



↑ **International Speech Contest Winners:** Toastmaster Jerome Kalisz (second from left) was crowned the winner of the District 84 International Speech Contest at the District 84 Conference while Jordan Camenker (third from left) received the second place trophy. A video recording of Jerome's speech will be submitted to the Region 8 quarterfinals.

Together Everyone Achieves More



DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

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

June 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Communicating Effectively

by Ramdeo "Andy" Seepaul, DTM, District 84 Newsletter Editor

"Man's inability to communicate is a result of his failure to listen effectively." —

Carl Rogers

June is designated National Effective Communication Month, highlighting the importance of good communication in our personal and professional lives. As Toastmasters, we appreciate every meeting as a celebration of effective communication that empowers each member to elevate his or her communication and leadership skills. Toastmaster clubs provide a safe space to practice these skills in a mutually supportive environment. Whether it's practicing new techniques when presenting project speeches, improving our grammar and vocabulary, exercising time management skills, being a great listener, or learning to give specific, positive, and helpful feedback - each meeting provides ample opportunities to hone our communication skills. completion, and building effective teams. All of these growth opportunities work in

tandem to provide a healthy boost of self-confidence, which builds incrementally at each meeting.

This month's contributors agreed that National Effective Communication Month was the perfect theme for this final edition of Synergy for the 2020-2021 year. Bobby Blackmon opines that connection is the key to effective communication, requiring us, as speakers, to know our audience, our topic, and ourselves (**Page 14**). What can we do to communicate more effectively? Maria Martinez offers a few pertinent recommendations to achieve this goal (**Page 10**). Overwhelmed with Information overload? Debi Jo Londono (**Page 5**) shares her District plan to focus on clear, concise, and consistent communication to help us manage the barrage of communication that may overwhelm us.

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Farewell

Outgoing District Director Pim Parpart bids farewell to three years of leadership. Page 3

CLEAR CONCISE CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Managing Information Overload

Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono shares a new approach to managing communication within District 84. Page 5



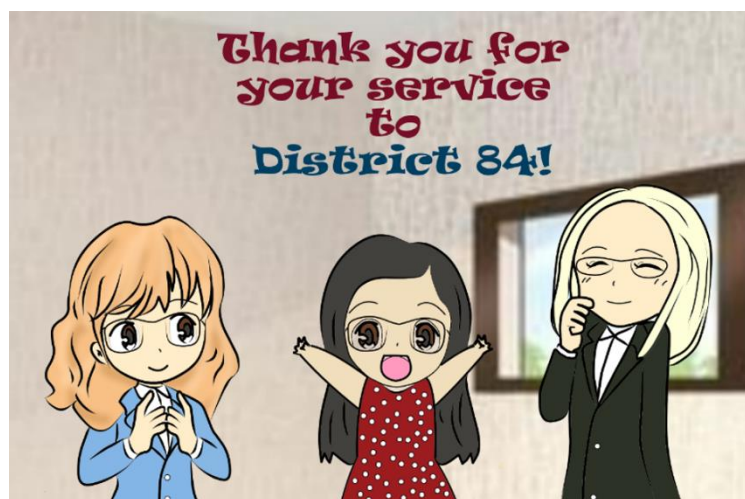
Journey to DTM

Bethany Boring describes her journey to achieving Toastmasters higher award. Page 15



Conference Supplement

Relive the Voices Around The World main events by scrolling through the pages of our conference supplement.



Cartoonist Koki Kubo illustrated our District 84 Director, Pim Parpart thanking Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa as well as all members and clubs for their service over the last year. Read Pim's farewell message on Page 3.

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Communicating Effectively

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Paula Summa shares how and why effective communication is essential to help us grow new clubs, increase our membership, and improve the quality of our meetings (**Page 8**). Vickie Goodman offers encouraging tips to help clubs end the year successfully (**Page 11**). Julie Salgo explores the different levels of listening, a critical skill that is central to effective communication (**Page 16**).

Synergy's editorial team trusts that we effectively communicated stories that kept you informed, inspired, and entertained each month. I am deeply humbled and honored to have served as your editor for the past year. I met some incredible and talented Toastmasters who shared inspiring stories of overcoming adversities and accomplishing their goals. I am grateful to our District Director and publisher Pim Parpart, Program Quality Director Debi Jo Londono, and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa for trusting me with this project. My sincere gratitude to Public Relations Manager Fred Bergeron for leading a distinguished team that worked together to realize the District's mission to "... build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." To my coeditor Vickie Goodman, and Club Corner author, I am incredibly grateful for your selfless service to Synergy; sharing your expertise to improve the quality of each article and maintaining deadlines that sometimes required working beyond midnight. Kudos to our feature columnist Bobby Blackmon for consistently sharing his perspective on the monthly theme, providing nuggets of wisdom and inspiration. Thank you, Koki Kubo, who creatively interpreted the theme through artistic depictions of our Trio. I cannot list all contributors; however, I am truly grateful to everyone who has contributed content to Synergy (see **Page 23** for a list of each author by month).

I am privileged to continue serving as your editor under the direction of District Director-elect Debi Jo Londono and Public Relations Manager Maria Martinez. I remain excited about the prospects of joining the new distinguished PRM team the District has assembled. Keep staying engaged, and remember each meeting provides multiple opportunities to strengthen our communication and leadership skills. ■

► FAREWELL

Outgoing District Director Lauds Teamwork

by Pim Parpart, DTM, District 84 Director



The global pandemic was the overriding concern this entire membership year, but by working together, we not only survived, we thrived. Sure, we struggled in the beginning, but we fought vigorously, and now we are winning the fight! We have learned so much this year. We have done things that we had never done before and did not even dream we could do.

As your District Director, the universe must have been looking out for me because I was blessed to work side-by-side with two amazing human beings and the most committed and dedicated team ever: Program Quality Director, DTM Debi Jo Londono, and Club Growth

Director, DTM Paula Summa. Who said three women with three different personalities would be unable to work together? Guess what? With only two weeks left in our year, we have not had a single fight! Thank you, Debi Jo and Paula, for being you, and thank you for all you do for our District.

Our District leadership is now in good hands with Debi Jo, Paula, and our incoming Club Growth Director, DTM Vickie Goodman. As of July 1st, I will be standing by to give these leaders a helping hand when needed, just as Beth Ramsay did for my team this year.

As Immediate Past District Director, DTM Beth Ramsay was always ready to help us when needed. Beth is such a great presenter, and we took advantage of her skills all year. Thank you, Beth.

Beth also served as our District Leadership Committee Chair. All District leadership positions were filled with great people because of the mission accomplished by Beth and her Leadership Committee. Thank you.

Helping me serve you every day were the other Senior Leadership Team members, without whom our District could not function. Thank you:

- PRM Fred Bergeron, DTM
- Administrative Manager Marjane Taylor, DTM
- Finance Manager Koki Kubo, DTM
- Parliamentarian Brenda Allococo, DTM, PDD
- Logistics Manager Francisco Campos, DTM
- Audit Chair Thomas Blake, DTM
- Credentials Chair Dennis Wooldridge, DTM, PDD, PID
- Realignment Co-Chairs Mary Carol Holbert, DTM, PDG and Dee Melvin, DTM, PDG
- Audio and Visual Chair Lynn Ramsey, ACG, ALB
- Newsletter Editor Andy Seepaul, DTM
- Speaker Bureau Chair Mark Gai, ACS
- Toastmasters/Rotary Alliance Co-Chairs Cathy Hoar, DTM and Richard Hoar, DTM
- Webmaster Jim Miller, DTM, PDG

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Farewell, Continued from Page 3

To the many Committee Chairs who served under Debi Jo and Paula, thank you all for all you have done this year.

Special thanks to our awesome Area and Division Directors who worked hard all year to support the District Mission. You all ROCK!

As someone whose English is a second language, I will be forever grateful that you allowed me this opportunity to serve as your District Director. I joined Toastmasters over 30 years ago to improve my English because my boss could not understand a word I said. I know my grammar is still bad and, with my accent, it may sometimes be hard for you to understand me. But let me be an example for others who struggle with English. By participating in Toastmasters, you will move up the leadership ranks step-by-step if you work hard and keep trying.

As your District Director, I have visited over 60 clubs to check in and offer District help and support. I plan to continue to visit more clubs after July 1st. If you need help with meeting roles, just send me an invitation or link, and I will be there.

As your District Director, it is now time to say, "Goodbye District 84, Goodbye my friends." I wish you good health, happiness, and good fortune.

I love you all! ■



► FROM THE PRM DESK Listening Leads to Learning

by Fred Bergeron, DTM, District 84 Public Relations Manager



Fred Bergeron

Have you ever heard someone speaking to you, only to misinterpret it later?

Did you know that there's an actual difference between hearing and listening?

Hearing is the act of perceiving and receiving sound waves or vibrations through your ears,

while listening is the act of hearing sounds and understanding what you hear. Hearing is also an involuntary act that doesn't require concentration, while listening is a skill that lets the sounds you hear go through your brain to process the meaning of the sound, requiring concentration.

As Public Relations Manager, this is something I had to really distinguish in order to have a successful team. For example, when I asked William McCombie to take photos of the current and incoming Trio at the conference, he sought my confirmation by repeating back to me what I said, to show that not only did he hear what I was saying, but that he actually listened to what I said as well. An example of hearing, or not hearing in this case, occurred when one of my microphones went bad at the conference. During a couple of the livestreams, people said they could not hear, as there was no sound coming from the videos.

To sum it up, think of hearing as sound, and listening as interpretation. Hearing simply happens, while listening leads to learning.

We often hear sounds, but misinterpret their meaning, perhaps because one ear seems to be "hearing," while the other one is "listening." So, the next time someone says you're a great listener, are you really learning from what they're saying, or just hearing the words coming out of their mouths? ■

► EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Downsizing Information Overload Through Clear, Concise, & Consistent Communication

by Debi Jo Londono, DTM, Program Quality Director, District Director-elect



Debi Jo Londono

Have you ever experienced information overload? It is something that happens to the best of us. Fortunately, communication is the heart of Toastmasters. It is how we grow into more effective speakers and leaders. In both oral and written communications, the overarching goal is to make your point clear to the audience. REgardless which type of communication is used,

information overload presents a major challenge to the perspective audience. An Area Director recently shared, "I get so many emails every day that I don't know which ones are important and need my attention."

We can all probably relate to this sentiment. I get hundreds of emails every week and it can be difficult to stay on top of what needs my attention. For each message, I have to ask myself, "is this just for fun, is this an FYI, or do I need to drop everything and address this immediately?" Is this sounding familiar?

It is not uncommon for District Leaders to provide information to Division Directors and appropriately expect those leaders to cascade the information to the Area Directors, who disseminates it to the Club officers, who, in turn, are asked to share the information with their club members. Unfortunately, not only can this necessary matriculation contribute to information overload, it can also get significantly reduced, sometimes leaving out the most important parts of the message. According to an article shared by Smriti Chand on yourarticlelibrary.com,

"Communication often suffers or gets diluted when messages pass on from person to person in a series of transmissions. They get diluted on the way. Special care has to be taken that the intended message reaches the person concerned."

As for information overload, according to an article by Peter Gordon Roetzel published in Business Research,

"Information overload kills productivity, dampens creativity and makes us unhappy. Information overload is a decisive factor driving negative work environments [that] is killing productivity."

We certainly don't want any of our members to experience this!.

The key to combating such an outcome is to make sure that every member has access to essential information without causing overload. Fortunately, your District 84 leadership has a strategy for achieving this goal which we call the four C's: Clear – Concise – Consistent – Communication. Here's what we mean:

Clear: Keep the language in the communication simple and the purpose direct and up front (i.e., entertain, inspire, inform, or action needed).

Concise: Make every word relevant to the message focus, using bullet points for quick scanning and clickable links to any details or more specific information.

Consistent: All members will simultaneously receive the same communication, which will be scheduled to send or post at specific times, and include consistent subject lines or post titles for easy sorting. Example: An email with the link to the Synergy newsletter will be sent to every member on the 15th of each month.

Communication: Members can count on the district website (Toastmastersd84.org) and the Synergy Newsletter as the primary communication hub, providing access and links to all relevant information and communication.

What can you do to stay informed, inspired and entertained?

- Make sure your email address is updated on the TI website

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Clear, Concise, & Consistent Communication

Continued from Page 5

- Whitelist constant contact so you can receive emails from the district
- Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/toastmastersd84>
- Join LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/district-toastmasters-23aaa2205/>
- Bookmark the District Website:
<https://www.toastmastersd84.org/>

Conveying communication effectively for all involved parties is rarely an easy task; however, as Toastmasters we know first hand that it is quite doable. This year, let us together from District leadership to valued member build a pyramid of "Clear – Concise – Consistent – Communication" that won't just make the difference, but "be the difference" which takes District 84 to the next level and beyond! ■



Clermont Toastmasters-Consistently Presidents Distinguished

by Nancy Wilkins

Clermont Toastmasters-Presidents Distinguished again!

Clermont Toastmasters was founded 9 years ago in Lake County and has definitely made its mark. Clermont's constant focus on club growth and excellence, repeatedly receiving Smedley Awards, Beat the Clock Awards, and Golden Gavel Awards, has ensured its status as a President's Distinguished Club for the entire 9 years.

How do they do it? Camaraderie and inclusion. Clermont strives to reach into the community, welcoming members of every age (18-75) and representing 9 nationalities. Diversity is its strength and attraction; all who visit are invited to join.

Clermont also enjoys a very successful mentorship program which ensures that every member reaches his or her full potential. Next year will be no exception as we start hybrid meetings in July.

Join Clermont TM Club for our Reunion Open House on 7/28/21. We will be celebrating our new home at our new location at 2527 Citrus Tower Blvd, Suite 102, Clermont FL 34711. Join the festivities at 7 PM. ■



2021-2022 District 84 Leadership Team

Trio

The 2021-2022 Trio includes, left to right, District Director-elect, Debi Jo Londono, DTM, Program Quality Director-elect, Paula Summa, DTM and Club Growth Director-elect, Vickie Goodman, DTM. The Trio work together to ensure the District continues to grow, Club officers are trained and supported in their roles, members and clubs meet their goals, and District leaders receive the resources needed to lead and succeed.

Division Directors

Division Directors lead and support their Divisions through the supervision and support of the Area Directors.



Division A Director
Amanda Howard, EC5



Division B Director
Ruby Scotland, DTM



Division C Director
Kara Newcomb, DTM



Division D Director
Sandesh Telang, DTM



Division E Director
Donald Kahrer, DTM



Division F Director
John Lasch, VC2



Division G Director
Norma Cress, DTM



Division H Director
Felicia Shorter, IP2



Division I Director
Bob Fischer, DTM, PDD

► CLUB GROWTH

What Can We Do To Communicate More Effectively?

by Paula Summa, DTM, District 84 Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director-elect



Paula Summa

June is "National Effective Communication Month," and since we are an organization that focuses on communication, it's only appropriate that I write about how (and why) communication is so important to grow new clubs, increase membership, and improve the quality of our meetings.

Chartering new clubs requires accurate and frequent communication between the CGD team, the Area and Division Directors, the new club Sponsor(s) and the club organizer/liaison, as well as the new club Mentor(s), club officers and new members. Charter paperwork must be submitted accurately and timely, with all the required information and payments. We strongly encourage new potential clubs to submit the paperwork to the D84 Club Growth Team which is trained to assist with this process, and NOT submit paperwork to TI directly. Club Mentors are included in the planning and execution of the Demo meetings and continue to work with the club for a minimum of six months after the charter is completed. Frequent communication is key. Phone calls, emails, texts, Zoom meetings are all necessary. From the beginning discussions to the demo meeting, submitting the charter paperwork and well beyond those first six months after the club is officially chartered - keeping everyone informed is critical to club success.

Membership building needs clear, concise and accurate communication. How does your club communicate information to the public? If I am looking to visit or join a Toastmasters club, I need to know the following information: What day/time does the club meet? Is it online only? How can I find the link for the meeting? If meeting in person, or hybrid, where is the location? Why should I visit this club and not another one? Is yours a

specialty club? An Advanced club? What is in it for me? Who can I call or email with my questions?

Where and how do you communicate this information? Advertising on Toastmaster Facebook pages will allow other Toastmasters to see your club information... but where do you advertise to reach people who are not already in Toastmasters? Successful clubs communicate "outside of the Toastmasters family" to spread the word. Meetup, Twitter, and other forms of social media work for many clubs to bring in guests and potential new members. Reach "outside the box". Frequent communication gets the word out!

Productive, successful club meetings rely on effective communication. Keeping members informed of upcoming meeting roles, themes, special events, guest speakers, or venue or meeting time changes is important. Being prepared in advance, filling all of the meeting roles and having the agenda ready to go may sometimes require a text or a phone call at the last minute. Be sure to share member contact information with all club members, especially the club officers.

Working the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) requires that the members keep track of their own progress and share it with the club VPE. Making sure all awards are posted in both Pathways and Club Central is important. It should be done soon after the level (or path) is completed. The member must communicate this information to the VPE, and the VPE needs to post where required in a timely manner.

Toastmaster meetings are a wonderful learning environment. We strive to have informative, inspirational and fun meetings. We thrive on effective communication.

Let's focus this month (and always) on inspiring others to communicate more effectively, help grow our clubs and membership, and enhance everyone's Toastmaster journey!

Thank you for all you do for this wonderful District 84! ■

D84 SPEECH CONTESTS WINNERS

EVALUATION



Jeremy Udell

First Place Winner



Natalee McKenley

Second Place Winner



Melissa Malone

Third Place Winner

HUMOROUS



David Hollingshead

First Place Winner



Maribel Hernandez

Second Place Winner



Jerry Smith

Third Place Winner

INTERNATIONAL



Jerome Kalisz

First Place Winner



Jordan Camenker

Second Place Winner



Derrick Standifer

Third Place Winner

► EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Talking the Talk: How to Achieve Effective Communication?

by Maria Martinez, DTM



Maria Martinez

Personally and professionally, the success of our relationships is built on the effectiveness of our communication. In fact, communication plays a key role in every aspect of our lives. Through communication, we are empowered to exchange information and knowledge.

Thus, the better we are able to express our ideas, views, and opinions in a way that gets across,

the less confusion, conflict, and misunderstandings we are bound to experience.

But what is effective communication? Simply put, effective communication occurs when both parties, sender, and receiver, assimilate the meaning of the intended message, listen carefully to what was said and make the other party feel heard and understood. It goes beyond an exchange of information.

Here are a few recommendations on how to achieve effective communication:

- **Have a clear goal** – it sounds simple yet, lack of a purpose in any communication can result in frustration and wasted time. Think of your audience and what you want to achieve.
- **Be present** – refuse to multitask and truly be there. A great deal can be missed if one of the parties is not fully attentive to the other. Not to mention, it doesn't feel good when the other person is checking their phone or sending one "quick email" while talking to you, does it?
- **Listen beyond words** – this is paramount. Listening shows you are paying attention and allows you to understand where the other party is coming from. Also, observe and pay attention to what is not being said, such as body language and tone.
- **Ask questions or provide feedback** – if the information is not clear, ask clarifying questions to

help you ascertain what the other party wants or to help you formulate your response.

- **Agree heartily, disagree softly** – tolerance, patience and respect even during disagreements, go a long way in achieving effective communication.

"The art of communication is the language of leadership."
James Humes

Effective communication helps build relationships, develop solutions to problems, ensure understanding, resolve issues, and achieve goals. Although much is written on the subject, I'd submit that communication is an art and something we can improve with intention and practice. Thankfully, Toastmasters gives us a platform where we can learn, rehearse and practice the arts of communication and leadership. With so many clubs going back to in-person and offering hybrid meeting opportunities, consider joining (or rejoining) and visiting more clubs....and talk the talk. ■



CLUB CHECKLIST (April – June, 2021)

- ❑ Add 5 or more members to earn Beat the Clock Membership Award (May 1 to June 30)
- ❑ Complete 2nd Moments of Truth Club Evaluation
- ❑ Hold Club Executive Committee Meeting
- ❑ Host an Open House
- ❑ Report Two Educational Goals

► CLUB CORNER

Effective Communication Key to Club Success

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair



Vickie Goodman

The Toastmaster year end, June 30th is just around the corner, but the deadline to push your club to the distinguished level or higher is not yet here. Let's put into practice the primary mission of our club, effective communication, in order to reach the heights of success for members and clubs.

Communicate Club Status: Check your club DCP report and communicate this information to your club members. Log onto TI; Select the LEADERSHIP tab; Select CLUB CENTRAL. Once Club Central pops up, look under CLUB ADMINISTRATION and select the DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE REPORT tab.

To be Distinguished, the club must attain the number of required members listed in the top, center box. Review the list of goals by scrolling down the page and seeing which items are checked and where your club needs to focus. Members need to understand the importance of their progress on your club's success. When members succeed, clubs succeed!

Communicate Your Club Needs: Many clubs missed becoming Distinguished or higher because they need only 1 more member, or 1 more educational goal submitted. Let your club members know what's needed and get them committed to getting the job done. Offer a special reward to the member who brings in a new member. Be sure everyone is submitting their completed Pathways levels. Any Base Camp Manager can check individual club progress to encourage those members who are close to completing a needed award. You have until midnight on June 30 to submit, so keep pushing!

Communicate Leadership Training Date: New club officers make a commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities of their position and this includes participation in required officer training. How can they perform their job if they don't know what's involved? Commit to having all 7 club officers attend one or more of the Toastmasters Leadership Institutes (TLI) scheduled for: July 17, July 25, and July 28. Officers must minimally attend the training session for their specific office, but there are many elective sessions to choose from as well. TLI opportunities are open to ALL MEMBERS, so encourage all members to attend different sessions, after which each member can communicate what was learned with the rest of the club.

Communicate Club Strengths And Weaknesses: Start planning for next Toastmaster year by scheduling a Moments of Truth (MOT) session in July. This is a powerful tool that will help your club members and officers identify ways your club can improve, thereby attracting more guests and members. This process also helps club officers target goals for the year and work them into the Distinguished Club Plan. The MOT module helps members effectively communicate as a group and ensures everyone is on the same page when it comes to progress. ■

HALL of FAME AWARDS

Thank you to my entire leadership team of 2019-2020 and your excellent job overcoming the Covid-19 challenge that hit us in our final quarter. The District 84 Hall of Fame is a list of all the awards given by the District each year. You are all the best!

Beth Ramsay

Immediate Past District 84 Director



Marie Loeffler, DTM

Toastmaster of the Year

Marie consistently steps up and volunteers for leadership roles and does a quality and thorough job every time.

Thank you for all your service to our District, Marie!



Sandy DePrimo, DTM

Division Director of the Year

Although so many of my senior leadership team continued to lead their teams through a sudden covid appearance and shut down of face-to-face, only one Division achieved Distinguished status through it all. Well done, Sandy and Division E!



Bob Fischer, DTM

Special District Director's Award

When I thought about the ability to give this award as a special recognition for somebody, the choice was easy for me. Bob has been a great source of information, wisdom, feedback, and history for me, and never says "no" when asked to serve in any role. Bob has D84 in his heart and has been instrumental to me as a mentor these last four years.



Paula Summa, DTM

Area Director of the Year

Our Area Directors worked hard with their clubs to overcome quite the challenging year. One Area rose above the rest by achieving President's Distinguished. Congratulations Paula and Area 42!

HALL of FAME AWARDS

District Officers – you're the best team ever!

Thomas Isaac Blake – Finance Manager
Terri Wells – Administration Manager
Bob Fischer – Public Relations Manager
Club Growth Director – Debi Jo Londono
Program Quality Director – Pim Parpart
Immediate Past District Director – Mike McLean
Mark Dugener – Logistics Manager
Valerie Stalvey – Parliamentarian

Chairs

Mike McLean – Realignment
Ai Bosques – Audit Chair
Edwin Mercado-Rivera – Club Ambassador
David Santiago – Club Extension
Sabrina Mallay – Club Quality
John Morrow – Club Quality
Edith Tiencken – Club Coaches
Christina Gonzalez – Membership
Liz Frisbie – Retention/Renewals
Fred Bergeron – Club Mentor/Sponsor
Kelly Moore – Club Support
Jerome Kalisz – Newsletter Editor
Judd Spitzer – Multi-media
Dean Robertson – Pathways
Patricia Dugener – Credentials
Maria Martinez – District Leadership Committee
Deb Wilde – Proxy
Jim Miller – Conference Book
Barbara Amato – Education
Gail Hill Smith – Conference
Oscar Kaalstad – Youth Leadership
Lynn Ramsey – A/V
Jim Miller – Webmaster

Division Directors

Aisha Abousamra – Division A
Lisa Enrique – Division B
Marie Loeffler – Division C
Michelle Attia (1st half year), Bob Fischer (2nd half) – Division D
Sandy DePrimo – Division E
Michael Carroll – Division F (1st half year, moved out of state), John Lasch (2nd half year)
Steve Vaughn – Division G
Ramdeo Seepaul – Division H
Dennis Wooldridge – Division I

Area Directors

Achieved Select Distinguished

Yuko Deneuille – Area 21
Edith Tiencken – Area 55
John Lasch – Area 61
Leesa Askew – Area 63
Natalia Cox – Area 73
Eveline Kraljic – Area 90
Charles Merkel – Area 91

Achieved Distinguished

Ajay Koovackal – Area 30
Bob Fischer – Area 40
Leslie LaForty – Area 50
Francisco Campos – Area 51
Kamill Mahamed (1st half year)
Sandy DePrimo (2nd half year) – Area 54
Bobby Blackmon – Area 80
Gloria Darling – Area 82

Thank you for your service, you are appreciated!

Avary Scott – Area 10
Natalee McKenley – Area 11
Benjamin May – Area 12
Christopher Sneed – Area 13
Kaz Nagai – Area 14
Scott Gammon – Area 15
Vicki Ketterer – Area 20
Ervica Charbonneau – Area 22
Mary Arnold – Area 23
Tina Smith – Area 24
Maria My-DungSon – Area 31
Graig Heron (1st half year), Marie Loeffler (2nd half year) – Area 32
Kara Newcomb – Area 33
Wyetta Ford – Area 34
Troy Palmer – Area 41
Dave Daggett – Area 43
Dwight Dillon – Area 44
Allex Mcgriff – Area 45
Cathy Gorgensen – Area 52
Melissa Zayas-Moreno – Area 53
Pamela Russell – Area 60
Justin Smith – Area 62
Valentin Iamandi – Area 64
Koki Kubo – Area 70
Sherri Vaughn – Area 71
Nancy Wilkins – Area 72
Lisa Yang – Area 74
Vicki Goodman – Area 81
Aakeem Bennett – Area 83
ABM Uddin – Area 84
David Bradley – Area 92
Stephany Bonnie Byrne – Area 93
Lori Richards – Area 94

► MY TAKE

Making the Connection

by W.C. "Bobby" Blackmon, DTM, Division H Director



W.C. Blackmon

What is the key to effective communication? The proper response includes three simple words: connection, connection, and connection. This leads to the question of how one achieves connection with an audience? The answer involves what I like to refer to as the three knows: knowing your audience, knowing your topic, and, finally, knowing thyself.

I have had the privilege of speaking before a wide range of audiences: kindergarteners to young adults, college students, professionals, senior citizens, as well as temporary guests of the state and federal prison system spanning over twenty-five different correctional facilities. During every one of these wonderful opportunities, I always begin my presentation by getting to know the audience. This means that connecting begins before the first word of the actual speech is ever spoken. This is done by observing the audience with an open mind and a detachment of judgement. A few things to look for include:

Mood of the audience: Are there smiles and laughter?

Energy: Put aside your own roiling emotions and try to ascertain the prevailing feeling in the room. Without being rude or crass, observe conversations, and if possible, create opportunities to personally introduce yourself, even if only to a single audience member. Yes, begin establishing a connection before ever beginning your presentation!

Knowing your topic is equally important in connecting with your audience. This is a no brainer, you say? I agree; however, in this case the inference refers to being so knowledgeable about your topic that even if it slips sideways, flips upside down, and turns completely around, you will not lose your perspective or the reason why you are at the lectern. This is vital because in attaining, maintaining, and retaining connection with

"Connecting with your audience requires knowing your audience, your topic and yourself."

your audience from beginning to end of your presentation, it may be necessary to adapt your speech during the act of giving your speech. I love what world renowned speaker Les Brown says when it comes to speaking on a topic, "Never let what you want to say get in the way of what the audience needs to hear."

This is why it is essential to know your topic up, down and sideways. Your audience may need and want to hear what you have to say, but perhaps not in the way you want to say it. You must be adaptable to connect.

Finally, know thyself! Ooh, this is huge! When you truly know your strengths and weaknesses, as well as what causes you to become uncomfortable as a speaker, you are fore-armed with knowledge that can keep you from becoming overly nervous, frustrated, uncomfortable, absent-minded, angry, or drained during your presentation. Any one of these reactions can quickly snap the connection with your audience. In Toastmasters every prepared speech is evaluated. Most often, these evaluations are geared towards helping you to become a more effective speaker. If you effectively communicate with your club and primary evaluator, these evaluations can have the added value of assisting you in becoming a more prepared and able Master Presenter, which covers elocution, stage presence, and temperament.

Know your audience, know your topic, and know thyself. In practicing these three knows, you will continually be a purveyor and participant of effective communication. As you go forth with the intrinsically motivated charge of giving great presentations, I encourage you to begin before you start by observing the 3 knows and, in short, "making the connection!" ■

► JOURNEY

Road to DTM Paved With Rewards

by Bethany Boring, DTM

I began my Toastmaster journey to rediscover my voice. I embraced the rewards and trickles of encouragement along the way. I learned the value of community, the risks and rewards of leadership, and the organization behind administrating even the smallest of events. I found more than just my voice. I uncovered my passion to share my story in brave new ways to encourage others to embark on this Toastmasters journey as well.

I stumbled upon Toastmasters as a complete coincidence (or was it?). One of the coordinators for the Foundation For Sight And Sound was helping me receive 2 brand new hearing aids for my severe hearing loss. As he shared some of his story with me, I commented that he was very proficient in his retelling. He smiled and said, "Bethany, I can see you have an amazing story too. You just need to find your voice again. You need to join Toastmasters. I'll pay your first dues." He was visually blind but could see me clearer than many had in years. I knew I had a story but I had no idea where to even begin.

Enter Toastmasters.

From the moment I shared my first speech at Metro Palm Bay Toastmasters, I was encouraged and told that I had a gift to connect deeply with my audience. As my single-mom life changed, and my 3 boys began to grow, I transitioned to Harbor City Toastmasters where my oldest helped film a commercial for the club. They allowed my boys to attend and even participate with Table Topics. I was finding my voice while my boys were finding theirs as well. My boys started sports which called me to join Competitive Communicators Online, where I won 1st place in the world in the video International Speech contest. This announcement was surprisingly revealed during my term as the Area 24 director. I was also heavily involved with the Toast-Stars club at that



time as well. My boys would attend contests with me, even dressing the part in full medieval attire for the Area 24 Monty Python contest.

This journey has brought so many rewards. Yes, I still have my trophies from the numerous contests, but the words I was finally able to share mean so much more to me than any gold or silver trophy cup. The friends that I have connected with have taught me to share boldly from the challenging places inside. The moments I remembered to look into the eyes of my audience members, connecting with them as they laughed with me and even cried at times, too.

But it's my guys who have walked with me through all of this. They know my story better than anyone, and now they have heard me share parts of my story more than anyone, too. They continue to walk with me, encourage me, and inspire me to be more than just simply mom.

I found my voice, but I'm not satisfied yet. Now it's time to bring others along this journey, too. A safe place for moms with hearing loss and, truly, anyone who needs to find their voice again. We all have a story to share. We learn from one another. I can't wait to be a part of even more amazing stories being told in the future. ■

► COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Listening: A Critical Skill That Is Central To Effective Communication

by Julie Salgo, retired Learning and Development Consultant



Julie Salgo

Listening is a skill that is either not emphasized enough during our formative years, or even misguided. When a grownup points a finger and says to a kid, "Listen," does he/she really mean, "Shut up! Don't say a word!"? When listening to music or Mother Nature's sounds, you may wish to be completely quiet, but while communicating with others,

your interaction is absolutely necessary for all parties. Effective listening should be a valuable interactive process, assuming that ideas are exchanged for the satisfaction of the participating members.

Even though the above statements are critical, we also need to understand that listening comes in different flavors or levels.

When is it all right to ignore, making no effort to listen to the other speakers? You should ignore people sitting close by in a restaurant, at work, or anywhere when they are within hearing distance, but not talking to you. Sometimes even this activity is difficult. While people talk to each other before and after a Toastmasters meeting, but they do not include you, please do not put on your "listening ears" until they invite you into their discussion.

When is it acceptable to pretend; to give the appearance you are listening? During a long meeting or presentation when the agenda has a few items not pertinent to you, it would be rude to doze off or use your smartphone, don't you think? During Toastmasters meeting, even if you are not completely interested in the topic, you should listen, or else how would you time the speeches, how could you catch the filler words, and how would you be able to comment on the grammar usage?

How often do you think you apply selective hearing? We all do that when only parts of the conversation interest

us. During the Toastmasters meetings we miss certain things, not necessarily intentionally, but because our brain tends to wander while others talk. Remember that we think almost as fast as the speed of light, but we speak about 110-160 words per minute.

We have now arrived at the highest levels of listening skills: attentive and empathic listening. These need the most concentration and interaction.

Attentive listening is when we pay attention and focus on what the speaker says, and we compare that to our own experiences. Conversations happen with purpose, like giving and getting important information, asking for opinion, or making decisions. Our clarifying questions and comments are necessary. As far as Toastmasters meetings are concerned, that's the listening skills we have been practicing all along and getting better at it as time goes by.

Empathic listening is necessary only when strong emotions and sensitive issues need to be addressed. In these dialogues you must strive for a thorough understanding of the speaker's words, intent, and feelings, and respond with both your heart and mind. The speaker may just need your listening ears, without asking for any advice. Let the other person do most of the talking. Shut down your inner monologues. Be patient. This kind of listening may take place between a mentor and his/her mentee. Listen, listen, listen, and wait for the sign when the mentee is open for your comments.

Learning to really listen takes practice and Toastmasters gives us this opportunity at every meeting. ■



► FIRST TIMER

From Zoom Meetings to Conference Rooms

by Erika Lakey, First Timer, District 84 Conference



Erika Lakey

I joined Hunters Creek Toastmasters several months ago and had only attended Zoom Meetings. I “met” fellow members while sitting at my desk, mic on mute, and changing up virtual backgrounds. I was looking forward to the Toastmasters District 84 Conference ever since I first learned about it from

Sandy DePrimo, George Hazzard and Cathy Gorgensen. Several members were attending and I was so excited to meet my Toastmasters family in person! The personal interaction was different than the zoom, and we talked about the need to resume in-person meetings, while also keeping the Zoom meeting option. Learning that Toastmasters offers so much flexibility, I plan to extend the meeting invitation to my friends and co-workers.

As a First Timer to the conference, I knew I wanted to attend the First Timers Workshop, but I wasn’t sure what else I should attend because there were so many great sessions. When the call for volunteers came just before the conference, I decided I could devote a few hours to helping out and get a chance to meet others. The raffle table was the perfect spot to meet different area members and engage in conversations that might not have occurred inside of a workshop. I got to hear how other clubs operated and realized that all clubs have similar challenges, yet others have come up with creative solutions that our club could try to implement.

I even got a chance to speak at a workshop. Oscar Kaalstad and Sandy DePrimo presented “A World of UM’s and AH’s: A Cultural Learning Workshop,” and asked for greeters to share their cultural stories and background. I was a little hesitant at first because the thought of speaking in front of all these great

Toastmasters seemed intimidating. Then I quickly remembered the warm welcome and encouragement I always feel during the Zoom Meetings, and I knew that any attempt I made would be seen as a success, not a failure.

For two minutes, I spoke about the listening culture of working in 9-1-1, and how I am always in a rush to quickly find out what’s going on so I can assess the emergency, send help, then get on to the next call. But I’ve come to realize that my 9-1-1 listening techniques should not be applied to my personal life because, evidently people do not like to be rushed when telling a story (who knew?!). After the workshop, several people come up to me and asked for more details about my profession. I was able to share my reason for joining Toastmasters. I will be debuting as a conference presenter at two 9-1-1 conferences this summer in Las Vegas and San Antonio, respectively. My goal is to become a better speaker. I want to inspire and motivate others, instead of making them feel rushed to quickly get to the point of their story.

Attending the Toastmasters District 84 Conference made me feel like I was at a family reunion and I got to meet my extended family. Even the crazy uncle and eccentric aunt were in attendance (their names have slipped my mind) but, all-in-all, I feel it was a wonderful experience. I encourage every First Timer to proudly wear their conference name badge, with the First Timer ribbon waving below and welcoming everyone to come over to you to say hello. If you really want to make the most of your conference experience, volunteer to help in some way. You’ll be glad you did.



► JC WILLIAMS SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT

A Ripple Effect from Self and Service

by Patty Goodwin, EC3, with thanks to the incredible women of Driven by Destiny for contributing their heartfelt comments for this article



Patty Goodwin

When “Mr. Chuck” enters the Library at Gadsden Correctional Facility, the ripples of influence and presence he brings are felt immediately. The women of Driven by Destiny Toastmasters Club see him, know him, feel his energy and are gently uplifted. His words echo inside their heads and hearts well after the meeting has ended and remain a source of

strength and encouragement. As they are changed by their Toastmasters experience, they remember their original founder/mentor and extend their positive influence to others he may never meet. Thus is the lasting impact of Chuck Rabaut, DTM and winner of this year’s JC Williams Spirit award.

As he continues his passionate involvement at correctional facility clubs throughout the District, no doubt his impact everywhere replicates that of Driven by Destiny. When asked to reflect upon the meaning Mr. Chuck has brought, the women shared their personal experiences thoughtfully and eagerly; their responses overlapped with credibility and showed a range from dignity to humor to intensity.

People first, not a number: Mr. Chuck sees us as individuals first and foremost. We are more than just prisoners; we are not defined by our DC number. Many of us came broken and low. Mr. Chuck shows us how to stand tall, to believe in ourselves, to know we are worthy.

A ray of sunshine: Mr. Chuck brings encouragement; he is proud of us and our club’s successes. He reminds us that we can make a difference in the world; we are capable of becoming leaders.

Pet Peeves: The word is “ask” not “akx”. It’s a “lectern”, not a podium. “Why are you holding a pen in your hand when you speak---you don’t need that!” “This is a learning lab---mistakes happen, don’t apologize!”

Live your full potential; bring your full self always. Mr. Chuck shows us by example how to challenge ourselves, to not be fearful, to use all of our gifts. One time as he was telling a story, he dropped to the ground---we thought he fell! Instead, he began doing pushups like a pro! He told us when we fall, to fall forward; we are still advancing and learning.

Recognize others: Mr. Chuck always honors with humble gratitude his wife, Freida, for her ever-present support. We likewise know our achievements come from the genuine intertwined caring in our club.

Communication. Through Toastmasters, we are learning to become better orators and leaders. Mr. Chuck is articulate, intentional, knowledgeable, and accomplished. He inspires us, and coaches us, to put together our words and stories in ways that help us heal and bring us closer to our goals. We are better prepared to express ourselves and advocate effectively.

Service. Mr. Chuck is faithful and dedicated in giving his time with us for 8 years! He *chooses* to drive and spend time with those of us in prison. He tells us that his “payback on investment” is seeing us succeed; “I came to be informed, persuaded, instructed or entertained---and ladies, you’ve done all four! People would pay to hear you!” How can we not be inspired to do our best!!

A quote by Gandhi offers a final inspiration: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” The women of Driven by Destiny embrace their opportunities to serve at Gadsden and discover new strengths and talents. As he lives his life in service, Chuck Rabaut inspires all of us to do so...and deepen our own self-awareness. ■



► CONFERENCE WRAP UP

Voices Around the World Was Successful

by Sandy DePrimo, D84 Conference Chair



Sandy DePrimo

Bringing our Voices Around the World conference to life was rewarding and challenging. I had an idea that I did not know how to manifest. I dreamt of a conference that celebrated Toastmasters in all walks of life. I wanted many cultures to be shared and embraced. I envisioned an experience that would present life lessons that we could all cherish for a long

time. The question was, how could I do that?

The year 2020 provided enough challenges on its own; challenges that ultimately brought Toastmasters even closer together. What was our Glue? ZOOM! We zoomed to foreign countries and faraway places. We invited people of other cultures to our club meetings. Toastmasters embraced each other in friendship by learning about their cultures rather than questioning differing values. We celebrated new voices, making the journey through a rough time bearable. This is how I knew we were on the right path to the Conference, and it was going to be huge!

Planning began. It was not long before Debi Jo Londono and I quickly realized that the theme was so big we would benefit by having a second Chair - someone who would add focus and help rein in my creative mind set. Edith Tiencken joined the Team and brought a whole new dynamic with her perspective as a foreign-born U.S. citizen, keeping us true to our theme. Her passion for education was on point with the 3-track educational program presented at the conference.

With an overabundance of ideas we began to wonder how we would keep everything on track? We decided we needed a stage manager, and I had the perfect person in mind: Leslie LaForty. Leslie brought all of her professional experience to the table. She was on top of the schedule, always knew where everyone was, and made sure everything ran like clockwork. Having a stage manager was one of the best decisions we made. In keeping with that African Proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," our village was now complete.

We planned together all year long, trusting each other to fulfill our assignments. When May 14 arrived, magic happened! It felt like music to our eyes! Registration opened with the most beautiful conference book thanks to Rachael Assignon. Toastmasters began to proudly flood in wearing elaborate outfits from their native countries. Pictures were taken in front of the national flags lining the halls. Cultural sharing had begun, and it was stunning to see the many ways the conference theme was embraced.

The education program was incredibly interactive and fun; the 18 presenters were outstanding; and glowing reviews flooded in. Much of the fun was found at the dinner sessions. We experienced a flash mob, two great inspirational speakers, and 2 awesome Keynote speakers, accented by the giant 2022 conference reveal.

Each night ended with all sorts of libations and lots of dancing and fun in our beautiful hospitality suite.

What an incredible experience, none of which would have been possible without the dream team who took a vision and ran in unison to make it a reality! I could not have been part of a better team.

My heart is filled with gratitude for everyone who worked on the conference and all who attended! You helped everyone realize that, no matter where we are from, we all have a voice and every person makes a difference. We are all Voices Around the World. ■



► CONFERENCE WRAP UP

Conference Reignited Passion For The Stage

by Leslie LaForty, DTM



Leslie LaForty

I was honored to be the first Stage Manager for District 84's Voice Around the World 2021 Conference.

My personal journey during the planning and execution of this conference was one of exploration and inspiration. You see, I had "retired" from stage management. It was my degree and after graduation from college, I was on my way to Broadway. But self-doubt and fear set in.

I wasn't strong enough to 'make it'. I did a few gigs in Orlando, but a young and brash stage manager was not ready for a professional job. I settled into a job at the House of Mouse and buried my dreams of stage managing professionally.

When Sandy DePrimo asked me to take on the task, it was like a fire had been reignited in my heart. I was all in. I immediately went into what I call – stage manager mode. I tried to push the limits of my ideas and worked to get everyone excited about the conference. I wanted to be an inspiration to the team, encouraging them to try to think outside the box. Debi Jo teased me as she saw me cringe every time I heard the phrase, "But we've always done it that way." I'm all for the status quo if it works. But sometimes, just because it's been done that way before, doesn't mean there isn't a better way to do it. The exploration of possibilities was endless. Being able to figure out the setup for the hybrid meetings and having the Explore track live streamed - that was a true collaboration. Organizing around three different tracks was a great idea and easy to follow for those attending. Creating secure spaces for the Art Gallery and the raffle items is something I hope can carry over in some way into future conferences.

I truly believe that the final results were a labor of love from all involved. From the feedback that has been received, the love was spread. As a result of this conference, I've been personally inspired to start pursuing dreams that have been buried deep, and to try again.

To every Toastmaster who attended and made his or her voice heard, I hope that you Explored all of the differences and similarities in your fellow Toastmasters, that you Immersed yourself in experiences that you never had before, and I implore you to take what you learned during the conference and Inspire others to be greater than they ever hoped to be.

If you enjoyed what you saw this year, I encourage you to get involved next year. I will be at it again and I'm looking for a new team. If you'd like to join me in the challenge and fun, please let me know! ■

► PUBLIC SPEAKING TIPS

Gestures and Body Language

Speakers generate a great amount of emotion and interest through the use of non-verbal communication, often called gestures or body language. A speaker's body can be an effective tool for emphasizing and clarifying the words they use, while reinforcing their sincerity and enthusiasm. Here are a few tips on how to use gestures effectively:

① **Eye contact** establishes an immediate bond with an audience, especially when a speaker focuses in on individual listeners rather than just gazing over the audience as a whole.

② **Control mannerisms.** Mannerisms are the nervous expressions a speaker might not be aware of such as putting their hands in their pockets, nodding their head excessively, or using filler words like um and ah too often.

③ **Put verbs in to action** when speaking to an audience by physically acting them out with the hands, face or entire body.

④ **Avoid insincere gestures** by involving the entire body as much as possible in the movement and matching facial expressions to it.

⑤ **Move around the stage** as topics change and move toward the audience when asking questions, making critical connections, or offering a revelation. ■

► FASCINATINGLY FUNNY

What Not to Do in Virtual Meetings

by Marjane Taylor, DTM, District 84 Administration Manager



Marjane Taylor

This past year we've all had an opportunity to learn more about virtual meetings. In consideration of *'Effective Communication Month,'* I could give you tips on putting your best self forward during virtual meetings. Instead, let's consider the repeated actions of those few who seem to have missed the learning opportunity,

offering regular demonstrations of what NOT TO DO:

- **Do not log on early** to check your connection and equipment. After all, it is a LONG commute from the kitchen, through the living room, and to your home office, and your time is valuable.
- **Do not print the agenda.** What's the point when you can just toggle back and forth on your screen between the zoom meeting and the agenda (if you can find it among the three dozen OTHER documents open on your screen!)?
- **Do not update your screen name.** The Boss can see your face so it doesn't matter if the caption reads "Doug's Mom," as you give the quarterly budget update.
- **Do not check the camera angle.** Getting a close-up look up someone's nose adds intimacy to the meeting. Cutting off the top of your head can be helpful if you're having a bad hair day.
- **Do not adjust lighting.** Standing in front of a window or other backlighting is great for those in the witness protection program because it reveals only their silhouette. If you prefer to go totally incognito, use a green screen and then wear green clothing, or just dress to match your virtual background.
- **Do not mute your microphone.** Those unwanted noises like a flushing toilet, a barking dog, a crying child, or your favorite cat hacking up a hairball can make a meeting very interesting, as can talking to your cat or dog.
- **Don't worry about your wardrobe.** Just wear something comfortable. PJ's are okay, especially on

the bottom. What are the odds you'll need to stand up unexpectedly to get something? In fact, why bother with pants at all? Go ahead, wear your underwear. Nobody will notice as you're adjusting your camera. Ladies, give the fellows on your business call a thrill by wearing a tank top and aiming your video so that it looks like you're totally nude.

Those of us who DID take advantage of the learning opportunity provided by Zoom, can reflect on some of those lessons learned just from being attentive.

- If you're planning to burglarize a house and see that the owner is on Zoom, you may want to come back later. Same goes if you're planning to do someone bodily harm. Talk about stupid criminals....
- Speaking of keeping it private, what's up with those people who decide to take the video calls into the restroom with them? Ugh. I REALLY don't want to see OR HEAR what you're doing in there. (Unfortunately, I may be scarred for life).
- You want to get up to get something to eat or drink? Go right ahead. If I haven't been in your home before, this is my one opportunity for a home tour.

As a member of *Find Your Funny Toastmasters*, we try to avoid doing these things during our meetings, but you go right ahead. I am always looking for new material! To borrow from Martin Charnin and *Annie*, "You're never fully dressed without a smile,".... and PANTS! And if you're lucky, the pants will still fit. ■



▶ VINTAGE VERBIAGE

Sixties Verbal Hand Jive

By Bob Costello



Bob Costello

This is going to be a trip as we go with the flow or get down when I lay it on you as follows. Let's enter our time capsule of my yesterdays. Our journey down this verbal memory lane will be boss as we mellow out here... basically, primo!

Now then, I will sock it to you when I tell my tales with nostalgic colloquialism that were and are

really cool, though obscured by today's verbal genres.

We all loved our music then, especially when we did the Twist, the Swim, The Shimmy, The Mashed Potato, or the Locomotive. I recall going to the American Bandstand studios on West Market Street in Philadelphia where I lived there and attended school at Girard College. It was so hip! Cool even!

Being the proverbial wordsmith jester, I am going with my verbal lunacy of linguistic fracturing here. Our path has just started as I get down here with you.

We intentionally created words and phrases just because it was the groovy thing to do then. It will be out of sight as I sojourn here as I trip out in fun. I was in the Flower Power generation along with our Woodstock tripping out time.

Remember this, as I think this will blow your mind and be outta sight.

In my yesteteryears, life used to be boss. When was the last time you were boss? Boss has faded away over time much as pompadours and sideburns, beehive hairdos and DA's. Our threads were mini-skirts, frayed bell-bottom jeans, tie-dyed t-shirts, headbands, love beads, medallion necklaces, chain belts, and moccasins.

Do you recall drive-ins? Our drive-ins were better known as passion pits as we showed off in Dad's borrowed wheels or our own hot rods! We loved our cars, especially our psychedelic VW "bus" with unique paint

jobs. Or I would go to the Saturday matinee to see the latest feature while munching on popcorn and candy, plus a soda. All this for less than the price of a postage stamp today!

Oh yes, we had those miserable little wax bottles with colored sugar water in them or some took new chemistry by which to turn on and tune out as some would do. Remember Haight-Ashbury where we all longed to go, to be and make love and not war.

If we compare our time with Covid-19 crisis today which requires social distancing; we may have beat the time for being out there. Because we were so spaced out! Through it all, we laughed in our tripping out of those carefree love times that chilled our parent's patience! We were so hip by being right-on in our delight of living and loving vibes.

All is gone now... with the times. The years have gone by in a blink of an eye as cultural changes have faded my time and memories. I love sharing our verbal time capsule of the 60's carefree fun in this verbal landscape with you.

I hope this wasn't a downer!

Well folks, it is time to split. It's been a gas. Even now, Elvis, the King, has left the building! Its been real as it has been fun sharing my times with you.

Peace man! ■



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 2020 through June 2021) and total published items are reflected in the table below.

Toastmaster	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	Total	Toastmaster	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	Total
Amanda Dodd								1					1	Julie Salgo											1	1	
Amanda Howard										1			1	Kelly Moore	1												1
Andy Seepaul	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Koki Kubo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Angela Ardrey-Reynolds				1				1			1		3	Leslie LaForty						1	1				1		3
Ashok Shahane							1	1	1	1		1	5	Maria Martinez					1						1		2
Becky McGilton				1	1						1		3	Marjane Taylor	1				1	1			1		1		5
Beth Ramsay	1					1	2						4	Mark Gai				1			1						2
Bethany Boring											1		1	Michael Robinson								1					1
Brian Roders	1												1	Mike McLean	1												1
Cathy Hoar							1	1					2	Nancy Wilkins											1		1
Cindy Abeel	1												1	Nicole Walker								1					1
Collin Yurewitch	1												1	Pam Richardson									1				1
Cynthia Johnson	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1		13	Patty Goodwin										1		1	2
David Loyd				1									1	Paula Summa	1	1		1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	16
Debby Kerr-Henry							1	1				1	3	Pim Parpart	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	12
Debi Jo Londono	1	1				1	2	1	2	1		1	10	Rachael Assignon				1	2		1						4
Deborah Wilde							1	1					2	Ram Nayar									1				1
Dee Melvin								1					1	Randall Crosby	1						1						2
Dennis Wooldridge	1	1											2	Rauha Jessup	1												1
Derek Lott				1				1					2	Richard Hoar							1	1					2
Donald Toldson			1										1	Rob Warrington									1				1
Edith Tiencken	1									1	1		3	Robert Costello											1	1	2
Eric Boehm								1					1	Robin Collins	1							1					2
Eric C. Butler								1					1	Ron Parpart	1								1				2
Erika Lakey												1	1	Sandi Baker				1									1
Fazeel Gareeboo						1							1	Sandy DePrimo				2	1					1		1	5
Felicia Shorter	1	1											2	Sandy Murphree								1					1
Francine Juhlin						1							1	Scott Gammon				1									1
Fred Bergeron	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	Sowjanya Athmakuri								1		1	1		3
Gail Hill Smith	1	1	1	1	1						1		6	Steven Morgan				1									1
Gary Blasczienski												1	1	Sunil Kumar Ancha										1			1
Glen Tapley	1												1	Susan Schulz				1									1
Gloria Darling	1												1	Thelma Olizia				1									1
Godalys Reina							1						1	Theresa Fellingner									1				1
James A. Hull			1										1	Tonya Kaynar									1				1
Jessica Connery									1				1	Troy Palmer			1	1									2
Jessica Enid Rivera	1												1	Vickie Goodman	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	19
John R. Morrow			1			1							3	Vicky Iozzia								1					1
														Walter Blackmon	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13

SAVE *the* DATE

Spring 2021 VIRTUAL TLIs

**Club Officer Training +
Additional Educational Sessions**

Sat., July 17, 12:30 – 5:00 pm

Sun., July 25, 12:30 – 5:00 pm

TLI Express

Club Officer Training

(no educational sessions)

Wed., July 28, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

So You've Joined Toastmasters.
Now What?

New Member Orientation with
the Trio and Pathways Chair

The next event is August 1, 2021

1st Sunday of Each Month

7:00pm ET on Zoom

Meeting ID: 962 7944 2148

Password: NewMembers



Toastmasters Coffee and T, too

John Morrow, DTM,
hosts a monthly Zoom-based
session to train, mentor, and coach new
Toastmasters. Topics may include membership,
pathways, meeting roles, mentoring, new member
questions, FreeToastHost, and/or the
Toastmaster's International website.

Second Monday Each Month

July 12 | August 9

starting at 6:00 pm

**Zoom Meeting ID: 821
012 4147**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8210124147>

The gathering is open to
all Toastmasters.

LAST CALL! PRESENTERS FOR TLI NEEDED!

We are giving last call for
presenters for our officer sessions
as well as other sessions that would
be “electives.” Electives need to be
about better presenting, speaking,
club growth, successful open house
ideas, achieving excellence at the
club level, etc.

Register at:

<https://form.jotform.com/211447137969162>



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

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