



## **Elly Liao Named D84's International Speech Contest Champion**

*Story by Debby Kerr-Henry*  
*Page 8*

## In this Edition...

|                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Trio Reflects on Carpool Approach to Leadership             | 3  |
| Raising the Bar: More than a Tagline. It's a Mindset        | 4  |
| Connecting the Dots: Toastmasters and Leadership            | 6  |
| Editor Reflects on Two Years of Service                     | 7  |
| Elly Liao Named D84's International Speech Contest Champion | 8  |
| Anticipating and Responding to Adversity                    | 12 |
| Uncharted Waters:<br>"When will my boat reach land?"        | 13 |
| Reflection Enriches Our Experiences                         | 14 |
| Snow White and the Seven Club Officers                      | 15 |
| Word Search Puzzle                                          | 16 |
| What's Happening in District 84?                            | 17 |

## AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

## District Mission

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

### Publisher

Debi Jo Londono, DTM

### Public Relations Manager

Maria Martinez, DTM

### Editor

Ramdeo Seepaul, DTM

### Inform Section Editor

Vickie Goodman, DTM

### Inspire Section Editor

Debby Kerr-Henry

### Entertain Section Editor |

Marjane Taylor

### Staff Writers |

Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

Sandy DePrimo, DTM

Ramini Sowjanya

Julie Salgo

Marjane Taylor, DTM

Kristine Totanes

### Photographer |

Pamela Winter

### Proofreaders

Pim Parpart, DTM

Julie Salgo

Cover Photo by William McCombie



**TOASTMASTERS  
DISTRICT 84**  
Serving Central & North Florida

**Empowering  
individuals  
through personal  
and professional  
development**



Synergy is a publication of Toastmasters District 84. Published once a month, the newsletter aims to inform our audience through relevant information and tools to help members and clubs to think and work creatively to achieve goals, inspire through ideas and stories that can be applied to our personal and professional lives and finally, entertain through content that is interesting and presented in a way that is fun to read.



# Trio Reflects on Carpool Approach to Leadership

by District Director Debi Jo Londono, DTM; PQD Paula Summa, DTM; CGD Vickie Goodman, DTM

**E**ndings and beginnings often cause us to take time to reflect. Your D84 Leadership Trio is approaching that moment in time – reviewing the journeys we have taken as we end one Toastmasters year while anticipating an entirely new opportunity as we look forward to our new year. What have we learned? How did we get here? Where will we go?

The phrase “Stay in your lane” is often bandied about at the District Leadership level. Each officer is elected to perform specific duties and oversee a designated area of responsibility. It is easy to interpret this phrase to mean, “Do your job and let everyone else do theirs.”

We cautiously began our Trio team experience, feeling each other out, and discovering one another’s communication styles and talents. It didn’t take long to realize how much we valued sharing ideas, experiences, and opinions, regardless of whose ‘lane’ we were in. We loved working together for the best interests of our District and our members. Rather than constantly worrying about “staying in our lanes,” we decided it was perfectly okay, and often wiser, to “*carpool*.”

In looking back, we realize that we were never alone. No one can lead, learn and grow without the benefits of teamwork. We were surrounded by a multitude of teams, from the club officers to Area and Division Directors and our many Committee Chairs, all focused on the same goals of supporting members and promoting the many benefits of Toastmasters.

It wasn’t always easy. We grew the most when we were willing to step out of our comfort zone, even if we started with small steps. Other times we just held hands and “took the plunge” – making the tough decision or trying untested ideas. Working together – *carpooling* - allowed us to explore the possibilities, research new ideas, and ask for advice from those more experienced.

Did we always agree with one another? Absolutely not! Did we get angry and argue with one another? Absolutely not! Each of us put in the extra effort to listen to one another, pay attention to all aspects of our discussions, and readily admit our mistakes, any errors in practice, or judgment we may have made. The truth is that it takes a



From left to right: Paula Summa, Debi Jo Londono, and Vickie Goodman

village to support a District. We each have strengths and skills, and we worked together to solidify our goals, create our strategies and implement our plans. We also learned to allow one another the freedom to be ourselves and to appreciate our uniqueness: Debi Jo’s calm strength, knowledge, focus, and wit; Paula’s energy, enthusiasm, and candid zest for engaging members; Vickie’s need for organization, over-preparation and her wry sense of humor.

The ease of our cooperation led to our incredible friendship, which has truly been the greatest gift of all. Our team spirit was apparent even as we participated in Peer Calls and TI training with District leaders throughout our Region. Many other District Trios quickly adopted our “carpool” model of leadership. This type of collaboration and decision-making keeps our District growing and moving forward.

Felicia Shorter, our newly elected Club Growth Director 2022-23, has already been brought on board to participate in the many plans we are making for next year. With her experience as a trainer and her patient and graceful demeanor, she will be a most welcome part of the District 84 Leadership Team. She is a gift to our District, and we are delighted to welcome her!

This past year has been a journey for all of us, with hills and valleys, flowers, and weeds. But the road stretches out before us, and we are confident our *carpool* will expand as we gather more leaders along the way. We hope you will be one of them. It’s going to be a terrific year full of energy and enthusiasm! ■

# Raising the Bar: More than a Tagline. It's a Mindset

by Maria Martinez, DTM, Public Relations Manager



Maria Martinez

Contributing to our District's mission as our Public Relations Manager has been a privilege. It's hard to believe that a year ago we were eagerly preparing for a new Toastmasters year under the leadership of District Director, Debi Jo Londono. Those early stages were filled with excitement, plans, and ideas to maximize our District's PR efforts. Perhaps everything

changed when in one call, Debi shared her vision and, with a few simple words, challenged us all to "Raise the Bar."

Raising the bar fueled our plans and provided context to most of our conversations, yet, how to translate that slo-

gan to our world of public relations? Almost unknowingly, "Raising the Bar" became our mindset and with the District's mission as a framework, the path became clear. To raise the bar, we would embark on a journey to create value and enhance the member experience, allowing for unique opportunities beyond the club level, additional learning experiences, and strong support and mentoring system.

These elements — Collaborate, Create Value, and Compel — contributed to our successful year through the following efforts:

**A Dream Team:** We started by selecting the most talented individuals we could find and invited them to be part of the movement. From *Synergy* to social media, from special events to the D84 podcast, success in all these endeavors hinged on the people behind them.

**Continued on Page 5, Raising the Bar**

## District 84 Public Relations Team 2021-2022



Maria Martinez, DTM  
Public Relations Manager



Ramdeo Seepaul, DTM  
Synergy Editor



George Hazard  
Videographer & YouTube Host



John Morrow, DTM  
D84 Podcast Chair



Paula Summa, DTM, Debi Jo Londono, DTM—Publisher,  
Vickie Goodman, DTM, Synergy Inform Section Editor



Christopher Gomez  
Social Media & Special Events



Sowjanya Ramini  
Synergy Staff Writer



Debby Kerr-Henry  
Synergy Inspire Section Editor



Julie Salgo  
Proofreader and Writer



Leslie LaForty  
D84 Podcast Contributor



Andrew Paul McIntosh  
Graphic Design



Pamela Winter, DTM  
Photographer



Kristine Totanes  
Synergy Staff Writer



Pim Parpart, DTM  
Proofreader



Angela Ardrey-Reynolds  
Synergy Staff Writer



Debrae Durante  
D84 Podcast Contributor



Stephanie Baker  
Social Media & Special Events



Marjane Taylor, DTM  
Synergy Entertain Section Editor



Sandy DePrimo  
Synergy Staff Writer



Mike McLean, DTM  
Webmaster



## Raising the Bar, Continued from Page 4

**Beyond TLI:** Through the existing VPPR Mastermind Group, we orchestrated 13 professional development sessions, including Canva, LinkedIn Groups, Digital Marketing, Instagram, Branding 101, PR Strategies, Twitter, and using social media calendars. Most of these sessions were exclusive to our group and facilitated by an outside expert, including three of TI's own staff members.

**Roll Out the Virtual Red Carpet:** Leveraging the ability to meet virtually, we elevated our events by inviting world-class champions and high-profile speakers to our District. Presentations from Verity Price, Mike Carr, and Roger Caesar received the highest accolades. We also hosted Halloween and Jeopardy events and have Toast Tank on deck. We designed all these events as social opportunities for Toastmasters members and prospects.

*"All that we love deeply becomes part of us."*  
— **Helen Keller**

In addition, we revitalized podcast efforts, rebranding them as *Synergy: The Podcast*. Through an eclectic mix of topics ranging from District happenings to club news, 30 episodes can be accessed through the website and Apple and Google podcasts. Click [here](#) to listen and subscribe.

Another untapped area of opportunity was YouTube. We are proud and excited to have increased traffic to our channel, which now has its own vanity URL, a custom short address, and curated content available through several playlists, as well as offering our very own "Tech Talks by George." If you have not checked our [channel](#) recently, go take a look.

Finally, understanding that some members rely on social media to stay abreast, we increased the frequency and availability of our news by cultivating audiences across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together."*  
— **African Proverb**

How are you raising *your* bar this year? And have you considered joining the District's team? Maybe this is the year to explore that option as we continue to strive toward excellence.

Raising the Bar!—It's not just a tagline. It's a mindset. #Boom #PRMatters ■

## TOASTMASTER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



**REGISTER NOW FOR CLUB OFFICER TRAINING.**

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN OFFICER TO ATTEND.**



**REGISTER TO LEARN, NETWORK, AND HAVE FUN!**

**ALL SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE ALL 7 OFFICER ROLES**

**July 20, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**July 23, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm**

**August 28, 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm**



**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

The Zoom link will be sent to your email when you register



# Connecting the Dots: Toastmasters and Leadership

by **Debi Jo Londono, DTM, District Director**

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So, you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."

— **Steve Jobs**

I didn't set out to become the District Director of the most amazing District, filled with passionate people. I just wanted to be more comfortable speaking in front of people. Leadership wasn't part of my plan.

Upon reflection, I realized that the trajectory of my life was influenced by circumstances and the people that traveled beside me. I now see that every person and situation I encounter influences me. They are the impactful dots that connect to the person I am becoming.

A Director at my job commented on my poor communication skills, which hurt my feelings. That same day, I saw a Toastmasters ad at work. My boss said he would pay for my membership, and I joined. One Dot.

I met Edwin Mercado-Rivera, who worked at the same company and was in the same Toastmasters Club. He taught me about District Leadership, how to read the dashboard, and persuaded me to participate in multiple contests and perform every functionary role. Dot. Dot. Dot.

One day we had a potluck at work. I brought two veggie trays. The first one was barely touched, and the second one wasn't opened at all. That same day I learned about a Toastmaster club charter party being held for a brand-new club at a homeless shelter. The club name, Mission Possible, intrigued me, and I wanted to help. I decided to take the veggie tray and help with the party. That trip that day shaped my future. Dot.

The club was in an Area with three professional clubs. I loved the diversity and asked to be appointed as their Area Director. Dot.

While serving as Area Director, my Division Director had

some challenges. I asked to be his assistant. I didn't plan to become a Division Director; I only wanted to help. When he stepped down, I was asked to take his place. Dot.

Richard Hoar was a Division Director and asked me to be the Chief Judge at his Division Contest, then invited me to his Division Council meetings. My Division hadn't had any council meetings, so I knew nothing about them. When I unexpectedly found myself in the Division Director role, my experience with Richard taught me how to have a council meeting. The Trio set up the council meeting and let me run it. They later told me they were impressed with the way I was able to step up. I had an amazing team of Area Directors, and I learned more about leadership from each of them. Dot.

The following year I was elected to serve as Division Director of another Division. I had another amazing team of Area Directors, including Sandy DePrimo. Dot.

She became my assistant, my newsletter editor, and then Division Director. When I was Program Quality Director, she was my Education Chair and Conference Co-Chair. Dot. Dot. Dot.

Sandy challenged and inspired me during those three years to be a better communicator and leader. Dot

The following year, the DLC committee sought someone to run for Club Growth Director. I was nominated and then elected. Dot

Every step of the way, I was influenced, inspired, and motivated by the people that served with me. Dot. Dot. Dot.

Looking back on this journey, I now see the bigger picture. Every person, every experience represents one dot connecting me to the next dot in my journey. There were good and bad times, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you District 84, for believing in me, leading the way, and allowing me to serve you. ■



Debi Jo Londono



# Editor Reflects on Two Years of Service

by Andy Seepaul, DTM



Andy Seepaul

I am deeply humbled, honored, and privileged to have served as your Synergy editor. This edition marks the end of my 2-year tenure as the editor of District 84's monthly newsletter, making it an opportune moment to reflect on this journey and the many lessons learned along the way. Pausing to reflect provides an opportunity to celebrate every success, no matter how small, rather than

focusing on those inadequacies that seem to haunt us and even overshadow the successes. Reflection offers us a more balanced picture and the best time to reflect on our journey is at the journey's end.

My journey with newsletter production and publishing actually started in 2017 while serving as Area 83 Director. I decided a weekly, one-page newsletter would be the best way to keep all of my clubs informed and highlight their successes along the way. When I was next appointed as Division H Director in 2019, this single-page bulletin morphed into a 20-page monthly newsletter, *Division H Happenings*. I felt that the newsletter kept my Division team engaged and excited and helped them do the same with their clubs.

In 2020, District Director Pim Parpart and the Public Relations Team conceptualized Synergy, and asked me to be the editor. It was an opportunity I could not refuse. That first year I learned the importance of creating an adequate team in order to bring the publication to life by the expected deadlines. Meeting deadlines can make the role of a newsletter editor quite stressful; and our small editorial team put in many hours to get the monthly edition out. Once published, I always felt a sense of pride and fulfillment in the end product. I especially enjoyed the creative process in designing and laying out each edition, honing my graphic design skills.

I agreed to continue as Chief Editor a second year with the condition that we recruit an actual team of contributors: writers, photographers, editors, graphic designers and proof readers. The 2021-22 District Quad did not disappoint. I am grateful to our District Director and publisher Debi Jo Londono, Program Quality Director Paula Summa, and Club Growth Director Vickie Goodman for entrusting me with this project and contributing every month. Public Relations Manager Maria Martinez will always have my sin-

cerest gratitude and respect for her leadership of the distinguished team that came together to inform, inspire, and entertain our readership. Completing each edition was always an achievement worth celebrating — the creative output of our 10+ member team.

In reflecting, I cannot help but see how easily those skills developed and honed over the past two years transferred to my personal and professional life. Viewing this role as a project manager, I adopted the *RACI Matrix* which defines who will be *responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed* for all tasks, from planning to publication. I also improved skills in leadership, teamwork, planning, delegation, creativity, time management, attention to detail, adaptability, and networking.

I am incredibly grateful to my section editors — Vickie Goodman, Debby Kerr-Henry, and Marjane Taylor - for their selfless service to Synergy, sharing their expertise to improve each article's quality and maintain deadlines. Our staff writers- Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, Sandy DePrimo, Kristine Totanes, Sowjanya Athmakuri Ramini, Julie Salgo and Serena Piper - contributed excellent and thoughtful articles for every edition. Our proofreaders Pim Parpart and Julie Salgo not only scrutinized every edition to identify and rectify grammar, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary errors, but also fact checked every article and graphic. The creative input of our resident photographer, Pamela Winter, and our graphics designer, AP McIntosh, increased the quality and design of every edition. I am indebted to all who contributed content to Synergy in the past year.

Our primary objective was simple- create an engaging and dynamic newsletter that informs, inspires, and entertains. I hope you agree that this mission was accomplished! Keep sharing your stories because someone is waiting to hear them! ■







# Elly Liao Named D84's International Speech Contest Champion

by Debby Kerr-Henry



# “Don’t Wait. Create Your Fate.”

— Grammy

**First**, let’s get the name right. It’s pronounced ee-lee lee-ow (like meow). As an editorial sidenote, I love that Elly Liao sounds so rhythmic, as if a morning songbird is proclaiming its place in a new day: ee-lee lee-ow, ee-lee lee-ow, ee-lee lee-ow. Beautiful. Bold. “I am here.”

**Second**, in the short time that I shared with Elly and her husband Bob, both members of Top O’ The Rock Toastmasters in Jacksonville, I quickly gathered that Elly is a lifelong learner and, in her words, “a nerd for self-development books.”

**Third**, Elly’s life purpose is “to be kind, playful, and enjoy serving myself and others.”

With these key points highlighted, let’s begin...

## A Terrifying Toastmasters Introduction

**2010** — Elly drives one hour to visit a Toastmasters club, is too scared to enter, and drives back home. She tries again another day, driving one hour, but again is too scared and drives home. She tries yet again and, finally, conjures the courage to enter the scary chambers of a Toastmasters club. Yikes! But in the end, Elly joins. Or does she?

“I think I was on pins and needles the whole time,” Elly recalled. “It was kind of a blur. But even before that first meeting, I was thinking, *should I drink to get rid of my fear of public speaking?* And I don’t even drink. The meeting was terrifying.”

Although everyone was welcoming and Elly ultimately joined, she quit after only a couple of months because of her unpredictable work schedule and long hours, but managed to give her Icebreaker speech within her short stint. She still remembers sweating for two weeks leading up to it.

This was Elly’s introduction to Toastmasters.

## Elly’s Backstory

**1978** — Elly’s grandmother, best known as Grammy, moves to Tallahassee from Taiwan to help her sister (Elly’s great aunt) with her restaurant—the first Chinese restaurant in Tallahassee. Grammy leaves her four children in Taiwan, hoping to provide a better life for them by sending them some of her earnings. Her youngest was 12. She didn’t see him again until he was in college.

Grammy, now 85, is reserved, yet classy and wise, according to Elly. “She lights up my world. I owe a lot of who I am as a person to her. My Grammy is one of the most compassionate, thoughtful, and giving human beings I know. She would take my brother and me almost every summer. I’m beyond grateful to have her and others who have helped shape who I am.”

**1980s** Elly’s great aunt suggests that Grammy open a restaurant in Thomasville, GA, 34 miles northeast of Tallahassee. Elly’s grandfather arrives from Taiwan to help. Elly’s dad eventually arrives as well and works as a dishwasher for his aunt in Tallahassee. And then works his way up to owning his own restaurant in Valdosta, GA. Elly’s dad then moves to Leesburg, FL, to open a Chinese restaurant, owning about 10 restaurants at his height. Elly grew up in Leesburg. She looks different than most other kids and is made fun of. She is reserved for a large period of her life.

“Things can be hurtful when you’re young,” Elly said, “and you don’t know how to handle feelings or how to communicate those feelings.”

As a result, Elly had self-esteem challenges, figuring out who she was and correlates that to her fear of public speaking. She would be envious of those who could



Elly and her brother with Grammy in front of their grandparent’s restaurant in Thomasville, GA. Elly and her brother had fun running around the restaurant and watering plants. They spent most summers with Grammy.



speak so well. Her family didn't talk much, so effective communication skills didn't develop easily, making it harder for Elly to organize her thoughts.

### Don't Wait. Create Your Fate.

**2007** — Elly graduates from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology, always wanting to work for the FBI, but begins her career with Abercrombie as a manager where she remembers not being able to speak on a conference call. They asked her to say her name and location, but her throat literally closed up and she couldn't get the words out. She was so embarrassed.

**2010** — Elly's next job is with Target as an investigation specialist interviewing professional shoplifters.

**2015 - 2021** — Elly lands at Staples, making a career change for better work/life balance. Then, drum roll please, she rejoined Toastmasters in 2016, where she developed the confidence and the presentation skills needed to literally double her income, initially a step back financially, but in the end paying off twofold. Staples was super supportive of Elly's involvement in Toastmasters.

"I had 20 extra hours on my hands and that was like gold to me," she said. "That was when I committed myself to join Toastmasters for...self-development."

Three weeks into rejoining Toastmasters, Elly agrees to be club secretary, admitting, "I wasn't that good at it." But because of her new officer role, she attended Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) and met Bob Warren, the opening presenter and a session facilitator. But Elly



Elly with beloved Grammy on her 83rd birthday. "Thank you for everything you've done for me."

didn't attend either of his sessions. It was only when they were both leaving that the two met. Elly had gone out to her car but then came back in and passed Bob on the sidewalk. They felt each other's energy, stopped, talked for five minutes, and exchanged numbers. They started sending positive quotes back and forth, something they both loved but didn't go on a date until seven months later.

### Don't Wait. Create Your Fate.

**2019** — Elly accepts the role as club president and sees exponential growth—more comfortable speaking, evaluating, and giving impromptu speeches.

"I was still writing out every speech in 2019," Elly recalls.



Bob and Elly on their wedding day February 22, 2020. Jesse Ball DuPont Park, Jacksonville.



"Around the time I became President, Bob encouraged me to get rid of the security blanket and not do verbal speeches."

"Becoming president really helped her gain the confidence to compete at a high level," Bob said.

Since Elly feared public speaking, she dreamed of competing and winning the World Championship of Public Speaking after seeing so many talented speakers. She knew it would challenge her to her highest potential.

**2020** — At the beginning of the pandemic, Bob and Elly unite in holy matrimony. Yay! Their chosen quote: "The Best is Yet to Come."

**2021** — Elly competes in D84's International Speech Contest with her "Don't Wait" speech, a Grammy message about all of us being born with a terminal diagnosis, and all the more reason to live each day to its fullest. But Elly goes over the time limit and is disqualified.

"I felt like a failure," Elly said. "But I dusted myself off and learned that I should always be prepared for those unexpected moments and have a game plan. I was so confident that I didn't prepare for anything different. It was a great learning experience."

As a result, Elly redefined failure as winning or "learning." That small distinction has helped her tremendously. When she fails now, she sees it as a learning opportunity instead of internalizing that defeat to the extent that it stops her in her tracks. She now asks herself, *What did I learn from this? What can I do better next time? How can I dust myself off in any situation, not just with Toastmasters? Can I transfer Toastmasters' skills into other relevant situations?"*

### Don't Wait. Create Your Fate.

**2022** — Elly competes in D84's International Speech Contest again with the same speech but stays within the time limit. And this time, she wins! ee-lee lee-ow, ee-

lee lee-ow, ee-lee lee-ow.

I. Am. Here.

"I'm so grateful. It's kind of like a dream reflecting on my Toastmasters journey. It makes me emotional just thinking about how I felt at my first meeting. Each role was a hard thing for me, even being an Evaluator. I didn't want to be an Evaluator...because I thought that was so much pressure. Of course, being called for Table Topics was horrible, too. But it all helped with my development."

Elly feels confident as a speaker now, a long way from where she started, and believes Toastmasters is the perfect place to continue strengthening her speaking muscle.

### Don't Wait. Create Your Fate.

With Bob's support and encouragement, Elly leaves corporate USA and follows her heart's calling. "If you wait for all the lights to be green from home to the office before you leave, you'll never leave," Bob said. Elly is now a full-time life coach who helps women create more balance and fulfillment in their lives. She also owns an online boutique called ENSPIRD that focuses on spreading more love and kindness to the world by utilizing the power of positive words.

"The pandemic turned our worlds upside down. I remember at the height of the pandemic hearing that there was an 873% increase in searches for depression online. It honestly broke my heart," Elly said. "So I wanted to find a way to create hope. That's when I started ENSPIRD. I'm passionate about mental health, and love that it's getting more of a spotlight, although I think we still have room to grow. My mom struggles with mental illness, and I struggled with it when I was younger, but I know there is hope." 5% of her proceeds goes to Mental Health America.

In addition to spreading hope, Elly creates her fate with her best friend and husband, Bob, through reading, meditating, exercising, and traveling the world, most especially to Taiwan. You can connect with Elly at [www.linkedin.com/in/elly-liao/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-liao/). ■



### Debby Kerr-Henry, IP5

Past Area 90 Director

Creative nonfiction writer, speaker, author, and memoir coach. Connect with Debby on [LinkedIn](#).



# Anticipating and Responding to Adversity

by Andrew C. Miller



Andrew Miller

In 1968 when I was a college senior, our physics department purchased what was then a state-of-the-art electronic calculator. It had a cathode ray tube and looked like a tiny black-and-white TV with a numeric keypad. In addition to performing the four basic functions, this marvel calculated square roots and kept track of decimal points.

A professor in another department was upset. He argued that a newly released mechanical calculator—likely with dozens of numbered keys, multiple gears, levers, and a hand crank—had more features and was a better deal.

The arrival of new technology is always accompanied by considerable angst. Automatic transmissions, catalytic converters, and LED lights all come to mind. When personal computers became available, scientists in our environmental group at the US Army Engineer R&D Center needed Washington DC-level permission to buy one. When answering machines were introduced, some of our managers refused to use them.

Reluctance to innovation dates to Greece and likely before that. As reported by Plato in *Phaedrus* (about 370 BCE), Socrates believed the advent of writing would eliminate the need to “exercise memory.”

I joined Toastmasters in early 2021, when most meetings in District 84 were virtual. I was surprised at how comfortable everyone was with Zoom. Of course, there are still plenty of glitches: people launch into speeches while muted, faces dissolve into a blizzard of pixels, and voices can be garbled and unintelligible. But virtual communication can be more relaxed than the in-person kind. It’s refreshing to see cats lounging on desks, hear dogs barking in the background, and watch children stroll back and forth carrying plates of food.

How did Toastmasters embrace this new technology so swiftly?

One answer is obvious: people intent on building their speaking and leadership skills are willing to try new things. Most are familiar with personal computers, digital tele-

phones, geographic information systems, and smart television. It’s a small jump from those devices to digital communication platforms. But credit should also be given to how Toastmasters is organized and managed.

On March 9, 2020, when many were oblivious to the approaching pandemic, Deepak Menon, President of Toastmasters International, sent a letter to district officers urging them to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and consider its possible effects on in-person meetings. He recommended that those with health and safety concerns be allowed to participate online. He provided links to the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In a second letter sent to all Toastmasters on March 24 he stated that we “could thrive in an online environment.” Instead of ignoring the pandemic, or wishing it would go away, he pushed us forward. He believed Toastmasters could be a laboratory for “experimenting and learning.”

Andy Seepaul, then Division H Director, has been holding professional meetings using online technology since 2016. “We were Zoomers before Zoom was cool,” he said. Seepaul provided training for Division H. During that first session he covered everything from setting up a Zoom account to using its features. Early Bird Toastmasters then allowed all Division H clubs to use its Zoom Pro license, which many are still doing. Ultimately, Felicia Shorter provided Zoom training for everyone in District 84.

I still respect that college professor from 1968, even though he wasn’t on the cusp of new technology. He was knowledgeable in his field and delivered stimulating and challenging lectures. But our world today is much different than it was in the ‘60s. I’m proud to be part of Toastmasters, an organization that quickly embraced digital technology to keep us connected through a pandemic and beyond. ■

The obsolete “1968 state-of-the-art electronic calculator” has been replaced with new technology.



# Uncharted Waters: “When will my boat reach land?”

by Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, IP5



Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

**H**ave you ever wondered, what is the next step?

Do you find yourself pivoting, attempting to understand that thing you are creating?

Better yet, do you see yourself as a boat in uncharted waters? – some days with a rutter; some days without . . . some days with a map to guide you; some days with only hope to chart your course.

When a person enters a new phase in life, these uncharted waters surely await. The question is, “Do I set sail?”

You might be asking, “How does this pertain to Toastmasters?”

Well, unless you arrived on DAY ONE with speaking talents and confidence in your voice, then you entered uncharted waters.

My first time speaking at Toastmasters . . . I almost fainted. I was terrified. All I wanted was someone to run up and hug me and say, “Here, here, don’t tremble. You are going to be OK. I know it is hard to speak. Here, just sit back down.”

But no one came to my rescue. Why? I didn’t need rescuing. I had to learn how to stand in front of a group of people and talk.

Think about it, do we try to rescue babies from learning how to talk and walk? No. These are milestones in their development.

As Toastmasters, learning how to speak in front of others is a milestone in our own development.

Even though at first, speaking is unnerving for many, these uncharted waters are meant to take us out of our comfort zones and into the unfamiliar. They are meant to stretch us and help us grow. It is a place of new experiences . . . new potentials and possibilities.

How did I learn to navigate this unknown? I put my trust in the one reason why I entered the doors of Plant City Toastmasters for the first time . . . I wanted to be a voice in this world.

I joined Toastmasters because I sought to rediscover the value of my voice. And even though I started out stumbling over my words and fighting feelings of panic, I continued pushing ahead.

But to be honest, sometimes I wanted to quit, especially when I took the evaluations personally (that’s another story for another day). Wow, uncharted waters can hurt at times.

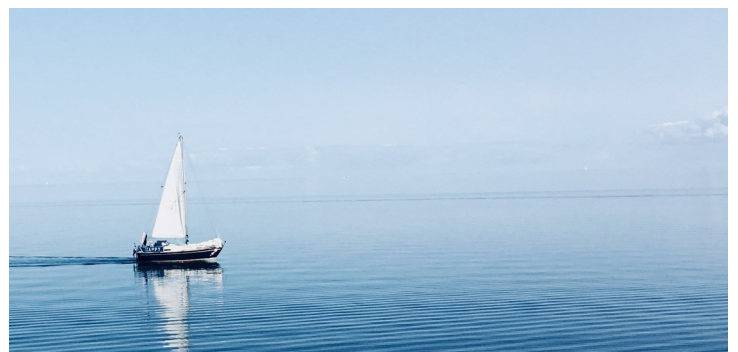
What I am trying to say is this . . . if it wasn’t for me constantly reminding myself why I joined Toastmasters, I would have turned my boat around and gone home to the familiar.

However, I knew without a doubt, these uncharted waters were the only way to change my circumstances. It was the only way to develop confidence in my voice.

Has my boat reached land? No.

Will my boat ever reach land? Honestly, I don’t know yet. But I do know that I will keep voyaging ahead, becoming stronger and stronger as a mighty voice in this world.

Now, here’s my question for you, “WHY ARE YOU HERE?” What is your reason for joining Toastmasters? That one answer could possibly sustain you through your own uncharted waters, especially when you feel like your boat will never reach land. ■





# Reflection Enriches Our Experiences

by Julie Salgo, Retired Learning and Development Consultant



Julie Salgo

A mirror is a simple gadget, isn't it? Glass, chrome, and aluminum together create the object we use every day at home and everywhere we go. When I look at my reflection, I see the mirror image of a seasoned, retired educator who may ask herself, "What happened? I used to be younger and better looking."

Side and Rearview mirrors are essential while driving. We must rely on them. But they come with a cautionary warning: "Objects ... are closer than they appear."

I joined Toastmasters only three years ago. When I look at my experience through a proverbial rearview mirror, everything and everyone seems close and valuable:

- I see Toastmasters of all ages who shared great stories that taught me a lot.
- I met the Trio and other leaders who have earned my greatest respect.
- I participated with the Synergy newsletter team, whose contributors have won my admiration, inspiring me beyond my wildest expectations.
- I witnessed tremendous growth in those who regularly attended meetings and assumed roles.
- I received many "gifts" - i.e., opportunities for my own improvements.
- I learned to love ZOOM and Free Toast Host with their many possibilities.

I learned quite a few "tricks" while being a member of two clubs and visiting several others around the world. I am eager to share the following gems with anyone:

- ♦ One club is promoting Toastmasters at the Farmer's Market close to their meeting location.
- ♦ Another club promotes a different theme for each meeting that all members use while preparing for the meeting, in order to include some aspect of the theme during their meeting participation.

- ♦ Include the word of the day on the advance agenda, giving members the opportunity to learn the new word ahead of time; thus able and ready to apply it.
- ♦ The club I have been coaching decided to change its name, hoping to disperse more magical power. I was impressed with the quality and quantity of their brainstorm list. Now the "O-Town Toastmasters" hope that they will attract more new and curious members to join soon.
- ♦ International Technical University (ITU) Toastmasters chronologically number their agendas each week, which I found enchanting. I was their Toastmaster of the Day at their 218<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ♦ Even though Hungarian is my mother tongue, I was stunned how awkward the Hungarian equivalent of the Toastmasters terminologies sounded while attending the Budapest club.
- ♦ I keep a list of all my speeches (including Path, Level, Title, Club) and number them: on May 13<sup>th</sup> I delivered my 47<sup>th</sup> speech. I will celebrate when I reach my 50<sup>th</sup> very soon.

A distorting, funhouse or carnival mirror is a popular attraction at fairs. Instead of a normal mirror that reflects a perfect image, they are curved to achieve a distorted effect. As a recent Table Topics Master, I unintentionally held up such a distorting mirror in the form of a reflective topic question. As soon as I called the person's name, she started sobbing and said, "I can't answer this question," and disappeared. I worried she would quit Toastmasters because of me, but after a few seconds she turned her camera on. I sincerely apologized. She was ready for another Table Topic question. What a relief it was! Did I learn my lesson? Oh, yes. I will never use "distorting mirrors" ever again. I must be more sensitive.

Taking time to reflect is very practical. Periodically gathering the lessons learned will enrich our total life experience. We can shamelessly plagiarize and incorporate all the good ideas that will work for us and change or eliminate our ineffective methods, all while interacting with others anywhere. ■

# Snow White and the Seven Club Officers

by Marjane C. Taylor, DTM



Marjane Taylor

**W**hen you look in the mirror at the end of this Toastmasters year, will you see the fair and beautiful Snow White, or will you see a wicked witch? The fair and beautiful Toastmaster Snow White has achieved the goals she set for herself at the beginning of the year. On the other hand, you may believe you see an Evil Queen or a

Wicked Witch if you gave up too early on accomplishing what you set out to do. (Don't let that Magic Mirror fool you! I am sure you gave it your best, and maybe you just need a little help from your Seven Club Officers to help you achieve next year's goals.)

If you look in the mirror and see your club officers, how many of them will resemble the Seven Dwarves?

Is your President Happy? Let's hope so!

If the President has a "Doc" for the VP Education, he or she might be. After all, a great Doc/VPE can keep the club healthy by acknowledging members awards and supporting their goals.

On the other hand, if the VP Membership is Dopey, the President may be a little less Happy! A Dopey VPM hasn't been following up with guests and so the club is probably "SHORT" by a few members.

Is your VP Public Relations Bashful? A VPPR that isn't confident enough to get the word out about your club won't make the President Happy either! Aww, shucks. No ads again this month?!

What about a Sleepy Treasurer? Oh, no! Membership payments will be late again if Sleepy snores through dues renewals.

And if your Secretary is Sneezy...they BLEW it! (And if it's the paperwork – or electronic files – that are blowing all over, your records won't be very accurate, will they?)

That just leaves...the GRUMPY Sergeant-at-Arms, otherwise known as "the V.P. of First Impressions." Guests (and members) aren't going to appreciate coming into a meeting only to be greeted by a Grumpy S-A-A.

Let's hope that when you look at your club officers in the mirror, you're NOT seeing Dopey, Bashful, Sleepy, Sneezy OR Grumpy! If you've been elected as a club officer for next year, how can you avoid these traits and instead, be a little more like Happy and Doc?

Snow White was able to see the best in each of the Seven Dwarves. When your new officers begin their term, can you find it in your heart to see the best in them? Can you help each of them to "Find Their Happy?" If your club officers are Happy, EVERYONE in the club can whistle a happy tune.

If you're relying on a "Magic Wishing Apple," to help you achieve your goals next year, you may be sorely disappointed. If, on the other hand, you whistle while you work the Pathways program, you may find that the Handsome Prince of Persistence will join you and make all your Toastmaster dreams come true. "Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, It's Off to Speak We Go!" ■

## Author's Disclaimer:

In my 11+ years as a Toastmaster, I have only encountered one "Sleepy" Treasurer. (He is not currently a Toastmaster.) I've met many "Bashful" Toastmasters, but none who were VPPRs, and most lost their bashfulness later. (I believe they were Happy about that.) I've met no "Dopey" VPMs, and one or two "Grumpy" members, but thankfully, they were not SAA's. I've been the only "Sneezy" Secretary I know of, and then only in the spring-time allergy season. Mostly, I have encountered many Happy Toastmasters (officers or otherwise) and have known some special "Docs" besides most of the VPE's I have had the pleasure of being in clubs with. Those special "Docs" usually filled roles like the Area Director or Club Coach positions.





# Word Search Puzzle

by Julie Salgo, Enigmatologist

Have you tried all possible resources to attract potential Toastmasters? Here are some social media and other traditional channels that are at our disposal.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | J | N | T | C | S | E | Q | V | Z | M | T | R | E | I | F | H |
| S | N | J | L | S | U | E | K | J | E | X | I | E | B | S | D | P |
| B | C | U | I | D | E | O | I | S | O | S | D | T | U | R | T | M |
| U | B | H | G | I | O | R | S | N | E | M | D | T | T | E | U | E |
| S | N | Y | O | B | N | E | E | V | A | M | E | I | U | K | W | F |
| S | S | I | E | O | N | S | I | T | K | P | R | W | O | R | L | K |
| Q | D | C | V | G | L | T | T | S | N | L | M | T | Y | O | I | S |
| U | A | M | E | E | A | S | O | A | Z | I | F | O | F | W | B | H |
| F | T | R | N | L | R | C | P | P | G | J | P | D | C | O | R | A |
| Q | I | D | E | U | I | S | W | R | P | R | S | B | W | C | A | P |
| Z | E | R | F | E | K | C | I | C | X | A | A | Y | E | V | R | C |
| M | W | F | T | U | M | O | T | T | N | M | S | M | C | N | I | H |
| F | R | I | E | N | D | S | T | W | I | H | X | T | H | G | E | A |
| S | E | R | O | T | S | Y | F | K | X | E | I | X | A | K | S | T |
| S | E | G | E | L | L | O | C | I | I | X | S | X | T | H | G | M |
| S | R | E | P | A | P | S | W | E | N | T | H | M | G | E | W | I |
| P | N | E | S | R | E | S | T | A | U | R | A | N | T | S | O | Q |

CLUBS  
COLLEGES  
COMPANIES  
COWORKERS  
FACEBOOK  
FRIENDS

INSTAGRAM  
LIBRARIES  
MESSENGER  
NEWSPAPERS  
PINTEREST  
REDDIT

RELATIVES  
RESTAURANTS  
SCHOOLS  
SHAPCHAT  
SOCIETIES  
STORES

TIKTOK  
TWITTER  
UNIVERSITIES  
WECHAT  
WHATSAPP  
YOUTUBE

# What's Happening in District 84?

So You've Joined Toastmasters.  
Now What?

New Member Orientation with  
the Trio and Pathways Chair

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Each Month  
7:00pm ET on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 962 7944 2148  
Password: NewMembers

A banner for District 84 YouTube. It features a red YouTube play button icon, the text "DISTRICT 84 YOUTUBE" in white and yellow, and a video player showing a woman speaking. Below the video player is a yellow button that says "CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE".

**DISTRICT 84  
YOUTUBE**

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

District 84 Presents

**TOAST TANK**  
**June 17th at 8:00 PM ET**

Thinking of starting a business?  
Got your plan all laid out?  
Want to get feedback?

zoom

## Monthly Sessions

Learn how PATHWAYS is  
the companion on your  
Toastmasters journey!

Zoom ID: 853 1202 4512  
Passcode: 448672

17<sup>th</sup> of every month at 7 pm ET

### June focus

Open Mic Night:  
Bring your questions

**TOASTMASTERS  
PATHWAYS**  
— learning experience —

Episode 29 (June 2022)

## There Are No Sharks in this Tank

In this episode, *John* interviews  
*Nic Patterson* who explains the  
mission, vision and purpose  
behind the Toast Tank event.



Hosted by John Morrow, DTM

A banner for the "Beat the Clock" campaign. It features a large clock face with gears and the text "BEAT THE CLOCK" in large yellow letters. Below the title is a detailed description of the campaign and a link to the website.

**BEAT THE  
CLOCK**

Membership Building  
Campaign: from now  
through June 30th: Add 5  
new, dual or reinstated  
members to your club's  
roster by June 30th and earn  
a recognition ribbon, a  
special discount and a \$25  
gift certificate.  
Check our website or contact  
our Club Growth Director for  
more details.

toastmastersD84.org



# Meet the Synergy Team

Thank you to our dedicated team of editors, staff writers, proof readers, creative contributors & all who participated in Synergy this year.

Job well done!

**The "Boss"**  
(editor)



**The BIG boss**



**Editors**



**Eagle Eyes**



**Creatives**

**Writers**

**Editor:** Ramdeo Seepaul  
**Section Editors:** Debby-Kerr-Herny (Inspire,) Marjane Taylor (Entertain), Vickie Goodman (Inform)

**Staff Writers:** Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, Sowjanya Ramini, Sandy DePrimo, Kristine Totanes  
**Proof Readers:** Pim Parpart, Julie Salgo

**Photographer:** Pamela Winter  
**Graphic Design:** AP McIntosh  
**PR Manager:** Maria Martinez  
**Publisher:** Debi Jo Londono

**APPRECIATION...** The editorial team is grateful to the following Toastmasters who contributed content to Synergy over the past year. The names, number of published items by month (July 2021 through June 2022) and total published items are reflected in the table below. Key: C denotes a cover page story.

| Contributor            | J | A | S | O  | N | D | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | Total |
|------------------------|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Barbara Amato          |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    | 2     |
| Angela Ardrey-Reynolds | 1 | 1 |   | 1C | 2 | 2 | 1C |    | 1C | 1C | 1  | 1  | 12    |
| Rachael Assignon       | 1 |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    | 2     |
| Barbara Bess           |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Dolores Bilia          |   |   |   |    |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Bobby Blackmon         |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1     |
| Marcia Buzzella        |   |   |   |    | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Stephany Bonnie Byrne  |   | 1 |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Jordan Camenker        |   |   |   |    |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| K. Copeland            |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Bob Costello           |   |   | 1 | 1  |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2     |
| Randall Crosby         |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Sandy DePrimo          | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2  | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |    | 14    |
| Joe Dertien            |   |   |   |    |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Dwight Dillon          |   |   | 1 |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Katherine Eaton        |   |   | 1 |    |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2     |
| Vickie Goodman         | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 2 | 3 | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |    | 15    |
| Cathy and Richard Hoar |   |   |   |    |   |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Tom Hobbs              |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1     |
| Debby Kerr-Henry       | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1  |   | 1 | 1  | 1C | 1  |    |    | 1C | 10    |
| Sue Leithoff           |   |   |   |    | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Debi Jo Londono        | 1 | 1 | 1 |    | 1 | 1 | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 6     |
| Nina Martin            |   |   | 1 |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Maria Martinez         | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 1  |    | 2  | 1  | 12    |
| Becky McGilton         |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Andrew Miller          |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 2     |
| Troy Palmer            |   |   |   | 1  |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| R. Parkerson           |   |   |   |    |   |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Pim Parpart            |   | 1 |   |    |   | 1 | 1  | 1  |    |    |    | 1  | 5     |
| Ron Parpart            |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Serena Piper           |   | 1 |   | 1  |   | 1 |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 4     |
| Landon Proctor         |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    | 1     |
| Brian Rademacher       |   | 1 |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Sowjanya Athmakuri     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1 |   | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 1C |    | 10    |
| Karen Rittweger        |   |   |   |    |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Julie Salgo            | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 2 | 2 | 2  | 2  | 1  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 20    |
| Andy Seepaul           |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1     |
| Ashok Shahane          | 1 |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Gail Hill Smith        |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1     |
| Paula Summa            | 1 | 1 | 1 |    | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    | 7     |
| Marjane Taylor         |   |   | 1 | 1  | 1 | 2 |    |    | 1  | 1  |    | 1  | 8     |
| Edith Tiencken         |   |   |   |    |   | 1 | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |    | 3     |
| Kristine Totanes       |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1     |
| Nancy Wilkins          | 1 |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Pamela Winter          |   |   |   |    | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1     |
| Trio                   |   |   |   |    |   |   |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 5     |



# **AWARDS & RECOGNITION SUPPLEMENT**

**Top District 84 Awards**

**Hall of Fame**

**Golden Gavel Clubs**

**Membership Incentives**

**7 of 7 Officers Trained**

**Notable 9, Incredible 20, Once & For All Year**

**New Distinguished Toastmasters**

**Ambassador Awards**

**Moments of Truth**

**Club Coaches**

**Triple Crown**

# Top District 84 Award Recipients Revealed at Annual Conference

by Pim Parpart, DTM, IPDD

2020—2021 was a challenging term for all Toastmasters around the globe due to a full-blown pandemic. However, despite the challenges and difficulties, the following four Toastmasters in District 84 demonstrated outstanding service and exceptional leadership. It is my pleasure, as the head of the 2020-2021 District 84 Leadership Team, to present them with these awards in recognition of their service:

## **Toastmaster of the Year 2020 —2021**

### **Pat Goodwin, EC3**

Pat single-handedly took care of the Driven by Destiny Toastmasters Club at the Gadsden Correctional Facility in Quincy. Their transition to Pathways was very successful despite the challenges and red tapes. Driven by Destiny has achieved the President's Distinguished club recognition for many years in a row and also received the prestigious Golden Gavel award again in 2020-2021.



## **Area Director of the Year 2020 —2021**

### **Amanda Howard, DTM**

As Area 10 Director, Amanda led her Area to be a Distinguished Area. Amanda was present at all District events during her term as Area Director. With her great personality, Amanda was a terrific presenter at TLIs. Her commitment and dedication to serving our District by supporting the District Mission to "grow new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence" was evident in her actions and her love for Toastmasters throughout the year.



## **Division Director of the Year 2020 — 2021**

### **Nancy Wilkins, DTM**

Not only did Nancy serve successfully as Division G Director, but she also stepped in to serve as Area 70 Director for a few months until we could find someone to assume the role. Her willingness to do more to serve our District 84 when needed was truly appreciated, as she went over and above by serving as D84 Social Media Chair. In that role, she provided many training sessions for our members. Under her leadership, two of her Areas became Distinguished, a testament to her ability to lead a successful team.



## **District Director Award 2020 — 2021**

### **Felicia Shorter, EH2**

The District Director Award is a special award given by the District Director. A subject matter expert on Zoom, Felicia showed up just when we needed someone to show us how to conduct meetings online due to the pandemic. She successfully organized and led D84's very first Virtual Club Officer Training. She provided training and support to all virtual contests in our District. Felicia was always smiling and willing to help any day and at any time. Felicia lives in Tallahassee but was willing to serve our District anywhere. She served as Area 60 Director in Division A (Jacksonville).



Congratulations to all! ■



# Hall of Fame Awards

## 2020 – 2021 Leadership Team

|                                                  |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| District Director                                | Pim Parpart        |
| Program Quality Director                         | Debi Jo Londono    |
| Club Growth Director                             | Paula Summa        |
| Public Relations Manager                         | Fred Bergeron      |
| Immed. Past District Director                    | Beth Ramsay        |
| Administration Manager                           | Marjane Taylor     |
| Finance Manager                                  | Koki Kubo          |
| Logistics Manager                                | Francisco Campos   |
| Parliamentarian                                  | Brenda Alloco      |
| Audit Chair                                      | Thomas Blake       |
| Credentials and Proxy Chair                      | Dennis Wooldridge  |
| Realignment Co - Chair                           | Dee Melvin         |
| Realignment Co - Chair                           | Mary Carol Holbert |
| DLC Chair                                        | Beth Ramsay        |
| Webmaster                                        | Jim Miller         |
| Newsletter Editor                                | Andy Seepaul       |
| Social Media Chair                               | Nancy Wilkins      |
| AV Chair                                         | Lynn Ramsay        |
| <b>Program Quality Director Committee Chairs</b> |                    |
| Education Chair                                  | Sandy DePrimo      |
| Conference Co - Chair                            | Sandy DePrimo      |
| Conference Co - Chair                            | Edith Tiencken     |
| Pathways Chair                                   | Vickie Goodman     |
| Club Quality Chair                               | Sabrina Mallay     |
| Contest Chair                                    | Troy Palmer        |
| <b>Club Growth Director Committee Chairs</b>     |                    |
| Club Coach Chair                                 | Mary Arnold        |
| Membership Chair                                 | John Morrow        |
| Club Support Chair                               | Amy Hunt           |
| Club Extension Chair                             | Marie Loeffler     |
| New Club Mentor/Sponsor Chair                    | Judy Hayes         |
| Renewal Chair                                    | Deb Wilde          |
| Youth Leadership Chair                           | Ellen Weiss        |
| Speakers Bureau Chair                            | Mark Gai           |
| Club Ambassador Chair                            | Cynthia Johnson    |
| Toastmasters/Rotary Co- Chair                    | Richard Hoar       |
| Toastmasters/Rotary Co- Chair                    | Cathy Hoar         |

### Division and Area Directors

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Division A | Sunil Kumar Ancha      |
| Area 10    | Amanda Howard          |
| Area 11    | Castella Owens         |
| Area 12    | Ronald Harris          |
| Area 13    | Rudy Rivera            |
| Area 14    | Maurice Lee            |
|            |                        |
| Division B | Tina Smith             |
| Area 20    | Clinton Valverde       |
| Area 21    | Justine Grand          |
| Area 22    | Ruby Scotland          |
| Area 23    | Donna Smith            |
| Area 24    | Rachael Assignon       |
|            |                        |
| Division C | Claudia Atkins-Martin  |
| Area 30    | Lily-Phuong Tang       |
| Area 31    | Thoburn 'Chip' Russell |
| Area 32    | Tracey Searcy          |
| Area 33    | Kara Newcomb           |
| Area 34    | Orn Templeman          |
|            |                        |
| Division D | Amy Anne Fischer       |
| Area 40    | Jessica Rivera         |
| Area 41    | Nancy Ford             |
| Area 42    | Eric Boehm             |
| Area 43    | Ken Blake              |
| Area 44    | Mike Dawson            |
|            |                        |
| Division E | Edith Tiencken         |
| Area 50    | Donald Kahrer          |
| Area 51    | Hector Rocafort        |
| Area 52    | Cathy Gorgensen        |
| Area 53    | Annie Kellermann       |
| Area 54    | Theresa Fellingner     |

# Hall of Fame Awards

## 2020 — 2021 Leadership Team

### Division and Area Directors

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Division F | John Lasch            |
| Area 60    | Felicia Shorter       |
| Area 61    | Amanda Dodd           |
| Area 62    | Kimberly Young        |
| Area 63    | Christina Gonzalez    |
| Area 64    | Cynthia Johnson       |
| Area 65    | Patricia Hoyt         |
|            |                       |
| Division G | Nancy Wilkins         |
| Area 70    | Chuck Field           |
| Area 71    | Valerie L. Stalvey    |
| Area 72    | Norma Cress           |
| Area 73    | Pamela Winter         |
|            |                       |
| Division H | W.C. (Bobby) Blackmon |
| Area 80    | Quinn Bryant          |
| Area 81    | Sue Leitholf          |
| Area 82    | Derek Bell            |
| Area 83    | Janelle Brown         |
| Area 84    | Earl Pearson          |
|            |                       |
| Division I | Gail Hill Smith       |
| Area 90    | Debby Kerr- Henry     |
| Area 91    | Collon Fox            |
| Area 92    | James Robinson        |
| Area 93    | Stephany Byrne        |

# Golden Gavel Clubs

## District 84's Most Prestigious Award

5-Star Toastmasters (Division B, Area 23)

Let's Talk Toastmasters (Division D, Area 40)

CEO Toastmasters (Division D, Area 42)

Clermont Toastmasters (Division G, Area 73)

Driven by Destiny Toastmasters (Division H, Area 80)

### Each club achieved all of the following to be qualified for this award:

1. President's Distinguished by April renewal
2. All seven Club Officers trained at both TLI rounds
3. Two members completed MOT training at TLI
4. Three members earned Triple Crown Award
5. Two members earned Club Ambassador Award
6. Smedley Award or Talk Up Toastmasters Award
7. Conducted two "Moments of Truth" programs at your club





# Membership Incentives

These clubs added five new, dual, or reinstated members during the membership campaign. Each club received a ribbon and a \$25 TI gift certificate from District 84 and a 10% discount off their next club order from Toastmasters International.

## Smedley Award (Aug. — Sept. 2021)

| Club Name                     | New Members |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Let's Talk Toastmasters       | 6           |
| Winter Park Toastmasters Club | 5           |
| Oveido TM                     | 5           |
| CEO Toastmasters              | 5           |
| Wyndham Easy Speakers         | 5           |
| Early Birds Ocala             | 5           |
| Clermont Toastmasters         | 7           |
| D5 Dept. of Toasters          | 8           |

## Talk Up Toastmasters (Feb. — Mar. , 2022)

| Club Name                      | New Members |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 5-Star Toastmasters            | 5           |
| Winter Park Toastmasters Club  | 6           |
| Oviedo Toastmasters            | 6           |
| Plant City Toastmasters        | 5           |
| Clermont Toastmasters          | 5           |
| Driven by Destiny Toastmasters | 5           |
| Toastmasters at Twelve         | 5           |

## Beat the Clock (May — June 2021)

| Club Name                   | New Members |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| North Jax Toastmasters      | 5           |
| Beachside                   | 7           |
| Orators of Excellence       | 8           |
| Club Orange                 | 7           |
| ACE Advanced Toastmasters   | 7           |
| Electric Toasters Club      | 6           |
| Lakeland Toastmasters       | 5           |
| Early Birds Ocala           | 6           |
| Radiant Ridge Toastmasters  | 5           |
| Transformation Toastmasters | 5           |

# 7 of 7 Officers Trained

5-Star Toastmasters

Accelerated Pacesetters

ACE Advanced Toastmasters

Articulators Club

Bartow Toastmasters

Central Florida Facilitators

CEO Toastmasters

Clermont Toastmasters

Driven by Destiny Toastmasters

Early Bird Ocala

Find Your Funny Toastmasters

Florida International Talkers

Girl Talk Toastmasters

Heartland Talk of the Town

Keynotes and More Advanced

Lakeland Toastmasters

Let's Talk Toastmasters

Oviedo Toastmasters

Plant City Toastmasters

South Beach Toastmasters

Speak Up America

Toastmasters of St Augustine

Toastmasters at Twelve

Toast-Stars

Titusville Toastmasters

Trailblazers Toastmasters

Twilite Club

We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar

Winter Haven Toastmasters

Winter Park Toastmasters

Wyndham Easy Speakers

| Club Name                   | Notable 9 |         | Incredible 20 |         | Once & For All Year |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------------|
|                             | Round 1   | Round 2 | Round 1       | Round 2 |                     |
| 5-Star TM                   | X         |         | X             | X       | X                   |
| Beachsiders TM              | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Clermont TM                 | X         | X       | X             | X       |                     |
| Club Orange                 | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| CSX TM                      |           |         |               |         |                     |
| Daytona Beach TM            | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Downtown Ocala              | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Driven by Destiny           | X         | X       | X             | X       |                     |
| Early Bird Ocala            | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Early Bird TM               | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Fairwinds Speaks            | X         | X       | X             | X       |                     |
| Find Your Funny             | X         | X       | X             | X       |                     |
| FIS Orlando                 |           | X       |               | X       |                     |
| FL International Talkers    |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Florida Blue TM             | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Four Corners                | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Girl Talk                   | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Global Leaders              | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Heartland Talk of the Town  | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Let's Talk TM               | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Melbourne TM                | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Ocala Noon                  |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Orlando Advanced            | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Ormond Speechmasters        | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Oveida TM                   | X         |         | X             |         |                     |
| Peace Talkers               |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Plant City                  |           |         |               |         | X                   |
| SBA Toastmasters            |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| South Beach Toastmasters    | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| St. Mark AME Text Talkers   | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Talking Gators              |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Text Talkers TM             |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Titusville TM               | X         |         |               |         | X                   |
| Toast Stars                 | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Toastmasters at JEA         |           | X       |               | X       |                     |
| Toastmasters at Twelve      |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Top O the Rock              |           | X       |               | X       |                     |
| Trailblazers TM             | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Transformation TM           | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Turnpike                    | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| Twilite TM                  | X         | X       | X             | X       |                     |
| Vista TM                    | X         |         |               |         |                     |
| We Can Speak Podemos Hablar | X         | X       |               |         |                     |
| Weekend Toastmasters        | X         | X       |               |         | X                   |
| Winn Dixie TM               |           | X       |               |         |                     |
| Winter Park TM              | X         |         | X             | X       |                     |
| Wyndham Easy Speakers       | X         |         |               |         |                     |



# New Distinguished Toastmasters (DTMs)

Amanda Howard

Landon Proctor

Rachael Assignon

Angela Glover

Lynn Ramsey

Sue Leitholf

Cathy Gorgensen

Nancy Wilkins

Vickie Goodman

Cynthia Johnson-Guarino

Pamela Russell

Walter Blackmon

Kalisz Jerome

Phuong-Lily Tang

## Ambassador Awards

**Club Ambassador of the Year** — **Pim Parpart** (completed and filed 29 unique club visit reports)

**Embassy Award** (Club with most members earning Ambassador awards) — **Toast Stars and Find Your Funny** (3 members received Ambassador Awards)

**Consulate Award** (clubs with most Ambassador visits) — **Advanced Communicators** (nine Ambassador visit reports were filed)

The Ambassador award is given to any Toastmasters in District 84 who visited three or more clubs anywhere in the world.

Ginger Aiello

Claudia Hansley

Pimpuang Parpart

Rachael Assignon

Gail Hill Smith

Cindy Paulsen

Denise Badolato

Laura Hoffman

Beth Ramsay

Walter Blackmon

Cynthia Johnson

Julie Salgo

Eric Boehm

Sue Leitholf

Susan Schulz

Michele Burt

Michael Leonard

Sally-Anne Sharpe

Robin Collins

Marie Loeffler

My-Dung Son

Randall Crosby

Karen Manglardi

Marjane Taylor

Kim Dombroski

Rebecca A McGilton

Bung-orn Templeman

Cathy Gorgensen

Andrew Paul McIntosh

Deborah Wilde

# Moments of Truth



Adrian Dixon

Dean Robertson

Patricia Goodwin

Amanda Boyer

Laurie Bersani

Rebecca McGilton

Carolyn Voyles

Linda Udall

Robert Vlacancich

Casey Bridge

John Groff

Sherri Vaughn

Catherine Casanta

Marjorie McCauley

Stephen Vaughn

Damian Rowland

Michele Burt

## Club Coaches

*Current as of June 16, 2022*



| Member                       | Club Coached                                |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Theodore Allman, DTM         | Apopka Foliage, Club 840                    |
| 7288809                      | Melbourne FL Toastmasters Club              |
| Debby Kerr-Henry, PI3        | ACE Advanced Toastmasters Club              |
| Cynthia Johnson-Guarino, DTM | Hunters Creek Toastmasters                  |
| Jonathan Nielsen, DTM        | The Talking Mocs (Florida Southern College) |
| Edith Tiencken, DTM          | Hunters Creek Toastmasters                  |
| Nancy Wilkins, DTM           | West Volusia Toastmasters                   |
| Phuong-Lily Tang, DTM        | Radiant Ridge Toastmasters                  |
| Sabrina Mallay, DTM          | Electric Toasters Club                      |
| Gloria Darling, DTM          | Transformation Toastmasters Club            |
| Ronald Ramsey, DTM           | Electric Toasters Club                      |
| Angelina P. Glover, DTM      | Seminole Toastmasters Club                  |
| Eva Mae Brinson, DTM         | Seminole Toastmasters Club                  |





# Triple Crown

**134 members achieved three or more education awards since July 2021.**

**Recipients with 4 or more awards**

| Member                  | Number of Awards |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Walter Blackmon, DTM    | 19               |
| Rachel Lie, SR5         | 14               |
| Oscar Kaalstad, PM5     | 12               |
| Richard Jensen, MS5     | 10               |
| Catherine Casanta, IP5  | 9                |
| Linda Udall, DTM        | 9                |
| Pim Parpart, DTM        | 9                |
| Susan Schulz, DTM       | 9                |
| Andrew Kokitus, DTM     | 8                |
| Michele Burt, PM4       | 8                |
| Adrian Smude, PM4       | 7                |
| Kim Dombroski, PM4      | 7                |
| Lyn Porpora, DTM        | 7                |
| Nathan T. Guteris, MS1  | 7                |
| Paul Smith, EC5         | 7                |
| Rebecca McGilton, DTM   | 7                |
| Consuella Shaw, PM5     | 6                |
| Eva Mae Brinson, DTM    | 6                |
| Justine GRAND, IP1      | 6                |
| Kylee Withers, PM5      | 6                |
| Leslie LaForty, EC5     | 6                |
| Michelle Dettlaff, DTM  | 6                |
| Nancy Ford, DTM         | 6                |
| Nicholas Patterson, DL5 | 6                |
| Rauha Jessup, DTM       | 6                |
| Sarah Kocher, PM5       | 6                |
| Stephen Olson, EH5      | 6                |
| Alfonso Mateo, LD5      | 5                |
| Buddy Coley, VC5        | 5                |
| Carlos Benitez, DL5     | 5                |
| Debby Kerr-Henry, PI3   | 5                |
| Deborah Wilde, DTM      | 5                |
| Earl Pearson, EH4       | 5                |
| Edith Tiencken, DTM     | 5                |
| Janet E. Beckles, DTM   | 5                |
| John R. Morrow, DTM     | 5                |
| Joseli A. Kersey, PM5   | 5                |
| Lisa Davis, IP5         | 5                |
| Marie Celestin, PM5     | 5                |

| Member                    | Number of Awards |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Mary O'Connor-Gay, MS4    | 5                |
| Nancy Wilkins, DTM        | 5                |
| Nick Randazzo, DL4        | 5                |
| Regina Goodrich, DL5      | 5                |
| Sally Anne Sharpe, PM2    | 5                |
| Stephen Vaughn, DTM       | 5                |
| Sue Leitholf, DTM         | 5                |
| Tim Linger, EH5           | 5                |
| 903340                    | 4                |
| 3734602                   | 4                |
| 5845893                   | 4                |
| 7945376                   | 4                |
| Adeline Jouanny, LD5      | 4                |
| Adrian Dixon, PM2         | 4                |
| Amy Sims, PM2             | 4                |
| Carolyn Henderson, PM4    | 4                |
| Christine Duez, VC3       | 4                |
| Cindy Paulsen, DL1        | 4                |
| Cynthia Johnson, DTM      | 4                |
| Daphne Hart, DTM          | 4                |
| David Kolster, DL4        | 4                |
| Douglas Tambor, DTM       | 4                |
| Gloria Darling, DTM       | 4                |
| James Ward, PM5           | 4                |
| Jennifer Bacmeister, IP4  | 4                |
| Jonathan Nielsen, DTM     | 4                |
| Kenneth Blake, DTM        | 4                |
| Leona Vlacancich, PI2     | 4                |
| Manal Fakhoury, DTM       | 4                |
| Maria Martinez, DTM       | 4                |
| Paula President-Wise, DL4 | 4                |
| Randall Crosby, MS2       | 4                |
| Rashed Chowdhury, PM5     | 4                |
| Robin Collins, DTM        | 4                |
| Sandy DePrimo, DTM        | 4                |
| Steeve Joseph, PM3        | 4                |
| Venkata Taduri, MS3       | 4                |
| Vickie Goodman, DTM       | 4                |
| William Lambert, EH5      | 4                |



<https://www.toastmastersd84.org/>

**Photo and Graphics Credits:** William McCombie (Pages 1, 6, 8, 11), Pamela Winter (Pages 3, 7, 15), Maria Martinez (Pages 4, 18), Elly Liao (Pages 9, 10), Debby Kerr-Henry (Page 11), Andrew Miller (Page 12), Angela Ardrey-Reynolds (Page 13), Julie Salgo (Page 14), unsplash.com (Page 13, 15), Patricia Goodwin (Page 21), Pim Parpart (Page 21, 23)