

MARCH 2017

The Founder

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



Founder's District
Trio-Messages

Field Trip To
TMWHQ

Spring
Conference
& Contests

JUDGES
NEEDED

Clubbing
Abroad

Club
Special Events

...and MORE!

Founder's District:
The Birthplace of Toastmasters



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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Club 8951 Watermeisters took a field trip to World Headquarters in February. It was an experience they all enjoyed and recommend.

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.

← **EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS** →



Siri Payakapan, DTM, Ph.D.
District Director

Success Stories

“Let us share with others the benefits we have gained for ourselves” - Dr. Ralph C. Smedley Founder of Toastmasters International.

Your benefits from Toastmasters can be a wide range of skills you have developed through your Toastmaster’s journey, how you have expanded your horizons which led to your success at home, neighborhood, or at work.

Your success may come simply from accomplishing your Toastmaster’s goals, completing Competent Communicator and Leadership Manuals, which help your club achieve its goal of being Distinguished.

Your specific success stories might include the time you reached out and grabbed opportunities for your self-enrichment. Also, it can include how you stepped out of your comfort zone, volunteered to represent your club at speech contests, or served as district leadership roles, and how these experiences have given you added opportunities in your career advancement.

You can start by sharing the benefits you gained for yourself to other members at your own club or as a guest speaker at other clubs:

- Share how serving as a speech evaluator builds your skills of effective speaking, active listening, and critical thinking.
- Share how you successfully juggle your time between family and work while serving as an Area Director, a critical liaison between the District and your designated clubs.
- Share how you gained career promotions from effective interviews as a result of your Table Topics experience.
- Share your Toastmasters journey from a member to serving as Founder’s TV host and District Copywriter.

Your stories will inspire other members and prospective members to tap into the benefits of the Toastmasters program and to achieve their own success stories.

This is how Founder’s District “builds new clubs and supports all clubs in achieving excellence.”

Having been an active toastmaster for more than ten years, I have witnessed numerous success stories at my own clubs, other clubs, and at a wide range of district events.

I learned many new, fascinating club cultures and practices that not only captivated my attention but prompted me to suggest to my own club to try and, then, to spread the successes to more clubs. For example, templates used in one club’s meeting roles have been adopted and modified to fit other clubs.

As the District Director, I have decided to accept as many invitations to attend club events, as I can, to fully appreciate the success stories as well as understand the challenges and opportunities club members are experiencing. My experiences from attending:

- new club events (see article, “Success Stories: New Club Events” on page 25
 - club special events (see article, “Success Stories: Club Special Events” on page 30
- confirms what Richard Elliot, DTM’s famous marketing words during his term as 2010-2011 Founder’s District Lieutenant Governor Marketing—when you publicize your event,



Above - Buena Park Mayor Elizabeth Swift

reaching out and connecting with your family, friends, co-workers, and community residents, guests, including dignitaries such as the Mayor of the city your club is located, “will come.”



Above - San Clemente Mayor Kathy Ward

When you “put on a good show” making guests feel welcomed and have fun at your well-organized event, “they will join” as members. When you make sure members are happy having opportunities to grow, “they will stay.”



Above - Siri on Founder’s TV being interviewed by Steve Itzkovitz

Your success stories should be celebrated and shared with other members as well as nonmembers. This is how we can support one another and how we build long-lasting relationships. This is how we reach out and attract new members, adding new clubs, because others know they, too, can experience the growth of self-confidence in their speaking and leading skills.



Daniel Cossack, DTM
Program Quality Director

Writing Copy for Toastmasters

I've never been good at writing and always managed to avoid doing so as much as possible. But since becoming a Toastmaster, I found myself having to write a lot. In various club officer positions, chair positions, area or division directors, we are frequently writing emails, web site and social media content, flyers, and ads for promoting our clubs, open houses, speechcrafts, speech contests, membership campaigns, or any of the myriad Toastmasters events. This is a particular skill known as writing copy -- the art of strategically delivering words to your audience when you want them to take some action. I have never done this before and considered myself the worst copy writer in the world. Eventually I convinced myself that mastering this skill would be a life-changing gift essential for success.

My first attempts at writing copy were embarrassingly bad, putting in a lot of effort and getting poor results. I quickly discovered that I wasn't going to improve my skills by willing myself to perfection, so I started doing some research. I read articles on marketing and advertising. I started observing the techniques

of the most successful marketing campaigns on TV, radio, billboards, magazines, and the internet. I began to recognize all of the mistakes I've been making and also noticed many other Toastmaster colleagues making the same mistakes I'm making. So I put together a top ten rules for writing copy that have helped me get better results and I've shared this presentation at the recent LACE training. In this article, I'll just cover 3 of my rules to keep this article brief.

Rule #1 - Focus on the Results

It doesn't matter what you like about your business, product, or service. What matters is what your audience needs. People may not share your passion for your ideology, or why you do the things you do. But they will understand the results they receive from your product or service. The process is not nearly as important as the end result. For example, a process would be "Overcome your fear of public speaking," while the result would be "Get the promotion you deserve, or nail your next job interview."

Rule #2 - Tell, Don't Ask

This is the rule most often broken by neophytes. Write as if the reader already wants your product or service. It is much more effective if you take away the choice on whether or not they should give you a try. Most people are happy to have their choices made for them. Life is simpler that way. Write your copy as if that choice has already been made and the only thing to do next is to take action. For example, a poorly written Open House flyer might read like, "Are you afraid of public speaking? Do you want to be more confident? Then our club is right for you. Please come to our Open House." A better flyer might read like, "Gain confidence and speak with authority. Join us this Tuesday and discover your hidden power."

Rule #7 - Use Emotional Appeal

People buy for emotional reasons and justify with logic. This is the one rule that will give you the best results. It might seem like

cheating or being unethical appealing to the human weakness, but the fact is there is nothing more effective than emotional appeal. Consider someone in a supermarket shopping for skin lotion knowing nothing about skin lotion. On a shelf with a dozen competitors products, most people will just pick the bottle with the most appealing label. Some will read the bottle and pick the one that makes them feel best. The copy written on the body is crucial in appealing to the customer's emotions -- how their skin will feel when using this lotion. This also addresses rule #1, the results. Few people will care about the technology behind making the lotion, or the process it was made. They just want to know it works, feels great, and (rule #2) it's the only lotion they need. Try this when you write the marketing piece for your next event. Describe how your audience will 'feel' after they've attended your club meeting, speech contest, or other event.

These are just 3 of the 10 rules I've put together to help me write better copy, and this only scratches the surface of this important subject. I've only started to enjoy writing now once I discovered there is a method I can test and get results. If you missed the workshop at LACE, look for it next time it is offered in your area and learn all 10 rules. I think you'll discover new ways you can improve as well.



Did you know that online membership renewals are now open?

The renewal period upon us. Here are a few new and important reminders about Toastmasters dues:

- Dues are \$45 each six months. Renewals can be processed at www.toastmasters.org under Club Central. Check with your club Treasurer for additional details about renewing.

- The membership renewal grace period has been eliminated for anyone who doesn't submit their dues by March 31st.
- Dues renewals must be submitted by March 31st to count as DCP credit. (Goal #10).

Note: Each club must pay a minimum of **8 members** to be a club in good standing.

In addition, if your club adds 5 or more new, dual or reinstated members from Feb. 1 to March 31st, your club will also qualify for "Talk up Toastmasters" and receive an invitation to the District-sponsored pizza party on May 6.

Also, the first 50 clubs to renew 8 or more members by March 15 are eligible to receive a \$25 Toastmaster gift certificate.

It's not too late to participate in the Founder's District PR Contests!

We have 3 contests coming up:

Founder's Film – Best 1 minute video to promote Toastmasters

Diamond Web – Best club website

Social Media Award – Best use of social media

For more information on these contests, see the following:

<http://www.foundersdistrict.org/resources/public-relations/founder-s-film-award>

<http://www.foundersdistrict.org/resources/public-relations/diamond-web-award>

<http://www.foundersdistrict.org/resources/public-relations/social-media-contest>

The due date to enter has now been extended to March 31, 2017. Entries to be sent to prm@foundersdistrict.org. Winners will be awarded at the Founder's District Spring Conference Hall of Fame dinner on April 21, 2017.



Diana Dee, DTM , Ph.D.

Club Growth Director

Joining a Second Club

I was a Toastmaster for over 30 years before I joined a second club, in other words, belonged to more than one club at a time.

Richard Daugherty peaked my interest in 2014 in two ways: First, he told me that by joining Lensmasters, I would improve my photography. I had always been interested in taking pictures and making them better. Second, it was late in June, and he said that if I joined, Lensmasters would become a Distinguished club! That pushed me over the edge, and I joined. Here is what I have

received in benefits by joining Lensmasters:

1. Indeed, my photography has improved. Each Lensmasters meeting has a theme. Each member may submit a photo they think exemplifies that theme. During Table Topics, the member receives feedback on the submitted photo. Here are three photos.

Inka Patriot



The Coast Rocks



Jungle Pond Fantasy



The first was one I took as the first Lensmaster assignment in July 2014. The theme was Fourth of July, and the picture was titled “Inka Patriot.”

The second was taken about two years ago for the theme “Show Contours in Nature.” The picture title is “The Coast Rocks.” The third was taken in a jungle and was cropped and modified (using Photoshop Express) for the theme “Abstract.” Its title is “Jungle Pond Fantasy.”

2. I have met and gotten to know more people! Toastmaster members seem to be interesting and supportive.

3. I have learned how to give better evaluations, because there are at least two members in Lensmasters who are awesome evaluators!

4. If you want more speaking opportunities, more leadership opportunities, more friends, and more exposure to Toastmaster excellence, consider joining another club! You can go to the list of clubs on the my.foundersdistrict.org site to find a specialty club, or you can use the “FIND A CLUB” button on the Toastmasters International site.



**Michelle
Bender,
DTM
Public
Relations
Manager
PR
Update**

Newsletter Team - Marie Hulett and Chandra Persad both continue to do an outstanding job with the Founder's District newsletter. They always publish a quality newsletter with lots of interesting information from the District, Divisions, Areas and Clubs. We encourage you to send articles and pictures to our team so you can be part of our next issue! Send articles to Chandra Persad at chpersad@gmail.com or to Marie Hulett at mhulett@coastline.edu. The quarterly newsletters are published on the website at: <http://wwwFOUNDERSDISTRICT.org/newsletter>.

Videography Team - Ceara Crawford, Chris Gregory, Michael Varma, Dan Cossack and the entire videography team works diligently every month to film videos to post on our Founder's TV site. Some of the new videos include: Megan Harless of Working Wardrobes, Mike O'Neil playing blues guitar, Steve Itzkowitz with a New Blitz and a recent interview with Marie Hulett. You may watch them on: <http://www.FOUNDERSDISTRICT.tv/>.

Social Media - Vernon Budinger has been in charge of social media and recently conducted two social media training sessions. The first was on Social Media Strategy and Creating Videos on your iPad which was held on Jan. 11. The session was led by Vernon Budinger and Bill Stafford. The second session held on Feb. 8 was

on Meetup, and was led by Vernon Budinger and Silvia Swigert. Clubs are eligible for a free Meetup account under the District Meetup Pro license. For information contact: meetup@foundersdistrict.org. The next session will be held on March 8 and will focus on Facebook. You may join in-person or via the Webinar. Look for announcements through Eventbrite or on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FOUNDERSToastmasters/>.

Speakers Bureau - The Speakers Bureau has found a new location; they now meet at the Huntington Beach Community Church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm, at 8101 Slater Ave., Huntington Beach 92647. The Advanced Communication/Leadership Training Speakers Bureau (ACTS Club) in the North continues to make progress with getting more Qualified Speakers and promoting the program through social media and the ACTS website. They meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Kaiser 393 E. Walnut Street in Pasadena.

Judges Bureau - Avis French has been promoting various opportunities for our members to assist with judging events in the local community. Trey Stroud has offered to fill the Judges Bureau North position. One of the most recent events was the O.C. Academic Decathlon. Some upcoming events include: Lions Club, NMA, National History Day, and California Academic Decathlon. Contact Avis French at (949) 667-0682 or email community@foundersdistrict.org if you would like more information.

Website - Dan Cossack has created a new website: <http://myFOUNDERSDISTRICT.org/>. Please sign up for the site and check out all the new features. You can see the district map at: <http://myFOUNDERSDISTRICT.org/clubs/map> and many other options such as **club reports** <http://myFOUNDERSDISTRICT.org/clubs/reports>, **calendar** <http://myFOUNDERSDISTRICT.org/events/calendar>, **events, etc.**

Contests: - We will continue with the 3 Public

Relations contests: Diamond Web, Founder's Film, and Best Social Media. The due date for the awards is March 31 for the spring. \$100 first place and \$50 second place Toastmaster gift certificates will be awarded at the Founder's District Conference coming up on April 21-22 at Sheraton Cerritos. See <http://www.foundersdistrict.org/resources/public-relations> for more information on the contests.

Open Houses - The first 30 clubs to have held an Open House during January or February 2017 are eligible to receive a \$25 Toastmaster gift certificate. The Club VPE, VPPR or VPM to send an email with the subject: "Open House" to prm@foundersdistrict.org with a copy of the flier, club number and name (and where to send the certificate). Also, if your club held an Open House during March 2017, you are eligible, as long as your club gained at least one new member (new member must join by April 30).

If you are interested in volunteering to help with one of the above committees, please let us know! We would welcome your participation.

Please make every effort to join the Spring Conference and see the amazing Michael Osur, Toastmasters International Director and Naomi Takeushi, President and Founder of 1000 Cranes, LLC, our keynote speakers. We will be voting on District business and incoming leaders. Don't miss the Table Topics Contest on Friday, April 21 and the International Speech Contest on April 22.

Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$250 to \$1,500. If you are interested in advertising in the

conference program, please send me an e-mail: mbendertm1@gmail.com. We have opportunities from \$30 for business card size ad, to \$60 for half page ad, full page ad is \$100 and back cover is \$150.

For more information about the upcoming Spring Conference on April 21-22, check the website at www.foundersdistrict.org/conference.

Founder's District Spring Conference & Int'l Speech Contest April 21-22-2017



Keynote Speaker:
Michael Osur,
International
Director Highlights

Friday

Prior to our Table Topics Contest, you'll enjoy a selection of fresh fruits, berries, and melons, International & Domestic Cheese Display, Cajun Chicken Salad with Paprika Aioli on Round Pumpnickel, Baby Shrimp Salad on a Cucumber, Mini Beef Porcini Duxelle Wellingtons, and Chicken Satay with Spicy Peanut Sauce.

Presenting, President and Founder of 1000 Cranes, LLC, Naomi Takeuchi - "Toastmasters International to Toastmasters Galactic: Where We've Come and Where We Can Be." Join us on a journey as we explore the evolution of Toastmasters over it's 90+ years of rich history. Many Toastmasters have not only improved their personal skills but have also become International leaders who have helped change and improve the world. We will look at what opportunities there are to explore today

and what we might consider for the future.

The District Table Topics Contest is proud to host the 10 finalists from each of the 10 Division winners to compete for District Champion. Support your champion and cheer for your division.

Following the Table Topics Contest is our Hall of Fame awards and recognition of the new DTMs this year who will receive the DTM medallion and our traditional hugline.

Saturday

Opening Ceremony - Parade of clubs and display of banners - a look at all of the clubs in our great district.

Keynote - International Director, Michael Osur, DTM.

Business Meeting #1 - The full district council.

Business Meeting #2 - Founder's District South to approve the district alignment and elect new district officers for 2017-2018.

Business Meeting #3 - Founder's District North to approve alignment for District 100 and elect the first district officers for D-100.

Your choice of 3 breakout sessions:



Sheryl Roush, DTM, PDG, Accredited Speaker - "Heart of Marketing: Designing Effective Promotions"

Naomi Takeuchi, DTM, PDG - "Your International Network Awaits"



Charley Patton, DTM, PDG - "Communications For Commitment: How to Make a Contract For Performance"

Enjoy an Italian Lunch Buffet followed by Group Ballroom Dance Instruction - From 3pm to 5pm. Learn new steps or refresh your dancing skills, just get ready for the evening dance.

The International Speech Contest brings together the top 10 speakers in the district. The winner moves on to compete in the semi-finals or the World Champion of Public Speaking competition which will be held in Vancouver later this year.

Formal Dinner - Your choice of Stuffed Chicken Roulade, or Blackened Red Snapper. For your dining entertainment we present vocalist, Melissa Wong, and guitarist, Mike O'Neil. A cash bar will also be available.

After dinner, we recognize and honor the past district governors of Founder's District and its surrounding district that has helped to make Founder's District special for us.

Thank you to all of our Past District Governors and Directors. Then enjoy a short music and visual presentation of our members throughout the years who have also contributed to making Founder's District great! Thanks for the memories!

End the evening on the dance floor and show off your dancing skills. Literally dance the night away.

Online registrations is now open at <http://www.foundersdistrict.org/conference> where you will find more information.

Early bird registration will be \$125 before April 8; after April 1 the registration fee goes up to \$150. Triple Crown winners get 50% off your ticket price!! If you pre-registered and attended LACE in January, you'll get \$10 off your full conference ticket!

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!



Ingrid Hellebrand, Renee Banchiere and Jeremy Davis at WHQ

Watermeisters Tour International World Headquarters

by Jeremy Davis, DTM and Ingrid Hellebrand, ACB, CL

As we have all heard many times before, the Toastmasters organization puts the member at the top of the organizational chart, uniquely so in large international organizations but very much in line with the Toastmasters Mission. Through the levels of Club, Area, District, etc., the organizational



chart “pyramid” gets smaller, but always serves to support the member. At the base, or point, if you will is World Headquarters (WHQ), which for Toastmasters’ 90+ years of existence has been located in Orange County, California, first in Santa Ana, and for the last 26 years in Rancho Santa Margarita in south Orange County. Since TI has announced plans to move World Headquarters to the Denver, Colorado area in 2018, whether you are a devoted veteran Toastmaster or a newbie, the trip to TM International headquarters has become a pilgrimage must—even a “bucket list” item—for locals before WHQ packs up and moves East to the Rockies.

The Watermeisters Club (#8951) in Area C-4 organized a group tour of WHQ on Friday, February 24th. Only one of our intrepid crew had been on the tour before, and only a couple of us had ever even been in the building. As one of those (someone who had just been in the lobby a number of times before), I was

excited with anticipation at the prospect of having a look “behind the curtain.”

The WHQ staff were unfailingly hospitable, knowledgeable, and communicative

(not surprisingly), and the seven club members who took part came away impressed with the physical and human resources coming together to serve the 300,000-some members

from our own “home office.” Both Southern California and Colorado are known for health consciousness, and Watermeisters member Ingrid Hellebrand observed: “[WHQ] looks like a fun and healthy place to work. I would expect it to be if they are true to what we learn about leadership, communication and recognition from TM.”

building’s former (and quite formal) Board Room. Toastmasters’ Board of Directors now holds its meetings in rented space off site!

Another interesting feature of the office portion of WHQ is that virtually all of the 160 or so TI employees, even managers, reside in an open office cubicle format, with only C-level executives in private offices. This seemed to be an unalloyed positive, though, as the sheer diversity, personality, individuality, adornment, and beauty of nearly every work space was inspiring in its own right! Chief Operating Officer Sally Newell Cohen was on hand, resplendent in casual Friday denims, and greeted us so warmly, we instantly felt a connection to the “family feel” evident throughout WHQ.



“I’m a fan of history, so the room devoted to Ralph Smedley memorabilia put things in perspective. Women were not able to join until 1973! [The landscape has shifted to the point that now women outnumber men in the organization 51-49%.] On the tour you get a sense of the future and where things are moving. The emphasis is on supporting clubs internationally and moving to all resources being available through the website. It seems the IT Department is growing bigger.” While the sprawling, low-slung building tucked into a modern commercial/industrial park is large, including a “huge” warehouse, it is showing signs of stretching at the seams after 26 years of use, confirming the need for a new, much larger facility as Toastmasters (let me be the first person on Earth to say this) looks toward the 22nd Century. In fact, the aforementioned IT Department long ago outgrew its original space, and in spectacular fashion was moved into the

As we prepared to take our leave, holding our souvenir buttons and commemorative ribbon for our Club banner, we spoke to one of the employees about the Ralph C. Smedley Memorial Fund, which is tasked with “meeting the educational needs of the membership and community in a wide range of cultural, social and economic situations.” The contingent of Watermeisters Toastmasters who toured WHQ that day would like to challenge everyone reading this to go to <https://www.toastmasters.org/About/Smedley-Fund> and find out more about this gem of a charitable foundation which allows us as Toastmasters to “open doors of opportunity for others, just like they were opened to you!”

Acknowledgements: Thanks to our founding member of Watermeisters, Jeremy Davis for arranging the tour and our president, Rene Banchiere who was our safe “Uber driver” as we piled into her car (in which we even attempted a few camp road trip songs—a topic for a future article . . . or manual speech!).

Testimonials from Members

One of the best things I ever did was join Toastmasters. I joined Toastmasters in June of 2016 and the difference in my speaking abilities improved tremendously in a matter of 6 months. I am by nature a shy and reserved introvert who doesn't speak much at all. My only regret is that I didn't join Toastmasters years ago.

The difference in 6 months is unbelievable. I have much more confidence and am much more willing to speak up and participate in meetings. I also have improved my interview skills. Before Toastmasters I was really nervous to speak up in front of a group. The worst part was that I didn't feel in control and there

were some physical aspects that really bothered me. I would shake, my heart would be pounding, and I couldn't think clearly.

Now, I feel these things to a much lesser extent. I am more comfortable speaking during an interview, at meetings, and giving presentations. I actually look forward to it.

Every week I look forward to attending and participating in the Toastmasters meeting. It still isn't easy getting up in front of a group but I have come a long way and I certainly don't feel the physical aspects of nervousness nearly as much as before Toastmasters. Feeling more confident and then feeling like I have control of myself is a huge relief.

Susan Aube

Speak, Lead, Succeed Toastmasters Club

When I think about Toastmasters, I think about an image of success and pride. I had the distinct pleasure of leading the Tools 2 Lead club from Orange County Department of Child Support

Services (DCSS) in a marketing project that would display our goals and ambitions as a team to all our staff and spark an interest in our fellow peers. As a leader, I proposed a theme of "Growth" that I felt would best fit the Department goals and Toastmasters goals.

After several electronic meetings, our committed group had a clear image of the project and developed a plan to execute our vision. The process of managing this small project provided valuable lesson in time management and problem solving. Several issues arose but after delegation and teamwork, all issues were resolved and the final project was a success!



As a team, we look back and feel pride in what we have accomplished. This is similar to the feelings after delivering a successful speech. Projects like building this display case allows Toastmasters to exhibit the skills we work hard to obtain. Sometimes, we need to believe in ourselves for other to see the true magic that is in our minds. Follow your dreams Toastmasters!

David Dominguez

Tools 2 Lead



A TOASTMASTER'S PROMISE

As a member of Toastmasters International and my Club, I promise...

- To attend Club meetings regularly;
- To prepare all of my speeches to the best of my ability, basing them on the Toastmasters education program;
- To prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments;
- To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations;
- To help the Club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow;
- To serve my Club as an officer when called upon to do so;
- To treat my fellow Club members and our guests with respect and courtesy;
- To bring guests to Club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers;
- To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters educational and recognition programs;
- To act within Toastmasters' core values of integrity, respect, service and excellence during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities.

Clubs that RENEWED by 3/15/17

Club	Division	Area	Renewal_Status	Name	Location
5372	A	5	2017-03-09	Well Said Toastmasters Club	Orange
9332	A	5	2017-03-04	Crystal Clear Toastmasters Club	Garden Grove
9331	A	5	2017-02-16	Achievers Toastmasters Club	Garden Grove
5278	B	1	2017-03-11	Crown City Toastmasters Club	Pasadena
1010248	B	3	2017-03-10	Caltech Toastmasters	Pasadena
2927	B	4	2017-03-09	DPW Speakers Forum	Alhambra
2151	B	6	2017-03-15	Parsons Toastmasters Club	Pasadena
3215028	B	6	2017-03-14	San Gabriel Valley Wine and Dine	Pasadena
1126127	C	1	2017-03-02	Cypress Expressionists	Cypress
1498166	C	2	2017-03-14	OC Project Masters	Huntington Beach
6570	C	2	2017-03-13	Surf City Speak 'N' Lead	Huntington Beach
6851	C	2	2017-03-09	Astromasters	Huntington Beach
5972986	C	2	2017-02-01	Millie & Severson	Los Alamitos
9873	C	5	2017-03-09	Speak, Lead, Succeed Toastmasters	Costa Mesa
2982484	C	5	2017-03-05	Lensmasters	Costa Mesa
407	D	3	2017-03-15	Past District Governors/ Directors Club	Brea
1059533	D	4	2017-03-03	Humor Masters Toastmasters	Anaheim
2	D	5	2017-03-10	Anaheim Club	Anaheim
8462	E	1	2017-03-04	Monterey Park Club	Monterey Park
1055	E	1	2017-03-01	Edison Power Lines Club	Rosemead
1302045	E	2	2017-03-15	Panda Toastmasters	Rosemead
3828	E	5	2017-03-13	Eclectic Dialectics Toastmasters Club	Cerritos
587	E	5	2017-03-08	Dynamic Forcemasters Club 587	Downey
1412788	E	6	2017-03-02	La Palma Toastmasters	La Palma
3672902	F	1	2017-03-11	Irvine Project Masters	Irvine
1392974	F	2	2017-03-06	ToastMaster Gardeners of OC	Irvine
316	F	3	2017-03-15	Articulates Club	Irvine
9317	F	4	2017-03-01	Spectrum Speakers Club	Irvine
5729587	F	5	2017-03-13	WATG Speaks	Irvine
4562492	F	5	2017-03-10	Candid Speaking Superstars	Irvine
7097	F	5	2017-03-08	Irvine Toastmasters Club	Irvine
3944816	G	2	2017-03-12	South Orange County Toastmasters	Dana Point
835704	H	1	2017-03-10	Speaking of Glory Club	Azusa
4714177	H	2	2017-03-11	HCP Toastmasters	Arcadia
554	H	2	2017-03-09	The Friendly Toastmasters Club	Temple City
2146196	H	4	2017-03-07	LACSD Toastmasters	Whittier
3984610	I	1	2017-03-10	Henkel Speak To Lead	Irvine
1531744	I	1	2017-03-09	Moss Adams LLP	Irvine
317	I	1	2017-03-01	Le Gourmet Toastmasters	Irvine
3952926	I	2	2017-03-15	Let's Say Anything	Irvine
1540787	I	4	2017-03-08	EmuLects	Costa Mesa
921159	I	5	2017-03-15	Tools 2 Lead Toastmasters Club	Santa Ana
3262106	I	5	2017-03-03	UniteOC	Tustin
1927	J	1	2017-03-01	HarborLites Club	Newport Beach
5766734	J	2	2017-03-02	Glidemasters	Irvine
9524	J	4	2017-03-08	ZotSpeak Club	Irvine
3271780	J	5	2017-03-14	CityMasters OC	Irvine

Clubbing Abroad

by Michael Alexander, DTM

This may look like a typical Toastmaster's Club. And it is. But it is not in the U.S., it is in Taiwan. And yes that is me in the back (with Brent, an ex-patriot from San Francisco beside me). What better way to understand an international organization, than to experience it outside of the country?

My wife, Ella and I took a trip to Taiwan (where she was born and raised) for Chinese New Year. The trip was wonderful and involved museums, coal mines, feasting with family (and meeting ones I had not met before, or only met on Facebook) and some of the most wonderful street food one could hope for (save the restaurants for people who don't know how to enjoy the local culture, get down and have fun at a "gee-that-looks-good, I-think-I'll-try-it" night market/permanent street fair). It also involved making new friends (some of whom just wanted a

chance to practice their English on the "exotic" American. (Yeah, we can be exotic too!)

But, I also figured while I was there, why not see what Toastmasters is like in another country? (Or maybe the question was "Isn't there something I can do in English in this town?"). Lacking any imagination, I decided to try Google and see what I could find. Imagine my delight to

find that <http://toastmasters.org.tw/> has a list of Toastmaster clubs meeting in English, and that there were 10 of them within easy range of where I was staying. With a little work, I found the one that matched my schedule (and which was not going to be closed for Chinese New Year.)

I exchanged emails with the President of the club (Taoyuan Toastmasters Club) confirming the dates and my planned attendance and he was more than welcoming. He sent me a map, a copy of the latest club photo, and the agenda, as well as a link to the club Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TaoyuanToastmasters/permalink/1354212944629189/>



I found the hotel where the club meets and worked my way to the meeting, signed in and was warmly greeted. There was one American Ex-pat there, but it did not really matter,

the club's English was quite good. Apparently, in addition to all of the usual reasons of fellowship, learning to speak, and learning leadership, one of the major reasons for Taiwanese to join Toastmasters is to practice their English.

The meeting was basically the same as an American club meeting would have been, there

was a theme – Chinese New Year, and three speeches with an Ice Breaker, a speech on the history of Aspirin and the nature of inspiration and discovery, and an inspirational speech on facing “obstacles” as “opportunities for growth.”

Before the speeches began, however, they played a warm up game. Everyone at the meeting was given a word, based on Chinese New Year, and they circulated giving others hints to get them to say the word.

Since a lot of people travel for Chinese New Year, the Table Topics had a travel based theme. The TT Master showed the participants post cards of various places in Taiwan and asked the participants to talk about the places and their experiences there.

They were nervous about asking an American to try, since I obviously was not going to know Taiwan all that well, but I assured them I would be fine. What I did not tell them was that I had no intention of being limited by reality. Before I was called up, I was already conjuring stories of Atlantis and cities on Mars. But, when I saw my post card, a hot air balloon show, I instantly launched into a story of being summoned to Mount Olympus to face the Greek gods wrath over my acceptance of fire from Prometheus.

The tall tale gave me a chance to show off vocal variety and physicality, surprising them and winning me the Table Topics of the Day award.

It was a pleasant experience, a nice touch of home while traveling, and a wonderful community building exercise. I will return on my next trip, and I would recommend that

any of you who travel consider joining a local Toastmasters club when you do.



Toastmasters Support OCAD

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

Orange County Academic
Decathlon (OCAD)

completed their competition for the 2016/2017 contest season. OCAD aimed to recruit nearly 200 volunteers to support the efforts and endeavors of the high school Decathletes over the course of their two competition days. Their volunteer teams are so important to this support and to the success of their program! Some of those volunteers were Toastmasters.

Eight volunteers on the list of volunteers specifically mentioned their affiliation to Toastmasters. 88 total speech judges (and 64 interview judges) volunteered on Saturday, January 28, serving 42 Orange County high schools and about 525 students. Judges served on a panel of four to listen to and evaluate a 3:30 – 4 minutes prepared speech about any topic on which the student wanted to speak. After that, the student then had one minute to prepare for a 1:30 - 2 mins. impromptu speech where they had to answer one of three questions presented at an impromptu table. OCAD's awards night is February 10, at which time OCAD will announce their top speech scorers.

The speech judges affiliated with Toastmasters were:

- Dennis Popp
- Roger Freely
- Norman Cook
- Sue Johnson

- Robert Szebert
- Henry Chen
- Dwight Nakata
- David Moore
- Stacy Fox
- Erica Beggan (served as an Interview judge)

Stacy Fox reported on her experience as a speech judge:

“Hi. Avis. I just wanted to thank you for facilitating my participation in the Academic Decathlon Judging today. I had a ball! The teen speakers who were in my room ranged from very frightened to unprepared to very good to one who was a professional quality speaker. It was a real treat to see all of their speeches and take part in this event. I was also glad to be on the other side of the table this time as I remember how stressful it was standing up there many moons ago. In my room, 3 of the 4 Judges were Toastmasters. That’s a credit to you in how hard you work to get all of us organized to show up at this event. So, thank you for making it happen and thank you for allowing me to have a wonderful day.”

Winners of the Orange County Academic Decathlon go on to compete at the California Academic Decathlon to be held in Sacramento on March 24 and 25. Winners of the California Academic Decathlon go on to compete at the U.S. Academic Decathlon to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on April 20-22. For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact Ken Scarberry at ken@academicdecathlon.org.

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.



‘Twas the night of making a difference!
by Arnie Lynn Bengo,
ACS, ALB, Area J-2
Director

With the upcoming split of Founder’s District, the newly formed Division

J is now home to first-time Area Directors: Katherine Hanson, Arnie Lynn Bengo, Geroge Lehman, Robert Fisher and Dinh Ta. Under the leadership of Division Director: Vijay Chidambaram, Division J celebrated a successful first half of the Toastmaster year by raising awareness of a local nonprofit helping many individuals get back to work.

On December 15th, the cheerful bunch hosted their Division J Holiday Party the Working Wardrobes Career Center in Irvine. Despite the rain, the evening brought together over 30 Toastmasters, who donated over 40 pieces of clothing, shoes and accessories. Adding to the festivities was the ever-talented team from Founder’s District TV- capturing genuine moments of laughter and joy.

Not only did FDTV join in on the fun, but they

also highlighted the incredible work of Working Wardrobes. Home to Toastmasters Club: 3030 Communicators, Working Wardrobes centers its efforts in empowering men, women, young adults and veterans with a wardrobe of career development services. Now in its 27th year, the organization has transformed nearly 90,000 lives through their various programs.

With the start of a new year, both Working Wardrobes and Division J have set their sites on expanding their reach to serve many more individuals in Orange County. Stayed tuned for the upcoming segment on Working Wardrobes and keep an ear out on the new endeavors coming from Division J!

San Clemente 30th Anniversary Celebration

By Karen Eckhardt, ACB, CL

The San Clemente Toastmasters proudly celebrated their 30th Anniversary with a dynamic Open House on Tuesday, January 24,



2017. Special guests included the Mayor of San Clemente, Kathy Ward, as well as Founder's District dignitaries, Siri Payakapan, Cliff Shimizu and Ken Spears.

With current members ranging in age from their 20's-80's, our eclectic group has remained vibrant in the San Clemente Community... by being as visible as possible. In addition to Open

Houses, the Club maintains communication with the local newspaper, is a member of the San Clemente Downtown Business Association, and consistently updates its Facebook and MeetUp pages.



The Club recently sponsored a multiple week Youth Leadership Program for middle schoolers at the Boys & Girls Club of the South Coast area. Participation in San Clemente's Street Faire on the first Sunday of every month gives Club members the opportunity to directly interact with the general public.

Yes, many people have heard of Toastmasters... but even more are impressed with all that we do!

Fill Those Club Roles!

By Robert A. Richert, DTM

How to get passive members to engage more in meetings.

Some Toastmasters jump in feet first. They sign up to speak and are active in their clubs from the outset. Other members, however, are reluctant to participate fully or regularly. They may have practical reasons for less active participation; some feel intimidated by the abundance of experienced speakers in the club, while others are particularly frightened about public speaking. Clubs should not let any member slip through the cracks. We must encourage active and

balanced participation by everyone, while understanding that each of us learns at our own pace. Try these proven strategies to help you engage all your club members:

Methods

What's the Best Method for Filling Meeting Roles? Some clubs allow members to voluntarily fill club roles, while others instruct the vice president education (VPE) to prepare an assignment schedule. Some clubs use a combination of the two methods. Advantages and disadvantages exist for both the voluntary and non-voluntary systems. The volunteer method allows people the freedom to fill roles as they see fit; however, this usually leads to an imbalance of participation – some members tend to volunteer quite often and others may not sign up to participate as often as they should.

In one club that uses the volunteer system, the VPE tracks each member's participation and plots the information on a chart. Those who are not participating fully are contacted privately and asked if they'd like to participate more. Thus, the volunteer system requires careful tracking of member participation.

The advantage of the VPE assigning meeting roles on a schedule is that everyone is rotated, so everyone participates equally. At least, that's how it is supposed to work.

My experience with this method is that invariably those who do not wish to participate actively will find a way to back out; they will cancel or just not show up regularly. Juggling this system can frustrate the VPE, the Toastmasters of the respective meetings and others, because the schedule often undergoes last-minute changes.

For clubs that assign roles, consistent communication between the VPE and

membership is vital. Merely placing names on a schedule and distributing it with expectations of full participation is seldom effective. Members must be notified of their assignments well in advance and later reminded. In my club, the schedule is sent out at least one week before the meeting and again one day before. Also, members on the schedule must confirm their participation to the VPE and Toastmaster. Thus, in order to be effective, this system requires two-way communication.

Whatever role-filling method your club chooses, be aware of the potential pitfalls and act to alleviate or eliminate them.

Mentors

Assign mentors who can help and encourage. It is important to promptly assign a mentor to each new member. These mentors must take an active interest in the participation and progress of their mentees. In most clubs, a few members do not participate regularly. I recommend that their assigned mentors speak with them privately (preferably face to face and away from the club meeting place) and find out why. Some members have good reasons for not being active, such as heavy workloads, job changes, family commitments and temporary emergencies.

These reasons should be respected. We should try not to place excessive pressure on these members, because it may backfire and cause them to leave.

Each of us is entitled to learn at our own pace. On the other hand, if the member is not actively participating out of fear of failure or intimidation, the mentor and club leadership should actively offer encouragement.

Mindset

Establish a club climate that fosters learning and growth. Create a club atmosphere in which

one is not expected to be near perfect in the performance of speeches and club meeting roles, in the way one would expect on opening night of a stage play. Instead, instill the mindset that your club is more like an ongoing rehearsal than the play itself. And like ongoing rehearsals, your club should be a comfortable place that encourages its members to work out the kinks in their speeches, try new things, hone their skills, and, yes, maybe look awkward at times in the process. However, none of the above should be interpreted as an excuse for lack of preparation. Members should always prepare adequately for each assigned role.

Your goal should be to create a relaxed and inviting climate, one that encourages balanced participation, and where no one is made to feel inadequate. Twenty-five years ago, my Toastmasters mentors created a similar mindset for me. Consider my story:

Metamorphosis

Becoming a strong speaker took patience and perseverance. Impressed by my public speaking ability, a member of my club nicknamed me “Mr. Smooth.” Believe me, neither I nor anyone else is born to appear polished and professional in front of an audience. For example, 25 years ago I gave my first Ice Breaker, and about halfway through I lost my place and froze up like an iceberg; I nervously stared into space for what seemed like minutes until I regained my composure. I was quite embarrassed, but the club gave me the encouragement to move forward. Members told me that what I perceived as a disaster was merely a minor bump on the road.

In my early speeches, I was overly animated; my arms were flailing all over the place. As I worked toward more refined, purposeful gestures, I felt and appeared quite awkward at times. However, with practice and guidance from the club, my

gestures gradually became more controlled and purposeful.

The moral of my story is that it required time and focused effort coupled with many moments of awkwardness – a lot of “rehearsal” – for me to become Mr. Smooth. It also required a club climate in which I was not expected to be perfect, and my development as a speaker and leader was encouraged and mentored.

Measuring Up

Create fair and fruitful activities. It may be a cliché, but it’s true: Your only competition is you and you alone. New members, please do not feel that you are competing with the experienced members of your club. Instead, absorb their knowledge and experience.

Clubs also need to think about how to best encourage success in club activities. All too often, the most entertaining, but not necessarily best delivered Table Topic, speech or evaluation wins top prize at a club meeting, or the ribbon goes to a popular club member. However, it is detrimental to the club’s overall wellbeing when one member continues to win most of the ribbons, or the awards become a popularity contest. Each club must offer incentives for improvement, pose challenges and avoid whitewash evaluations to the more advanced or popular members. All of us can help encourage new or shy members and instill confidence in them by fostering an atmosphere in which anyone has a chance to win a ribbon. Implement the following guidelines for the voting process at each meeting:

1. Consider each individual performance on its own merits instead of measuring each participant against the rest of the group.
2. Consider which individual exceeded his or her personal level of experience the most.

3. Consider who best meets the Toastmasters guidelines in that particular competition.

Practice these three suggestions and every member will feel that they have an equal chance of becoming recognized for their efforts.

Me – Ready?

Yes, you are, and the audience is on your side. How many times have we heard a scheduled speaker say, “I’m just not ready” and then back out of giving a scheduled speech? In fact, statements like this often imply underlying anxiety; the speaker fears suffering failure or embarrassment in front of an audience. This brings up the “rehearsal” issue again. If the club atmosphere can resemble a rehearsal more than the “play,” it reduces the sense of intimidation. New members, it will help you if, in the beginning, you talk about subjects you care about and know well. This will make preparation less difficult and delivery more comfortable, plus it will boost your confidence.

I can’t tell you how many times I have heard speakers tell me they were quite nervous during their presentation, yet sitting in the audience I could barely detect nervousness at all. Understand that a speaker perceives his or her nervousness, mistakes and mishaps to be much more noticeable than they really are. One piece of advice that I give to new members is this: “When you get up to speak, don’t think the audience is looking at you; instead, think that they are looking with you! Almost all of us have been through those first few nerve-wracking speeches and we are empathetic. Believe that the audience wants you to succeed and you are more likely to succeed.”

No one should be made to feel embarrassed by a performance in front of the group, and there is no such thing as a failing speech in the Toastmasters club environment. We are here to

support and encourage our members to move forward. Follow the advice and guidelines in this article and your club will retain and better serve its membership.

Robert A. Richert, DTM, is a former member of the Helmsmen Toastmasters in Huntington Beach, California. He is a professional artist specializing in landscapes and seascapes. Reach Robert at www.richertart.com. Article reprinted with permission from Toastmasters International.



A Bicycle to Nowhere! By Jack Mercica, DTM

Have you ever heard of the Bicycle Theory? Consider this. A Bicycle has two wheels. It goes absolutely no where with only one wheel. It is not designed that way.

Now consider that one very important aspect of your career advancement is product knowledge and expertise. If you want to advance with your employer or even in your own business you must continually excel in product knowledge and expertise. Continuing Education is a must for realtors, financial advisors, doctors, lawyers, CPAs and all sales people. But that is only one of the two wheels necessary to set your career bicycle in a positive direction.

The other wheel of your career bicycle is people skills. We have all known business colleagues with very poor people skills. They have all the educational credentials and experience but lousy people skills.

We also know business colleagues who have great people skills but lack education prerequisites and experience. So they don’t go very far. We pretty much know how to develop product knowledge and expertise in our chosen profession. But how

do you develop great people skills to make that career bicycle move forward?

You guessed it! Toastmasters. We learn great communication and leadership skills in Toastmasters. It will inflate the second important wheel of our career bicycle. That is not to say that it is that simple. People skills take a lot of practice and face many challenges. No one gets to be a DTM overnight.

Some of those challenges is the ability to get along with others who may be abrasive or difficult. Have you ever met a fellow toastmaster like that? Or perhaps a fellow worker?

The key is NOT to run away from those challenging relationships. It is EXACTLY those relationships that will help you to hone in on your communication skills. Instead learn how to communicate with those challenging people and get things done. It always amazes me on how we pride ourselves as members of Toastmasters in being great communicators, but when a challenging relationship comes along, instead of growing and learning from that relationship we decide it is time to change clubs or change jobs. Don't do it!

So tune up that bicycle. Become great at what you do AND great at your people skills. You will need BOTH to move in a positive direction. As my good friends Roy Rogers and Dale Evans are fond of saying "Happy Trails to You, Until We Meet Again."



Judges Needed for DECA Conference **By Avis French, Chair,** **Founder's District Judges Bureau**

Hello, everyone. DECA students have been preparing all year to have their chance to shine at DECA's International Career Development Conference. This is a once

in a lifetime opportunity for their students and for you, as an industry professional. College events will be held April 21-22 at the Anaheim Hilton. High School events will be held April 28-29 at the Anaheim Convention Center. To register, go to www.DECA.org/volunteer. Follow the instructions to register for any of the exciting subject areas. Your expertise is needed!

If you do register, please let me know so that we can track TI participation. I realize that April 21 and 22 are the same dates as the Founders District Conference, an important event for everyone in Founders District. However, if you are not going to attend the conference, please consider volunteering for the College-level DECA events.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Their guiding principles explain how they fulfill their mission by addressing what they do and the outcomes they expect. DECA enhances the preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, applying learning in the context of business, connecting to business and the community and promoting competition. Student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders. DECA is organized into two unique student divisions each with programs designed to address the learning styles, interest and focus of its members. The High School Division includes 185,000 members in 5,000 schools. The Collegiate Division (formerly known as Delta Epsilon Chi) includes over 15,000 members in 200 colleges and universities.

Each volunteer makes a big difference for the students of California DECA. *Over 2000*

students from across the state will be competing at this exciting event. Their membership has sky rocketed recently; consequently, their need for volunteers has greatly increased.

Success Stories: New Club Events By Siri Payakapan, Ph.D., DTM

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.” – John Wooden, Legendary UCLA Basketball Coach and author of Pyramid of Success

Since July, the Founder’s District had successfully added ten (10) clubs to our Founder’s District family. This was a result of strong leadership, commitment, and perseverance by many of you who did your best in converting new club leads to new clubs.

New leads come from various sources, including referrals from Toastmasters International (TI), former Toastmasters and Toastmasters from other Districts. Others come from you, the members. District leaders continuously research for leads in a corporation with more than 350 employees and reach out to communities or cultural groups that could benefit from Toastmasters, or a geographical location not currently served by a club.

Primarily, Club Growth Directors (CGD), together with New Clubs team, Division Directors, Area Directors, and club sponsors follow up on each lead, based on the level of interest and commitment. This is followed with a series of meeting such as Initial meeting, “Lunch and Learn” session, and a launch meeting to showcase a typical Toastmaster club meeting for prospective members. Once the club is chartered, either as a corporate club or community club, club sponsors, and club mentors are assigned. They receive credits

towards Advanced Leadership Silver after successfully serving the role.

Here are stories of some clubs we chartered recently.

Glidemasters Club 5766734

Adam Powers, a former TI employee had 59 interested employees at Glidewell Laboratories and requested a launch meeting in a large meeting room on September 29. CGD Diana Dee, DTM, asked Division J Director Vijay Chidambaram, DTM, to assemble a team. Vijay prepared an agenda and served as Toastmaster of the Day. David Midson-Short gave a speech, “The Three C’s of Toastmasters” that was evaluated by Area J-2 Director Arnie Lynn Bengo. Robert Fisher was the Table Topics Master, Area J-5 Director Dinh Ta the Ah Counter/Grammarians and CGD Diana the General Evaluator. Delicious international hot lunch was served buffet-style. The excitement of something big was felt. Glidemasters Club was chartered that very day with 34 members!



No Ums About It Club 5963899

A lead came from a Costco employee and former Toastmaster. Club Growth CGD Diana helped organize the launch meeting at its regional office in Garden Grove on January

12. Costco provided a light breakfast. CGD Diana served as Toastmaster of the day. I had the challenge of evaluating a speech entitled, “Green Eggs and Toastmasters,” by Founder’s District repeat speech champion, David Moore, DTM. Past District Governor Harry Yan, DTM, used his powerful inspirational speech to close the deal! The No Ums About It Club was chartered on January 19, with 36 members, in Division C Area 1.



Ann installed new club officers-making it a fun and productive ceremony.

Successfully chartering a new club comes from knowing that you did your best with the lead and its circumstances you have to help at least 20 new members to benefit from what Toastmasters can offer. Share your success story of how you convert a lead to a new club; how your unique club culture has developed by charter members. What have you learned from your club mentors? Challenge yourself to expand your horizons. Gain more friends and life experience. Have fun and expand your horizon!



TK1SC Speakers Club 5745814

A chartering ceremony is organized to celebrate the new club. For example, after TK1SC Speakers Club was chartered with a referral from Past District Governor Lou Ann Frederick, DTM, on September 27 with 32 members, the ceremony was held on January 3 at a meeting room. Division F Director Christine Brady, ACB, CL, served as Toastmaster of the day. Former CEO Hall & Foreman, Inc. John Hogan was the keynote speaker. CGD Diana recognized club sponsors Michael Fate and Denise Gala. It was an honor for me to present the club charter certificate and give a brief congratulatory speech to the charter members who were ready to start on a journey of personal and professional growth.

The Club President Michael Fate presented a charter certificate to each charter member. Lou



Toastmasters Reignites its Members Free Will

By Steve Itzkowitz, CC, CL

Over 500 Toastmasters invaded Chapman University on January 14 to attend the Founder’s District south Leadership & Communication Experience (LACE South) seeking training for their club officer positions, new skills as well as wisdom and truth.

It was the wisdom and truth part that was well-addressed by 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking and the keynote speaker for yesterday’s festivities, Lance Miller.

Lance’s keynote address proved to be inspiring, irreverent, informative, humorous and passionate. The one thing that stood out about Lance from the very beginning was how much he

credits Toastmasters for the skills he has developed that he uses to help individuals and companies all over the world.

The primary focus of his talk was about being a championship club in which he stressed the top 2 reasons why clubs fail.

The first reason being that no one takes ownership of the club when issues arise in which club members have a pass-the-buck mentality about that. He referred to it as a condition known as SEP: Somebody else's problem.

The 2nd reason is not working the program. The interesting thing about those 2 observations made by Lance is that when a club commits to working the Toastmasters program consistently and to its core, a lot of club issues can be avoided making for a very smooth club operation that promotes membership development and success through the achievement of competent communicator and competent leader educationals, new members, Distinguished Toastmasters, clubs becoming distinguished and so much more. That made that part of Lance's talk crucial in terms of all the attendees becoming aware how simple it is to succeed in Toastmasters and also how simple it is to fail if clubs and its members aren't careful.

Another highlight of Lance's talk was making all the audience members aware of how being part of Toastmasters helps reignite their free will just by being a part of Toastmasters. Lance admitted during his talk that he is not particularly politically correct. It showed in how honest he was about pointing out the flaws of Toastmasters in which he used an example of two people with no flying experience getting into an airplane in which one person will fly the plane and the other person will evaluate the person flying the plane using a manual to do so. Lance referred to that as the, "Blind leading the blind", which is a valid point.

That said, the audience didn't take offense to



that. Instead, they laughed and understood where Lance was coming from, which leads to the following point about how Toastmasters reignites the free will of its members.

Toastmasters promotes self-expression and total acceptance of its members no matter whether a particular member is politically correct, brutally honest, too serious, too lighthearted or whatever the case may be. That means people can join Toastmasters and eventually thrive in it knowing they can be themselves and be accepted no matter what as the audience accepted Lance's irreverent style and brutal honesty about Toastmasters during his talk.

That's the real beauty of Toastmasters and Founder's District always epitomizes that in how it treats its members.

Lance also spoke of how Toastmasters offers its members the opportunity to speak frequently if each member commits to achieving a competent communicator educational award every single

year regardless of whether the member is a Distinguished Toastmaster or not. He spoke of that as a formula for winning, which he can certainly attest to because he is a prior World Champion of Public Speaking and has been very successful around the world helping individuals, companies and other Toastmasters districts coax everything they can out of the proven Toastmasters program. The lesson in that is really simple. Speaking frequently will allow a member that commits to doing so to win more often. And, with winning comes the spoils and benefits of winning. Isn't that why we are all a part of Toastmasters?

At the end of the day, the attendees of LACE South received more than they bargained for.. They are now ready to return to their clubs to share their nuggets of wisdom with those that didn't attend as clubs make their push to become distinguished clubs before the end of the year.

Clubs Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries

70 Years

Hillcrest Club, #460

60 Years

First International Expressions, #2436

50 Years

Saddleback Valley Toastmasters Club, #2657

40 Years

Edison Power Lines Club, #1055

Knotts Speak Easy Toastmasters Club, #2495

Figures of Speech Toastmasters Club,

#2565Ingram Microphones Club, #2592

Twilight Time Toastmasters Club, #2740

Articulates Club, #316

Saddleback Sunrise Spk Club, #86

35 Years

Tri-City Achievers Club, # 4836

Seal Beach Speech Bums Club, #4842

30 Years

Bre'Ahs Toastmasters Club, #3607

Experian Club, #5410

Water Meeters Club, #6492

Coastmasters Toastmasters Club, #6658

25 Years

Articulate Athletes Club, #8638

Kaiser Toastmasters Club, #8735

SpeakEZs Toastmasters Club, #8771

Toast Of The Coast Toastmasters Club, #8803,

Historically Speaking Toastmasters Club, #8860

Watermeisters Club, #8951

Rancho Speech Masters Toastmasters Club, #9113

20 Years

DPW Speakers Forum Club, #2927

Anaheim City Communicators Club, # 5884

Congratulations to all!

Officer Training Statistics

Division	Pres	VPE	VPM	VPPR	Sec	Tres	SAA	Total	%	# Clubs
Division A	18	19	17	17	19	17	17	124	84.35%	21
Division B	20	19	14	16	9	18	13	109	67.70%	23
Division C	23	21	13	18	15	16	17	123	73.21%	24
Division D	20	19	18	18	17	19	17	128	79.50%	23
Division E	14	14	14	10	12	13	12	89	50.86%	25
Division F	18	16	12	16	12	9	13	96	54.86%	25
Division G	20	19	14	16	15	17	20	121	69.14%	25
Division H	20	15	13	13	12	16	13	102	63.35%	23
Division I	19	18	13	11	17	17	16	111	68.94%	23
Division J	14	14	13	12	12	15	9	89	50.86%	25
Total	186	174	141	147	140	157	147	1092	65.82%	237

Success Stories: Club Special Events

by Siri Payakapan, DTM, Ph.D.

Founder of Toastmasters International Dr. Ralph C. Smedley's most frequently quote is:

"We learn best in moments of enjoyment."

That's why "fun" element for members is a must when planning an event. Clubs' special events, such as anniversaries and open house, offer greater opportunities to showcase your members, your club, and to witness unique cultures each club can offer when the attendees have fun while learning something new.

Smedley Chapter One Club 1 As the Founder's District Director and former club member of Club 1 for two years, I was thrilled to give an opening speech at Smedley Chapter One's 92nd Anniversary. The club added several elements of fun by having a professional photo session at the birthplace of Toastmasters, the old YMCA in Santa Ana. This was followed by a barbecue feast and the grand finale included speech presentations at the Fire Authority's prestigious Board Room in Tustin. Present was third place winner of 2016 Public Speaking Champion, Josephine Lee who was the Toastmaster of the Day. It was an honor to deliver my speech, "Expand Your Horizons"



together with the International Director Michael Orsur, DTM, PDG, and four other public speakers.

Past District Governors/Directors Club

Club 407 added fun at the Holiday party on December 4, 2016, with a keynote presentation by 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking Lance Miller. With him, we all sang along the Toastmasters camaraderie to the tune of "Cheers." We also had a blast with the goofy gift grab.

Toast First Club 3676736 It was a pleasure to give a keynote speech entitled, "Success Story" at Toast First Club's Open House on November 9, 2016. The club added to the fun by presenting gifts to many lucky attendees. 2-1/2 years



earlier, I gave a speech at a launch meeting to 70 enthusiastic First American Bank employees about how my father and my daughter inspired me to join Toastmaster, and how I stayed because of the continued benefits. One employee said she also wanted to have a three-generation family of Toastmasters. Nearly 40 people signed up that day. The club remains strong at 29 members.

Vineyard Journeys Club 1507645 and

BrewMeisters Club 2124227 As a member of Vineyard Journeys, I attended both co-hosted Open House events at BrewMeisters and Vineyard Journeys locations on January 18 and 22, respectively. The events were not only fun with

beer and wine tasting, it was supplemented with good food, and a warm reception. Applauds went to two couples—Mike and Linda O’Neal from Vineyard Journeys and Ryan and Mallory Pres from Brewmeisters, who took the Open House up a few notches. Where else can you find waiters with a can for tips hanging around their neck? The sounds of the coins dropping into the can was hilarious!!!!


San Clemente Toastmasters Club 6463 Area G-2 Director Ken Spears, ACB, CL invited me to join San Clemente Toastmasters to celebrate their 30th anniversary on January 24, 2017 at Baha’i Center in San Clemente, the southernmost location within Founder’s District. The club officers and members, together with a variety of refreshments, made all the guests feel welcomed. After the introduction led by Club President Amanda Brill, CC, CL, I had the opportunity to congratulate the club with 26 members strong to continue to grow and serve as a success story for the Founder’s District.

As Toastmaster of the Day, Past International Director Lauren Kelly, DTM professionally ran the meeting, drawing positive energy from attendees. The Club Vice President Public Relations and Table Topic Master, Karen Eckhardt, ACB, CL cleverly used selected scents as the theme of her questions. Division G Director Cliff Shimizu delighted the audience with his remarks. Randy Stephens’s “Piano recital” and Kim Bhesania’s “Making a choice” speeches walked us through their experiences with humors as well as dramas. Mayor Kathy Ward of San Clemente inspired the members and guests. The event is an excellent reminder that members have expanded their horizons. The club added fun by having an opportunity drawing to raise fund for members’ birthday celebrations. The prize was 2 tickets to a show at The Cabrillo Playhouse. I won! Lauren’s thank-you note added a personal touch to my already good impression of the club.

Knott’s Speakeasy Club 2495 Knott’s Speakeasy 24 members strong know how to have fun! When I accepted the invitation by Past District Governor Celly Adamo, DTM to attend Knott’s Speakeasy’s 40th Anniversary at the Buena Park Community Center on February 3, I had no idea the event was going to be that grand! As I walked into the room, the big screen had slide shows. The club also had a photographer. In attendance was Buena Park Mayor and City Councilman as well as an Accredited Speaker at the event! Mayor Elizabeth “Beth” Swift spoke about her fear of public speaking before teaching “speech” for 25 years. Council Member and former Toastmaster Art Brown spoke about his positive experience with Toastmasters. Ken Stark, a 35-year member of Knott’s Speakeasy talked about his experience. Accredited Speaker Eldonna Lewis Fernandez gave a speech on how Toastmasters helped her successful career. Area D-5 Director Richard Snyder and I presented the club with Toastmasters International 40th year anniversary certificate. To close the event, the club served a two-tier cake.

Seal Beach Speech Bums Club 4842 By accepting an invitation from Past Region 10 Advisor Regina Rhymes, DTM, PDG, to an Open House at Seal Beach Speech Bums on February 9, at the US Bank in Seal Beach, I had an opportunity to be a part of the westernmost club in the District. The US Bank has generously provided this community club with a nice library room for its weekly meetings. The club added humor to their speeches throughout their meeting, having some of the more experienced toastmasters who were former Boeing employees. The club is looking for more members.

Observe your club anniversaries. Commemorate your club longevity. Acknowledge members who make a difference. Showcase how your club has maintained excellence over the years to your club members, members from other clubs and potential members.



April 21-22
2017

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Founder's District

Spring Conference
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel

www.foundersdistrict.org/conference

Thanks For the Memories...

Spring Conference & Speech Contests

April 21-22, 2017

- > Keynote Speaker: Michael Osur, International Director
- > Table Topics Speech Contest
- > International Speech Contest
- > District Business Meeting
- > 3 Educational Workshops
- > Group Ballroom Dance Instruction
- > Distinguished Toastmasters Award Ceremony
- > Opportunity Drawing
- > Dinner
- > Tribute to past District Leaders
- > Thanks For the Memories, and Dance



SPECIAL EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS APRIL 8

Just ~~\$150~~ \$125 Two-Day, ~~\$80~~ \$70 Half-Day

OUR SPEAKERS



Register at www.foundersdistrict.org