



↑ **DTM Walk Flashback:** Toastmasters who achieved their DTM Award in the 2017-2018 program year participated in the DTM Walk at the Formula 1 District Conference in May 2018. Several Toastmasters are expected to celebrate their DTM award during the DTM Walk at the 2021 Voices Around the World Conference on May 15, 2021.

Together Everyone Achieves More



DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

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

May 2021

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Charter Member

of an officially chartered Toastmasters club with privileges and responsibilities of active membership

Chartering New Clubs

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TOASTMASTERS SPEECHCRAFT

Speechcraft Program

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JC Williams Spirit Award Nominees

Distinguished Toastmasters Rauha Jessup, Chuck Rabaut, and Renate Wilms-Rovin are committed to community service and Toastmasters.

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District 84 2020-2021 Golden Gavel Clubs

Golden Gavel Clubs

Five District 84 clubs are Golden Gavel. Teamwork and planning were key to achieving this prestigious award.

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Hope Your Month is aMAYzing!

by Pim Parpart, DTM, District 84 Director

"Don't worry when you are not recognized but strive to be worthy of recognition." — Abraham Lincoln



Pim Parpart

It is now May 2021.

May I wish you and your family health and happiness for the rest of 2021. It has been a long time coming, but we are starting to see.

the light at the end of the tunnel.

May I welcome the eight (and still counting) new clubs to one of the coolest Districts in the world. New clubs and new members are an important part of the health and future of our district.

May I offer you my sincerest gratitude for helping your club survive this horrible pandemic. It has not been easy, but you worked hard, didn't give up, and didn't give in.

May our Members, Clubs, Areas, Divisions, and our District 84 emerge from this difficult time stronger than ever before. Look at how much we have learned together as a team! Many talents were discovered. Before this, we didn't even know what ZOOM was! District 84 has lots of talent, and we are grateful.

May our legacy as a District include that "We survived COVID-19." Should we have some T-Shirts made?

May we be strong, stay positive and be kind to one another. If we can put up with everything we have had to deal with during this difficult time, we can put up with anything.

May we adapt and embrace the "new normal," exceeding all expectations. Zooming around the District and around the world has been quite fun and interesting.

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aMAYzing, continued from Page 1

May the "new normal" become the "old normal" quickly!

May Voices Around the World be heard throughout our District 84 Conference. What a great theme! We are a diverse District.

May we use the technology we acquired during this time to help us learn and grow as human beings. If we stop learning, we stop growing. Let's all give speeches at our Club meetings to share what we learned.

May I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and serve as a Club officer next term. The experience of serving as a Club officer provides you with hands-on experience in leadership.

May we always remember, "Toastmasters, is where leaders are made." ■

► ACCEPTING AWARDS

Whether you're accepting an Oscar or community recognition, Toastmasters International offers these proven tips for delivering a powerful acceptance speech for any type of award:

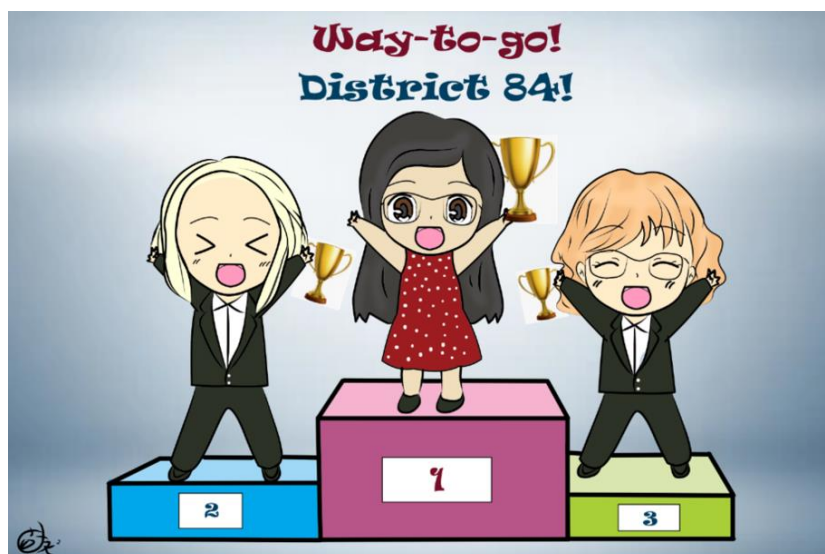
Show your personality. Your acceptance speech should come from the heart.

Be gracious. Acknowledge the good work done by your competitors and thank the organization that selected you for the award.

Show excitement. You don't have to climb over chairs or even cry, but the audience should recognize that you're happy to have won the award.

Be modest. Your acceptance speech should be heartfelt but not self-congratulatory.

Practice, practice, practice. Rehearse with a timer, memorize key people to thank and allow time for the unexpected. ■



Cartoonist Koki Kubo illustrated our District 84 Director, Pim Parpart, Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa extending all members and Clubs warmest congratulations on your achievements.

► CLUB GROWTH

Chartering New Clubs Requires Teamwork

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84 Club Growth Director



Paula Summa

Congratulations to new clubs, Expressway Toastmasters and Find Your Funny Toastmasters!

Chartering new clubs takes teamwork. Teamwork makes everyone's job a lot easier. Teamwork leads to success.

Thank you to all team members who have helped charter our new clubs this year: Club Extension Chair, DTM Marie Loeffler, Club Sponsor/Mentor Chair, DTM Judy Hayes, and all Sponsors, Mentors, Area and Division Directors! Thank you to those who continue to support and work with our new clubs, helping them to succeed and achieve excellence! (**See complete Recognition List on Page 4**)

Chartering a new club is not as difficult as you might think.

Here are the simple steps to charter a new club:

① Seek out opportunities.

Local businesses, community organizations, Chambers of Commerce, specialty clubs, or people with similar interests (storytellers, book clubs, writers, dancers, cooks, bicyclists, nature lovers, campers). The possibilities are endless!

② Brainstorm. Organizers discuss their vision for the club.

- a. Include your Area Director and Club Extension Chair and/or Club Growth Director.
- b. Sponsors and Mentors are appointed by the team as soon as possible.
- c. Review the charter forms and determine the next steps.

③ Plan and hold a Demonstration Meeting.

- d. Invite all potential new members, including corporate leadership and human resources if it's a corporate club.
- e. Advertise well in advance and continue to send reminders (include online link).
- f. Put together your demo team of experienced Toastmasters.
- g. Review roles and/or practice with your demo team in advance.
- h. Have a complete agenda ready in advance.
- i. Hold a fun, informative, and upbeat meeting. Keep it short and concise and leave time for a Q&A at the end.
- j. Send member packets out in advance, including charter member application, and have them available in the chat at the meeting time.
- k. Be professional.

④ Charter forms are completed, reviewed, and submitted (including individual charter member applications and payments).

- a. Sponsors assist the club officers and/or organizer with the completion of the application forms. Forms are reviewed by the Club Extension Chair (and/or the Club Growth Director) and are submitted, along with membership dues, to TI.
- b. Some clubs prefer to submit the initial Form#1 of the application in advance, along with the \$125 Charter Fee, to get the process moving quickly. A club number is assigned to the club, and they are added to the TI "Prospective Club" list.

Continued on Page 4, Teamwork

Teamwork, continued from Page 3

- c. Our District chooses to have final charter paperwork submitted by the District CGD team rather than having the club submit it directly to TI.

⑤ **Charter is approved by TI.** Congratulations!

All club members receive a special Charter Member certificate from TI, along with their member number and the ability to sign up for Pathways.

⑥ **Mentors** assist the club for a minimum of 6 months by sharing resources, ideas, advice, assistance, etc., helping to build a self-sufficient and strong club.

⑦ **A Charter Party** is sometimes held to honor the club and to celebrate their future success!

We have seen new clubs charter in as little as a few days, while others take a year or longer. Set yourselves a goal date from the beginning. Meet with your team regularly along the way, working as a team to reach that goal. Being prepared and frequently communicating with your team will ensure a successful beginning for the new club!

As always, I thank you for all you do for our clubs and our District. I wish you all much success and happiness, and I look forward to celebrating those successes with you! ■

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

So You've Joined Toastmasters.
Now What?

New Member Orientation with
the Trio and Pathways Chair

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

Sponsor/Mentor Recognition List for 2020-2021

Mentors		
Club	Toastmasters	Status
Divine Charisma	Castella Owens, ACG, ALB	Pending
	David G Emanuel, CC	Pending
Expressway Toastmasters	Derek Bell	Awarded
	Walter Blackmon, DTM	Awarded
Find Your Funny Toastmasters	Aakeem Bennett, DL5	Pending
	Sue Leitholf, LD2	Pending
NBCUniversal X BEN	Niloofar Ghazi-Moghaddam, DL2	Pending
	Pamela A. Russell, LD5	Pending
SBA Toastmasters	Felicia Shorter, IP2	Pending
	Vickie J. Goodman, DTM	Pending
Spanglish	Norma Leticia Cress, DTM	Pending
	Robert C. Wood, PM3	Pending
Technically Speaking	Megan A. Buchner, IP4	Pending
	Rachael Assignon, VC1	Pending
Virtually Speaking	Dwight O. Dillon, VC2	Pending
	Rauha I. Jessup, DTM	Pending
Sponsors		
Divine Charisma	Janelle Thomas, DTM	Awarded
	Murika R. Davis, DTM	Awarded
Expressway Toastmasters	Denise Marie Badolato, EC2	Awarded
Find Your Funny Toastmasters	Gloria M. Darling, DTM	Awarded
	Marjane C. Taylor, DTM	Awarded
NBCUniversal X BEN	Cynthia L. Johnson, DTM	Awarded
	Dwight O. Dillon, VC2	Pending
SBA Toastmasters	Sue Leitholf, LD2	Awarded
	Walter Blackmon, DTM	Pending
Spanglish	Marie M. Loeffler, DTM	Awarded
	Natalia A. Cox, DTM	Awarded
Technically Speaking	Bethany L. Boring, DTM	Awarded
	Rachael Assignon, VC1	Awarded
Virtually Speaking	Ajay J. Koovackal, DTM	Awarded
	Felicia Shorter, IP2	Awarded

► FROM THE PRM DESK

Tips to Keep Your Website and Social Media Up to Date

by Fred Bergeron, DTM, District 84 Public Relations Manager



Fred Bergeron

When was the last time you recognized members of your club? What about finding ways to recruit new members or bringing back past ones? The FreeToastHost website, available to all clubs, offers a great mechanism to do both. Your website administrator or another officer with administrative access can login and upload photos of your meetings or membership accomplishments as follows:

- LAUNCH ADMIN CONSOLE, followed by WEBSITE SETTINGS, then HOME PAGE.
- Look for the image icon, then click on UPLOAD, then CHOOSE FILE, then SEND IT TO SERVER and upload your photo(s) from there. Next, click "OK", followed by "Browse Server."

Reaching out to past members to encourage them to return is a great way to build membership. You can find a list of past club members and their contact info on the FreeToastHost website as follows:

- From the drop-down menu, click SELECT A MODULE, then MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT followed by FORMER MEMBERS.

Even though we are meeting virtually, why not take a screenshot of your meeting to post on your club website or Facebook page? Has someone recently completed a level in Pathways? Does your club have a new Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)? Facebook currently has 2.7 billion monthly active users, and 66.5% of those monthly users will log in on daily via a mobile device or a computer. Why not capitalize on this social media platform? The current global population of smartphone users is 45.4%, but how many of us leave all those photos we take on our phones rather than uploading them? With the pandemic still upon us, more and more people are taking advantage of cyberspace, relying on what they see online instead of word-of-mouth. Why not take advantage of these two basic platforms to boost your presence on social media and attract members - new and old!

Visit <https://hstc.toastmastersclubs.org/>, to see an example of a club website sharing member accomplishments and Zoom photos or check out Horizon Stars on Facebook as well! ■

► GOLDEN GAVEL RECIPIENT

JaxTM's second Golden Gavel Award

by Amanda Howard, DL5, Area 10 Director



Amanda Howard

Congratulations to Jacksonville Toastmasters Club 3661 for earning the D84 Golden Gavel award for the second year in a row. Despite the challenges that 2020 brought everyone, the

leadership team was able to come together to help members achieve all of the goals that had been set for the club.

There were many Executive Committee meetings where we went through the motions, then stopped recording and just admitted to feeling completely burned out and exhausted. Despite our Zoom fatigue and the negative feelings expressed, every member showed up for club meetings wearing his or her mask of positivity. We were real - more real than ever before, yet club meetings still worked, and our relationships strengthened. I think it was that frank sincerity and realness that visitors appreciated, allowing our club to welcome them as new members. ■



CLUB CHECKLIST (April – June, 2021)

- ❑ Submit proof of completion for The Golden Gavel Incentive (last day is April 20)
- ❑ 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
- ❑ Complete Club Officer Elections

► CLUB CORNER

Recognizing & Celebrating Success

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair



Vickie Goodman

June 30th marks the end of one of the most unusual Toastmaster years ever! The global pandemic has given us lots to complain about and provided all of us with stories of struggle and hardship, but let's focus on what we have accomplished together – despite all the heartaches we may have suffered. This is our time to **celebrate success!** Big successes, little accomplishments, new skills, great meetings, educational achievements, new members – let's celebrate EVERYTHING!

Celebrate Leadership! Our club leaders have all worked to chart a course through the pandemic abyss and we are ready to embark on next year's journey. Take time to THANK THEM, even as we prepare to elect our new club leaders for the 2021-22 year. Get those nominations in, hold your elections, and submit your new officer list to TI before June 30th to ensure a great start on those DCP goals for next year. Hold a transitional meeting with outgoing and incoming officers to give the newbies a kick-start on next year's planning.

Celebrate Your Members! Those members who've stuck with your club through thick and thin, as well as those new members who joined just when you thought nobody was interested...ALL MEMBERS COUNT! Isn't it time to get together just to experience those delightful, in-person, warm fuzzies we've been missing out on for a year? Whether in person or hybrid – PLAN A PARTY and recognize every member for their contribution to your club. Better yet, have a BEAT THE CLOCK celebration. Have your current members invite guests to your club celebration and turn some of those guests into members. There is plenty of time to continue building your club membership and TI has some new PSAs available to share with your local TV and radio stations to inform, promote and publicize Toastmasters clubs in your area. [Here is the link](#) to the full PSA and here is the [link to 30 second PSA](#).

Celebrate Educational Accomplishments: How is your club rating on the Distinguished Club Plan? It's never too late to get those levels and paths completed. Remember: the Base Camp Manager must approve the pending requests in Base Camp and in Club Central if your club is to receive DCP credit and your member gets to see those initials following his or her name.

Celebrate by Awarding Pathways Badges! Whether just getting started with an Ice Breaker, finishing a Level, or completing an entire path, applaud each member's success and progress. Use Pathways to award badges of encouragement to members at all levels. Badges include adaptable, collaborative, courageous, exceptional, innovative, and inspirational. [Follow these directions on how to provide feedback and award badges.](#)

TI Wants to Share Your Celebrations. The Toastmaster magazine wants to hear from you! In addition to the Traveling Toastmaster photos that showcase members holding the magazine in various locations worldwide, send in photos of your club in action. Get creative when submitting the images – both posed and candid. Feel free to take artistic, conceptual photos that reflect the Toastmaster brand of communication and leadership or fun pictures at a social gathering or CELEBRATION – no Toastmaster banner, magazine or branded materials needed for it to be considered for publication.

Happy April Charter Anniversary

Anniversary	Club	City	Charter Date	Division Area	DCP History	Club Info
73	Orlando	Orlando	5/27/1948	D 44	DCP-History	Clubinfo
45	Twilite	Orlando	5/1/1976	E 52	DCP-History	Clubinfo
28	Darden	Orlando	5/1/1993	E 52	DCP-History	Clubinfo
26	World Toasters	Lake Buena Vista	5/1/1995	E 50	DCP-History	Clubinfo
18	Talk of Tallahassee	Tallahassee	5/16/2003	H 84	DCP-History	Clubinfo
17	Beachside Broadcasters	PAFB	5/17/2004	B 21	DCP-History	Clubinfo
14	Jacksonville Bullmasters	Jacksonville	5/7/2007	F 61	DCP-History	Clubinfo
13	Marion United	Ocala	5/19/2008	G 72	DCP-History	Clubinfo
12	Global Leaders Advanced	Jacksonville	5/1/2009	A 12	DCP-History	Clubinfo
12	TIAA Bank Innovators	Jacksonville	5/15/2009	A 11	DCP-History	Clubinfo
12	St. Mark AME Text Talkers	Orlando	5/26/2009	C 34	DCP-History	Clubinfo
12	20/20	Jacksonville	5/27/2009	F 62	DCP-History	Clubinfo
11	Wyndham Easy Speakers	Orlando	5/1/2010	E 50	DCP-History	Clubinfo
10	Accelerated Pacesetters	Ormond Beach	5/25/2011	I 90	DCP-History	Clubinfo
7	Florida International Talkers	Palm Bay	5/8/2014	B 24	DCP-History	Clubinfo
7	Seminole State College	Sanford	5/21/2014	I 93	DCP-History	Clubinfo
6	C.I.A.	Ocala	5/5/2015	G 71	DCP-History	Clubinfo
6	Downtown Ocala	Ocala	5/12/2015	G 72	DCP-History	Clubinfo
6	Citrus	Orlando	5/20/2015	C 33	DCP-History	Clubinfo
4	Peace Talkers	Melbourne	5/12/2017	B 22	DCP-History	Clubinfo
2	Orlando Leaders	Orlando	5/7/2019	C 34	DCP-History	Clubinfo
2	Crowley TMs - HQ	Jacksonville	5/24/2019	A 10	DCP-History	Clubinfo

Top 10 clubs with highest education awards per July 1 base membership

Club	Educ. awards	July 1 base	Ratio
Marion United Toastmasters	28	11	2.55
Let's Talk Toastmasters Club	25	14	1.79
Florida International Talkers	17	11	1.55
West Volusia Toastmasters	15	10	1.50
We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar TMs Club	21	14	1.50
Toastmasters of St Augustine	15	12	1.25
Ocala Noon Toastmasters Club	14	12	1.17
Four Corners Toastmasters	17	15	1.13
Melbourne FL Toastmasters Club	9	8	1.13
Apopka Foliage, Club 840	12	11	1.09

▶ PATHWAYS FAQ

How Can I Get to the Evaluation Forms?

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair

Question: I thought there was a way that an evaluator could get the evaluation form for another Toastmaster's speech without the assistance of that Toastmaster. Is this correct? How?

Answer: Absolutely correct!

There are three ways to access evaluation resources. One way is to download them directly from your open project, but this method only provides access to the evaluation forms for your projects. What about the evaluation form for a fellow toastmaster who is working on a different path from you?

On your BaseCamp home page, notice the 2nd tab on the left, labeled SPEECH EVALUATIONS. Selecting this tab will bring up a page listing every evaluation form for every project in every path. Simply select this tab and you will be able to scroll through all of the Evaluation forms, listed alphabetically in several columns. Just be sure to scroll down the page until you find the form you are looking for. Once you select a form, you will be given the option to LAUNCH which will open the evaluation form so you can download and save it to your computer.

The third way to access the evaluation forms is through the Tutorials and Resources tab, also on the BaseCamp homepage. In this section, you will notice EVALUATION RESOURCES as the second option listed under SUBJECTS on the left. Selecting the EVALUATION RESOURCES option will open up the list of language options available. Select ENGLISH, or your preferred language, and tiles for the various evaluation forms will open on the right. If you prefer a list over the tile icons, simply hover your mouse over the small checkerboard icon to the far right of the Tutorials and Resources title to select your preferred viewing option. Scroll down the page to find the evaluation form you need.

Whatever method you choose to access evaluation forms, once a form is selected you will need to select the blue LAUNCH button to open it. The forms are all FILLABLE PDF FORMS. You can either print the form and write your comments with a pen, or you can save the form to your computer so that you may open it and type directly in the fillable fields, saving the filled form to email to the member whose speech you evaluated. ■

Pathways Program Support

Online Drop-in Help Sessions

- **What:** Ask questions, get general help or specific navigation instructions
- **When:** May 17th, June 1st, and June 15th
- **Time:** 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- **ZOOM Meeting ID:** 860 6865 050 | Passcode: 265141

YouTube Video Tutorials

- Brief tutorial sessions designed to meet member needs from beginners to advanced Base Camp Managers
- Access whenever you need them (about 20 mins each). Look for YouTube link as well as other Pathways resource links at <https://www.toastmastersd84.org/clubassist#Pathways>

Get the help you need NOW!

Vickie Goodman, DTM, Pathways Committee Chair
vgoodmanDTM@gmail.com



► MY TAKE

Reflections of Recognition

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



W.C. Blackmon

Recognition. Not everyone wants it, but everyone who shows effort and consideration deserve it. For the past ten months or so, I have had the privilege of serving as District 84 Division H Director. During this time, I have had the pleasure of connecting with some exceptionally wonderful people. I want to take a moment to recognize a few of those and express my sincere appreciation.

The first is all of my fellow Division H Toastmasters. In visiting the different clubs over the past months, I met individuals of varying cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities. However, no matter which club I was visiting, I recognized a common quality in that every member was totally committed to helping each other learn and grow. I have attended club meetings where there were 20 or more Toastmasters happily contributing. I have also been the third of three Toastmasters in attendance, and the meeting still involved the three components of a successful meeting: a prepared speech, table topics, and an evaluation. Large membership or small, these individuals show up with willing spirits, agile minds, and smiling faces for no other reason than learning and growing while helping someone else do the same. I cannot name you all here, but fellow Toastmasters know that I salute you with sincerity, purpose, and gratitude.

Another part of being Division Director is to be first amongst a small group of servant leaders. For the Division H council, it was my pleasure to work with six outstanding yet very different people: Quinn Bryant, Sue Leitholf, Derek Bell, ABM Uddin, Janelle Brown, and Earl Pearson. Coming into the year, we may all have had some doubts about ourselves and maybe each other. However, the experiences we have shared as servant leaders in recruiting, completing reports, leading council meetings, and conducting contests leave no doubts concerning the amount of learning and growth we accomplished during this year of servant leadership. 'Team Success': As leaders, Toastmasters, and humans

with a desire to be and do better, consider yourselves saluted, graduated, and congratulated!

Finally, when initially accepting the nomination to take on the position of Division Director, I wondered, probably like many of you, "Am I really able to devote the time to the position that is needed in order to do a good job?" In spite of my own doubts, my decision was made and, from the outset, I received unwavering support, good vibrations, and confidence from our 2020/2021 District Trio. Club Growth Director Paula Summa, Program Quality Director Debi Jo Londono, and District Director Pim Parpart, have truly been leaders worth following. Queries received quick, thoughtful responses; support was always provided for Division events, and (best of all) the Trio has shown through their deeds and actions that they truly believe in Ralph Nader's words, "The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."

To this point, 2020/2021 D-84 Trio, I salute each of you for all that you embody, as well as for the tremendous effort you have exerted to help others become all that they can be.

Last but certainly not least, leaders and members of Divisions A through I, thank you for your help and the many examples that you have displayed as Toastmasters we admire and are proud to follow. This is also true for the VIP Online Toastmasters Club, specializing in accessibility, whose leaders and members have shown themselves to be nothing less than exceptional.

Recognition: not everyone wants it, but everyone who shows effort and consideration definitely deserves it. ■



Golden Gavel

5-Star Toastmasters
Downtown Ocala
Jacksonville Toastmasters
Plant City
Toastmasters at Twelve

Smedley

Castle.com
Girl Talk
Plant City
Toastmasters at Twelve

Talk Up Toastmasters

5-Star
Downtown Ocala
Downtown Toastmasters
Driven by Destiny
Jacksonville
Toastmasters on the Halifax
Wharton-Smith

The Golden Gavel is District 84's most prestigious award. These Clubs met the following criteria.

1. 7 Club Officers were trained during both rounds of TLI
 2. 2 club members were trained on Contest 101 at TLI or at Division Officer Training
 3. Achieved Smedley Award or Talk Up Toastmasters Award in the current Toastmasters year
 4. 2 Moments of Truth were conducted by April 15, 2021
 5. At least 1 member achieved the Triple Crown Award by April 15, 2021
 6. Achieved a Perfect 10 President's Distinguished Club by April 2021 Renewal
 7. 2 Club Ambassadors in the current Toastmasters year by April 15, 2021
- Each Club was recognized at the Conference Awards Ceremony.

The Smedley and Talk Up Toastmasters Awards are membership incentives awarded to clubs that added 5 new, dual, or reinstated members from August 1 to September 30 (Smedley Award) or from February 1 to March 31 (Talk Up Toastmasters). These clubs received a ribbon to display on their club's banner, 10% off the next club order from Toastmasters International as well as a \$25 TI gift certificate from District 84.

► REFLECTIONS

Speechcrafters Found Their Voice Through Speechcraft Program

by Edith Tiencken, SR5, Division E Director



Edith Tiencken

If you are a Toastmaster who believes in helping other people and your club succeed, the Speechcraft Program is designed for you! I had no clue how easy, practical, and effective this program was until a few weeks ago when I was looking for a project to earn DTM credit.

According to TI, "The Speechcraft digital experience was created for experienced members to help others become Speechcrafters—essentially the best communicators they can be! You will be given materials to help you recruit five people and act as the coordinator of a four-, six- or eight-session Speechcraft event that will boost your participants' confidence and improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills—all within the safe Toastmasters environment. Plus, Toastmasters members who become coordinators can earn DTM credit!"

Did I already say it was easy? It was! The digital program contains all tools needed for education sessions, agenda templates, learning resources, and speech outlines for the program, and you choose the length of program you prefer - 4, 6, or 8 sessions.

I simply had to select my theme, find a few volunteers to support the meetings, and recruit the five participants or Speechcrafters. Finding experienced Toastmasters willing to help others is never a problem! A simple email that explained my goals and expectations and made it easy for volunteers to participate when available. Several attended every meeting, unwilling to miss even a blink of this exciting journey! Recruiting participants was also easy; one brought his tribe, completing the group in no time!

I am grateful to every Speechcrafter for participating with enthusiasm, dedication, and a willingness to learn

from the experienced Toastmasters who volunteered in the spirit of service, with a sincere commitment to the participants' success. It was miraculous to witness such focused learning and servant leadership in action! In an incredibly short time, Speechcrafters discovered their gift - their voice! Their final 5–7-minute speeches were easily contest-worthy. Simply amazing!

But don't take my word. Listen to what Speechcrafters and volunteers had to say:

"The professionalism and enthusiasm of the team motivated us to expand our learning beyond speech development and discover a platform to help build a world that promotes understanding, diversity, and our common ground."

— **Aries I. Pangan, Speechcrafter**

"Although unfamiliar with Speechcraft, this turned out to be an amazing opportunity for everyone involved. It was extraordinary each week to see the growth in confidence and speaking ability of the five Speechcrafters. So much so that I will be sponsoring a Speechcraft workshop soon. It's a wonderful way to introduce Toastmasters to people that have no former knowledge of this organization."

— **Cathy Gorgensen, Volunteer**

"The Speechcraft Program helped enhance my speaking ability and improved my thought organization when speaking. We were inspired to be the best versions of ourselves and make the same difference in the lives of others as these awe-inspiring mentors made in our lives. It was fun, inspiring, and I gained lots of friends from all over the world!"

— **Mitchelle Villanueva, Speechcrafter**

"I had a blast participating in this Speechcraft workshop. It was a great opportunity to show how Toastmasters can benefit others."

— **Denise Badolato, Volunteer**

Continued on Page 12, Speechcraft

Speechcraft, *continued from Page 11*

"This has been the opportunity of a lifetime! I am very grateful for having been invited to participate. As I prepare myself for a course in life coaching, the tools I gained will be with me forever."

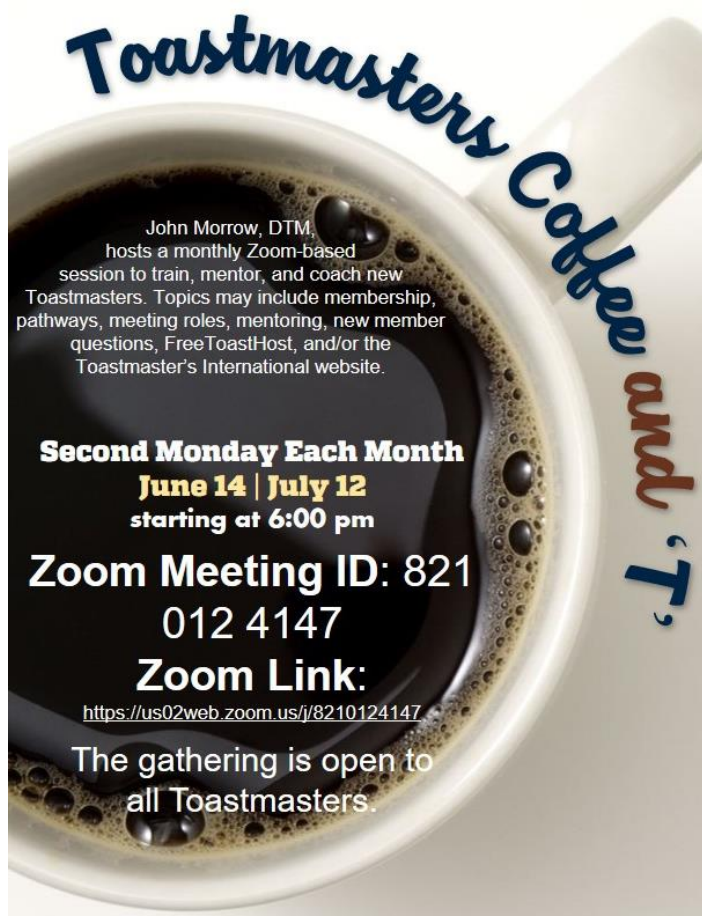
— James Lamboy, Speechcrafter

"I was looking for a presentation to help recruit club members, and my daughter, coincidentally, was looking for training on public speaking to offer her engineers. Speechcraft appears to be the perfect fit! As I saw the tremendous growth of the Speechcrafters each week, I thought, "Wow! This works, and now they want to become Toastmasters!"

— George Hazzard, Volunteer

Explore the Speechcraft Program, help others succeed, and maybe you can even grow your club membership!

[Click here to view an informational webinar from Toastmasters International.](#) ■



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
June 14 | July 12
 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.

Lockheed Martin and Christian Care Ministry Received Toastmasters Corporate Recognition Award

Two outstanding companies received the Toastmasters Corporate Recognition Award this year. Congratulations to both Lockheed Martin and Christian Care Ministry for enhancing employee engagement through continuing support of the Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Program.

Lockheed Martin sponsors the Twilite Toastmasters Club in Orlando.

"We always encourage our employees to take part in activities that build confidence, expand networks, sharpen leadership abilities and enhance communication skills in a safe, supportive environment," said Carolyn Nelson, vice president of Communications at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "Our Toastmasters groups and participants have achieved several measures of success over the years, which is a true testament to the program."

Christian Care Ministry sponsors the ACTS2Speak Toastmasters Club in Melbourne.

"I have always felt that good communication is what differentiates those who advance within their organizations or their profession vs. those who don't," said Scott Reddig, Christian Care Ministry CEO.

"You can be great at your job, but if you can't explain to others what you do or what you are proposing, it limits your effectiveness. I encourage all of our employees to take advantage of Toastmasters. It can undoubtedly help their career."

These awards were presented on May 15th at the District 84 Conference in Kissimmee by International Director Roy Ganga, DTM, who said, "Regardless of the industry, a company's success depends in large part on how employees communicate with each other, as well as with customers. Effective leadership is a key component, and good effective leaders are good communicators." ■

New DTMs

Bethany L. Boring
Courtney D. Moore
Duong-Vincent M. Son
Eveline D. Kraljic
Francisco Campos
Janelle Thomas
Joseph T. Dertien
Mary W. Halter

Michael S. Carroll
Mona Cherkaoui
Natalia A. Cox
Randal Joseph Halter
Ronald D. Parpart
Ruby M. Scotland
Theodore J. Allman
Valentin Iamandi
Walter Blackmon

7 of 7 Trained

5-Star
Accelerated Pacesetters
Advanced Communicators
Bartow
Central Florida Facilitators
Clermont
CrossWay
Darden
Downtown Jax
Downtown Ocala
Early Bird
Early Bird Ocala
Florida International Talkers
Global Leaders Advanced
Heartland Talk of the Town
Highway Safety
Hunters Creek
Jacksonville
L3harris Communicators
Lake Mary
Lakeland
Leadership

Metro Palm Bay
North Jax
Ocala Noon
Orlando Advanced
Orlando
Ormond SpeechMasters
Oviedo
Plant City
PMI Tallahassee
South Beach
Speak Up America
St. Mark AME Text Talkers
The Talking Mocs (FSC)
Titusville
Toastmasters at Twelve
Toast-Stars
Trailblazers
Vista
We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar
West Volusia
Winter Haven
You Talkin' to Me?

These Clubs had seven of seven club officers trained. Each Club received a \$10 Toastmasters gift certificate from the District.

► SERVANT LEADERSHIP

JC Williams Spirit Award Nominees Exemplify Spirit of Service

Presented annually in honor of the life and spirit of service of **Distinguished Toastmaster JC Williams**, we congratulate the three nominated candidates who exemplify the same spirit of service to others, both in Toastmasters and in their communities:

- Rauha Jessup, DTM
- Chuck Rabaut, DTM
- Renate Wilms- Rovin, DTM

The JC Williams Spirit award winner will be announced at District 84 conference on May 14-15, 2021.

Rauha Jessup, DTM



An active member of Toastmasters since February 1997, Rauha Jessup has achieved 3 DTMs (2008, 2011, 2014) and is working on her fourth. She is currently a member of four clubs: Podemos Hablar, Early Bird, Uptown, and

Transformation Toastmasters clubs. Rauha regularly volunteers for numerous Club, Area, Division, and District events and rarely declines a request for assistance from Division leaders. She also volunteers in the local 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program, volunteering several times as a community judge during speech competitions held as part of the local elementary school curriculum.

Rauha's generous spirit is also visible outside of Toastmasters. She has helped seniors prepare their tax returns for 11 years as a volunteer AARP/Tax-Aide at the Tallahassee Senior Center.

A life-long sewist, Rauha enjoys making her clothing and was recognized as one of Tallahassee's top volunteer sewists for her contribution of face masks in 2020.

In her rare, spare moments, Rauha enjoys reading murder mystery, historical, and gardening books.

Chuck Rabaut, DTM



Chuck Rabaut became a Toastmaster in 1974 and was presented with the Most Enthusiastic Toastmaster of the Year Award by the District for the 1976/77 membership year. Two years later, Chuck earned the most coveted DTM Award.

Chuck's passion for Toastmasters and how it can change lives inspired him to work tirelessly, beginning in 1979, to establish the Gavel Club Program in Florida prisons. From the first club established in a Tallahassee prison, his efforts resulted in what would be recognized as a considerable part of his legacy.

Chuck has the distinction of starting over 30 clubs and currently oversees 24 separate Gavel Clubs located throughout North Florida, all of which are in prisons. He volunteers at 13 separate Gavel Club meetings each week, serving more than 700 Gaveliers every month. Chuck spends over 20 hours each week just driving to meetings.

Today, Chuck continues his enthusiastic participation and membership in 2 Toastmasters clubs, mentoring, inspiring, and recruiting volunteers to help in his life's work with the Gavel Club Program.

Renate Wilms-Rovin, DTM



Renate has helped with judging at Club, Area, Division, and District contests, as well as locally for the Tropicana Speech Contests. She served as an Area Governor during the 2014-2015 year.

Renate's community service includes working as a long-time volunteer at the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, where she provides educational programs for the public about alligators, the hippopotamus, manatees, opossums, and the gopher tortoise, and is a recognized wildlife puppeteer.

Continued on Page 15, Award Nominees

Award Nominees, *continued from Page 14*

As a Master Gardener, she also volunteers with the Park Gardening group and offers gardening presentations to children at local elementary schools.

Renate has also volunteered at the Family Resource Center in Citrus County for many years and has a regular route delivering Meals on Wheels. She helped organize the "lucky Stokers" at the Hope Evangelical Church, which offers support to caregivers of stroke victims, and raised money for the Children's Covenant Home as a participant in its 5k run.

Renate was honored to be recognized in 2016 as one of the ten Citrus County Altrusa's Women of Impact. ■

JCW Spirit Award Nominees in Action



Who is JC Williams? What inspired the JC Williams Spirit Award?



JC Williams, DTM

JC's life was dedicated to extraordinary service to others. He spent over 20 years of service in the US Navy Submarine Service. He coached hundreds of children over a 25-year span in a variety of sports, not only

serving as their coach but as their leader, teacher, and mentor.

Throughout the years JC fostered and mentored 26 young adults through good and trying times. Each of these young people serves as a testament to JC's lifetime commitment to making the world a better place.

JC loved Toastmasters and served his clubs by serving in every club officer position. He never missed an opportunity to lead, mentor and coach his fellow Toastmasters. He served the District as the District Sergeant at Arms in 2009-2010. He served as Area 23 Governor in 2010-2011. JC's legacy is strong, having touched so many lives. He had the gift of laughter, a smile filled with sunshine and a heart overflowing with love, friendship and kindness and he shared these gifts generously.

On January 26, 2013, the District 84 Executive Committee voted to establish this annual award in perpetuity. This award has memorialized JC Williams contribution to Toastmasters as well as the community by awarding deserving Toastmasters the JC Williams Spirit Award. Previous recipients include Pim Parpart in 2013, Gina Lockhart in 2014, Susan Schulz in 2015, Vicky Iozzia in 2016, and Manal Fakhoury in 2017. ■

Triple Crown Award

The Triple Crown is awarded to members who earned 3 educational awards from July 1 to April 15th, 2021. These awardees received a District 84 Triple Crown pin at the Conference Awards Ceremony.

119 Members achieved three or more education awards since July 2020. Recipients with 5 or more awards:

Brinson, Eva Mae	10	Amato, Barbara D.	5
Moon, Howard	10	Dixon, John R.	5
McGilton, Rebecca	9	Eley, Stephany	5
Allman, Theodore J.	8	Garrison, Susan	5
Kokitus, Andrew G.	8	Howard, Amanda M.	5
Wilkins, Nancy	8	Jewahar, Mini	5
Crosby, Randall	7	Leitholf, Sue	5
Lambert, William E.	7	Liao, Elly J.	5
Murphee, Sandra	7	Lugo, Luis	5
Bersani, Laurie	6	Ramsay, Beth M.	5
DePrimo, Sandy	6	Robertson, Dean E.	5
Hazzard, George T.	6	Robinson, James C.	5
Jessup, Rauha I.	6	Summa, Paula	5
Johnson, Cynthia L.	6	Tang, Phuong-Lily H.	5
Parpart, Pim	6	Templeman, Orn	5
Udall, Linda L.	6	Tiencken, Edith	5
Valverde, Clinton	6	Vaughn, Stephen M.	5

The top Triple Crown winner is Walter ‘Bobby’ Blackmon with 20 awards

Moments of Truth

These members presented the Moments of Truth assessment at 2 different club meetings from July 1, 2020 to March 31st, 2021. Each member received a MOT pin at the Conference Awards Ceremony.

Amanda Howard
Becky McGilton
Debby Kerr-Henry
Gary Blasczienski

Rachael Assignon
Sandy DePrimo
Sue Leitholf
Theresa Fellingner

► HYBRID MEETINGS

Leadership Stew: Interpretation, Delegation and Communication Key for Successful Events

by Sowjanya Athmakuri, LD3, Club President, Lake Mary Toastmasters



Sowjanya Athmakuri

Have you heard what happened to Jessie's stew?

Jessie is a cheerful and vibrant little girl who has one minor setback. She is very forgetful. However, she fights quite hard to stamp out that stigma.

One day, Jessie's class decided to go on a picnic, and Jessie was asked to bring the stew to share with everyone.

She remembered to tell her mom all about the picnic and the stew. She was thrilled! On the day of the picnic, her mom started simmering the stew and the whole house smelled heavenly. However, mom had to run an errand and asked Jessie just to add salt.

Overhearing, dad recalled how forgetful Jessie could be. Shaking his head, he rose from his chair, went into the kitchen, and added the salt. Grandmother also overheard. She, too, recalled Jessie's forgetful nature and she, too, added salt. Remember, Jessie was striving hard to stamp out this stigma. She, too, diligently added salt. Lastly, mother, getting ready to take off for the errand, took off her seat belt, went into the kitchen, and added the salt.

Phew, that must have been one briny stew!

Making a stew is not much different from running an event, be it a small or large-scale project. Not very long ago, I, too, made stew. I mean, led an event. The herculean task that I took on was to find a venue to suit our glorious Lake Mary Toastmasters Club (LMTM).

Never, in the history of our club, had we met offline. Because of this history, our club never needed to venture out of our cozy, comfy zoom room to meet in person. This was a unique situation, requiring us to motivate ourselves to get out of our comfort zone - literally.

Before we broke the ground on this project, I took some time to reflect upon little Jessie's story. What went

awry? Precisely three management strategies – Interpretation, Delegation, and Communication.

Interpretation

Was Jessie's mom's intention correctly interpreted by her team? Not at all, she never meant to make a briny stew.

Likewise, we needed to know our club's intentions. Before meeting in person, we wanted to know if that is what the team wanted. Were we interpreting the team's intentions correctly? The best way to do this to survey the team, asking them about their intentions.

The survey results came in. We heard, loud and clear, that there was a need for us to meet in person.

Delegation

Although Jessie's mom delegated the task, she put little faith in her designated team member. We didn't make the same mistake. We split out the tasks, accepted responsibility for them, and let the team members carry them to completion. Each of us had a different task, including everything from creating a list of open venues, paying the rent, lugging the computers, mics, projectors, etc., needed for a hybrid meeting to the venue.

Communication

If only Jessie's family had talked to each other, they would have avoided a briny stew.

As for the LMTM venue search project, we kept an open communication channel, briefing each other upon completing our tasks. This way, we were not stepping on each other's toes and we ensured all tasks were checked off successfully.

Then, one fine Tuesday morning, everything fell into place and we had a successful hybrid meeting. The look on each member's face after meeting our TM family in person was priceless.

When is your club going hybrid? ■

GOLDEN GAVEL RECIPIENT

Planning, Preparation and Persistence Paid Off: Downtown Ocala Achieves 2nd Golden Gavel

by Gary Blasczienski, Vice President Education/Secretary, Downtown Ocala Toastmasters Club



Gary Blasczienski

Planning, preparation, and persistence - these three Ps were what made it possible for the Downtown Ocala Toastmasters to achieve the Golden Gavel Award for the second straight year. As soon as the requirements for the Golden Gavel were released, the club officers held a meeting to plan a strategy to meet the standards.

Out of the seven requirements, we knew that five could be handled among the officers, especially since three are part of club officer responsibilities: 1) all trained at TLI (both sessions), 2) attend Contest 101 at TLI (we figured officers had to be at TLI so someone should attend), and 3) hold two Moments of Truth sessions. Our club officers are also committed to completing two other requirements: 4) Triple Crown Award and 5) Club Ambassador Award. We encouraged other members to strive for those goals as well.

Achieving a perfect 10 President's Distinguished Club by April 15, 2021, brought some challenges. To meet those challenges, we prepared our club by sharing the goals and our progress towards the Golden Gavel early and often. We worked with members to show how accomplishments at every Pathways level were critical to our success in achieving this most prestigious award. New members, who did not believe they could add much, were shown the importance of every level one completion to our Club's success. Early planning and involvement encouraged all members to push harder.

Our second strategy was through friendly rivalries. We would share our club progress compared to other Clubs in our Area and District. Even if we could not see others in the game, making it a competition provided motivation and a sense of determination.

Planning and preparation were not a one-and-done deal. The restrictions brought about by the COVID-19

pandemic required us to re-imagine many aspects of our plans. Some officers worked our club progress towards the Golden Gavel into their Pathways speeches. With Officers pushing the requirements and members inspired to reach the top, we could complete all of our educational goals and achieve President's Distinguished status.

Our biggest challenges came from achieving the Smedley Award or Talk-up Toastmasters and maintaining 20 active members. We lost members due to the virtual environment and found it hard to recruit new members during this stage as well. We fought through by making a push on social media and using the networks brought by new members. With only days to spare for the Talk-up Toastmasters campaign, we made it and also met the 20-member minimum requirement. Persistence paid off!

To other clubs looking to achieve the "Golden Gavel" for 2021-2022 here is my advice. Plan and prepare now! Club leadership will be key to your success. Find motivated and dedicated members to fill officer roles. It doesn't always have to be the most experienced Toastmaster. Remember, all seven officers must attend both TLIs, so elect officers who will be willing to commit. You also know your club must achieve a perfect 10 President's Distinguished status. The new Toastmaster year begins in a little over one month, and it's not too early to start planning who can achieve the various educational goals. Start now!

Good Luck! Besides, Downtown Ocala Club wants competition to keep our club motivated next year! ■



Notable 9

Nine members renewed their membership in these Clubs by September 9 or March 9. These Clubs received the "The Notable 9" Ribbon to display on their banner.

5-Star
Accelerated Pacesetters
Articulators Club
Beachside Broadcasters
Beachsiders
Central Florida Facilitators
Clermont
Club Orange
CSX
Downtown Ocala
Early Bird
Early Bird Ocala
Florida International Talkers
Four Corners
Heartland Talk of the Town
Jacksonville
Ocala Noon
Orlando
Oviedo
Plant City
River City
Sensational Saturday Speakers
South Beach
Stellar Advanced
Talk of Tallahassee
Talk of the World
Talking Gators
Tallahassee Real Talkers
Titusville
Toast of Celebration
Toastmasters at Twelve
Toastmasters on the Halifax
Trailblazers
Turnpike Toasters Club
Vista SW Orlando
Voices of Maitland
We Can Speak Podemos Hablar
Weekend Toastmasters
Wyndham Easy Speakers

Incredible 20

CSX
Early Bird
Oviedo

Plant City
Twilite Club
Wyndham Easy Speakers

Twenty members renewed their membership by September 20 or March 20. These Clubs received the "The Incredible 20" Ribbon to display on banner, and a \$25 TI gift certificate from District 84.

Once and For All Year

5-Star
Articulators Club
Beachside Broadcasters

Early Bird
Titusville

These clubs had 8, 15, 20 or more members who renewed for a full year (Oct. 1, 2020- Sept. 30, 2021) and received a free \$25, \$45, or \$125 ad, respectively, in the District 84 Conference Ad Book.

► GOLDEN GAVEL RECIPIENT

5-Star Toastmasters Club Achieved the Golden Gavel Award Through Strategic Planning

by Becky McGilton, DTM, PDD. Credits to Doug Tambor and Sylvia Faure



Becky McGilton

5-Star Toastmasters is a relatively new club, having chartered at the end of June 2018. We are associated with the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce, a 5-Star chamber, which was a factor in determining the name of our club. Our mission has been to live up to a 5-Star level.

"It's a great day when I learn something new" is a favorite saying of mine. I learned a good bit this year about what it takes to be successful, and a key item to success is a well-defined plan that keeps everyone on point.

At 5-Star Toastmasters Club we started the year off with the goal of achieving the Golden Gavel, which required the executive team to define the plan needed to support that goal immediately. Then it was time to act. The plan was presented to the club and wholeheartedly accepted. Throughout the year, members were engaged and excited as they accepted the challenge and created personal goals to help the club achieve success.

According to Doug, our Club President, "Everybody envisions their club as special. Our chartering members wanted a name that reflected their vision of a club that would grow to be among the very best. It took a couple of years to set our foundation, after which it was time to bring our vision to reality."

The dynamic leadership and organizational skills of our VP Education fully engaged our members and club officers in FUN meetings, and our team worked methodically to achieve each of the goals required for the Golden Gavel Award challenge. Every guest and new member were enthusiastically embraced and encouraged to add their personal genius to the club fabric and atmosphere. Accomplishments were celebrated, and challenges were met with support and passion.

In summary, it is fair to say that the experience and the journey together were exciting, joyful, and fun, which is actually a greater reward than completing the requirements for the Golden Gavel Award.

Our real opportunity is still in front of us. Our goal is to sustain these synergies, to enjoy a great group that attracts more members and continues to add diversity, excitement, and fun. In short, we are just getting started."

When I asked our Club Vice President Public Relations, Sylvia to share her thoughts, she began her response with a quote from Mother Theresa, "Do small things with great love."

"I see 5-Star Toastmasters club celebrate the small, incremental steps of its individual members, new and veteran Toastmasters alike," continued Sylvia. "Under the watchful tutelage of 5-Star's outstanding DTMs, VPE Becky McGilton and Club President Douglas Tambor, the small steps are celebrated, and every effort acknowledged. All 5-Star members (be they DTMs, newbies, or seasoned) encourage and guide their fellow Toastmasters. Each 5-Star Club Toastmaster is treated with respect and kindness."

5-Star Toastmasters Club is just getting started and looking to challenge its members every year to remain a successful club that fully embraces and supports the Toastmasters Club Mission. ■



Club Coaches

Adrian S. Dixon, TC1	Mabel A. Burrridge, MS1
Alisha R Sullivan, ACB, ALB	Marjorie McCauley, ACG, ALB
Angelina P. Glover, PM1	Michael Dawson, PI1
Arcenet Velez, PM1	Michael S. Carroll, DTM
Ashish K. Smart, VC3	Nancy Wilkins, LD5
Castella Owens, ACG, ALB	Natalie McKenley, PI5
Cathy Gorgensen, EC3	Nathan Guteris, IP5
Chinna Dastagiri Mettupalli, DTM	Nilloofar Ghazi-Moghaddam, DL2
Chris Sneed, PM5	Norma Cress, DTM
Clinton Valverde, VC2	Orestes Pena, DTM
Cynthia Johnson-Guarino, VC4	Orn Templeman, VC5
Cynthia L. Johnson, DTM	Phuong-Lily H. Tang, LD5
Debby Kerr-Henry, SR3	Pim Parpart, DTM
Denise Badolato, EC1	Rebecca McGilton, DTM
Edith Tiencken, PM1	Robert J. Warren, EH1
Edwin A. Mercado-Rivera, DTM	Ronald Harris, EC2
Eva Mae Brinson, DTM	Ruby M. Scotland, DTM
Felicia A. Benzo, ACG, CL	Sabrina K. Mallay, DTM
Gloria M. Darling, PM2	Sarah Wyatt, ACG, ALB
James C. Robinson, DTM	Scott M. Sheplak, EC2
John M. Spierto, PM1	Stacy L. McCauley, IP2
Jonathan T. Nielsen, EH1	Susan Schulz, DTM
Julie Salgo, EC1	Theodore J. Allman, DTM
Lynn Ramsey, ACG, ALB	Vicki L. Ketterer, SR3

New Clubs

Divine Charisma

Division A Area 11

Charter Date: 1/31/2021

Sponsors:

Janelle Thomas, DTM

Murika Davis, DTM

Mentors:

Castella Owens, ACG, ALB

David Emanuel, CC

Expressway Toastmasters

Division C Area 34

Charter Date: 3/31/2021

Sponsors:

Denise Badolato, IP5

Mentors:

Derek Bell

Bobby Blackmon, DTM

Find Your Funny

Division E Area 52

Charter Date: 3/31/2021

Sponsors:

Gloria Darling, IP5

Marjane Taylor, DTM

Mentors:

Aakeem Bennett, DL5

Sue Leitholf, LD2

NBC Universal X BEN

Division F Area 62

Charter Date: 1/30/2021

Sponsors:

Cynthia L Johnson, DTM

Dwight Dillon, VC2

Mentors:

Niloofer Ghazi-Moghaddam, DL2

Pamela Russell, LD5

SBA Toastmasters

Division H Area 81

Charter Date: 1/21/2021

Sponsors:

Sue Leitholf, LD1

Walter Blackmon, DTM

Mentors:

Felicia Shorter, IP2

Vickie Goodman, DTM

Spanglish

Division G Area 72

Charter Date: 1/25/2021

Sponsors:

Marie Loeffler, DTM

Natalia A. Cox, DTM

Mentors:

Norma Cress, DTM

Robert C. Wood, PM3

Technically Speaking

Division B Area 24

Charter Date: 1/31/2021

Sponsors:

Bethany Boring, DTM

Rachael Assignon, SR5

Mentors:

Megan Buchner, IP4

Rachael Assignon, SR5

Virtually Speaking

Division D Area 41

Charter Date: 1/1/2021

Sponsors:

Ajay Koovackal, DTM

Felicia Shorter, IP2

Mentors:

Dwight Dillon, VC2

Rauha Jessup, DTM

► GOLDEN GAVEL RECIPIENT

Teamwork and Goal-Setting Key to Plant City Toastmasters Club Golden Gavel Award

by Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, 2019-2020 VPE of Plant City Toastmasters



Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

"We only have a few months left."

"We got this!"

"Keep everyone posted on what's left to accomplish."

"Let's stay vigilant. Just a few more goals to reach."

"Come on team, this is the final stretch. We only have a few more weeks to reach our last goal."

Then suddenly, the COVID-19 pandemic hit America, sending us into mandatory isolation.

The club meetings were canceled. In fact, we were unable to join again in-person for the 2019-2020 Toastmaster year. It was like a punch in the gut. Our club was so close to reaching the Golden Gavel status.

"How are we going to make this happen now?"

"How are we going to keep this club alive now?"

"All the planning . . . all the work . . . all the accomplishments. Now what?"

These became our questions. We went from words of encouragement for our team to expressions of disbelief amongst us leaders. We found ourselves suffering from the isolation, fearing the worst from the pandemic, and longing for some sense of normalcy in our day.

But we were the LEADERS of this club, and as such, we were responsible for moving this club and its members toward success - even in the middle of a pandemic.

What did these leaders do? We refused to give up!

You see, the club leadership had ignited a hunger in its members. We presented them with a blueprint that focused on a common goal and required full team commitment.

The leaders gave the members a purpose.

Soon, virtual meetings became our new platform. Zoom became our meeting room, and just like that, we were

back on track and focused on our mission to achieve the Golden Gavel Award.

Sparing all the details involved in the months of personal training sessions to understand Pathways, the open-house events held to raise attendance, the personal sacrifices made to attend TLI, and all the projects and speeches completed to achieve President's Distinguished status – WE DID IT!

Plant City Toastmasters completed all the requirements to achieve the inaugural 2019-2020 Golden Gavel Award.

That was last year. What happened with the pandemic and the new leadership team during the 2020-2021 membership year which is drawing to a close? Did Plant City Toastmasters make it through? I'll let them tell you:

"Obtaining the 2020-2021 Golden Gavel Award was a struggle this year. We put most of our focus on maintaining and growing membership. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we lost our meeting place. We had to move outside to local parks where rainy days and cold temperatures created issues. We frequently had to move locations but eventually were able to secure a new indoor venue, although even that posed scheduling problems. But once our amazing Area Director pointed out how close we had come to achieving the Golden Gavel Award, we made a CLUB PUSH to achieve it before the deadline."

— **Adrian Smude, Plant City Toastmasters Club President**

"Plant City Toastmasters has a strong tradition of officer engagement in TLI - 7 of 7 officers trained is our norm. Following the TLI, officers held a strategic meeting to share what they learned and to lay out a calendar for the year, which is a powerful way to start the club on its way to achieving its goals. The Golden Gavel Award is a goal-setting mechanism in which every club member can contribute."

— **Jeannie Elliott, DTM, Plant City Toastmasters**

Congratulations, Plant City Toastmasters! We achieved the 2020-2021 Golden Gavel Award... AGAIN!

It truly takes a team! ■

District 84

Ambassadors

Top Ambassadors for 2020-2021

Denise Badolato, 85
Cynthia L. Johnson, 36
William Lambert, 28
Linda Udall, 25

Julie McLean, 21
Amanda Howard, 19
Susan Schulz, 11
Clydean Gish, 10

Ambassador of the Year
Denise Badolato, 85 visits

Ambassadors for 2020-2021

Adrian Smude
Andrew Paul McIntosh
Beth Ramsay
Cathy Knott
Christine Duez
Cindy Paulsen
Cynthia Johnson-Guarino
Debby Kerr-Henry
Deborah Wilde
Eppie Bang
Eric Boehm
Heidi Vetter
James Ward
Julie Salgo
Kimberly Young
Lisa Yang

Marcia Carter
Margaret K. Eaton
Marjane Taylor
Marta J. Salcedo
Natalie Davila-Rendon
Orn Templeman
Rachael Assignon
Rachel Sutphin
Ramdeo Seepaul
Rauha Jessup
Rebecca McGilton
Robin Collins
Ruby Scotland
Sabrina Mallay
Sue Leitholf
Sylvia Faure

Club Ambassadors are Toastmasters who visit at least three clubs they are not a member of and file a visit report. The Toastmaster with the highest number of club visits or points is the Ambassador of the Year.

Club Consulate of the Year is the most visited club in District 84.

Embassy of the Year goes to the club with the highest number or the highest percentage of Club Ambassadors.

Winner of the Club Consulate Ribbon
West Volusia

Winner of the Club Embassy Ribbon (4-way tie)

Clermont
Highway Safety

South Beach
Toast Stars

► GOLDEN GAVEL RECIPIENT

Staying True to Club Mission Paved a Golden Path for Toastmasters at Twelve

by Debby Kerr-Henry, Area 90 Director



Debby Kerr-Henry

Great stories twist and turn, embrace tension, and end in unforeseen places.

This is the story of Toastmasters at Twelve and its missional journey.

First Quarter Challenges (July-September 2020):

Amidst our worldwide

pandemic, Toastmasters at Twelve lost seven members, four of whom were officers. Our executive committee reshaped itself, only to have our VPE take a leave to grieve her father's unexpected death.

Our President reached out to District 84 officers for support while also welcoming support from CareerSource, who offered a boardroom and tech support to help create effective hybrid meetings. Our VPE (transitioning back from her absence) worked with our VPM, and we recruited five new members through CareerSource, securing the Smedley Membership Award and providing much-needed celebration and uplifted energy. Our forward momentum continued as we gained a new member from Council on Aging and another guest speaker who unexpectedly committed to dual membership.

Our first-quarter loss of seven members is now a wash, and we are so energized with new members that we consider the possibility of achieving Distinguished status. Golden Gavel still appeared unattainable.

Second Quarter Heaviness (October-December 2020):

Our VPM, after renewing for a year, is thrown a medical curveball and stepped down from Toastmasters. Our President laid low due to a family emergency. Still, the remaining officers and members maintained enthusiasm and momentum and worked toward DCP educational goals.

Third Quarter Hope (January-March 2021):

Because her home club rocked its educational awards, our dually enrolled new member is free to give

Toastmasters at Twelve her completed L2 award. L2s were the only part of Golden Gavel that seemed unattainable. But now, Golden Gavel is within our reach!

One of the new CareerSource members steps up as an Ambassador, looking forward to virtually visiting clubs in her home country of Brazil. We collaborated with all Volusia County Toastmaster clubs, the Volusia/Flagler Society for Human Resource Managers and CareerSource Flagler Volusia to sponsor our first county-wide Open House. We gained one more member.

Fourth Quarter Golden (April-June 2021):

Two more members joined in April, bringing our membership back to 20! And two members submitted L2 projects, but a scheduling oversight left us still one speech short on April 13, the week of the deadline. While our last ambassador visits were approved on April 14, we scramble to finish our final speech requirement at another club on April 15 at 6:15 p.m., to only have the TI website be down and not be able to submit the final L2 project. Toastmasters at Twelve could see the finish line, but we couldn't seem to get there.

FINALLY, at 9:51 pm on April 15, we post our last L2 speech requirement, barely making the Golden Gavel deadline.

For Toastmasters at Twelve, winning the Golden Gavel Award proved to be about teamwork and perseverance; about growing through challenges and unforeseen happenings. It was about every member contributing somehow, whether it was trusting its leadership enough to join or renew memberships, step up to tackle specific requirements, or show up prepared and ready to contribute. Earning the Golden Gavel was about being on Mission:

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Congratulations Toastmasters at Twelve. You are Golden! ■

District 84 Club Ambassador Program

April 2021 Report

15

Reports received

15

Clubs visited

4

Ambassador
Awards

Club Ambassadors

Janet Beckles
Gary Blasczienski
Beth Ramsay
James Ward

Most Club Visits (Cumulative Points)

3 Beth Ramsay (28)

3 Denise Badolato (23)

3 Gary Blasczienski (21)

3 James Ward (15)

3 Janet Beckles (13)

Best Practices

- Table topics questions inserted between speeches and participants selected randomly.
- Club announce rules prior to the start of the meeting. Meeting is recorded with the Club banner and US flag on display
- The Ah Counter had the observations on a very organized chart.

Best Quotes

- "pay yourself and save your money"
- "keep it positive"
- "fear of failing and fear of heights had me paralyzed"

▶ LAST LAUGH

Acting My Age

By Robert Costello



Robert Costello

I do not know how to act my age. I have never been this old before. Now I must "find my funny!"

I have noticed that the older I get, the earlier it gets late. Life is not easy when looking out for number 1, especially when you keep stepping in number 2.

Naturally, stress does a number on me both mentally and emotionally. It is worrisome. I went to the Doctor to see if I had a medical issue, and he asked me if I'd ever had a stress test.

"Yeah," I replied, "It's called life!"

Normally, I take life with a grain of salt, especially if I have a glass that is dipped in it... accompanied by a margarita! Unfortunately, margaritas give me the runs. I often have certain "urgencies." On one occasion, in desperation, I had to go so badly that I called the Incontinence Hotline to ask what to do. They had the audacity to ask me, "Can you please hold?"

I am at that age when everything that Mother Nature gave me, Father Time is taking away. Just when I believed I'd finally gotten my head together, my body started to fall apart!

At my age, as an old timer, there is a younger person in my mind who is wondering what the heck happened? I guess old age is not so bad when you consider the alternative. I decided to research my legacy while I could

still remember things. I looked up my family tree where I found two dogs using it.

At my age, my birthday cake has so many candles on it that it looked like a prairie fire! The heat drove me back.

At my age, I feel that life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes! I try to be socially active, but my back goes out more often than I do!

At my age, I am faithful about taking care of myself by watching my diet. I try to avoid things that make me feel fat - like scales and mirrors! I am also subject to the "daily double" - prune juice and an enema! I only drink Irish Coffee after dinner. It provides me, in a single glass, all the essential food groups: caffeine, sugar, fat, and alcohol.

According to my Irish friend, drinking at my age is not a problem if I keep these words in mind: "May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live; may the best day in your past be the worst day in your future; and may you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you are gone!" I think I'll drink to that!

With these meanderings, I must take my leave since my train of thought seems to have left the station without me... again! Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded! ■

“Everything is funny, as long as it's happening to somebody else.”

— Will Rogers,
actor and writer

“What is funny about us is precisely that we take ourselves too seriously.”

— Reinhold Niebuhr,
theologian



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

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