



The Founder

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

SEPTEMBER 2016



Founder's District Member

Josephine lee

Finishes **THIRD** at *World Championship!*

Founder's District
Leader-Messages

First DEC
Meeting

**High Performance
Leadership**

JOSEPHINE LEE
BRINGS HOME
BIG TROPHY!!!

Presenting
The STAR Program

Founder's
Fall Conference

...and MORE!

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



Humor Comes from LIFE!

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

It's contest season and I am THRILLED! I absolutely love this part of Toastmasters and participate whenever I am able, either as a contestant, or as a contest committee member/volunteer. There are so many ways to participate in contest season. Check with your club presidents and area directors to find out what kind of help is currently needed.

Of course, being an audience member is lots of fun as well, and there is no substitute for an involved, engaged, exuberant audience, especially during humorous speech contests.

Still, I would recommend competing to everyone. I know the whole idea is a little scary, but once you get past all the initial nerves, it's really quite fun.

I especially love the humorous speech contest (which is what our Spring Contest Season is featuring), and have made it a point to tell the funny and bizarre stories from my personal life during a number of past contests. The fact is, real life is very humorous and the stories that come from real life are exactly the stories that audience members enjoy.

Many Toastmasters assume that if they are not natural comedians, then they shouldn't compete. But the truth is, a humorous speech contest is NOT all about stand-up comedy, with one-liners being delivered in

rapid succession. Sure, you want a few punchlines here and there, but a humorous speech is a story that leads an audience through strange and bizarre twists and turns that are true, but funny.

The last time Founder's District held its humorous speech contest, I told the tale of my life with a Gremlin! I took that story all the way through to the Founder's District Finals (which was really exciting). You can watch my performance on youtube by clicking on this link or copying and pasting it into your browser:

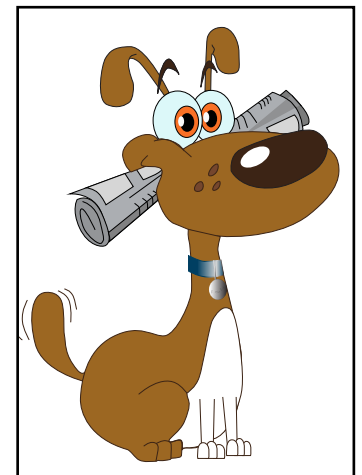
<https://youtu.be/g0VM5g3VS4I>

Remember, humor is everywhere in our lives. Find YOUR story and share it during contest season.



Find Founder and WIN!

From our last issue, Debbie Austin and Vijay Chidambaram found our mascot, "Founder" (pictured to the right) hiding on page 13 in a front row seat and page 14, on the table. They both scored free tickets to LACE, (though unfortunately, Vijay was unable to attend). Founder is hiding again in this issue in two places (not this page), and the first person who correctly determines where he is will win a \$25 Toastmaster Store Gift Card! Email me at mhulett@coastline.edu to let me know BOTH of his hiding spots.





WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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District Leaders pose for a photo at the International Convention

Toastmasters International Mission

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

www.toastmasters.org

Founder's District Mission

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

www.foundersdistrict.org

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for solicitation and distribution of non-Toastmasters materials or information.





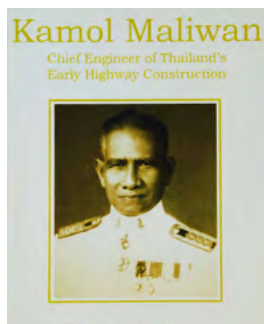
Siri Payakapan, DTM, Ph.D.
District Director

Expand Your Horizons!

Our diverse and dynamic team of 15 District elected leaders (one district director, two program quality directors, two club growth directors, and 10 division directors), together with 52 area directors and dozens of District chairs are here to support you.

Each of us comes from a unique background with a success story to share.

For example, I have come a long way from the first Toastmaster meeting I attended, as a teenage guest at my father’s club—The Bangkok Club 2010—the first Toastmasters club in Bangkok, Thailand in 1968. I left that meeting with an impression of a friendly, supportive environment, where my father, a retired highway engineer, had fun while improving his English speaking skills.



As Toastmasters is a tradition in my family, I am proud to report that my only child—Nunee—was excited when she joined her Toastmaster club at work—Xilinx Xpressionists Toastmasters Club

9473 in San Jose, California. She couldn’t wait to tell me, “Mom, my evaluator complimented me for adding a personal story to my speech.” Nunee, a semiconductor engineer, has since received a promotion for her polished technical presentations.



I found my passion in Toastmasters after joining Tools 2 Lead, Club 921159, as a charter member in 2006. Meetings were held where I worked as a planner/policy analyst for the County of Orange in Santa Ana, a few blocks from the old YMCA building where Dr. Ralph Smedley organized Club No. 1 of Toastmasters International in 1924.

• By saying “Yes” to speaking opportunities at club meetings and speech contests, I have learned to speak more effectively, listen more attentively, and think more critically. I expanded my horizon.



• By saying “Yes” to leadership opportunities at club meetings and serving in club officer roles, I have learned how to assemble and build strong teams; how to delegate, motivate, and appreciate team members. I expanded my horizon. I stepped up to District-level leadership roles, as Area Governor and Division Governor.





You can say Past District Governor, Distinguished Toastmaster Harry Yan “saw something in me.” Harry appointed me as LACE Co-Chair and then, as Public Relations Officer or PRO.

The PRO role was way outside my comfort zone. I learned to effectively connect with members (via monthly E-blasts from Trios and quarterly articles from all) from Distinguished Toastmaster, Dan Cossack who had just finished his PRO term.

I continued to stretch and expand my horizon, enriching my life, by serving as Lt. Governor, Marketing, Program Quality Director, and now the District Director’s position.



Throughout my Toastmaster journey, I have been grateful to many of you for your encouragement, guidance, motivation, and mentoring behind the scenes. Each one of you has directly or indirectly inspired me to expand my horizon.

My success story is a living proof of the Toastmasters brand— “WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE.”

Success stories—how Toastmasters expanded our horizons—such as yours, mine, and every one of us, are keys that CONNECT the benefits of Toastmasters to everyone.

Let us encourage each other to share ways we have stretched and grown, gained supportive friends and promotion as a result of our Toastmaster experience.

This is the magnet that will draw others to join Toastmasters.

Family members or friends of Toastmasters who have benefited personally or professionally from Toastmasters will be interested in joining Toastmasters because they know they, too, can benefit from Toastmasters, having fun while improving themselves as speakers and leaders. Let us “Let the world know” that Toastmasters expands our horizons!

Reach out to others. Tell them our success stories—how we have expanded our horizons—as a result of our Toastmaster experience.

TOASTMASTERS
2016-2017
District Directors



←EXPAND
YOUR
HORIZONS→



Karen Lucas, DTM & Dan Cossack DTM

Program Quality Directors North and South

Division/Area Director Training

We had two training events on June 18 and July 9 that were well attended. We have trained 100% of the Division Directors and 90% of the Area Directors. Six Area Directors remain to be trained due to early resignations of a few directors.

Speech Contest Training

Two speech contest training workshops were conducted, one in north and one in south district.

Member Achievements

So far this year, we have 8 new DTMs, 9 Triple Crown Awards, 39 Competent Communicators, 36 Advanced Communicators, and 61 leadership awards.

Club Achievements

Achievers Toastmasters is the first club to reach 5 DCP goals and over 20 members. Second Stage, UniMasters, and HarborLites club have 4 DCP goals and over 20 members.

Area Achievements

Congratulations to Area D3 Director, Scott Friedman, the first area to achieve 100% officers trained.

Conference

Preliminary preparations are made for the Fall District Conference. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel on October 29, 2016. The keynote speaker and workshop presenter is 1999 World Champion of Public Speaking, Craig Valentine. The conference will also include Humorous and Evaluations speech contests. Early-Early bird registration will begin Sept 1 for \$45 for two weeks. \$55 early-bird registration will continue until October 8. Regular registration will be \$70 after October 8. This may be the last Fall Conference for Founder's District. Toastmasters International Board of Directors will be directing districts to eliminate the Fall Conferences starting in 2018.

Programs

Reach for the Stars program is being rolled out to incentivize more members to participate in district events. Educational incentives are being announced for completing CC or AC, 1 CC/AC and 1 CL/AL, and triple crown awards. A brand new members-only web site has been launched for members to track their progress and goals.

Other

Eight Clubs have not yet submitted their officers list. This usually means these clubs are struggling to survive and need to be contacted for help. These are: DPSS Training Academy, LAC-DHS ACN Toastmasters, Sustainable Speakers, Verizon Topdog, CU Toastmasters, Liftoff, Snyder Langston, and Diverse Voices Club.

Only 65% of club officers are trained. This is much lower than previous years at this time.



Diana Dee, DTM, Club Growth Director, South

I decided to become a district leader because I want to give back to this fantastic organization that has helped me to discover just what I can do. I joined

Toastmasters many years ago to learn social skills. I have greatly improved not only my social skills, but also my leadership and speaking skills. My self-improvement is an ongoing project.

I once heard a motivational speaker say that the most satisfying thing you can do in life is to add value to other people. My goal is to help enable people to rise to their true value.

The mission of the District is to start new clubs and help existing clubs achieve excellence. Contributing as much as possible to this mission is my goal. My committee chairs and I will dedicate ourselves to following and generating new club leads, and turn those leads into new clubs.

We will also help clubs retain their members and attract new members. Retaining members can be greatly influenced by emphasizing member mentoring. We presented information about member mentoring at the Grow Your Club workshop July 23. We will present this information again in the future, November 12 and February 18. Each member needs to feel that his/her goals are being met, and that he/she is valued by the club.

In addition, the District will pay for a MeetUp Pro membership, enabling all clubs who wish to do so, to have a presence on MeetUp. MeetUp is a very effective way of attracting guests to club meetings. Past and upcoming workshops will present information on guest follow-up. In the meantime, I urge all clubs to dedicate a meeting to a presentation of Moments of Truth, which will help the club self-assess its effectiveness in satisfying the needs of its members and attracting new members.

Watch for announcements of member and club incentives. You can earn a \$10 Toastmasters gift certificate by sponsoring a new member in your club during August and September. Your club has opportunities to earn gift certificates by submitting membership renewals by certain deadlines. My goal is YOUR success! My wish for you is that you continue to rise toward your true value.

BIOGRAPHY

I have been in Toastmasters for over 30 years. I joined because I was an extreme introvert and wanted to learn how to interact with other people. My social and leadership skills have greatly improved. I am now, finally, working on my speaking skills. I just once again completed the CC manual, this time giving (almost) all my speeches without notes.

I belong to the Speak, Lead, Succeed Toastmasters club and to the Lensmasters club. The latter has helped me improve my photography skills.

This Toastmasters' year, as part of the Founder's District top-5 officer team, I will do everything in my power to propel the District to achieve President's Distinguished status.

I am retired from two careers. The latter career was as a Microsoft Certified Trainer and Microsoft SQL Server consultant. My car's license plate is "MS SQL". (No, I am not a squirrel.)

I've led 9 lives, including mountain climber and private pilot. My husband Ed and I have two Labrador retrievers, mother (black) and daughter (chocolate). They take us for a walk every morning in Huntington Beach Central Park.

My favorite quote right now is from Albert Camus: "In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger, something better, pushing right back."

REWARDS! PRIZES! GIFTS!.... Time to Promote Achievement!

Diana Dee, DTM

What Reward, Prize, or Gift, would your club and members like to receive from Founder's District, honoring the club members for working together—as a team— to stand out and distinguish themselves as an example of group success in achieving the goals of the Distinguished Club Program? Below is a list of gift awards for which to strive. Have fun winning Toastmasters “bonus earnings.” Encourage each other's progress in completing various goals this year. Boost your members' and club's performance and pride, by teaming up to achieve the following awards.

Founder's District Club Growth Incentive Awards 2016-2017

BY June 30, 2016	Club coach success	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$75
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	All clubs that charter	A club banner
July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016	All clubs that charter	Choice of timing lights or lectern
January 1 – February 28, 2017	First 30 clubs that hold an Open House	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$25
January 1 – February 28, 2017	Any club that has 100% officers trained	Every member in the club will receive a \$5 discount to lunch at the following LACE.
February 1 – March 31, 2017	Members of club that completes Talk up Toastmasters (adds 5 new members)	Celebration party May 6
BY March 15, 2017	First 50 clubs that renew 8 or more members through September	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$25
BY March 27, 2017	First 35 clubs that renew base membership + 5 through September	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$50
January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017	All clubs that charter	Choice of timing lights or lectern
May 1 – June 30, 2017	Members of club that completes Beat the Clock (adds 5 new members)	Free admission to video streaming of World Championship of Public Speaking, August 26, 2017

Timeframe	Activity	Award
BY August 31, 2016	Any club that has 100% officers trained	Every member in the club will receive a \$5 discount to lunch at the following LACE.
August 1 - September 30, 2016	Member who sponsors a new member who pays dues through March, 2017 (First 100)	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$10 (See two requirements in the relevant email sent to club officers.)
August 1 - September 30, 2016	Members of club that add at least 5 new members (Smedley Award)	Preferred seating at Fall District Conference
Any time during the Toastmaster year, 2016 - 2017	Provide a lead for a new club that charters...	<u>By April 18:</u> Spring Conference admission and preferred seating <u>By June 30:</u> Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$75
BY September 30, 2016	"Distinguished Club Plan" (Club submits a signed, dated DCP form.) See Founders District web site: Resources > Education > Distinguished Club Program page, "What you can do" instructions.	A ribbon for club banner. Awarded at the Fall District Conference
BY September 15, 2016	First 50 clubs that renew 8 or more members through March	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$25
BY September 26, 2016	First 30 clubs that renew base membership + 2 through March	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$50
BY September 30, 2016	Club that renews through March 2016 ALL members that were members as of June 30.	Toastmaster International Gift Certificate for \$50
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	Top recruiter – member who recruits (sponsors) the most new members (not including charter members) District officers are excluded. (Send screen image of Sponsorship History to DrDianaDee@gmail.com)	FIRST PLACE winner \$100 gift certificate SECOND PLACE winner \$50 gift certificate THIRD PLACE winner \$25 gift certificate



From the desk of Michelle Bender, DTM, Public Relations Manager

So far the PR Team has been busy with the following:

Newsletter Team

Sending out messages to the District team leaders for articles for the upcoming issue (due out in September). We will have one issue per quarter (September, December, March, and June). We have a great team of news writers who are reaching out for news items of interest. Marie Hulett is the Newsletter Editor in Chief and shares her talent of newsletter design/layout. Every issue is informative, interesting, and shares the best of Founder's District news and events for the members.

Videography Team

The Videography team has made a few videos already and are posting to Founder's TV site. Chris Gregory has reached out to the Division Directors with opportunities to get involved with sharing club achievements, member news, and showcasing Toastmasters with unique talents.

Social Media

We are making progress on various social media sites including Twitter, Facebook and Google+. Vernon Budinger will be creating a District

100 Facebook page and would like to get more clubs involved in Meetup. He will be recognizing the club officer training on Facebook and will be giving updates on clubs who reach the Smedley Award (5 new members in August – September). Later in the year, he will include information on the clubs with the most DCP points. He plans to start posting videos on Facebook, especially the ones from Founder's TV. He will also be a resource to the clubs who are interested in learning more about social media. We are still searching for a Social Media Chair for the South.

Speakers Bureau

Speakers Bureau South will be searching for a new location for their group led by Victor Broski. Carl Walsh, Speakers Bureau North is making progress in getting more Qualified Speakers and promoting the program through Founder's TV, social media and the ACTS website.

Judges Bureau

Avis French will be promoting this important feature in the Founder's District newsletter. Also, Diane Beall has taken on the Judges Bureau North and will assist Avis in promoting future opportunities for members to assist with judging events in the local community.

Photography

We are still searching for someone to take on the Photography Chair for the North. Roger Hamilton will continue as Photography Chair for the South.

Website

Dan Cossack is planning an update of the Founder's District website. We will need a team of people to help with the new website for the Century District. If you are interested in being a webmaster, please contact the PR team. All of our information is on the Founder's District website.

Contests

We will have 3 contests: Diamond Web, Founder's Film, and Best Social Media. The due dates are October 1 for the fall and March 15 for the spring. More details to be provided on the Founder's District website.

Diamond Web Award

Win the Diamond Web Award contest by communicating the benefits of Toastmasters to current and potential members through your web site. Use FREE web designing sites like FreeToastHost2, Google Sites, or your own domain and enter your club's extraordinary site in the contest today! The winning web master will win a prize valued at \$100 and second prize valued at \$50. Winners will be announced at the Founder's District Conference.

Eligibility

The Diamond Web Award is open to all Toastmasters club web masters in Founder's District. The primary web master or a fellow club member must be present at the District Conference to accept the award.

Submissions

Deadline for submission is October 1 in the Fall and March 15 in the Spring. If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail message before the due date to PRM@foundersdistrict.org with the following information:

- ✓ Club name and number
- ✓ Name of the webmaster/contact information
- ✓ Address of the club web site (URL)

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on the site's CONTENT and PRESENTATION with an emphasis on portraying the benefits of the Toastmasters program to meet personal and professional goals.

CONTENT – 65%

1. Promotion (15%)
 - Welcome / Introduction
 - Basic Club Description – Club Profile
 - Basic Club Description – Time and Place
 - Upcoming Events
 - Club Contact Information
2. Education (20%)
 - Educational Materials / Articles
 - Goals / Objectives
 - Policies
3. Member Information (20%)
 - Calendar / Schedule
 - News about Recent Meetings or Events
 - Member Recognition
 - Club Achievements
 - Business Items
4. Administrative Content (10%)
 - Timeliness / Information Up to Date
 - Webmaster E-mail Address
 - Toastmasters International Copyright Notice
 - Credit to Previously Published Sources
 - Other Copyright Information (where required)

PRESENTATION – 35%

5. Navigation and Organization (25%)
 - Easy to Find What You Need
 - Logical Structure
 - Clearly Defined Categories
6. Page Design / Layout (10%)
 - Appropriate Graphics
 - Clean Layout
 - Easy to Scan Page Content
 - Spelling / Grammar / Punctuation

Founder's Film Award

Film it and they will come!

Every club in Founder's District can showcase their extraordinary talents and participate in the Founder's Film Award contest by creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that demonstrates the benefits of the Toastmasters program. The winning Producer will receive a prize valued at \$100.00 and second place \$50.00. The winners will be announced at the District Conference.

- ✓ Download Release Form (pdf 91 kb)
- ✓ Download Advanced Communication Manuals (pdf 54 kb)
- ✓ Download Benefits of Toastmasters (pdf 69 kb)
- ✓ Download the Toastmasters Brand Manual (pdf 7.1 mb)

Eligibility

The Founder's Film Award is open to all Toastmasters clubs in Founder's District. The primary PSA producer or a fellow club member must be present at the District Conference.

Goals and Objectives

1. Publicize to increase and maintain membership by showing the benefits of the Toastmasters program.
2. Provide existing members an opportunity to complete High

Performance Leadership (HPL) project.

3. You are representing an international non-profit organization, therefore appropriate film content is required. Funny, dramatic, and creative themes are encouraged.

Contest Rules

1. PSA must communicate the Toastmasters message consistent with Toastmasters branding guidelines.
2. Submit original and signed release forms for all people captured on film (keep copies for yourself).
3. Film is not to exceed 60 seconds in length including leads-ins and fade-outs.
4. Accepted formats on CD, DVD or flash drives, dropbox: avi, mov, mpeg, and wmv.
5. Multiple submissions are accepted and welcomed (up to 3 per club).
6. Deadline for submission is October 1 in the fall, and March 15 in the spring.
7. The primary PSA producer or a fellow club member must be present at the District Conference.
8. Submit your videos to the Founder's District Public Relations Manager at:

PRM@FoundersDistrict.org

Social Media Contest

Does your club use social media? If so, your club could win in the social media contest. Contestants should send their entry packet to PRM@Foundersdistrict.org by October 1 in the fall or March 15 in the spring.

The winning club will win a prize valued at \$100 and second prize valued at \$50. Winners will be announced at the Founder's District Conference.

Contest packets should include the following:

- ✓ A document with your social media channels (including addresses).
- ✓ Reports from your Facebook page or other social media channels that shows your activity (one report for each channel).
- ✓ A summary (one to two page) document that explains why your club's social media strategy is the best.
- ✓ If you have any videos, you should include the file or the links to the videos.

1. **Social Media Channels** (20 points) How many channels of social media does club use? "Use" means that you are posting to the page on a regular basis. Note: A District registered Meetup page with no activity does not count. 10 points for 1 Social Media Channel, 15 points for 2, 20 points for three or more). Please give us the address(es) of your social media pages.

- A. Facebook
- B. Twitter
- C. Google+
- D. MeetUp
- E. Other?

2. **Connections** (10 points, 5 points for each item below)

- A. Does the club post to Founder's District Facebook?
- B. Does the club post to Founder's District other social media pages?

3. **Social Media Strategy** (25 points- 5 points for each item below) How sophisticated is the club's social media strategy?

- A. Is the club meeting information clearly provided?
- B. Are the officer bios and contact information provided?
- C. Does the club use hashtags?
- D. Does the club have a blog?
- E. Does club use links to other pages?

4. **Types of Content** (25 points) What types of content do you post?

- A. Videos (8 points)
- B. Live video (7 points)
- C. Pictures (5 points)
- D. Articles (5 points)

5. **Member Involvement** (10 points) (Provide screen shots for examples)

- A. Do the members post to your social media pages? (5 points for 5 or more member posts)
- B. Do the members comment on your posts? (5 points for 5 or more member comments)

6. **PR Campaign/ Open House for the Club** (10 points)

- A. Has the club created a PR campaign? (5 points) – written update required
- B. Has the club put on an Open House to showcase the club? (5 points)



Founder's District

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Toastmasters-Founders-District-3292855>



<https://plus.google.com/+FoundersDistrict>



<http://www.foundersdistrict.tv/>

Membership Building Programs

Smedley Award

Program Dates: August 1 – September 30

Can your club add five new, dual, or reinstated members with a join date between August 1 and September 30? Accomplish this goal and you'll qualify to receive a "Smedley Award" ribbon, named in honor of Ralph Smedley, which you can display on your club's banner. Qualifying clubs can also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order.*

Applications and payments for members with a join date between August 1 and September 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than September 30. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward "Smedley Award" credit.

Talk Up Toastmasters

Program Dates: February 1 – March 31

Toastmasters love to connect, so take advantage of it. The "Talk Up Toastmasters" membership program is the chance to encourage your members to invite guests to a special meeting where prospective members can learn about Toastmasters' many benefits. Then add five new, dual or reinstated members with a join date between February 1 and March 31, and you'll receive a special "Talk up Toastmasters" ribbon to display on your club's banner. Qualifying clubs can also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order.*

Applications and payments for members with a join date between February 1 and March 31 must be received at World Headquarters or online no

later than March 31. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count towards "Talk Up Toastmasters" credit.

Beat the Clock

Program Dates: May 1 – June 30

Toastmasters are taught to run meetings on time, finish speeches on time and reach membership goals on time. In that spirit, "Beat the Clock" is a great motivator for finishing the year on schedule—on time and with record numbers! Make it your club's goal to earn the "Beat the Clock" award and encourage every member to take part. Clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 receive a "Beat the Clock" ribbon to display on the club's banner. Qualifying clubs also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order.*

Applications and payments for members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than June 30. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward "Beat the Clock" credit.

* The discount code expires six months from the date of issue and is not valid with any other offer.

NOTE: Winning clubs will be revealed online within a few weeks of the submission deadline. Winning clubs should allow up to 10 business days to receive their award if they are located in the United States, and up to 21 business days if they are outside of the United States.



Founder's District Looks Back During 1st DEC Meeting

by Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

In the afterglow of the 2016 Toastmasters International Convention, it was time for Founder's District to come together for its first District Executive Committee or

DEC meeting of the 2016-17 administrative year that took place at the Garden Grove Community Center and was attended by just under 100 members.

There would be the usual discussions of approving meeting minutes from prior DEC meetings as well as the annual budget. Having been part of district boards in the past, budget discussions usually are long and, at times, a little contentious.

That wasn't the case here.

Thanks to thorough research and an even more thorough explanation of the tenets of this year's budget by Founder's District Director, Siri Payakapan, there were no questions raised about the budget nor were there any objections to the proposed numbers. As a result, the district council as a whole slid across that section of the agenda as easily as a figure skater making figure eights on the ice rink.



This meeting wasn't just about administration. It was about looking back, showing

appreciation, the latest greatest inventions for Founder's District and warm fuzzies.

Program Quality Director South, Dan Cossack, unveiled a new website dedicated to Founder's District (Click [new website](#) to view) which is available now. This is a tremendous new benefit for all Founder's District members that will really personalize the Toastmasters experience for each and every Founder's District member. There are videos shown of Founder's District TV as well as a feature to establish a login and password for membership information and tracking of goals among other features. Development continues on the new site as more features are added each week.

Dan even had the audience write down warm fuzzy messages on little index cards in multiple colors recognizing someone or someones at the meeting that impacted certain members in certain ways. As a result, members were walking around the room in order to hand



out warm fuzzies to other members. What a great way to break the ice between friends that hadn't met as of yet as well as making members feel good about themselves and how they affect other members even if they aren't aware of that impact until they receive the warm fuzzy.

Program Quality Director North, Karen Lucas, challenged 10 audience members to rush up to the stage if those audience members believed they could one day be Founder's District Director like Siri currently is. It was done to make a point of how most of the Founder's District leaders were encouraged and mentored towards taking on leadership roles. It's also indicative of those leaders' willingness to reach

for the stars. It just so happens that Karen's main program is called "Reach For the Stars", which encourages members and leaders to step out of their comfort zone and go clubbing by attending other club's meetings. Then, there's attending and participating in district conferences, training seminars and contests to round out the Toastmasters experience in Founder's District. Each member will earn a certain number of stars based on attending other club, area, division and district meetings and events among other ways to amass stars. Stars can also be earned by clubs for membership, educational achievements and much, much more. Stay tuned for announcements on what those stars can become as they are amassed by members and clubs alike

Then, it was time for the recognition portion of the meeting.

The Spirit of Excellence Awards were given to Michael Alexander and David Moore.

Michael has been in Toastmasters for 25 years and has done it all like a Toastmaster tenured that long tends to do. He has mentored 2 clubs, one of which he was a co-founder. He is a 2-time district chief judge. More than that, he's as funny as he is colorful. Talking with him is bound to lead to laughter and the desire to stay in touch with him. He's also an avid motorcycle rider, which gives him a cool element to go along with the great Toastmaster he has been for a long time now.

David is always a presence because of the sharpness of the suits he tends to wear. He's also an excellent and successful Founder's District leader through building several new clubs and mentoring 2 others. He's also very proficient and steady when it comes to running through the various Toastmasters manuals,

which makes him a leader by example.

The recognition wouldn't stop there. It's a fine Founder's District tradition to recognize the excellence of its members when they step out of their comfort zone to help themselves and other Toastmasters achieve success in and out of Toastmasters. Stepping out of one's comfort zone was a common theme surrounding the meeting, especially after Area A-5 Director, Barbara Stickler, brought up the notion as part of the opening inspirational address after the meeting was called to order by Division D Director, Tim Hollenbeck, also known as the human bullhorn because he doesn't need a microphone to be heard by anybody in the same room with him.

The following individuals that were recognized as the meeting went on epitomize the value of stepping out of one's comfort zone in order to shine and stand out from the crowd.

Both Ann Shimizu and Richard Snyder were given Area Director Special Awards. Ann's ability and willingness to be personable, helpful and tenacious make her a Toastmaster to be reckoned with.

Richard chartered a new club that initially entered Toastmasters through Area D-2 called OC Debaters. The club officially chartered last March and then achieved Select Distinguished status during the same year it chartered. Richard was the chartering President and the inspiration behind the club along with his partner, OC Debaters Vice President of Education, Chris Collins. Richard also successfully guided the clubs of Area



D-2 including helping Albertson's Vons SoCal Toastmasters Club to achieve club distinguished status for the first time.

Special awards were also given to division directors Michelle Bender, Marie-Noelle Palermo, and David Moore for achieving President's Distinguished Divisions. Michelle Bender also received the prestigious District Director Award for her role in Division B. Her division was the only division to not lose any clubs during the year and had the highest number of club officers trained. Michelle attributes her success to the monthly division newsletter that keeps their members in touch with what is going on in Toastmasters and specifically in Division B.

Jeanne Cassidy was recognized with the District Director Award for her role as the District Reformation (Split) Committee Chairperson. This was one of the toughest jobs during the 2015-2016 year as we had heated debates on both sides of the issue. Jeanne's experience and cool demeanor as a leader helped to make the process go as smooth as possible. The facts were well researched and publicized making the vote at the Fall Conference an overwhelming success.

The Area Director of the year was Rose Abbott (Area B-1). Rose led her area to becoming



President's Distinguished and proved very effective maintaining consistent and open communication with all leaders and members of the area. She used the Distinguished Member Plan to

motivate members in her area to complete their educational awards.

The Division Director of the year was one of the recipients of the Spirit of Excellence Award, David Moore. David had perfect attendance at all DEC meetings during 2015-16. On top of

that, he chartered 2 new clubs and proved to be tireless in terms of mentoring area directors and club officers.



Finally, the Toastmaster of the Year was Ursula Bell. Ursula is very content to remain in the background. However, with her ever-active involvement in taking on club office after club office combined with being a 4-time area director, special assistant to Founder's District mainstays, Frannie and Norm Stein, as well as helping special children with special needs in conjunction with the Special Olympics, it was difficult for Ursula to avoid recognition for all of that.



Immediate Past District Director, Pan Kao, who announced the winners of Area Director, Division Director and Toastmaster of the Year, also made a special presentation of Distinguished Toastmaster, which was bestowed upon Jeanne Cassidy. Jeanne will be relocating to Boston before the Fall Conference so the district decided to present her DTM medallion early.



Founder's District DEC meetings are as much

about taking care of business as they are about taking care of each other and solidifying the bond that Founder's District leaders have with each other combined with quality information, warm fuzzies, recognition and, of course, delicious, catered food.

The next Founder's District DEC meeting is on October 26 with a special visit and educational presentation by our Region Advisor, Linda Rhea. Although Linda is from Colorado, she has a long history with veteran Founder's District leaders. This is a great chance for you to speak with an experienced Region Advisor and learn helpful ways to make our district a President's Distinguished district this year.



High Performance Leadership

by Art Lim, DTM

As you know, Toastmasters go beyond making speeches, it is where leaders are developed and made for the greater good of mankind. And

Toastmasters has an excellent tool to fulfill this. High Performance Leadership (HPL) is Toastmasters' condensed version of practical project management. As a leadership tool, it takes you through a process of identifying the six dimensions of effective leadership: Vision and Values, Direction, Persuasion, Support, Development, and Appreciation.

The HPL has five parts, each with a three part learning process of Study, Action, and Feedback.

We are forming guidance committees in each Division to coach, mentor, and advise members who wish to participate in the HPL program. We will be working together in groups supporting each other through the entire process.

Bonuses include group accountability,

teamwork, and practicing valuable leadership skills while achieving the requirements toward the Advanced Leader Silver. Members will also discover how useful this tool is in their lives—both inside and outside of Toastmasters.

Some ideas for HPL projects:

- Chairing a Club or an Area Contest(s)
- Building and strengthening your Toastmasters club
- Starting a new club
- Club mentoring project
- A leadership project in your work place
- Organizing a community project
- A publicity or membership campaign

Remember a project needs to have a beginning and an end date where you would serve in a leadership role. The scope is wide as to what type of project you chose, as long as it is legal, ethical, and socially responsible. A project outside of Toastmasters must not be represented as being endorsed by Toastmasters International in any form.

The project should be one where it makes a positive contribution to your cause, one which you can readily identify results in a reasonably short period of time, and one which involves working with people / your personal team where you serve in a leadership capacity.

Now, let us challenge you with this opportunity to accomplish your dreams. Come join a guidance committee in your Division's HPL Program. Remember, we can build leaders together and you can become a better leader in Founder's District . . . and more important, beyond Toastmasters.

Founders District Gets Audacious During its Officer Installation Dinner

by Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

It was fitting that outgoing 2015-16 Founders District Director, Pan Kao, set the tone for a fun and varietal Founders District Installation Dinner for the new district council as

Founders District found itself back at the Knotts Berry Farm Hotel in the 9th floor ballroom.

He instructed each audience member to fold up blue pieces of paper to ultimately make paper airplanes after instructing everyone to write down an audacious goal that pertains to their leadership position going into the 2016-17 Toastmasters International year. After the folding was done, blue paper airplanes were flying everywhere as if the Blue Angels were part of the festivities. It was as fun as much as it was a great message by Pan to dream big as part of the leadership opportunities all the incoming leaders have going into 2016-17.

One can only wonder what some of the content was that was written by the wide array of leaders that were represented there during the night. It was a diverse crowd of established leaders, past leaders of certain posts and the aspiring new leaders that want to keep the momentum of Founders District going.

Along those lines, it was a Founders star-studded event as put on by the Past District Governor's Club that is home to some of the greatest leaders Founders District has ever had. The master of ceremonies was the outgoing President of the club as well as outgoing Area D-2 Director, Richard Snyder, who was masterful at keeping the audience engaged while also ensuring the event would end on time, which it did. You did a great job, Richard!

All that said, what's a Founders District installation ceremony without the use of props? As some of the leaders of yesteryear took the responsibility of installing the Founders District leaders of tomorrow, they took it upon themselves to ensure that the installation was both creative for the new leaders while being entertaining for the audience as it occurred.

For instance, Charley Patton installed Debi Morales as the incoming Finance Manager in which he presented her with a green-tinted plastic visor that both symbolizes Debi's chief

responsibility this year in terms of handling the district's funds along with helping Debi to cover her eyes as she prefers being out of the spotlight. Nice going, Charley!



Roberta Perry installed Michelle Bender as the new Public Relations Manager. As part of the installation, Roberta described Michelle as the primary Founders District cheerleader. As a result, Michelle was presented with a plastic cheerleader megaphone as well as a book entitled "Contagious". Great going, Roberta!

Immediate Past Founders District Governor, Linda Ulrich, was charged with installing incoming Club Growth North Director, Jill Briscoe. She presented Jill with the Yellow Pages directory to assist her with new club leads as well as the White Pages to assist Jill with new member leads. It looks like Jill has her work cut out for her, especially if she has to lug those two directories around as she makes her rounds. Well done, Linda!



Finally, the person charged with installing incoming District Director, Siri Payakapan, was outgoing Vice President of Education of the Past District Governor's Club and current International Director, Ede D'Angelo. Ede spoke of the importance of integrity for Siri as well as all the leaders of the district council. She remarked that what the leaders of Founders District going forward will be primarily remembered for is the integrity they'll apply to doing their respective jobs more so than the accomplishments they may generate. It's a great point, Ede, and we're lucky to have you as such a wise and dedicated Toastmaster!



During Siri's inaugural speech, she spoke of how she's been expanding her horizons as she has climbed up the leadership ladder to get to where she is today as the theme of the event was "Expand Your Horizons." It's going to be important that the rest of the leadership council follow her example because with leadership comes great opportunities to make a difference and great responsibility to shoulder as part of ensuring that all Founders District members benefit from the mission that Toastmasters entrusts into each leader regardless of the district. Siri's indefatigable spirit and passion for Founders District will be the beacon that shines brightly on all Founders District members throughout the course of this upcoming year. As a council, we are very excited to walk this journey with you, Siri, and look forward to learning from and assisting you in this mission. Congratulations!

At the end of the day, Founders District is finishing the year strong and gaining momentum going into 2016-17. Under the guidance of Siri, Program Quality South Director Dan Cossack, Program Quality North Director Karen Lucas, Jill Briscoe and her partner, Club Growth South Director Diana Dee, it's going to be a strong year of maintaining and adding to the excellence of Founders District as well as transitioning in earnest to the up-and-coming Century District.

Special recognition and gratitude goes out to Director Pan Kao and his 2015-16 executive council including Program Quality Director Siri Payakapan, Club Growth Director Dan Cossack, Immediate Past Governor Linda Ulrich, Public Relations Manager Jill Briscoe, Administration Manager Linda Denton, Finance Manager Alexander Ruiz and Logistics Managers Brent Felsted and Kenneth Olson.

On to 2016-17 with audacious props in tow...



Speechcraft

By Mary Berg, DTM

The Speechcraft program allows experienced Toastmasters to present the fundamentals of public speaking to non-members in an atmosphere of a Toastmasters club meeting. A participant in a Speechcraft program can benefit from a quick-fix communication skill in a workshop environment.

Each Speechcraft meeting has three main segments: Table Topics, prepared speeches and evaluations. Every participant gives five speeches: an introduction of oneself to the group for three minutes, and prepared speeches focused on organization, gestures, vocal variety and using the "right" words.

A typical Speechcraft program is 8 meetings of 90 minutes each. The Speechcrafters learn more as introducers, evaluators, and impromptu responders. Many graduates of the program end up joining a Toastmasters club.

The best part of learning how to communicate and lead is to remember that a teacher is a student and a student is a teacher. Club members learn to teach giving back what was learned. Club members serve as functionaries as (1) coordinator, (2) Topicsmaster, (3) general evaluator, (4) educational presenter, (5) evaluator, and (6) timer. Each Speechcraft usually has one or two advisors to facilitate the program.

The starter kit (Item 205) is \$22.00 which provides for five participants. You may order more workbooks and certificates for the additional attendees. The coordinator may use the Speechcraft program to qualify for the Advanced Communicator Gold award. The club Vice President of Education signature verifies the program is completed.

As a personal story, I can confirm how valuable this process is for the business world. Years ago, the American Cancer Society leader had 80 medical professionals who gave presentations. It was about awareness in cancer concerns. The leader decided that none of the 80 speakers were to give any more presentations until after graduating from a Speechcraft session. I led all the sessions for months. I hope I will always remember how much the staff and their speaker bureau members expressed gratefulness and how well they improved their presentation skills.

Speechcraft is a great way to promote membership in your club and to publicize the benefits of Toastmasters to the local community.

Mary Berg, DTM – In June 1980, the club she joined used the point system to become one of the “best” clubs in the world. She wrote

their newsletter for 2 ½ years and won a best educational newsletter award at the District level. She has been an Area Governor five times and a Division Governor three times. She doesn't like to give speeches so she chooses to do anything else, such as volunteering at speech contests. To quote some Toastmasters: “If Mary Berg knows who you are – she will get you involved, so introduce yourself!”

For additional information on the Speechcraft program, see the [Toastmasters website](#).



Founder's TV

by Christine Brady, DTM

At the start of the program year, I was approached by Chris Gregory, DTM and asked if I had a point of contact for Division F for Founder's District TV.

At the time, I hadn't even heard of Founder's District TV. Once Chris explained it to me, I knew that we needed to get the word out to our Division.

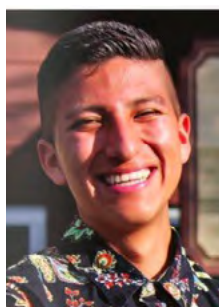
I invited Michael Varma to attend our Division Council meeting on August 17 and give an educational speech on Founder's District TV. We learned that Founder's District TV produces episodes focusing on Humor, District News, How To's, and Interviews. The team is always looking for talent to star in episodes BUT we also learned that there are lots of ways to help behind the scenes. One of the most important ways involves identifying talent and topics. The team can also use our help with lighting, filming, makeup, and set design. There are many ways to use our individual talents with Founder's District TV that don't involve getting in front of the camera.

Michael also stressed the importance of

Founder's District TV helping hone our skills as Toastmasters. We all know that constant practice of our speaking skills encourages our continuous growth as polished speakers. Michael's experience in Toastmasters and with Founder's District TV has led to paid speaking assignments and even teaching a class or two at LACE. He's quite accomplished and encouraging. Michael and the team are ready to help any one of us in the District gain the same experience.

So, how can you get involved? One way is to identify talent. As Toastmasters, we are all lucky to know so many talented people in our clubs. Do you know someone who tells a really good joke? Let Founder's District TV know! Maybe you write really good jokes but you don't want to deliver them on an episode of Founder's District TV. That's ok! Send your jokes and the team at Founder's District TV will deliver your joke.

Another way to get involved is to keep Founder's District TV informed of special events around your Area and Division. We all want to know the fun events and awards that are happening around you. If you think its interesting, chances are others will too! Email the team at fdtv@foundersdistrict.org



Youth Leadership Program

by Yossymar Rojas, DTM

Can you imagine the difference in your own skills if you had started learning the art of public speaking as a youth?

You and your club members have the opportunity to help develop our future leaders by sharing your time and skills to sponsor a Youth Leadership Program (YLP). The YLP is an education program for youth from 9-17 years, lasts from 8-10 weeks, and helps young people develop communication and leadership skills.

There are indeed several benefits for a club to

sponsor YLP. Toastmasters club members can earn credit toward their Advanced Communicator Gold, or towards the High Performance Leadership and Advanced Leader Silver. It can benefit future membership growth to your club and give your members an opportunity to share their knowledge of communication and leadership to local youth groups.



Here are a few success stories:

1. Coastmasters Toastmasters Club has been sponsoring a YLP with the Capo Valley Boys & Girls Club teen Keystone program for over 12 years. This partnership was started by David DuRee, Treasurer of Coastmasters TM Club and James Littlejohn, Executive Director of the Capo Valley Boys & Girls Club. Yossymar Rojas was a participant in the YLP for three years as part of Keystone and in 2013 he was recognized as the Pacific Region Youth of the Year and met President Obama. In several of Yossy's speeches he acknowledged the confidence he gained by participating in the Keystone and Toastmasters programs.
2. San Gabriel Valley Wine and Dine Toastmaster (SGVWD) Club is sponsoring an YLP at the Pasadena Hindu Temple. One of the parents of YLP students joined the SGVWD club, hence benefitting an increase in membership to the club. The new club member was so impressed with

the skills her daughter had learned in just a few weeks, and she decided to join as well.

Toastmasters International is a place where we can positively impact our future leaders.

To learn more, please contact our Youth Leadership Chairs: North – Sujata

Kori, sujatakori01@gmail.com, 626-

315-8842, South – Linda Denton,

linda@lindadenton.com, 949-300-0817.



#Hashtagloveyou

By Vernon Budinger, ACS, ALB

I was recently at a social media workshop sponsored by the Apple Store in Pasadena that featured a panel of several social media

executives from successful companies. Paul Meyers, the social media director from Pabst Beer (Pabst Blue Ribbon beer or PBR for us aficionados) made the bold statement that hashtags are the most powerful social media tool in the social media tool box. The other participants unanimously agreed.

Toastmasters International jumped on the hashtag bandwagon a while ago. Since 2012 Toastmasters International has been using the hashtag #TIConvYY (#TIConv16 this year) to post information related to the International Convention on Facebook and other social media channels. Maybe it is time that our members in the Founder's District develop a little more love for this tool. This is a short article on how you can improve your hashtagging and how you can use hashtags to promote your club in social media channels.

What is a Hashtag?

Hashtags first appeared when Twitter designer, Chris Messina, saw them being used by programmers in Internet Chat Relays and

realized that they could be used to allow Twitter users to find subjects with a simple search. Twitter rejected the idea at first but hashtags caught on anyway. Hashtags have quickly spread to other social media channels.

Social Media Channels that use #Hashtags

- Twitter
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Pinterest
- Google+
- YouTube
- Tumblr
- Orkut
- Fluidinfo
- Catch.com
- FriendFeed
- All websites under Gawker Media
- Diaspora software

Source: Hashtags.org

How to use hashtags

Hashtag Rules – put a # in front of a word and follow the rules below.

Length – Hashtags should be kept to no more than six characters. However, many hashtags are generally longer than six characters – the main issue is that hashtags should be kept as short as possible.

No Spaces – Hashtags do not support spaces so just mash multiple words together. #USElections not #US Elections.

Other Symbols - “!, \$, %, ^, &, *, +, .” cannot be used. Be careful with Slang: Slang words can mean different things in different countries.

Do not start with or use only numbers – neither #123 nor #123hello will work. But numbers are good at the end for categorizing items. #FoundersSpring2016 for example.

Source: Hashtags.org

Why Use Hashtags?

Many social media experts say that Twitter would be almost unusable without hot-linked hashtags. Hashtag have been taken to new levels on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Hashtags tie public conversations from different users into a single stream. Hashtags allow individuals and brands to make their social posts more visible and to increase engagement. They provide a tool that aggregates images together and unites groups of like-minded individuals.

- Events or conferences, #ticonv16 or #foundersspring2016
- Disasters or emergencies, #JeSuisCharlie or #PrayforHaiti
- General interest topics, #WinterWonderland or #ChocolateLovers

Marketing Campaigns using Hashtags

Pabst Beer uses hashtags to promote its craft beers and develop better communications with their customers on Instagram. This allows Pabst to compete in the local craft beer market. Pabst runs special promotion campaigns geared to local markets under such hashtags as #pabstblueribbon. The beer maker's loyal followers post pictures of themselves drinking the beer while trucking, fishing, or barbequing.

Lululemon is another company that employs hashtags in their marketing. They have branded the hashtag #thesweatlife - a play on "the sweet life" - and ask their consumers to post pictures of themselves in their Lululemon outfits after a yoga class or a workout. (See more about branding below.) As a result, troves of young, very fit women publish pictures of their legs, arms, or

entire body in Lululemon clothes. The women feel connected to the brand and Lululemon receives free advertising.

You want to see photographs from the Spring 2016 Founder's District Speech Contests? Type #FoundersSpring2016 into Facebook and you will see all of the Division winners and the District International Speech Contest winner, Josephine Lee.

Is the Speakers Bureau for You?



*By Victor Broski, Chair
Founder's District – Speakers
Bureau - South*

Let's find out . . .

Many people join Toastmasters to lessen their fear of public speaking, some to become more proficient speakers, and a few join to be (paid) public speakers. That's where the Speakers Bureau comes in. We exist to help members speak beyond their club, whether at service clubs, at church, or to a paying audience. We do that through our 20 minute educational presentations on delivery or something on the business side of speaking, and two 20-minute presentations on a meaningful topic, followed by our round-robin, real-world, no-holds-barred evaluations (which is what we are known for). We tell the speaker exactly what we are thinking; nothing is sugar coated. We alert speakers to any inconsistencies that might cause the audience to simply walk out after their presentation without buying their coaching program or that book that took them two years to write. It takes a confident, mentally-prepared speaker to take on that challenge, which is one of the reasons we want people to attend three times before signing up to be a speaker.

We accept any speaker who wants to "Go Big." There is a certain proficiency level we require before they speak in front of the room, so they may not speak for several months.

Many people come just to listen and learn. Personally, I told myself I would quit coming

when I quit learning something—I've been attending for over 20 years.

Tips to attend: arrive early to socialize and meet like minded people, plan to stay late for the continued energy and brainstorming, and, if it's your first time, be open to our strong evaluations, unlike your Toastmasters club.

If one of your goals is to be paid to speak, or you simply want to be a great speaker, the Bureau is your place. The Speakers Bureau—we make dreams come true. Contact Victor at:

victor.broski@gmail.com, 949-433-6258

From The Judges Bureau: Judges Needed for Academic Decathlon Events



by Avis French, CTM, CL

For years, members of Founders District have supported the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD). Recently, we were asked to expand our support.

As usual, OCAD events will be held January 28, 2017, Speech and Interview Day, and February 4, 2017, Super Quiz Day, at a school in Orange County. Volunteers are needed to serve as speech judges and super quiz monitors. To volunteer, go to <http://www.ocde.us/Decathlon/Pages/Volunteer-Information.aspx>. Volunteer forms will be available in early September 2016.

Los Angeles Unified School District Academic Decathlon events will also be held January 28 and February 4, at Roybal Learning Center in Los Angeles. Again, volunteers are needed to serve as speech judges and super quiz monitors. To volunteer, go to <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3738>. Then click on Volunteer Cover Letter and Volunteer Application.

March 24 and 25, 2017, the California Academic Decathlon will conduct the state finals. Volunteers are needed to serve as speech

judges and super quiz monitors.

The U.S. Academic Decathlon will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, April 20 – 22, 2017. Online national competitions for small, medium, and large schools are also open to qualified teams from each participating state.

For more information on the state and national competitions, contact Ken Scarberry, the state coordinator, at ken@academicdecathlon.org.

As the Founders District Judges Bureau receives more information about the state and national competitions, we will let you know.

Founded in 1968, by Robert Peterson, Ed.D., former County Superintendent of Schools, the Orange County Academic Decathlon serves as the model for all prestigious Academic Decathlon events that now exist at the state and national levels.

Like its ancient Greek counterpart, Academic Decathlon is a 10-event contest where A, B, and C-level high school students work as teams to compete in the areas of language and literature, science, mathematics, social science, economics, art, music, essay, interview, and speech. Each team aspires to compete at the state or national level.

The purpose of Academic Decathlon is to develop and provide academic programming, curriculum, and assessment to promote learning and academic excellence. Students of all achievement levels participate in a variety of rigorous and challenging academic events while building teamwork and a competitive spirit.

Academic Decathlon teams consist of 9 student members, known as Decathletes. Each team consists of 3 Honors decathletes (GPA 3.75-4.0), 3 Scholastic decathletes (GPA 3.0-3.74), and 3 Varsity decathletes (GPA 0.0-2.99). Each Academic Decathlon team spends months working together in preparation for a rigorous and demanding competition season against other local area schools.

All decathletes participate by taking 30-minute multiple-choice tests in the subject areas of art, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science. Each area, with the exception of mathematics, is based on an annual theme (e.g., Russia, the Great Depression, History of the Civil War).

In addition, each decathlete is required to perform a planned 4-minute speech on a topic of their choice, a 2-minute impromptu speech, a 7-minute interview (similar to a job interview), and to write an essay within a 50-minute period.

The competition culminates with an exciting Super Quiz relay, a team event where parents and classmates cheer from the sidelines, much like a sporting event.

After scores for all tests, interview and speech, essay, and Super Quiz scores are cumulated, individual and team award medals are presented at an awards ceremony. The overall winning team from the Orange County Academic

speaking experience and receive supportive feedback to learn and grow. It's also a chance for Toastmasters to give back to the community.

Well-trained, impartial, and professional quality Toastmaster judges are needed for the following community youth contests:

Academic Decathlon

Lions Club Speech Contest

High School Academic Competitions

National Management Association Speech Contest

Future Business Leaders of America

Concordia Home Schooled Tournament

If you're already a trained judge, we need your expertise to help guide our future leaders. If you want to become a trained judge, we'll assist you to achieve your goal.

As chair of the Founders District Judges Bureau, I encourage members to volunteer for these academic decathlon competitions. To get



Decathlon is invited to participate in the statewide California Academic Decathlon. The winning team from the statewide competition goes on to compete in the U.S. Academic Decathlon. The Founder's District Judges Bureau sends trained judges to provide unbiased scores and adhere to the organizations' contest rules. Your contributions as a judge are vital and ensure the audience and contestants feel confident that winners are deserving and that they best represent their institution.

These events provide our members the opportunity to help young people gain valuable

more information about these events, contact me at 949-667-0682 or at community@foundersdistrict.org

On a personal note, I have served as a judge for academic decathlon events since 1988, mostly with the Orange County Academic Decathlon. But I have judged one California decathlon and two U.S. decathlons. It is always an exciting time, seeing wonderful and talented young people compete, working with dedicated volunteers, and watching supportive friends and families.



In Memoriam ***John Thomas Shealy***

***Beloved Member of
Helmsmen Toastmasters
Club 770***

by Chris Gregory, DTM

John came on the scene into Helmsmen in September 2006 and was voted into the club October 1, 2006. The vote was unanimous as his infectious smile and quick wit charmed all the young ladies and we old men didn't stand a chance.

I feel I had a special relationship with him as I got to help mentor John, not that he needed mentoring because in reality he taught us a lot of really good life lessons. He was one of those special people you meet in life that seems to care for everyone. And everyone feels like they have a "special" relationship with him because he cares.

John was also a "team player" and was a club officer for a couple of years and then "BINGO!" Area Governor! John stepped up to be the Founder's District 2008-2009 C4 Area Governor. His unique caring ways and charismatic approach to working with people was infectious and the entire area fell in love with John. As did the Division and the District.

Good customer service takes a very special type of person and IT support is usually known for "poor" customer service. John on the other hand was an IT Technical Support Engineer who was very popular, in demand and was very well known for his "interpersonal communication skills."

His calm mannerisms and his constant drive to please were indicative of his personality. The IT world has always been famous for people like "Nick the Computer Guy" from "Saturday Night Live" who would treat his clients with the ultimate disrespect. But John was one of those people who would both cure the situation

but would also go out of his way to make sure that you felt comfortable knowing what do if something like that happened again. He was both the IT Guru and the Professor! "Everybody loves Raymond! – No – Everybody loves John!"

The other "BIG" thing about John is he loved humor but "you saw it coming" – There was always a glint in his eye, and his glasses would come off, he would twirl them have a somewhat obvious nervous grin of a leprechaun and then "BANG!" you were done!

With great sadness and deep loss, I regret to tell you we lost John Thomas Shealy at his home in Huntington Beach, CA on Monday, July 11, 2016. It was sudden and unexpected and he was with his son Matt.

You meet all kinds of people in life and for me I had the opportunity of mentoring John but the interesting thing is that I learned more from John than he ever learned from me. I helped him learn how to speak, he helped me learn how to live.

Thank you John, we love you and I know I speak for the entire club.

Yaounde Bilingual Toastmasters Demo Meeting Proves To Be Magnifique

by Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

There was something very special in the air at the Mesa Verde United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa.

It was marked by cameras for Founder's District TV, dignitaries, new club officers and some veteran Toastmasters lending their time and talents to contribute to a demo meeting for a new up-and-coming Toastmasters club that is being built in a whole other country.

That country is Cameroon, where a Toastmasters club to be called Yaounde Bilingual Toastmasters Club is being developed by a Toastmaster named

Donald Baliaba, the visionary and inspiration behind this up-and-coming Toastmasters club and second of its kind in Cameroon.

In asking Donald what this process means, he answered, "Toastmasters is family because people came together to talk about the Toastmasters value and inspire prospective members in Cameroon."

To Donald's point, members of the Founder's District family came out ready to assist in a groundbreaking effort of epic proportions. The toastmaster of the day was Vineyard Journeys immediate past Club President, Jennie Stahler, who set the tone for the meeting from the standpoint of opening up her Toastmastering by speaking French to address the prospective members of Yaounde Bilingual Toastmasters club. Jennie's poise, confidence and control was very evident from the outset of her portion of the meeting. On top of that, her speaking in French added a very nice, sophisticated and cultural aspect to the great job she did.

It was then time to get into the prepared speeches of which there were two. Immediate past Division E Director, Lionnel Yamentou DTM, delivered his speech in which it was focused on selling the Toastmasters

opportunity to the prospects in Cameroon. To make sure the speech was as impactful as it could be, he delivered the whole speech in French. From his facial expressions, definitive arm and hand gestures, his tone of voice and stage presence, he had the audience riveted and engaged the whole time.

The second speaker was incoming Money Talks

Toastmasters Club President, Lynn Napoli. Lynn gave a very high-energy and spirited presentation on the value of Toastmasters in the English language in which she focused her message on the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone and pushing one's self to the limit when it comes to their particular Toastmasters experience. It's a great point by Lynn because the motivation of joining any Toastmasters club is primarily the desire to step out of one's comfort zone so as to spread one's wings further and further than the person previously imagined.

The table topics session was lead by your's truly. The questions were designed to promote the Toastmasters value to the prospective members in Cameroon. The winner of the table topics contest was Stella Mahakian, who's been a member of Toastmasters for 4 years now. She stressed how much Toastmasters builds up the confidence and skills of its individual members. She delivered those words with a swagger and enthusiasm that

really won the audience over.

In the evaluation portion of the meeting, veteran Toastmaster Nadine Nofziger evaluated Lionnel's speech in

French as well. Nadine is a spark plug when it comes to being a Toastmaster. She really knows how to make her presence known and is a great humorist as well. Her evaluation incorporated all those qualities and more.

Then, there was self-proclaimed stage ham, Randy Kleinman, who evaluated Lynn's speech. What made Randy's evaluation so effective was



the rambunctious enthusiasm he conveyed as he went about giving the evaluation. He even moved around the area in between the tables of the U-shaped seating area as a way of demonstrating a great technique for engaging the audience.

The general evaluator for the proceedings was longtime Toastmaster, Chris Gregory. In his general evaluation of the meeting, he made a great point about adding the names of the individuals who introduce the prepared speakers to the agenda, which is a great point in its own right. Given Toastmaster clubs always seek to communicate as effectively with their audiences as possible, such a mention on a meeting agenda would only enhance that effective communication.

At the end of the day, the demo meeting felt like a uniting of nations in the name of the Toastmasters value, which was the theme of the day. There were speakers speaking English and French, great content, incredible messages and all the fundamentals that make for a great Toastmasters gathering.

It's safe to say that the prospective members of Yaounde Bilingual Toastmasters Club have plenty of inspiration and information to draw from as they begin their Toastmasters experience as individuals and a club.

To the next steps...les prochaines étapes.

Special thanks goes out to Mary Berg, who provided the facility that allowed for this groundbreaking demo meeting to occur. You're the best, Mary! Merci beaucoup!



Step Outside of Your Comfort Zone

by Lorrie Briscoe, DTM

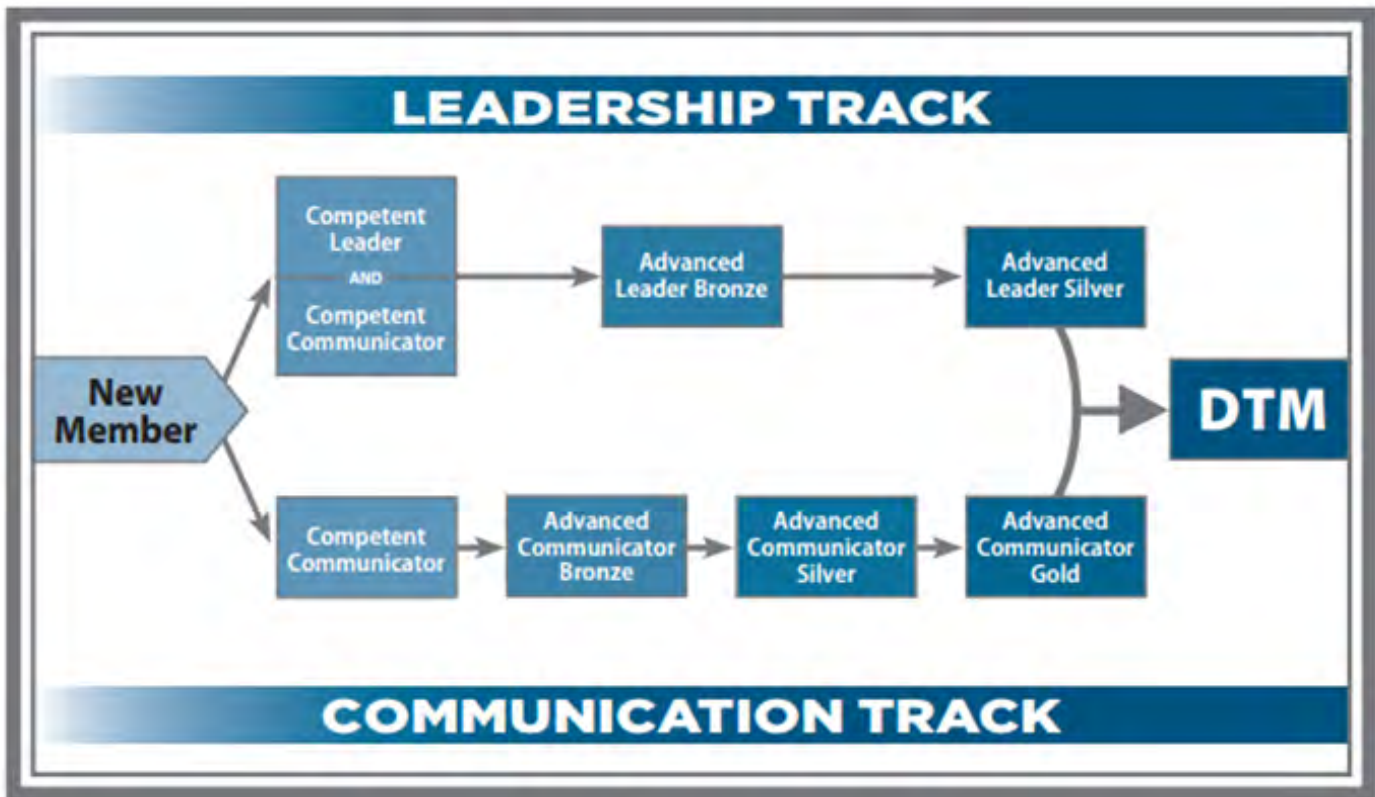
Happy New Toastmasters Year fellow Toastmasters. As you know, July 1st

was the beginning of the new Toastmasters Year. What do you want to accomplish during your Toastmasters journey this year? Will you step outside of your comfort zone and "Expand Your Horizons"? Will your members follow?

Club officers, this is a great opportunity to determine what you and your members want to accomplish this Toastmasters year. As an Executive Committee, you will be completing your club success plan, so you'll need the buy in from your members in order to meet your goals. Sit down and have a conversation with each member to see what they want to accomplish so you can develop your plan.

Every year, I like to take the opportunity to remind our club members of the Education Program and the flow chart that takes them from being a new member, working through the communication and leadership tracks, and ultimately reaching Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) status. We have all added new members as well as maintained our membership or even welcomed past members back to our clubs. Ask them what they want to accomplish. Do they want to focus on the Communication Track, Leadership Track, or both? Always encourage everyone and give them an opportunity to participate regularly. For our new members, help them become familiar with the Toastmasters program. It's important to always assign a mentor to guide and support them. Some may be interested in being on the fast track and move quickly through their speeches. Or they may be interested in taking a slow approach by filling those functionary roles as Table Topics Speaker, Timer, Ah Counter, or Grammarian. The mentor can guide and encourage them to step outside of their comfort zone and actively participate.

Do you have an introductory meeting with your new members? This is another way to get them familiar with the Toastmasters program and



what is available to them. All members are encouraged to help your club achieve distinguished or better status by year end.

By paving the way early in their Toastmasters journey, they will help you achieve your club goals. This will also help you maintain and increase your membership base. So take the opportunity to talk to your members, ask them for their support and participation in the Toastmasters program and ask them to step outside of their comfort zone. By doing so, everyone will Expand Their Horizons and be successful by year end.

Want Ads

FDTV needs a few more volunteers:

Final Cut Editors

Writers

Sound Person

Makeup Person

Email fdtv@foundersdistrict.org

PR Team also needs volunteers:

Social Media Chair - South

Photographer - North

Email PRM@foundersdistrict.org

Club Membership Renewal Incentive

The first 50 clubs that renew 8 or more members by September 15, 2016, will receive a \$25 Toastmasters International Gift Certificate.

The first 30 clubs that renew their base membership plus 2 by September 26, 2016, will receive a \$50 Toastmasters International Gift Certificate.

Any club that renews through March 2017 ALL members that were members as of June 30, 2016 will receive a \$50 Toastmasters International Gift Certificate.

A club may qualify for more than one award.

Founder's District Josephine Lee takes Third Place at International Speech Competition

By Vernon Budinger, ACS, ALB

Founder's District 2016 International Speech Contest Champion, Josephine Lee, took third place in August in Washington D.C. at the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. As the District Photographer for 2015/2016, this was not a surprise to me.

After the Spring District Finals, when the Founder's Officers brought Josephine into the photography room for the winner's photograph, I knew right away that she could go all of the way. Usually I have to take time to pose contestants, adjust their posture, and correct their smile. However, Josephine was a natural in front of the camera. It was as though she sent out energy to the camera to tell it what to do. It was then that I knew she had the stage presence and the ability to connect that would carry her to a top position in the finals.

That is exactly what happened in Washington. Josephine charmed, delighted, and entertained the audience and the judges with her final speech, "I Will Be There for You." Her body language was impeccable as she conveyed with humor and emotion the ebb and flow of her relationship with her best friend, Jenna. She used the entire stage; her comical facial expressions and reenactments

had the audience roaring with laughter. The only contestant with more laughs wore underwear outside his suit.

Her speech was well crafted and the key threads of her speech were carried through to following segments. She effectively used humorous stories to take the speech through the good times when they each were best of friends and supported each other when they were growing up.

Another example was a story in which she talked about running out of gas despite her car's warning lights blinking at her. She thought that the warning lights were just indicators. She used this indicator allusion when she talked about the events that lead to the fall of her friendship with Jenna. She thought that the signs from Jenna were just "indicators."



She successfully invoked a more serious tone when she explained how they drifted apart as Josephine became too busy to "be there for her friend Jenna." She was able to pull the speech from the depths of sadness to happiness when she talked about how their friendship was renewed. She urged the audience to maintain their

perspective when friends give indicators and to understand the importance of "being there" for someone special.

The winner was Darren Tay Wen Jie of Singapore, District 80. Darren was also

very poised during his speech, “Outsmart, Outlast.” Darren’s speech used humor and jokes to talk about how he overcame bullying during his youth. He began his speech by putting on a pair of Calvin Klein briefs over his suit. He relived his encounters with Greg, the school bully, and his strategy to outsmart and outlast Greg by moving to another school.

It was then that Darren’s speech took an unexpected turn – he realized that he had to face another bully every day. This bully was more effective, more insidious, and proved to be very difficult to outsmart. That bully was his inner-self. That inner bully was just like wearing a pair of Calvin Klein briefs over his suit. He recounted how he had to learn to stand firm against his inner bully. It was then that he stepped out of his briefs to free himself.

Darren’s speech was very well done. He was also able to carry the speech through emotional highs and lows. His body language was impeccable, his gestures were very effective, and his eye contact with the audience was very personal. Darren’s posture was erect and confident as he talked about vulnerability and fear. Toastmaster chat rooms were a buzz with the sentiment that he had won the contest.

Aaron Beverly took second place and was also ranked very highly in the chat rooms. Aaron, who is from District 18 in Pennsylvania, employed a very long speech title to get his point across. It took the Contest Master at least a minute to read the title, “People Won’t Remember What You Say Until You Say More and Ramble On and On..... and Make Them Sit...” I do not even have space to transcribe the entire title!

The point of the title was that Aaron has always been a quiet person, and people have

always told him that no one would listen to him unless he talked more.

Aaron effectively made the point that you do not have to talk more to say more. Aaron’s performance was poised and effective; and he may have won had it not been for some minor grammar errors. For instance, when he talked about his best friend he would use “Austin and me,” rather than “Austin and I.” As demonstrated by his second place result, he was able to overcome these minor deficiencies with a very effective speech.

The speech contest featured a first for Toastmasters. There were five women in the finals and all of them did very well.

How you present yourself is very important in Toastmasters and Josephine looked professional and ready for her big moment in a conservative, black dress.

My take away from the contest was that body language is more important than the speech itself. Many people had finely crafted speeches, but body language and confidence seemed to be the key factor in determining the winners.

Body language seems to be outweigh small flaws in grammar and execution. Even the respected Harvard researcher, Amy Cuddy, reported that one of her students studied the results of venture capital presentations and found that the appearance of confidence and assurance was more important than the content of the presentation.

As Toastmasters, we should all spend more time in front of the mirror to rehearse body language and less time rewriting our speeches.

Takeaways and Results of the 2016 World Championship of Public Speaking

by Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

There was enough electricity in the air to turn on the lights, cameras and microphones in the Marquis Ballroom of the Marriott Marquis Hotel and Convention Center.

2,100 Toastmasters entered the room with the same level of anticipation of a kid visiting Disneyland for the first time in which they eagerly wanted to find out who would be crowned as World Champion of Public Speaking.

Incoming Toastmasters International President, Mike Storkey, who introduced the contestmaster for the event, President-Elect Balraj Arunasalam, summed it up perfectly as he felt the buzz from the crowd of Toastmasters taking their seats.

“I see you’re ready,” as astutely stated by President Storkey.

This was the #1 highlight of the 2016 Toastmasters International Convention for its attendees. In the midst of all of the busyness of attending workshops, caucuses, candidate corners and showcases on top of all the networking that was going on, no one attendee was going to miss this no matter how early in the day it was to occur. This contest had the feel of the American Idol final 10 in that it was 10 contestants on a big stage that practically extended from one side of the room to the other with a sizable crowd to watch the festivities in person as well as countless other members tuning in remotely through a live feed of the contest. The only difference between the final 10 of American Idol and the Final 10 of the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking is one is about singing and the other is about speaking. The electricity factor

was no different between the two different contests.

As attendees walked in, they would see 4 screens behind the stage, including one of the screens prominently displaying the Toastmasters brand image in the middle of the stage. Wrapped around that image were images of thin clouds across a blue sky as if to mark a new day and a new era in Toastmasters. It’s at the beginning of any day that anticipation is aplenty and possibilities are endless. It was much the same prior to the beginning of this contest.

It was a new day for Founder’s District in terms of having its first finalist in the World Championship of Public Speaking in 5 years. Josephine Lee managed to make it all the way to the final stage along with 9 other contestants to test her speaking ability against a group that ultimately will be considered to be the 10 best public speakers in the world regardless of where each speaker would ultimately finish.

President-Elect Arunasalam was dressed in traditional Indian clothing as part of his responsibility of being contestmaster. The pants portion of his outfit did not have loops that a belt would fit through. Recognizing the potential concern from the audience in regards to potential exposure, President-Elect Arunasalam assured the audience by saying, “You’re safe.” It was an appropriately funny opening to a contest that would be loaded with humor, intensity, emotion, perspective and plenty of inspiration that audience members, regardless of where they were viewing from, could really benefit from.

In terms of the finishers, Josephine finished 3rd, making her the first contestant to finish in the top 3 representing Founder’s District in what seems like a day’s age. I conducted an interview with her during the evening program in which one of the things I asked her about was her preparation with her coach

and prior International Speech Competition semifinalist, Munjen Ng. “I kept it light and I didn’t really didn’t focus too much on winning at all. I just wanted to make sure that I paid attention to the message and what I wanted to get out from inside. I found the entire process very therapeutic.” The great lesson in that is focusing on the speech and the story as opposed to the result it ultimately attains in the eyes of the judges.

I then asked her about the audience’s reaction to her speech and where her humor comes from. She answered, “I think humor really comes from real life and all of the stories that were in my speech were all true stories. And, I just had to find very embarrassing stories, which wasn’t very difficult to do and then incorporate it into my speech and it came out hilarious.” So, I was very happy with those results.”

I then asked her about what she felt after finding out she finished in 3rd place in the competition. “I was so honored and incredibly humbled that I was one of the finalists to begin with. And, to be placed 3rd was an incredible experience because that was an incredible testament to how awesome this group was and I was really just honored to be recognized with those people.”

I then asked her what Josephine thought Jenna would say in the moment that Josephine realized she finished in 3rd place. Josephine said that Jenna would say, “I can’t believe you told them the gas tank story.”

In terms of final words I asked Josephine for, she said, especially of Founder’s District as a whole, “Thank you so much for all of the support. I have really been touched by all of the support I have gotten from Founder’s District. I just realized what a great organization this is because we do support each other. We’re an incredibly warm

community.”

No Founder’s District member could’ve put it any better than Josephine just did. That’s why she is where she is. Congratulations, Josephine! Founder’s District is proud of you!

For those who weren’t able to attend the competition in person or view the live remote streaming of it by clicking [HERE](#). It’s highly recommended you do because there are bound to be plenty of nuggets of wisdom and knowledge that will make an investment in the recording very worthwhile.

On to Vancouver in 2017.. Will Josephine return to the big stage for the 2nd straight year? Who will give her a run for her money within Founder’s District? Who will shine brightest in the biggest public speaking stage in the world?

Stay tuned...



Josephine Lee proudly displays her trophy from the International Speech Competition



The Distinguished Club Program

by Glenn Yasukochi, DTM

The DCP is the most critical element to the success of a club.

So what does DCP stand for? First, let me tell you what it does not stand for. For our table topics participants, it does not stand for “Don’t Cry Profusely,” and for our treasurer, it is not “Don’t Come Penniless.”

For some of our past veteran Toastmaster members, the DCP was more of a nuisance. They enjoyed coming to meetings and having a good time performing the roles when called upon. But why should they stress out over trying to add more members and getting others to move through the educational program? Perhaps they knew the importance of the DCP, but that was a long time ago. I believe most members, even if they know what the DCP is all about, don’t understand its importance.

DCP stands for Distinguished Club Program. It is a measure of a club’s effectiveness in engaging its members to use Toastmasters methodology of promoting better communication and leadership skills. It is an achievable standard of quality that gives equal opportunity for all members to develop their skills. In fact, DCP is not obtainable unless all members are involved in its success. Everyone benefits when club members work together to meet a common goal. The meetings become a more supportive atmosphere which creates fellowship between members. Focusing on goals keeps members progressing through the educational system. Members gain satisfaction and confidence that comes with completing a goal for themselves and again when they help others.

The DCP helps members develop the critical skills necessary to become a good leader. The type of leadership the “High Performance Leadership” manual refers to as “service leadership.” Not only is service leadership the most effective type

in our current society, but it is the only way to achieve the DCP or any other goal in a volunteer organization. The DCP builds strong leadership skills such as creativity, problem solving, strategic planning, organization, and time management skills. Without the structure and guidance of the DCP, there would be no universal consistency and development of skills. Clubs that meet all of the DCP requirements on a regular basis can always be counted on for having consistent and productive meetings.

For Toastmasters International, it is a way to protect their brand. Since they cannot attend every club meeting, they need some measure of making sure the clubs are operating on the highest level of quality and serving the members. It is a checklist of 10 goals for every club to follow to be a successful club.

The DCP program gives incentive to the VP Education to make sure that everyone is working at completing their educational projects, especially because they will want their clubs to earn that distinction every year into the future.

I believe the DCP should be a criteria when somebody is trying to find a club. Most people looking to the website probably have no knowledge of Toastmaster’s methodology. There should be a short description of the importance of the DCP. Guests and members would then have the opportunity to search for clubs, not only within the area that fits their timeframe, but also to focus on clubs that place importance on quality meetings. It could be further categorized by Distinguished, Select Distinguished, and Presidents Distinguished.

Recognition and awards can motivate members to go beyond the call of duty, but for some, including some of my past veteran members, awards is not always a motivator. Pride is a much more powerful motivator. Members will go to much greater lengths to feel that intangible feeling of pride than any ribbon.

Every member should be involved in their own club’s DCP success, but for it to happen,

we must, as leaders, be able to answer the first question on the minds of many of our members. What's in it for me?

The DCP gives assurance throughout the organization that no matter which club a member wants to attend, they have equal opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills.

Stephen R. Covey, who wrote the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" once said "many people climb the ladder of success only to find it's leaning against the wrong wall." The DCP provides the right structure and guidance that gives clubs confidence that they are climbing up the right ladder.

The Distinguished Club Program helps the clubs to lead the way to Toastmaster excellence.

The Spirit of Ralph Smedley Marks Smedley Chapter One's Annual Independence Day Barbecue

by Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

It wasn't just another Tuesday night in Founder's District.

It was a great summer night to bring Toastmasters together from all over Founder's

District in order to celebrate the spirit of Ralph Smedley with the club that is the epitome of his vision, Smedley Chapter One, as part of their annual Independence Day barbecue.

And, what a celebration it was with dignitaries showing up to contribute their time and talent to the proceedings at hand.

The Toastmaster for the evening was newly-elected club President, Peter Wang, who worked tirelessly to promote this event to any Toastmaster he knew or knew of. The impressive aspect of Peter's approach to being President is how tirelessly he does promote his club's events and functions. It's a strong indication that he is very much aware of the historical significance of Smedley Chapter One while also highlighting his energy and passion for his club, Founder's District, Toastmasters and life in general.

In his inaugural address, he spoke of the advancement of technology since 1996 while relating it back to Toastmasters in terms of the changes that have occurred over the past 20 years. He also spoke of the diversity amongst the International Presidents Toastmasters has had in terms of the countries they are residing in, which reminds us of one of the more appealing aspects of Toastmasters in terms of being one of the most diverse organizations



in the whole world. It showed in terms of the diversity represented at this event. He also detailed some of the unique events his club has in store this year including more barbecues and a speakeasy event as a tribute to clubbing back in the roaring '20s. You're going to be a great club President for Smedley Chapter One, Peter, and a joy to watch as you and your club progress through the course of this year.

Program Quality South Director, Dan Cossack, was charged with deinstalling the old officers and installing the new ones. As usual, Dan was poised, well-spoken and straight to the point in asking the officers and the members to commit to being the best they can be in terms of the respective jobs each officer and member will hold. Way to go, Dan!

Then, it was time for the speeches of which there were 3 speakers and 4 speeches in total. The first was delivered by immediate past Advisor for Region 11, Victoria Ferrer DTM, who spoke of the commitment to excellence Toastmasters is known for. The charisma and power by which she delivered her message was well summed up when she discussed how the positive and supportive aspect of Toastmasters helped one its members go into remission after contracting cancer. Aside from the healing nature that Toastmasters can offer its members, Victoria also spoke of how any person exposing himself or herself to Toastmasters can delay the onset of Dementia or Alzheimer's Disease because of the aspect of giving speeches, memorizing speeches, participating in other aspects of Toastmasters and so on and so forth. When selling Toastmasters to prospective members, these two testimonials made by Victoria are very much worth mentioning. Thank you, Victoria, for sharing such wisdom and reminding all of us how fortunate we are that Toastmasters found us and how we chose to not resist how much of a

difference it can make and has made for each of us.

Yours truly gave a speech on the power of recognition in which I spoke of how much a difference in my life it made in terms of finding my definite life purpose and how much it can make a difference in anybody's life as well. It was a joy to share the speech with such a special group of people that attended the Smedley Chapter One event. Thank you, Peter, for asking me to do so.

Founders District speech competition champion, Josephine Lee, then graced us with not 1, but 2 speeches. Her first speech was the winning speech "Let it Go" that just gets better and better every time she gives that speech. She followed that up with a speech entitled "Just Be There" in which she spoke of a friend named Jenna who was always there for Josephine, but who Josephine wasn't always there for when Jenna needed someone to help pick her spirits up.

To close, Peter chose various members of the audience to come up and give toasts/testimonials on that person's experience at the event. It was a nice touch and a great way to bring the audience together even more making for a tremendous evening of fellowship.

At the end of the day, the spirit of Ralph Smedley was all over the proceedings of the Smedley Chapter One Annual Independence Day barbecue. It's an event that reminds us how fortunate we are to be Toastmasters and Founder's District members.



The Incredibles Team

by Lori Shapiro, DTM, Division I Director

Division I, the Incredibles Team, is off to a roaring start. Division I is one of the two new divisions that are part of the Founder's District alignment

necessary to put our clubs into 6 Divisions for the south (Divisions A, C, F, G, I & J), and 4 for the North (B, D, E, H). Division I will be around only this year and will be renamed in 2017-18.

The Division is led by the following:

- Lori Shapiro, DTM Division Director
- Kathy Hughes, I1, Area Director
- Ashley Chau, I2, Area Director
- Paul Hollands, I3, Area Director
- Brent Felsted, I4, Area Director
- Claudia Kabot, I5, Area Director

The team is ENERGIZED and has already been contacting and visiting our 23 clubs.

We have also had some excitement - On August 2, joining with Division J Director Vijay Chidambaram, DTM, we held Officers Makeup training at Mesa Verde United Methodist Church. We had 119 attendees - and 99 officers were trained. It was an amazing team effort. Thanks goes out to the Division I -Incredibles team: Claudia Kabot & her hubby, Ashley Chau, Quin Boyce & Lance Boyce, Brent Felsted, Kathy Hughes, Ed Hill; Vijay Chidambaram and his Division J Area Directors and team: Arnie Lynn Bengo, Katharine Hansen, George Lehmann, Dan Molloy; and the supporting cast: Diana Dee, Diane Beall, Jeanne Cassidy, Debi Morales, Will Hansen, Olimpo Salmoran, Mary Berg, David Kline Lovett, and last but not least, Colette Gardener! It takes a village to TRAIN club officers. Clubs have until August 31 to get at least 4 officers trained to earn the DCP point (well, half a point).

Division I also helped organize the Founder's District Contest Training (South) on August 9, by helping to setup the venue, provided the A/V and took care of the food. Thanks goes out to Jeanne Cassidy, DTM, for creating the

deck and providing the training. Attendees raved about the content, delivery and take homes. Thanks, as always, goes to Mary Berg for the room step and cleanup. She is ALWAYS there, a big "THANK YOU". And thanks for everyone who helped with the final cleanup.

Last, we hosted a Division I Executive Team Meeting on Monday, Aug 15, where we will focus on club contests, Pathways - the new education program, and meeting with their Area Directors.

We will start planning our September 24 Area Contest, and then our October 9 Division I contest.

Until next time - Continue to be Incredible!

The News From Division A

by Jeffrey Lee, ACB, ALB, Division A Director

It is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve as the Division A Director for the 2016-2017 Toastmasters year. Division A has started the new Toastmasters year with 21 clubs. We are looking to add more clubs to the Division and increase membership in the clubs currently in the Division. We are soon going begin testing



Division A Mentoring Coaches Dave Clark and John Muse receiving certificates for their mentoring seminar at the club growth workshop.

the use of Meetup in the Division to increase Toastmasters awareness to the public.

I am excited to work with the incoming Area Directors, A-1 Karen Thompson, A-2 John DiGioia, A-3 Gary Olive, A-4 Lauren Eichenauer and A-5 Barbara Stickler along with my Assistant Division Directors Paul Fay and Mike Sokolovich.

The Division team has begun their first leadership exercise by getting as many club officers trained as possible. Having club officers trained is such an important element to a successful Toastmasters Club. Having all the club officers trained sends a strong message to the entire club that the leadership team is committed in the clubs members success and the clubs overall success.

One of the goals of the Division A team is to have at least one open house in each club during the Toastmasters year.

The Division A team is gearing up to have a success fall contest season. The Area Directors are diligently planning their Area Contests.

We are looking forward to a fabulous Toastmasters year filled with fun and exciting challenges.



Division C is off to a GREAT START

by Randy Kleinman, ACB, ALB, Division C Director

Division C is off and running! As of August 5, we trained more officers than any other division. Our Area Directors are a great group, with a wealth of experience and energy.

Donald Baliaba is C-1 Area Director, and in his spare time is putting together a club in Cameroon. Meredith Cracchiolo is C-2 Area Director, and in her spare time makes presentations to senior corporate officials. Lynn Napoli is C-3 Area Director, and was featured

in a recent Founder for the Youth Leadership Program she was involved in. Asad Ali is C-4 Area Director, and is moving to set up a new club where he works. Kim McFee is C-5 Area Director, and just finished up her term as president of one Founders District's most successful clubs!



The Division Council meeting was August 18, with our theme "Best Tricks for Club Success!" A number of experienced speakers gave very brief tips on how to create a growing and successful club without needing a pile of effort.

The Division Contest is October 7, so be thinking about whether you want to compete in your club contests.



Division G Governor's Reflections

by Cliff Shimizu, Division G Director

Hello, Founder's District! My name is Cliff Shimizu and I am serving as the Division G Director. I got started with my first Toastmasters club back before the turn of the century, in 1998. I had known that I needed help in the area of public speaking and was even told to visit a Toastmasters club. To be honest, a club where they only worked on speeches sounded weird and scary to me so I never bothered to check one out. It wasn't until Colette Gardner and Avis French started a corporate club at my workplace, Unisys that I figured I might give it a try. The club became

known as UniMasters and I have been a member ever since.

Over the years, I served as a club officer many times and competed in all of the different speech contests. I benefited from the Toastmasters program and from those people in Division G that supported my club and many others. However, I never thought about venturing beyond the club until 2015 when I became an area director. Was I ready and prepared for this role in the beginning? Not really! But I found that it was very much like learning to ride a bike... you can only learn so much by watching someone else do it. To truly master the skill, you have to jump in and learn by doing it yourself. As the year went on, I found that I was able to use the knowledge and experience I had gained through my Toastmasters journey to help others. I learned more about leadership, gained more skills, and, as always, was aided and guided by other dedicated Toastmasters!

But had I thought about moving beyond the role of area director. No. Then I attended a meeting in February where Robert Hollis was given the Founder's District Spirit of Excellence award. He told of a story of a business mentor who gave him some advice.

When you start off in a career, you absorb as much skill and experience as you can from others. But at some point, you must return what you gained to others. It was at that point that I decided to throw my hat into the ring and run for division director. It was time to start giving back a bit of what I had absorbed over the years.

And here I am. Going just one or two steps (or leaps) beyond my comfort zone and finding out that I am capable of doing more than I had previously thought. And, just like when I was just starting out as a new Toastmaster, a club officer, an area director...

I find myself supported by many people as I continue my journey as a division director.

Our motto for Division G this year is "Opening Doors of Opportunity." Everyone is capable of doing so much more than they believe they can. Toastmasters provides excellent opportunities for people to discover their potential in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our job, as leaders in Division G is to show members the doors that will lead them on their own pathways of excellence. But we can only open the doors. We cannot make anyone step through them. However, by sharing our own stories and experiences, we can assure our members that when they are ready to take that step, we'll be right there beside them.

Would you like to be considered for Toastmaster of the Year?

Besides the club level honor, we also will be honoring the following during 2016-17:

- * Area Director of the Year
- * Division Director of the Year
- * District Toastmaster of the Year

At the end of the year, you may submit your accomplishments. Now is a good time to start keeping track of your Toastmaster activities (and it will be much easier than looking back at the end of the year and trying to remember everything). We suggest you keep a log (or spreadsheet) of your activities by date. When it comes time to nominate, you can refer to your log. There are so many ways to be involved and to get credit toward the Toastmaster of the Year awards. The nominations will be sent to Siri Payakapan at the end of the Toastmaster year.

Good luck to you and we look forward to your many accomplishments in 2016-17!

REACH FOR THE STARS

CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM

JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

FOUNDER'S DISTRICT



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer.

Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

-Harriet Tubman

FEATURES

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Every member can earn recognition, discounts and rewards for your club! As a member and a club, stars are earned based on the criteria in this document. **Reach for the stars and work the Toastmasters Program!**

WHEN DOES IT LAUNCH?

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

CONTACT DETAILS / SUBMISSIONS

Karen Lucas, DTM, QS
Program Quality Director -
North

call/text 213.407.1765

karen@caltech.edu
photos@foundersdistrict.org

HOW ARE STARS TRACKED?

We're on it! Data Trackers monitor Toastmasters International and Founder's District websites, Toastmasters Magazine, The Founder Newsletter, Founder's District TV, and Division Newsletters to award stars to our hard-working clubs. They also monitor contest activity and receive programs listing functionaries.

Be sure to sign in to all council meetings, DEC meetings trainings, workshops and contests! The organizers send in the sign in sheets to our Data Trackers.

Send a picture when you visit clubs and "go clubbing" or when you tour World Headquarters. Send to either photos@foundersdistrict.org or karen@caltech.edu.

REACH FOR THE STARS CRITERIA

1 STAR

FOR EVERY TIME ANY CLUB MEMBER

- earns a **Level 1** in Toastmasters Pathways
- attends **officer training**
- attends any **division council meeting or DEC (District Executive Committee) meeting**
- attends any **conference or workshop**
- attends any **area, division or district speech contest**
- attends any **district level speaker's bureau**
- serves as a **functionary** at any division or district speech contest
- participates as a **contestant** at area or division contest
- who "goes clubbing"** – each time a club is visited and you get a picture!
- who visits World Headquarters and takes a tour** – get a picture with your tour guide!

2 STARS

FOR EVERY TIME YOUR CLUB

- qualifies as a **Distinguished Club**
- adds a **new member**
- successfully conducts** an Open House, Club Speech Contest, Speechcraft, or Youth Leadership Program

FOR EVERY TIME ANY CLUB MEMBER

- earns **any of the following education awards**: CC, CL, ACB, ACS, ACG, ALB, ALS, HPL, or Level 2 or Capstone in Toastmasters Pathways
- serves as a **District Sergeant At Arms, Assistant Area Director, Assistant Division Director, or Chair** at the Division or District Level
- attends the **International Conference**
- has an **article published** in a Division or District Newsletter (.pdf) or Toastmasters Magazine
- places in the **top three winning spots** at an Area Speech Contest

3 STARS

FOR EVERY TIME YOUR CLUB

- qualifies as a **Select Distinguished Club**

FOR EVERY TIME ANY CLUB MEMBER

- earns a **Triple Crown Award, a DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) or a QS (Qualified Speaker) designation**
- successfully serves** as a **Club Sponsor, Club Mentor, Club Coach**
- successfully serving** a **DEC Role** (Area, Division, or District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Finance Manager, Administration Manager, Public Relations Manager) or **Toastmasters Pathways Guide**
- places in the **top three winning spots** at a Division or District Speech Contest

4 STARS

FOR EVERY TIME YOUR CLUB

- qualifies as a **President's Distinguished Club**
- earns **Smedley Award, Beat the Clock, or Talk Up Toastmasters**

FOR EVERY TIME ANY CLUB MEMBER

- successfully serves** as a **Regional Advisor or International Director**
- places in the **top three winning spots** at the ISC Semifinals

5 STARS

FOR EVERY TIME YOUR CLUB

- qualifies for **LEGENDARY Club status** (3 years consecutively recognized as a Distinguished, Select Distinguished or President's Distinguished Club)

FOR EVERY TIME ANY CLUB MEMBER

- successfully serves** as **2nd VP, 1st VP, President Elect or President**
- earns the **Accredited Speaker** designation
- places in the **top three winning spots** at the International Speech Contest

Fall Conference & Speech Contests

OCTOBER 29, 2016 8:00AM - 5:00PM

- › Keynote Speaker: Craig Valentine
- › Humorous Speech Contest
- › Evaluation Speech Contest
- › District Business Meeting
- › Educational Workshops
- › Distinguished Toastmasters Award Ceremony
- › Opportunity Drawing and Silent Auction
- › Continental Breakfast and Italian Buffet Lunch



1999 World Champion of Public Speaking

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Craig Valentine

Craig Valentine, MBA, an award-winning speaker and trainer, has traveled the world helping thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations reap the profitable rewards that come from presenting with impact and persuading with ease.

As a motivational speaker, he has spoken in the United States, Taiwan, Canada, Jamaica, Qatar (Doha), England, Bahamas, Hong Kong, China, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka, and Australia giving as many as 160 presentations per year. He is the 1999 World Champion of Public Speaking for Toastmasters International. [Learn More](#)

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS OCTOBER 1

Just ~~\$55~~ \$45

Special early-early-bird pricing of \$45 until **September 16**. Register early and take advantage of this unbelievable early-bird discount. Regular early-bird pricing will increase to \$55 after September 16.

The conference price will increase to \$70 after **October 1**.

Register at: <http://www.foundersdistrict.org/registration>