governor presents "Homer" award to Marie Hulett at Spring Conference

## Marie Hulett, DTM Editor in Chief of *The Founder*

Dear Readers,

I can't believe another year has past and this is the final issue for 2014/2015 - and what a terrific year it has been!

We began "Volume 52" showcasing our members who traveled to Kuala Lumpur to participate in the International Conference. Founder's District was recognized for our tremendous accomplishments and we all had much to be proud of. Our very own Daniel Midson-Short represented Founder's District in the World Championship of Public Speaking and he finished strong. (And as you can tell by our cover - he will be representing us again this summer!) So we've come full-circle!

On a personal note, I made a concerted effort to finish my DTM - and I did! I participated in the much loved tradition of the Founder's District "Hug Line" after receiving my medal, and that is a memory I will cherish.

Since I powered through my remaining goals, I also received the Distinguished Member and Triple Crown Awards, which **everyone** should try to do. Honestly, if you put your mind to it, you can do it! It all comes down to making time to complete your projects. Carve out an hour or two each week that you devote to your *Toastmaster Goals*, above and beyond just fulfilling meeting

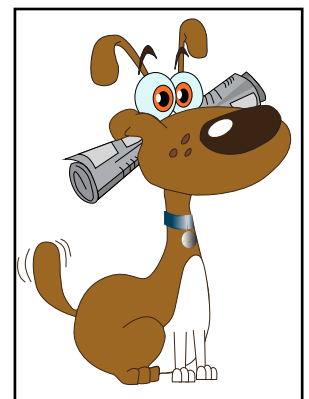
duties. That's not much time in the grand scheme of things; but it's more than sufficient to work on your speaking and leadership projects. Schedule these hours on your calendar, and don't make excuses for giving that time up for anything else. Before you know it, you'll be completing goals that you previously thought were unattainable.

One of my leadership projects was taking on *The Founder* newsletter. I've had so much fun doing this, especially working with Executive Editor, Michelle Bender, that I am getting set to start my third year as Editor in Chief. It is hard to imagine that I would be recognized for having fun; but to my surprise and amazement, District Governor Linda Ulrich presented me with *The Homer Award* at the Spring Conference.

I am humbled, honored, and grateful that my work is appreciated in this way. I've also enjoyed the feedback I have received from readers and I hope it continues. This is YOUR publication, so please let me know what you want to read about, and feel free to [submit](#) stories as well. I know there is brilliant news that is occurring at every **Club**, in every **Area**, and every **Division**; so write it down and send it in.

One of the fun activities that I've introduced to this publication is "Find Founder." We get tremendous response to this interactive program with every new issue. Last month, **Founder** was hiding a little too well, and as a result, no one located him in both his hiding places. (He was on p 16 in Richard Daugherty's print shirt and on p 21 next to the tiger on the girl's shirt who was second from the left.) Many readers found our little dog in one place, but not both.

In this issue, he is hiding again, but it will be a little easier to find him. So the first two people who correctly determine where he is will each win a free ticket to LACE. Email me at [mhulett@coastline.edu](mailto:mhulett@coastline.edu) to let me know BOTH of his hiding spots! (He looks like the picture on the right.) Happy searching and enjoy the stories along the way!





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Congratulations to Daniel Cossack, incoming Club Growth Director, Pan Kao, incoming District Director, and Siri Payakapan, incoming Program Quality Director.



## Toastmasters International

### Mission

*We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.*

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

### Founder's District

### Mission

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

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

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Photo Courtesy of Richard Daugherty

## **Linda Ulrich, DTM** ***District Governor***

It makes my heart sad to know that this is the last note I will share with you as your 2014-2015 Founder's District Governor. It has been my honor and great pleasure to serve each member and club in the district these past three years. But I have a special honor as well – I will be the very last "District Governor" in Founder's District! Going forward, that position will be called "District Director."

My Toastmasters journey started in 1999 when I joined Le Gourmet, a dining club that meets once a month at different restaurants throughout Orange County. I was a slow starter compared to many, but once I understood the vast knowledge and experience that the Toastmasters communication and leadership programs offered, I couldn't seem to stop. Serving the members of Founder's District as District Governor seemed to be the logical progression in my personal growth.

Now, looking back at the journey, I have had the opportunity to make some life-long friends, meet Toastmasters from around the world, attend club meetings throughout the District, and find my passion. I could not have ever imagined an

organization that welcomed me with open arms, mentored and encouraged me every step along the way, and inspired me to be more than I ever dreamed possible. I thank you for giving me such a special gift and phenomenal opportunity.

This year, I have seen our members, clubs, Areas, and Divisions soar! When I chose this year's theme, "Elevate Your Potential," I only hoped that it would take hold. What we have been able to accomplish this year is as close to perfection as we could possibly get. Our goal was Number 1 District in the World and although we haven't achieved that status yet, it is still within our reach. I encourage each of you to continue to "Elevate Your Potential" in everything you do.

As we leave 2014-2015 and move to the new Toastmasters year, the organization and the District move forward with a new perspective and a new education program. Our new leadership team has already started making plans for our continued growth – as individuals and as a district. We have the honor this year of hosting the Toastmasters International President-Elect at our Fall Conference on November 7, so start planning to be there to meet him. But until then, I encourage you to continue your Toastmasters journey to see where it takes you. I wouldn't be surprised if YOU find the same path I did - supported, mentored, and encouraged to step up into leadership.

Thank you for every single minute of the past year - trusting me, inspiring me and encouraging me! It has been an exciting, thrilling, and humbling year and I'm grateful I had the opportunity to share it with you.

*Linda Ulrich, DTM*

2014-2015 Founder's District Governor

***"Elevate Your Potential"***



Photo Courtesy of Richard Daugherty

**Pan Kao, DTM**  
**Lieutenant Governor,**  
**Education & Training**

**Finish Strong**

Now that the District Spring Conference is behind us, it's time to look at the statistics, so we can formulate a winning strategy for the next two months or so. First, let me take this opportunity to recognize this year's Conference Co-Chairs: Ursula Bell and Brian Hsu, as well as the LACE Co-Chairs: Deborah Reisdorph and John Barry. They have gone above and beyond to accomplish their assignments in an exemplary manner.

At the beginning of this Toastmasters' year, the LGET (Lt. Governor Education & Training) team set out accomplish two SMART goals: to increase the attendance of District Conferences to 200 people or more, and to increase the percentage of officers training at two LACE (Leadership and Communication Experience) by 10 percent.

The Acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measurable,

Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. It's a tool that is commonly used by organizations to set and accomplish their strategic goals.

As you can see from table below, for the 2015 Spring Conference, there were 219 total attendees of which 25 attended the contest only, and 36 came for the business meeting only. For the 2014 Fall Conference, there were 201 total attendees of which 21 attended the contest only, and 32 were there for the business meeting only. The Conference team has accomplished their SMART goals. There is work to be done for the LACE team. But the results of the January 2015 LACE was encouraging. The number of officers trained at the January 2015 LACE increased about 10 percent.

	2014 Fall Conference	2015 Spring Conference
Conference Attendance	148	158
Business Meeting Only	32	36
Contest Only	21	25
Total	201	219

Currently, the planning of the June 2015 LACE sessions is underway. We are confident that the numbers will improve again.

Although we are on target to reach our SMART goals, the membership is the main issue for the District's DCP performance. At



the beginning of this Toastmasters year, there were 4,027 members in Founder's District. As of May 11, 1,414 members have yet to renew their membership. It explains why there are only 47 distinguished clubs or better now. There are 145 clubs that have earned enough DCP goals but they still need members to become distinguished clubs or better.

Let me take this opportunity to promote the "Beat the Clock" membership building program. Any club that recruits 5 or more members during the months of May and June will be recognized by Toastmasters International for the "Beat the Clock" award. Clubs will receive discounts to merchandise that are being sold in the Toastmasters International store. Feel free to contact me at [lget@foundersdistrict.org](mailto:lget@foundersdistrict.org) if you have questions. There is still time for your clubs to become distinguished or better. Together we'll finish strong as a team.



Photo Courtesy of Richard Daugherty

## **Siri Payakapan, DTM** **Lieutenant Governor Marketing** **Marketing Update**

This is the Founder's District status report as of June 10, 2015.

### **Active Clubs:**

230

### **Paid Clubs:**

215 (93% of 231 active clubs, distinguished requirement), ranking 4th of 7 in Region 10

### **Membership Payments:**

9,306 (95% of 9,819 payments, distinguished requirement), ranking 4th of 7 in Region 10

### **Renewals Not Here:**

1. C1 5803 TM Taboos
2. C1 838938 Los Escogidos Toastmasters Club
3. D5 649133 Town & Country Toasters Toastmasters Club



John Barry gives the thumbs up as Marshall Northcott looks on in approval at the recent District conference.

4. E2 4521317 DPSS Training Academy
5. G1 3170851 Applied ToastORs
6. H4 1456235 Edison Sweet Talkers

**Ineligible - Minimum Requirement Not yet Met:**

1. A5 1588568 Zippy Toastmasters
2. C4 2423947 Founder's Officers Club
3. E1 743962 Smart Toast Toastmasters Club

**Low - Minimum Requirement Not yet Met:**

1. B3 729 Jets Club
2. B6 1962 Vons Club
3. E3 9450 Mitsubishi Motor Mouths
4. E5 3209924 Toastmasters of Trident University International
5. F4 805 Performance Unlimited Club
6. G2 1707 Dana Harbor Toastmasters

**Rebranding Club:**

C4 2423947 from Founder's Officers to Start and Rescue

**New Clubs:**

1. A2 4040162 Alliant Orators, Newport Beach 7/16/2014
2. A2 4169030 Alliant Achievers, Newport Beach 9/19/2014
3. A4 4361086 3030 Communicators, Costa Mesa 2/4/2015
4. A4 507829 Divine Light Toastmasters, Santa Ana, 3/26/2015
5. C5 4338428 HAEA Toastmasters Club, Fountain Valley 2/19/2015
6. D6 4317506 CU Toastmasters, Orange 4-14-2015

7. E2 4521317 DPSS Training Academy, Norwalk 2/25/2015

8. E5 4507762 Spirited Toastmasters, Cerritos 5/7/2015

9. G1 4181664 US Bank Michelson Toastmasters Club, Newport Beach 9/30/2014

10. G2 4421234 ThalesMasters, Irvine 2/9/2015

11. G2 4181664 Toastmasters of Laguna Beach, Laguna Beach 2/13/2015

12. G3 4086224 Schneider Electric - Lake Forest Toastmasters, Lake Forest 9/1/2014

13. G4 4070049 OC Toastmasters: Encore, Irvine 9/29/2014

14. G4 4016879 Lightly Toasted, Irvine, 4/1/2015

15. G5 4562492 Candid Speaker Superstars, Irvine 3/30/2015

16. G5 4646952 9400 Toastmasters Club, Irvine 4/14/2015

17. H3 3876385 Revana Digital Toastmasters, San Dimas 9/15/2014

18. B6 4687920 ALN San Gabriel Valley Toastmasters, Alhambra 5/21/2015

19. B7 4665576 Community Bank Toastmasters, Pasadena 6/1/2015

**About to Charter:**

18. A 4711736 Kingston Technology, Fountain Valley

19. B7 4665576 Community Bank Toastmasters, Pasadena

20. B6 4687920 ALN San Gabriel Valley Toastmasters, Alhambra

21. G1 4492237 Stantech, Irvine

22. B 4690378 Cathy Bank, El Monte

23. E 4744910 Whittier

24. G2 WOW Toastmasters

## **Suspended Clubs:**

1. B3 1003430 Huntington Hospital Chartered 2/22/2007; Suspended 3/31/2015
2. B3 3578028 LEAD-Leaders Embracing Active Development Chartered 11/6/2013; Suspended 3/31/2015
3. D2 2757 Brea Club Chartered 2/1/1974; Suspended 3/31/2015
4. D2 2906589 St. Jude Toastmasters Chartered 2/7/2013; Suspended 3/31/2015
5. D5 1600370 JLP Orators Chartered 5/16/2011; Suspended 3/31/2015
6. D6 3773 Westwood Speakers Chartered 1/1/1995 Suspended 5/11/2015
7. E3 3401166 Panda GLA Chartered 9/6/2013; Suspended 3/31/2015
8. E6 2741 SASSFA Chartered 4/1/1975; Suspended 3/31/2015
9. E5 CAIR-LA Toastmasters Chartered 2/26/2014; Suspended 3/31/2015
10. E5 1040947 Career Builders Chartered 6/21/2007; Suspended 3/31/2015
11. F2 36 The Orators Chartered 7/1/1978; Suspended 3/31/2015
12. H1 62 Community Speak E-Z Toastmasters Club Chartered 1/26/2011; Suspended 3/31/2015
13. H4 01562217 LA Works Masters Chartered 2/26/2011 Suspended 01/1/2014

## **Assigned Club Sponsors**

1. H3 Revana Digital Toastmasters: Russ Mensik and Constance-Noelle Hatley, ACS, ALB
2. A2 Alliant Orators: Lori A. Shapiro, ACS, ALB and Nancy Chavez
3. G.4 OC Toastmasters: Encore:Cayleen Portillo and Linda Goy

4. G3 Schneider Electric - Lake Forest Toastmasters: Dave A. Cornelius, DTM and Joe Larosa, CTM
5. A2 Alliant Achievers: Cynthia Boccara, CC, CL and Charlotte Jayne Drake, ACG, CL
6. G1 US Bank Michelson Toastmasters: Jocelyn Litiatco and Marshall W. Northcott, ACG, CL
7. A4 4361086 3030 Communicators: Arnie Lynn Catamisan Bengo and Jeanne Cassidy, DTM
8. G2 4421234 ThalesMasters 2/9/2015 Linda D. Robinson, ACB, ALB and Stephanie Jane Buchanan, CC
9. G2 4181664 Toastmasters of Laguna Beach 2/13/15 Gwen Earle, DTM and Linda D. Robinson, ACB, ALB
10. C5 4338428 HAEA Toastmasters Club 2/19/15 Della Mahone, DTM and Maria Falcone
11. E2 DPSS Training Academy 3/3//15 Amy Jaffke, ACS, ALB and Chris Collins
12. A3 4507829 Divine Light Toastmasters 3/26/15 Marya S. Banniza, DTM
13. G5 4562492 Candid Speaker Superstars Rigoberto Guzman and Susan V. De La Portilla, CC, CL
14. G5 4646952 9400 Toastmasters Club Camille Janine Rivera, DTM
15. E5 4507762 Spirited Toastmasters James Ardis Burnell, ACG, ALB and Jeffery A. Trovinger
16. B7 4665576 Community Bank Toastmasters: Jenny Ketchepaw and Jenny A. Dang, ACG, ALS
17. B6 4687920 ALN San Gabriel Valley Toastmasters: Leng Quoch and Karthik Srinivasan, ACS, ALB



## Assigned Club Mentors

1. H3 Revana Digital Toastmasters: Douglas A. Bowers, ACG, ALB and Tri Phung, CC, CL
2. A2 Alliant Orators: Charlotte Jayne Drake, ACG, CL and Cynthia Boccara, CC, CL
3. G4 OC Toastmasters: Encore: Tom D. Sheltraw, CC
4. G3 Schneider Electric - Lake Forest Toastmasters: Jerry D. Bryant, CC and Marilou A. Aguinaldo
5. A2 Alliant Achievers: Dan L. Streit, ACB, CL and Craig W. Batley, ACB, CL
6. G1 US Bank Michelson Toastmasters: Kian Bolori, ACB, ALB and Robert D. Swineford, ACB
7. C5 4338428 HAEA Toastmasters Club 2/19/15 Brandon Alonso Ramirez, ACG, ALB and Randy Kleinman, ACS, CL
8. E2 DPSS Training Academy Edward Sumcad, CC, CL and David Palafox, CC, CL.
9. A3 4507829 Divine Light Toastmasters 3/26/15 Marya S. Banniza, DTM and Karen M Spohn, ACB, ALB
10. G5 4562492 Candid Speaker Superstars 3/30/15 Nigel Blackwell, DTM and Rigoberto Guzman
11. E5 4507762 Spirited Toastmasters Eric B. Miller, CC, ALB
12. B7 4665576 Community Bank Toastmasters: Jenny A. Dang, ACG, ALS and Hector Mascorro, ACG, ALB
13. B6 4687920 ALN San Gabriel Valley Toastmasters: Mark C. Chun, CC, ALB and Jill Briscoe, DTM

## Assigned Club Coaches

1. Club 3773 Westwood Speakers: Vicky L. Schroeder, CC, ALB and Jessica Moreno 8/1/14
2. Club 1182876 Speak and Lead: Sawarnjit Singh, ACG, CL and Robert D. Lee 12/8/14
3. Club 1049068 HDR Pasadena: Daniel Bruce Parks, ACS, ALB and Meline Ovsan Talarian, ACG, ALB 01/16/15
4. Club 2387 Covina Breakfast Club: Karen Baumgartner, ACG, ALB 2/3/15
5. Club 835704 Speaking of Glory Club: Aaron Nakamura, ACB, ALB 2/6/2015
6. Club 1207003 RivOrators Julie Anne Johnson, ACS, ALB 2/13/2015
7. Club 2423947 Founder's Officers Club: Stephanie L. Hotchkin, CC and Della Mahone, ACG, ALB 2/19/15
8. Club 8462 Monterey Park: Hector Mascorro, ALG, ALB 3/28/15
9. Club 317 Le Gourmet: Lou Ann Frederick, DTM, PDG and Fumiko Tajima, ACB, ALB 4/1/2015
10. H2 2436 First International Expressions: Mark Lucas and David Shupe, CC

[CLICK HERE](#) to see all Founder's District Marketing incentive awards awaiting you!

Note: \*All gift certificates awarded are redeemable only at World Headquarters. Many items are available for purchase for clubs, including manuals and recognition awards. [CLICK HERE](#) to see all products.

For additional information, please contact Siri Payakapan, DTM at [LGM@FoundersDistrict.org](mailto:LGM@FoundersDistrict.org)



## Founder's District Spring Public Relations Awards

*by Robert Kelleman, PRO, DTM*

During the Founder's District 2015 Spring Conference it was my pleasure to announce the winners of the District's Public Relations Awards. The Public Relations Awards serve two purposes. First, we want to recognize outstanding achievement in the public relations field amongst our clubs. With over 200 clubs in the District, being chosen as "the best" in a particular category is quite an accomplishment. Second, and just as important, we want to share best practices. Our leading clubs can help the entire district by sharing their successes and we can all learn from each other.

For the 2015 Spring Conference the Public Relations Award were increased during the past year from three categories to five:

- Best Club Web Site: the site's helpfulness to members and guests
- Best Video: short clips that highlight Toastmasters
- Best Social Media: use of Facebook, Meetup, YouTube, etc. to promote the club
- Best Special Event: open house, contest or other event that promoted the club
- Best Overall Public Relations: who had the best overall PR?



The Public Relations Awards Committee had their work cut out for them by reviewing

and evaluating entries from across the District. All entries needed to be submitted by clubs in good standing and needed to comply with the Toastmasters International branding guidelines. Our judges choose award winners based on the following criteria: content & substance, presentation & style, creativity & uniqueness, and results & achievement.

Award winners were announced at the Founder's District 2015 Spring Conference with each winning entry receiving \$100 and a commemorative certificate. And the winners were:

- Best Club Web Site: Cypress Communicators - Club 6245
- Best Video: US Bank Michelson Toastmasters - Club 4313536
- Best Social Media: Dynamic Forcemasters - Club 587
- Best Special Event: Brewmeisters - Club 2124227
- Best Overall Public Relations: Speaking of Glory - Club 835704

Thanks to everyone who competed and congratulations to our winners! Presiding over the Public Relations Awards was one of the highlights of my term as Founder's District Public Relations Officer.

# Gene Beckwith Award Presented to Linda & Richard Daugherty

The Gene Beckwith award for 2014-2015 was presented by District Governor Linda Ulrich to Linda and Richard Daugherty at the Founder's District Spring Conference.

They have served as the official district photographers for the past three years, but served in that role for several years before that. They have literally taken thousands of pictures of our members at LACE, Area/Division contests, district meetings, special occasions, and conferences. If it had to do with the district and our members, you can guarantee that Linda and Richard would be there - with cameras and smiles.

The Gene Beckwith award is presented at each of the conferences to a member or

members who best represent the district in service to the members and the leadership team. The selection is solely up to the District Governor, but that responsibility is not taken lightly. The candidate(s) must provide a service to the district that uplifts

the members and best represents the spirit of Toastmasters.

To Richard and Linda Daugherty, for your ability to bring a smile to a face and capture it for a lifetime, for your willingness to give of your time and your talents so that we all take away and cherish the memories we make, and for your service as the District Photographers, Founder's District recognizes your achievements with this well-deserved award.





## Why do I like Toastmasters?

*By Gloria Miller, CC*

Why do I like Toastmasters? I like Toastmasters because it is a place to learn communication and

leadership skills and grow intellectual and meet some of the best people. Using an egg omelet as a metaphor, you have two eggs, the egg whites, and the yolks, and you can add other ingredients. You can separate the two, and they still can function without each other, and you can add numerous other ingredients. For instance, cheese, ham, chicken, different types of vegetables, etc. cook and fold it over. When this occurs, you have a loaded or supreme egg omelet with lots of tantalizing ingredients you put together. Now, the egg omelet is more appealing to the sight and delectable to the taste—a better product!

An egg omelet can be compared to Toastmasters. In Toastmasters we learn communication and leadership skills. However, each category can stand alone. When you combine both categories (communication and leadership), it enhances your skills along with other knowledgeable tools offered in Toastmasters. A Toastmaster becomes well indulged with an abundance of information that will help him or her throughout life. Whether or not, a Toastmaster is on the job or another place of business, he or she will have obtained knowledge that is irreversible. One advantage of joining Toastmasters is that a person does not have to feel obligated to learn a certain amount of materials in a certain amount of time. A Toastmaster can take his or her time with learning materials to grasp it slowly, grasp it

standardly or grasp it suddenly. A Toastmaster can use discretion in developing skills for growth with assistance from mentors or help from club members. No matter what learning style a member pursues in Toastmasters, each member will have more knowledge prior to entering Toastmasters.

When a person becomes a member of a Toastmaster's club, each person may participate in as many activities to interact with members, to set goals for the club and to meet the requirements that are set by the District. The educational materials are phenomenal, the contests are stimulating. The home club sets the precedents for its members to have the opportunities to get involved in the other activities offered through Toastmasters. All activities help prepare Toastmasters to become effective communicators and effective leaders. As Toastmasters progress through the educational program, they will notice improvement in their presentations, project management, planning, and personal communication skills. These are some of the related skills and benefits a Toastmaster will acquire.

When a Toastmaster incorporates all the tools learned within Toastmasters, each person enhances his or her communication and leadership skills, such as effective communication enhances a leader's effectiveness to lead. Similar to the delicious egg omelet with numerous ingredients, Toastmasters offers different methods or tools in its educational programs to give members an opportunity to obtain as much knowledge as possible. When this occurs, the Toastmaster is adept in communication and leadership skills. Now, the Toastmaster is more appealing, marketable and knowledgeable—a better person!



## Is the Glass Half Full or Completely Empty?

By  
*Marshall Northcott,  
DTM*

In order to make a joke about negativity, several years ago I used to say, "You are so negative that if we put you in a dark room you would develop." As we distance ourselves from the age of negatives and film and move further into the age of digital photography, this joke is no longer relevant. Fewer and fewer of our youth will get the joke and as they say, if you have to explain it, it isn't funny.

Here's my question for you, are you a negative Nellie? Are you an eternal optimist or the perpetual pessimist? Do you automatically see the downside in a situation or look for the reasons why something won't work or is doomed to fail? Do you disguise your negativity by telling everyone, "I'm not negative, I'm just a realist." More important than all of that, is your vision of this organization in keeping with the times, are you stuck in the past or are you striving to keep yourself relevant?

We've had tremendous success in Division G this year and I would be the first to credit our success to a certain degree of good fortune and the rest of it I would credit to L.U.C.K. (laboring under correct knowledge). Maybe you've heard that when preparation and opportunity meet, exceptional results are predictable. Personally, I'm humbled to play a role in the growth of our Division and the District. I am even more humbled when I think about the number of lives that are being touched and that will be touched in the future because of the number of new people who are being exposed to the Toastmasters program, thanks to the new clubs that we have Chartered this year.

We are so appreciative of all the gracious congratulatory comments that we have received from so many people in Founder's District and beyond.

Imagine my amazement when I heard that the word in the District rumor mill was not so positive and supportive. A few select people are down-playing the success of Division G by saying, "Oh well, half of those new clubs that are being started won't survive." My response to that, "Half will!" To take it a step further, my response is shame on you for being so negative! I can guarantee that if this information is finding its way back to me, then it is also infiltrating and infesting others. Get control of whatever it is that is causing you to be so gloomy because this organization is no place for that kind of darkness. This is an organization of light, it is place for positive and supportive attitudes, every new club and every new member is a seed that represents growth and prosperity for the organization.

Toastmasters, like any global organization, is a place of constant change. We cannot thrive and survive in the future if we allow ourselves to stay stuck in the present, or worse yet, the past! Yes, we have a rich history; let's not allow that to dull our bright future! If you cannot express yourself positively, if you cannot find joy in the success of others, if you are unwilling to let go of the old in order to grab hold of the new, then maybe it's time to completely let go. You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed. This organization needs more powerfully positive people who are focused on the Toastmasters of tomorrow!

As long as your attitude, efforts and comments are 100% aligned with the District Mission, "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence," then your head and your heart are in the right place and you are a valued contributor to the cause.

Marshall Northcott, DTM, Division G Governor,  
Founder's District

"Members Matter Most!"

Get with the P.R.O.G.R.A.M.

Persistence • Recognition • Opportunities • Growth  
• Responsiveness • Achievement • Motivation

## Meet the Division Directors



*Vijay Chidambaram,  
ACB, CL,*

*Division A Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** Capital Group Communicators & Irvine Project Masters, Charter member and Club President.

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** I have been with Toastmaster for 5 years.

**Where do you work?** I'm currently working at The Capital Group, Information Technology Group, located in Irvine, leading Infrastructure Management team. We are quiet achievers, always looking for opportunities to improve.

**What are your hobbies?** Watching movies with family, reading books and outdoor activities including long distance running, One time run on the Indy 500 Track as part of the half marathon run before Race Day weekend. A little known secret: I'm "better in the long run."

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** I have grown more comfortable in speaking situations, whether it's in conversations with one person or as part of a group. My attitude has changed and I'm more knowledgeable and confident as a leader.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division A Director?** We are committed to put members first. We will aim to live for excellence in everything we do, to support clubs as they work the Distinguished Club Program and to help members achieve their personal goals. Our goal is to support, encourage and recognize achievement to help members succeed in Toastmasters.

**Favorite Quote, book, or movie?**

*Quote: "We may often Give without Love, however, we can never Love without Giving"*

*Book: The Power of Habit*

*Movie: Few Good Men*



*Michelle Bender, ACS,  
ALS*

*Division B Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** Parsons Club #2151, ACTS Club #416, San Gabriel Valley Wine & Dine Club #3215028.

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** 8 years.

**Where do you work?** I am a Sr. Administrative Assistant at Parsons Corporation in Pasadena. I just celebrated my 10th year anniversary in June 2015.

**What are your hobbies?** I enjoy reading, gardening, and playing with my two pet cats. I also like to watch sporting events and action adventure movies.

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** I joined to network with others in the company, and found that I improved my communication and leadership skills while having fun! I'm thankful for all my mentors and Toastmasters friends; they inspire and encourage me.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division B Director?** We want to have a strong leadership team dedicated to the members and supportive to the clubs while staying true to the Toastmasters' values of Integrity, Service, Respect, and Excellence.

**Favorite quote, book, or movie:** "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." --Mahatma Gandhi



**Pets?** I have two cats: Mr. Friskies, a male yellow tabby, and Sparky, a small female black and white cat.



*Anna Shcherbak, ACB, CL*

*Division D Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** Sensational Salesmen, Club 417

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** 7 years

**Where do you work ?** I am technical recruiter and help companies in Northern California to fill their open positions.

**What are your hobbies?** Most of my free time is spent with family, my children and friends. When I get a free moment, I enjoy scrapbooking, reading, movies and Toastmasters.

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** I developed leadership skills, polished my communication abilities and made long-lasting friendships.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division D Director?** Our goal is to strive to create a positive, supportive and safe learning environment for all the members to be able to take the initiative to step out of their comfort zone. We want to encourage our members to develop new skills and challenge them to achieve their personal best.

**Favorite quote, book, or movie:** "Whatever you are, be a good one." Abraham Lincoln

**Pets?** I have a mixed pug and a basset hound named Ace.



*Eric Miller, CC, ALB*  
*Division E Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** Dynamic Whittier Club 873, Le Gourmet 317

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** 10 years

**Where do you work?** Dynamic Whittier Club 873; Current responsibilities are: President, V.P. Education, Acting Sgt. Arms., and Club Co-Sponsor.

**What are your hobbies?** Gym; when I'm not at Toastmasters.

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** Immeasurably. Since college I had wanted to become a Toastmaster. It was something I knew that was to be accomplished.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division E Director?** President's Distinguished - with you and everyone's dedication, service and commitment.

**Favorite quote, book, or movie:** "The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a person perfected without trials." - Chinese proverb

**Pets?** Squirrels.



*David Moore, ACS, ALS*

*Division F Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** I belong to two clubs: BBraun Toastmasters and Second Stage Toastmasters.

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** I

joined Toastmasters as a charter member of the "BBraun Toastmasters Club" in November 2005.

**Where do you work?** I work at BBraun Medical Inc in Irvine where we manufacture life-saving Intravenous (IV) solutions. I work in the IT department, but my job is kind of difficult to explain. I spend a lot of time fighting fires, but I'm not a fireman.

**What are your hobbies?** Who has time for hobbies when you are in Toastmasters, especially as an Area Governor or Division Director? When I did have time for hobbies they were reading, birding, and balloon twisting (it's a long story).

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** It has boosted my confidence to the point that I have done things I never thought I would do, such as competing in speech contests and taking on leadership roles like Division Director. It has also helped me in my job. I wound up joining Toastmasters simply because my boss sent out an e-mail to all of his direct reports that said some of us should consider joining Toastmasters. I did, and now I am no longer afraid to speak up in meetings. Sometimes I think my boss probably regrets sending that memo.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division F Director?** I look forward to next year at this time when I will be able to look back on a fun and successful year. I hope to help build up the clubs in the Division

that are below full strength while introducing more people to the benefits of Toastmasters by finding opportunities to start new clubs.

**Favorite Quote, book, or movie?** One of my favorite quotes is from one of my favorite movies "Over the Hedge" when RJ, the raccoon is talking to Verne the turtle at the end of the movie.

**Verne:** *If you needed the food, we would have let you have it. That's what families do.*

**RJ:** *Wish you'd have told me that sooner.*

**Verne:** *Yeah, well that's bad communication.*

**Another thing families do.**

This reminds me of Toastmasters at times. We are like a big family that looks out for each other, but sometimes we do have bad communication.

**Pets?**

I don't have any pets at this time, but if I did have a pet I think it would be a tortoise because they are independent, they don't need much attention, and it would most likely outlive me.



*Marie-Noelle Palermo, ACB, ALB*  
*Division G Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** I chartered CCI's Articulate Actuators in RSM in April of 2013, Founding Member of South Orange County Toastmasters

in Laguna Beach, Founding Member of Laguna Beach Toastmasters and looking to charter a new advanced club WOW – Wine On Wednesdays!

**How long you have been with Toastmasters?** On and off since 2006 (began with RBF's Toast of the Coast) and took about a 2-year hiatus.



**Where do you work?** I work at IMI CCI in Rancho Santa Margarita as a Human Resources Administrator. I am the “411” of CCI and employees come to me for assistance and information on a variety of things. I am in charge of benefits and wellness activities, Orientation of New Hires, Blood Drives, Service Awards, Rewards & Recognition Programs, Special Events, Payroll & Employee Data & Reporting and a variety of other things.

**What are your hobbies?** I love the outdoors and water. I love anything that brings me close to or out on the water – walking on the beach, kayaking, swimming, sunning. I also love to read, perform, watch movies, travel and most of all to spend time with my amazing family.

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?** Toastmasters has given me many opportunities to grow in my leadership and speaking skills. I have always found it relatively easy to ‘perform’ (as in sing and act), and to teach and train in front of others, but writing and giving speeches was a terrible fear. I didn’t know I could write a speech, which scared me more than delivering one. I now know that I am able to write as well as deliver. More importantly, Toastmasters has enhanced my life by giving me the ability to mentor and encourage others. That is my greatest gift and desire in life. I have also met a wide variety of wonderful people who wish to push themselves further in their own personal and professional development.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division G Director?** I hope to focus on mentoring and putting Passion into Action. I want to develop mentoring for members first, officers, clubs and Division & Area Leadership so we can put our Passion into Action together and retain and revitalize current clubs and members, while encouraging

the development and growth of new clubs. First and foremost we need to find out what our clubs and members need to keep them thriving, healthy and happy so we can meet their needs. I believe the key is in surrounding myself with amazing and gifted leaders – teamwork is the key. Working together to create synergy and excitement so we can all move forward together as a team and lift each other up when we fall.

**Favorite quote, book, or movie:** “

*Life*  
IS NOT MEASURED BY THE  
*Breaths* YOU TAKE  
BUT, BY THE  
*Moments*  
THAT TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY

**Pets?** Newly fostering a beautiful rescue dog – German shepherd named Lilly through Coastal German Shepherd Rescue.



*Timofey “Tima”  
Ovcharenko  
Division H Director*

**Which clubs do you belong to?** JPL/Caltech #3292.

**Where do you work?** I have worked at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena since 2004. My responsibilities are to make coffee, administer High Performance Computers (HPC), manage new HPC projects, and help land spacecraft on Mars. (Continued on next page.)

**What are your hobbies?** My passion in life is to work with young people. That passion and my Russian background has led me to assist with the adoption of Russian children in American families. Most of all I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, having fun, and building memories.

**How has Toastmasters enhanced your life?**

Computer Engineers are not known for being good speakers. Toastmasters has allowed me to express myself better than most of my peers. NASA has requested that I present highlights from JPL's Curiosity Mission to Mars for the last 3 years at the International Supercomputing Conference.

**What do you look forward to or hope to achieve this year as the Division H Director?** My goal is to focus on the needs of the members and to create an environment where they can become excellent leaders and communicators. To encourage an environment of cross club, cross area, cross division engagement. To bridge the gap and make the next great leaders.

**Favorite quote, book, or movie:**

Favorite Book: The Bible

Favorite Quote: "The brave may not live forever, but the cautious do not live at all." - Author Unknown

Favorite Movie: The Tiger and the Snow

**Pets?** Yes, I have fish.



**Topics of Spring: My Experience during the Spring Contest**  
*by Justin Weiler, ACB*

Why would anyone, in sound body and mind, want to go in front of several dozen strangers and try to discuss a topic they may have known nothing about less than five

seconds earlier?

Add to this that that same person then needs to enthusiastically try to cover this random topic for at least 60 seconds, which if you get a topic such as "What type of flower makes you think of a childhood memory, while imagining where you would like to retire with your favorite super hero, where you can also discuss a current political topic and could potentially make you not like your favorite super hero anymore?" might be a little difficult to cover in the short time period.

OK, that last topic is a bit of a stretch.

The reality is for public speakers such as myself, table topics is a thrilling rush. I would equate Table Topics as the dessert of the Toastmasters meeting; hearing the speech projects is a great entrée, but the Table Topics are a sweet burst of verbal improvisation. When you arrive at the podium and pick a random topic, you may not have any idea what it will be, but like going down the first drop of a towering rollercoaster, you are all in at that point.

When I consider and share my recent Table Topics Spring 2015 contest experience, I come back to my home club, Heart Talk. A relatively new club, just over four years old, we like to challenge ourselves when it comes to these topics. At our club contest, we take those topics up a notch. There are generally no softball, "If you were a candy bar, what would you be and why?" table topics; we try to take challenging subjects, with a dose of humor here and there.

On March 18th, in a packed room at the Edwards Lifesciences facility we meet at, I felt the thrill. I drew second and had to wait outside counting the minutes wondering what subjects I would be challenged by. Walking up the podium, I was thinking to myself please do not ask, "If you only had a fork and a shovel, how would you solve the problem of world hunger before 2017?" Time freezes for a couple seconds. Club Table Topics Round One begins. The question I was

asked was, "A tsunami is coming your way and you can only make it to the life boat with only one other comedian, which comedian would you choose and why?"

An oncoming tsunami, a matter of life and death, and oh, by the way, you need to save a comedian. Really, it could not be about saving a Nobel Prize winner or a professional survivalist?

Actually, I really liked the question. It forced me to defy logic and try to make sense out of the nonsensical.

As I ran through the list of comedians, picturing spending time on a life boat with the late greats of George Carlin or Rodney Dangerfield, I ultimately settled on Kevin Smith because I like talking about his movies and I used to be an avid comic book reader during my childhood. I figure if, in discussing that topic for two minutes, I might as well spend it with a funny person with some great humor, it might as well be someone I can have deep conversations with, such as who was cooler: Superman or Batman. I would have also tried to save Kristen Wiig once I got Kevin Smith on my survival boat, because she is also one of the funniest comedians I have ever seen.

After waiting about 20 minutes for results, I wonder if my Table Topic contest season is coming to an end early. I was wrong; I placed first for our

club and was sent to the area contest on March 21st.

Here I go again. I enter the hall we are holding our area contest on Saturday, March 21, in Costa Mesa. The room has about three times more attendees than my recent club contest; no pressure. The nice part about Table Topics at this contest is Table Topics goes first and when waiting the next 60-90 minutes for the results, attendees get to listen to some truly first class speeches.



As I sheepishly approached the stage for my topic, the time freezes again. The topic is "Be creative. If you can build a garden, describe what it would look like and what would be the

center piece and why. Be creative."

Eureka, a topic I can really run with I thought to myself. On that hot Saturday, images of Disney California Adventure's World of Color show and the fountains of Bellagio race through my head.

The garden I describe is my Eden and as I am describing the beauty of water in several ways while trying to entertain my audience for a couple minutes, nearly the whole time I was getting thirstier and wanting for a cup of cool water.

I learned a valuable lesson – if you are thirsty and describing a garden with water features, your Table Topic speech potential can increase.

Afterwards as I was enjoying my cool cup of water, I was listening to amazing speeches. For me, one of the best was a club contestant that shared his life changing story about “The eyes have it.”

The humility and compassion of that speech was as refreshing as the water I was enjoying. Later that afternoon, the votes were turned in and I was humbly offered first place in the area contest. The next stop was the Division contest.

At the Division contest, I was the runner up and placed second that Tuesday night on April 7th. The journey ended, on a topic about what would you say to your younger self. For me, it was simple: To dare to risk a couple moments of life to take on topics that could challenge the brain, but provide the rewards of accomplishment thereafter.

When I reflect on my experience, while it would have been nice to go up to the District, I had already won the awards I need and those awards were not the ones placed on my desk. I was awarded for conquering a little fear, to take on unknown topics, and have the opportunity to listen to so many amazing Orange County speakers.

At the beginning of my article I was asked why would anyone want to participate in Table Topics, especially at the club contest. For me it is simple.

The answer is because I absolutely enjoy them!



## Judges Bureau Assists National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

*By Avis French, DTM, Chair, Founder's District Judges Bureau*

For over 15 years, the Founder's District Community Relations Judges Bureau has provided community service organizations and educational institutions with well-trained, impartial, and professional quality judges for their youth speech contests. The judges sent by the Bureau have been well trained in the organization's contest rules and judging criteria and give fair and unbiased scores based on those rules. When the results of the contest are read, the contestants, contest organizers, and audience are certain that the winners were well-deserved and best represent their organization.

In early 2015, the Judges Bureau was contacted by Dr. Makita R. Phillips on behalf of the National Society of Black Engineers. This non-profit organization began in 1971 at Purdue University and is dedicated to increasing the number of culturally responsible, black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. Their Annual Convention typically draws between 7,000-10,000 participants each year.

They hosted their first speaking competition at their National Convention held at the Anaheim Convention Center and surrounding hotels this year. (Continued on next page.)

“Speak Your Fire” is a speaking competition designed to enhance the public speaking skills of their membership. Each speaker is tasked with answering how they believe we should reimagine NSBE’s future which correlates to the theme of conference, “Innovation & Excellence: Reimagining Your Future.”

On hand that day, answering the call from the Judges Bureau were five seasoned Toastmasters volunteers: Dr. Dave Cornelius, Charisma Justis, Dr. Patricia Adelekan, Della Mahone and Nigel Blackwell. In addition, I assisted Dr. Phillips with information for the contest handbook and with logistics for the day of the contest.

Working with NSBE was a new experience for the Judges Bureau and we hope to have a long and fulfilling relationship with them.

## **Judging the Speak Your Fire - National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Speech Contest**

*By Dr. Dave Cornelius, ACB, ALB*

Five members of Toastmasters Founders District were invited to participate as judges at the inaugural “Speak Your Fire” speech contest in March 2015 at the Anaheim Convention Center. The judges included Dr. Patricia Adelekan, DTM; Dr. Dave Cornelius, DTM; Della Mahone, DTM; Nigel Blackwell ACB, ALB; and Charisma Justis, ACS, CL.

NSBE (pronounced NezBee) began in 1971 at Purdue University. Although the emphasis of NSBE is to encourage African Americans to enter the engineering field as a profession, industry leaders recognized that communication skills are equally important to successfully navigate corporate culture and to effectively collaborate with peers.

Dr. Makita Phillips opened the contest by introducing the Toastmaster judges and highlighting the importance of communication skills to convey innovative ideas. Additionally,

Makita identified three key topics that each speaker was to include in their presentation: 1) a new image of NSBE’s future, 2) how to reach 10,000 African American engineers by 2025, and 3) identify how NSBE can affect positive change in communities.

At our Toastmasters club, we work to improve the critical thinking skill that enables evaluation of speakers and speeches. The format chosen to evaluate Cheyanne, Tiwalade, Keisha, James, Maurisa, Nadia, Yasmine, Giles, Andre, and Robert was how I saw, heard, and experienced each presenter. As the presenters gave their speech I looked for three qualities in the presentations: 1) pace, 2) pitch, and 3) punch, as well as the inclusion of the three key topics. In my mind, each speaker gave a winning speech and met the criteria that I established to select the top three speakers. The winners were 1st place Nadia Crawley, 2nd place Tiwalade Adeniji-Adele, and 3rd place Robert Timmons.

As an African American working in the software engineering field, it was an honor to serve and experience so many young minds pursuing the engineering profession to build future products, infrastructure, and perhaps the next mode of transportation to a new frontier. I know that NSBE has a bright future based on my experience with the 11 speech contest participants. More information can be found about NSBE at [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org).



*Dr. Dave Cornelius, DTM, Dr. Patricia Adelekan, DTM, Charisma Justis, DTM, Della Mahone, DTM, and Nigel Blackwell ACB, ALB at the recent “Speak Your Fire” contest.*



## Judging the Fire

*By Nigel Blackwell,  
DTM*

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the number of culturally responsible, black engineers

who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. It was founded by students at Purdue University 41 years ago. Their Annual Convention typically draws between 7,000-10,000 attendees and in 2015 was located at the Anaheim Convention Center, here in Orange County.

On March 28th, NSBE held its first ever Speech Contest called "Speak Your Fire". This challenged Collegiate NSBE members to speak from 4 to 5 minutes and offer their proposals on "How to re-imagine the role of NSBE" in order to address the recent decline in graduation numbers of black engineers and their low representation in industry. This speech topic correlated to the theme of this year's conference, "Innovation & Excellence: Reimagining Your Future".

As many service and professional organizations do, NSBE's Dr. Makita Phillips, their National Leadership Institute Chair for 2014-2015, reached out to Toastmasters to provide them with experienced Toastmaster Judges. On hand that day, answering the call from Avis French, (Founders District Judges Bureau Chair), were five seasoned Toastmasters volunteers: Dr. Dave Cornelius, Charisma Justis, Dr. Patricia Adelekan, Della Mahone and myself, Nigel Blackwell. As a practicing engineering professional for over 25 years and a strong supporter of young professionals, this was the perfect fit for me.

The contest consisted of two rounds, judged separately. The first, a qualifying round, was a one to one-and-a-half minutes video submission on a NSBE-related topic and was held prior to the convention with the membership-at-large voting using YouTube to select 12 finalists. The second round, was the

final, and was held live in front of the Judges, at the Annual Convention.

The contest judging criteria for other organizations always differs somewhat from the familiar Toastmasters criteria for our International Speech Contests. NBSE's criteria were Analytical Articulation, Recommendations (for what NSBE should do), Delivery and Closing.

The contestants were excellent – all 11 of them. The level of sophistication in their analysis of NBSE's role and what it should do to address the current decline in the numbers of black engineers in the profession was an eye-opener for me, and each contestant, to one degree or another, offered detailed proposal as to what NSBE should do. Their speech was confident, clear and concise, and their enthusiasm and passion for the profession that they had worked so hard to succeed in - from High School days through to the Colleges and Universities they are studying at today - was exciting and uplifting. If all prospective members of the engineering profession, regardless of their race or color, had the same dedication, determination and drive as these 11 young black engineers displayed then my profession and our country would be the better for it.

The contest was justly won, and done so with a high degree of consensus amongst the judges, by Nadia Crawley, with Tiwalade Adeniji- Adele in 2nd place and Robert Timmons in 3rd.

I left that day much wiser of the numerous challenges they had faced, yet hopeful for their (and our) future.

Judging "Speak your Fire" was a unique experience for me, to hear voices that I never get to hear, on a topic that is under-discussed, if at all, by society at large. I am grateful to NSBE, Dr Phillips, Avis French and the Founder's District Judges Bureau - but especially to the contestants, for this opportunity to listen and learn about the challenges of becoming a black professional engineer.



## Just Say “No” to the Split - An Editorial

*by Ed Smith, DTM*

The proposal to split Founder’s District was presented to the district membership at the

District Conference business meeting on April 25, 2015. A motion to send the proposal report back to committee was approved, thereby effectively stopping the proposal for at least another year.

During the proposal presentation several reasons to split the district were put forward; however, those points were not put forward in the written committee report distributed to the membership prior to the business meeting. The written report primarily purported that the split was intended to “better serve the membership,” which many of those opposed to the proposed split deemed an inadequate reason.

So what are the concerns of those opposed to the split proposal?

Perhaps the most compelling opposition is one of tradition, the desire to remain part of Founder’s District, the district where many of us grew up with Toastmasters. The tradition of being a part of Founder’s is very important to those who would be split off to a new district. When traveling and visiting clubs in other areas several members related how proud they were to be able to say they were from Founder’s District. It would be very disappointing to those members to no longer be able to say they are part of the district where Toastmasters began.

Another reason many oppose the split concerns those dual members where some of their clubs would be in different districts should the split occur. They

would then be confronted with dealing with multiple district events (contests, officer meetings, training, conferences, etc.). This would reduce the ability to find and nurture new district leaders.

Should the split be done according to the committee’s report (the 22 freeway) some clubs would be faced with the possible prospect of relocating in order to maintain their presence in Founder’s District. The ability to find new meeting locations is always challenging for clubs.

Many affected members have their own personal reasons to oppose the split which are difficult to generalize, but which are important to them. For example, there is a certain perceived culture about the existing Founder’s area which would be upset if the proposed split were to be at the 22 Freeway.

The proposal to split the district was sent back to committee rather than voted down in concept. It is, therefore, safe to assume that a new split proposal will be brought before the membership, perhaps as early as the next conference business meeting. Were this to happen, one would hope and expect that a new report would put forward better reasons to split.

Many members also might be more receptive if a different line of separation were proposed. One such line often mentioned is the county line, which is a more natural demarcation but would also address many objections.

If there is a compelling reason to split Founder’s District, a new case must be made and brought to the members. The proposal presented at the April 25th business meeting did not make that case.

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**Quinn Ruffin** - Motivational speaker

**Dr. Dave Cornelius** - 5 Saturdays Workshop



For more information ...

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**Caltech**

**Pasadena, CA**

**Saturday**

**June 27, 2015**

**8:15 am - 1:40 pm**





## What's New With You?

*by David S. Moore, ACS, ALB*

Has something changed recently in your life? Over the past year did you move? Get a new cell phone? Finally close that AOL account that you were paying for but never used? Okay maybe that last one was just me.

If you have made any changes like this to your contact information, you need to update your profile on the Toastmasters International website. You might not even know that you have a profile on the Toastmasters International website, but you do.

Okay, it's not as much fun as your Facebook page since you can't post all of your selfies out there, but it is important to keep this information up to date. The good news is that you can do it yourself in just 5 easy steps.

**Step 1:** Go to [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

**Step 2:** Click on Login at the top of the screen to the left of the Search box. The login screen will be displayed.

**Step 3:** Enter your Username and password. Click on Login. Unless you have changed your Username, it will be whatever e-mail address you put on your application form when you joined Toastmasters. If you have never logged in on the TI website before, don't panic. Just click on "Forgot your password?" You will be prompted for your e-mail address, and a password will be sent to your e-mail account. After you login it will see "Welcome 'your name'" at the top of the screen.

**Step 4:** You are almost there. Click on "My Toastmasters" and a dropdown box will appear showing you all of your options. You can view your profile; manage your address; change your Username and Password; and update your contact information.

**Step 5:** Click on which option you want and update the necessary information.

There, wasn't that easy? The hardest part will probably be tearing yourself away from Facebook long enough to do it. Okay, back to posting selfies.



*2015 Spring Conference Communication and Leadership award recipient, Samwise Didier, Senior Art Director for Blizzard Entertainment.*

Members who attended the Spring Conference had the opportunity to learn about his adventures and leadership in the Entertainment and Gaming Industry. For his contemporary form of communication in a global environment and his leadership of creative processes and people, Founder's District was pleased to recognize Samwise.

## Founder's District Photography Contest

*By Richard Daugherty, DTM*

And the Winner is . . . Christine Chiang !

Those words echoed throughout the ballroom on Saturday afternoon, April 25th at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada, California as the results of the first-ever Founder's District Photography Contest were announced.

Christine's photograph, "Potential at Elevation," won first place in the contest, an HPL project by yours truly. Four other Toastmasters were also publicly recognized for their efforts. The top five photography winners were:

First Place: "Potential at Elevation" – Christine Chiang, JPL/Caltech Toastmasters

Second Place: "Elevate and Soar" – Howard Swerdloff, Zingers Toastmasters Club

Third Place: "Movers and Shakers" – Scott Vu, Toast First

Honorable Mention: "Raising the Bar" – Amy Shih, Ingram Microphones

Honorable Mention: "Participate in a Speech Contest" – Vernon Budinger, Parsons Toastmasters Club

My sincere congratulations go out to all the winners, and also to everyone who submitted a photograph. It is our hope that their participation in the contest gave them an opportunity to have fun while learning a new skill, that of seeing opportunities to tell a story through a photograph.

Many thanks to my team for their tireless efforts in making this dream a reality. More on them in a moment, but first, I'd like to showcase our winners in a bit more detail.

### *Christine Chiang*

A former Pricing Analyst with JPL, Christine joined the JPL/Caltech Toastmasters with the intention of getting comfortable onstage to one day speak publicly at a TED Talk Conference.

Her hobby is travel and her passion is self-development. In pursuing her passion through her hobby, she took



a hiatus from the corporate world to embark on a journey of self-actualization by traveling through Southeast Asia. After completing her field research, she will return home to the States and share her findings by speaking to a wider audience. Her hope is to inspire others to pursue their own passions instead of following the status quo. Christine maintains a blog that documents her journey.

#### **About the Photograph**

"It was 2AM when we got out of our bunk beds to trek it up the last 3 kilometers to get to Mt. Kinabalu's peak for sunrise. We had climbed for 4.5 hours straight upwards just hours before our power nap to get to the rest house

where we slept. It would be another 2.5 hours of powering through aching bones and exhausted muscles to reach Low's Peak which, at 8.5 kilometers up, stands as Southeast Asia's highest point."

"I'd be lying if I didn't admit that I wasn't having second thoughts that moment while I was bundled up in bed, thinking about an excuse to not get out of bed and weather the cold, treacherous ascent to the mountain's peak. But I got up, threw lame excuses to the wind, and climbed that mountain. And there is not a more literal sense of accomplishment than climbing to the top of a mountain."

Speaking about her photograph, Christine says: "Captured here is the moment of glory we shared an hour after the sun rose while we made our descent back to the rest house."

## *Howard Swerdloff*

Howard moved to California in January 2014 to work in a pre-sales role as a solution consultant for large software projects. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, biking and of course photography.

Recently, he completed a 60 mile bike ride in support of a local charity. As part of this event, he orchestrated the fund-raising activities to complete a High Performance Leadership project.

Howard has been a Toastmaster since June of 2014, initially joining the Zingers club. After several months of membership and earning his Competent Communicator award, he joined a 2nd club (Second Stage). He is enjoying working on his Competent Leadership and Advanced Communication manuals between the 2 clubs.

### ***About the Photograph***

The picture Howard submitted was of a bird in flight. He was scheduled to meet a fashion model at a studio in Los Angeles for some portfolio shots, and had decided to purchase a new lens prior to the shoot.



"I took the lens to Huntington Beach to take some test shots before the portfolio shoot. I wanted to make sure I was comfortable with the way the lens performed under different conditions and settings. As I was reviewing some pictures on the camera, I noticed the bird. It looked like it was about to take flight and I thought it had been a while since I took any nature pictures. I followed the bird's flight and managed to blur the waves and clouds while getting the bird in focus."

## Scott Vu

Scott was the founder of the Toast First club, and is currently its VP Membership. He has been married for 11 years and has two children, a 10 year-old boy and an 8 year-old girl. He and his family currently reside in Tustin.

Scott's hobbies include photography, golf, and fruit tree propagation (grafting and air-layering). Time for his hobbies, however, is scarce due to work and family commitments, so he tries to maximize his available time by combining those hobbies.

In addition to photographing his family, he occasionally brings his camera to the golf course or simply out into his own backyard. Scott says that one of his hobbies has taught him a valuable lesson: "I've learned that backyard weed removal by golf swing, particularly with my swing, is not very effective."

Scott aptly sums up the value of his participation in the contest. "Because of the Founder's District Photography Contest, I was able to enjoy one of my hobbies during a Toastmasters meeting."

## Amy Shih

Currently the President of the Ingram Microphones club (which was chartered in 1997), Amy has been a Toastmaster since 2007 and has held all club offices except Treasurer. Hers is an open company club at Ingram Micro in Santa Ana. The company headquarters (and the club) are moving to Irvine in late summer of 2015.



Amy is the proud mother of two girls, aged 12 and 15, and lives in Lake Forest.

### **About the Photograph**

Amy's photograph was taken in the company building while keeping the "Elevate Your Potential" theme in mind. About the process, she shares the following, "Our club took two sets of pictures to capture the theme – one going up the stairs and one in front of the elevator, elevating a club member."



## *Vernon Budinger, ACB, ALB*

Vernon is the CEO of his own investment management company, Latin America Structured Finance Advisors. His company is currently in the process of setting up funds to invest in credit in Brazil.

He enjoys many hobbies including road and mountain biking, skiing, photography, hiking, and wine tasting – not necessarily in that order. His passion is to travel to new lands and capture the soul of the location with photography.

### ***About the Photograph***

Vernon's photograph was taken as part of his functions for Parsons Club 2151 at Parson's Headquarters during the Area B1/B2 International and Table Topics Speech Contest. His approach to making the photograph? Vernon says, "I put all of the winners on the escalator in the Parson's lobby. The idea was to promote Toastmaster speech contests by visually communicating "Elevating Your Potential" using the escalator to setup the winners."



### ***The Contest Team***

I was truly blessed to have a dynamite team working on this project with me, and need to give each of them full credit for their efforts.

Michele Ballard was our Public Relations team leader, putting in late hours after long days at work to craft just the right messages that would encourage members throughout the District to take a chance and participate in the contest.

Vicki Chen implemented and maintained the contest web page inside the Founder's District website, insuring everyone knew the rules of the contest and how to submit their photos. She also made it possible for visitors to see all the photos that had been submitted so far, allowing tentative participants to scope out the competition.

Marie Hulett took on the task of making sure all contest winners received proper recognition, including beautifully designed certificates and plaques. She also embarked on a major campaign to locate outside vendors willing to donate prizes to be given to the contest winners. (Continued on next page.)

Dan Cossack was of particularly valuable assistance, serving as both a creative director and as a chief judge. He made sure the website design was functional as well as visually appealing, directing Vicki Chen's programming efforts. As Chief Judge, he created the submission guidelines as well as the entry form and submission process. Perhaps most importantly, he assembled a team of professional photographers and guided them through the process of evaluating the submissions.

My hat is off to all of you, Michele, Vicki, Marie and Dan, for a job supremely well done and for everyone who participated in the Photography Contest. Thank you all so very much!

## Many More Marketing Incentive Awards Awaiting You!

by *Siri Payakapan, DTM, Ph.D.*

*Lieutenant Governor Moarketing*

Do you know how many Marketing Incentive awards were presented at the Spring District Conference on April 25th? 137 awards! And there are many more awards awaiting you at DEC Award Night in August.

Since I just visited Tibet, I can assure you that earning one of the following Marketing Incentive Awards is a lot easier than climbing the 1,000 steps of Potala Palace in Lhasa at nearly 12,000 feet above sea level!

- New Club: New club (chartered during April 1 – June 30, 2015) will receive either a portable lectern, a customized banner, or \$100 TI Store Gift Certificate



AND a Customized Meeting Sign (18" x 24")

- Low Member Club: Clubs with less than 8 members that have 8 or more members after May 31, 2015 will receive \$20 TI Store Gift Certificate
- Club Retention: Clubs with a base membership of 14 or less that have a net gain of 5 members after May 31, 2015 will receive \$50 TI Store Gift Certificate
- Club Retention: Clubs that increase members from a base of less than 12 to 20 or more members after May 31, 2015 will receive \$50 TI Store Gift Certificate
- New Club Launch Meeting Functionary Award: Top 3 functionaries or roles (i.e., speaker, timer, except New Club Team leaders) of the selected Launch Meeting team will receive a \$ 50 TI Store Gift Certificate (New Club Launch Team Leaders submit Launch Meeting Agenda to Ligia by July 7, 2015)
- Open House, SpeechCraft or Youth Leadership Program: If your club conducts an Open House, SpeechCraft or Youth Leadership program during April 1 – June 30, 2015 you will have to submit a

copy of club's flyer, a photo of the event, and guest sign-up sheet to [ligiaimolina@gmail.com](mailto:ligiaimolina@gmail.com) by July 7, 2015, to qualify. Each club that qualifies will be awarded a \$10 TI Store Gift Certificate. Also, the first 3 clubs to respond to this offer will receive a customized meeting sign (18" x 24")

- Most New Member

Awards: Area Governor and Division Governor with the most new members on June 30, 2015 will receive a \$100 TI Store Gift Certificate.

- Club Coach: Coach a club with less than 12

members; take it to charter strength; and distinguished status by June 30, 2015, the club coach will receive \$50 TI Store Gift Certificate AND a medallion with TI logo at the DEC Award night in August 2015

- Division 20-Plus Award: The Division Governor achieving the highest percentage of active clubs with 20 or more paid members at year-end will receive a \$100 TI Store Gift Certificate
- Area 20-Plus Award: The Area Governor achieving the highest percentage of active clubs with 20 or more paid members at year-end will receive a \$50 TI Store Gift Certificate

- Division Extension Award: The Division Governor achieving the largest net club growth by year-end will receive a \$100 Store Gift Certificate.

- Area Extension Award: The Area Governor achieving the largest net club growth by year-end will receive a \$50 Store Gift Certificate.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see all Founder's District Marketing incentive awards.

Note: \* All gift certificates awarded are redeemable only at World Headquarters. Many items are available for purchase for clubs, including manuals and recognition awards. [CLICK HERE](#) to see all products.

# Contest Winners!

## Table Topics Contest

- 1st Karen Shepard Grimes
- 2nd Paul Stillwell
- 3rd David Shostak



## International Speech Contest

- 1st Daniel Midson-Short
- 2nd Quinn Ruffin
- 3rd Anita Ramanathan



# L.A.C.E

## Leadership And Communication Experience

South Keynote

**Cathey Armillas, DTM**  
TEDx Speaker & Coach  
Author of *"The Unbreakable Rules of Marketing"*



North Keynote

**Dana LaMon, DTM**  
World Champion of  
Public Speaking 1992  
Accredited Speaker

Presented by Founder's District Toastmasters

**JUNE 13, 2015 - CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY, Orange**

**JUNE 27, 2015 - CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY, Pasadena**

**REGISTER** at <http://foundersdistrict.org/lace-registration>

**Founder's District**  
**11401 Palmwood Drive**  
**Garden Grove, CA 92840**

\$15.00 - adult - \$5.00 - under 18 (pre-registered)  
\$20.00 - adult - \$10.00 - under 18 (at the door)

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**Saturday, June 13, 2015**

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1 University Drive  
Orange, CA 92866

**Saturday, June 27, 2015**

California Institute of Technology (Caltech)  
1200 East California Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91125

REGISTER NOW! DON'T MISS IT!

<http://foundersdistrict.org/lace-registration>

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