



↑ **Toastmasters as Witnesses:** Toastmasters Cathy and Richard Hoar, DTM, tied the knot on November 20, 2020 surrounded by their Toastmasters family and friends who gathered at the Central Baptist Church to celebrate their marriage. Read Cathy and Richard's love journey on **Page 12**. Photo credit: Cathy Hoar.

Together Everyone Achieves More

Life — Live It with Love & Passion

"If you don't love what you do, you won't do it with much conviction or passion." — **Mia Hamm**

John Paul Young 1978 lyrics
'Everywhere I look around, love is in the air, every sight and every sound' reminds me that we are encircled by love.

Synergy collated personal love stories and stories about passion and love for Toastmasters in this special 'Love' themed issue. Bobby Blackmon quips that the empathy, sharing, trust, and reciprocity we experience during Club meetings make love and Toastmasters a perfect pairing similar to word and action and leadership and communication (**Page 9**). Debi Jo Londono explores servant leadership that is motivated by love for people (**Page 5**). Do you need tips on how to incorporate the love theme into Club meetings, read Paula Summa's article on **Page 3**.

Sometimes Toastmasters found a shared connection leading to marriage (**Page 7**) or found opportunities to strengthen their relationship (**Page 12**). Pim Parpart shares advice on how to maintain peace in interpersonal relationships (**Page 2**). John Morrow warns about behaviors that are counterproductive to Club growth (**Page 14**).

Toastmasters across our District share what skills they learned or honed as members (**Page 11**), what they love about Pathways (**Page 13**), Advanced Clubs (**Page 17**), servant leadership (**Page 20**), and District Conferences (**Page 23**).

Whatever path or direction you are in life, remember to live and celebrate with love, passion, and purpose.



DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

February 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

CONNECTIONS

Reinforce Commitment and Passion

Vickie Goodman shares tips and tools on how to focus connections to reinforce commitment and passion.

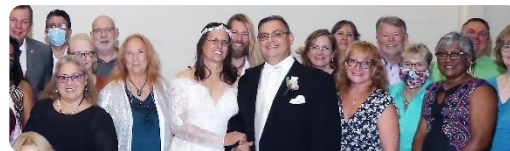
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Reflections

Angela Ardrey-Reynolds reflects on the first six months of her marriage to Stan.

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Our Pandemic Wedding

Cathy and Richard Hoar reflects on their journey leading to wedding in November.

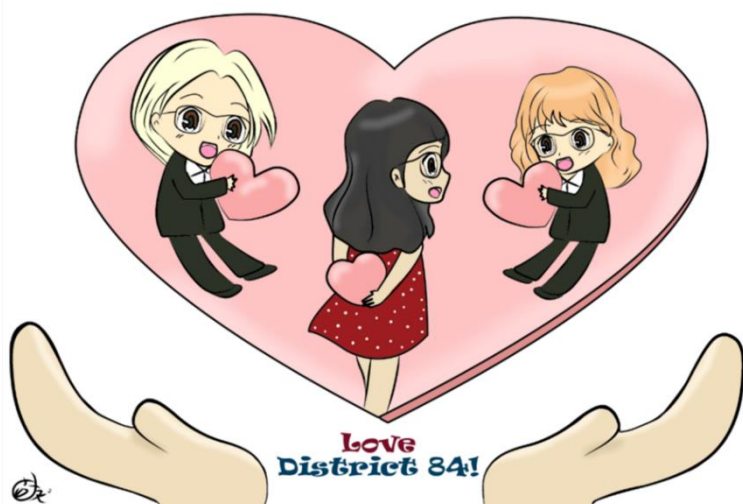
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Consistently President's Distinguished

Nicole Walker shares how Lakeland Toastmasters cultivate a legacy of excellence.

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"People with great passion can make the impossible happen." Cartoonist Koki Kubo illustrated our District 84 Director, Pim Parpart, Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa, living with purpose and passion for life, including Toastmasters.

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ABC's of Maintaining Healthy Relationships

by Pim Parpart, DTM, District 84 Director



Pim Parpart

I heard a great speech at one of the many Clubs that I have been visiting around the world on Zoom. The speaker is a good friend of mine, so I asked his permission to write about it.

He has been married for over 40 years and he learned how to keep peace in a marriage from the advice of his best man on the day of his wedding.

Here is the advice from his best man. To keep peace in a marriage, follow 3 simple practices.

1. **Don't argue**
2. **Don't blame**
3. **Don't complain**

These practices are also important at our Toastmasters Clubs. I have been in so many Club meetings when members or officers were openly arguing, pointing fingers at each other, or complaining about something right in front of visiting guests. That's not good when trying to recruit new members. If I was a guest, I definitely would not join that Club. It will also turn the current members off, and they may not renew their membership the next time around.

Don't argue! Every Club includes many different people coming together at the Club meeting. Everyone brings their own ideas, beliefs, habits and culture. We must accept every member's right to their own point of view. Sometimes we must agree to disagree. Sometimes it might be helpful to just listen.

Don't blame each other for things that go wrong. Believe me, things will go wrong. No one is perfect. Instead of blaming each other, why don't we try to figure out how to fix the problem together.

The last good practice is not to complain because complaining will not fix the problem. Complaining may also result in arguing and blaming each other. You should privately discuss the problem with the officers of your Club to find solutions.

Friends, I just shared with you the ABC's of how to keep peace in a Toastmasters Club. Don't argue, don't blame and don't complain. If you do not practice the ABC's, you might end up with a D. You know what that is?.....

Divorce! You might lose your current members or lose a chance to gain more new members. Apply these ABC's and your relationships will last many years. ■

► MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Let's Talk Up Toastmasters!

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84, Club Growth Director



Paula Summa

Do you tell people about Toastmasters? Do you share with friends or family the speech you are working on? Or perhaps talk to your supervisor at work about the leadership skills you have gained through your Toastmasters experience? Do you wear Toastmaster branded shirts or hats, or your name badge when you are at the grocery store? Do you hand out

your Toastmasters business card or other information about your Club, with contact information on it? Do you brag about how easy it is to attend a meeting, improve your communication and leadership skills, and meet new people without even leaving your home? Do you share your passion for Toastmasters with others who are outside of Toastmasters?

I see a lot of Facebook posts and podcasts that are "talking up Toastmasters".... but they are aimed at people who are already Toastmasters! As a District, we need to talk to people who are outside of our Toastmasters family, i.e., our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives who are not yet Toastmasters, and bring them into our TM world!

The current Toastmaster membership drive runs from February 1st through March 31st. It is called **Talk Up Toastmasters**. Toastmasters International runs this incentive, along with two other similar membership drives every year. Help your Club gain five new, transferred, or dual members between February 1st through March 31st, and earn a ribbon for your club banner, plus 10% off any purchase from the TI store. In addition, District 84 will award your Club another TI gift certificate for \$25!

Use Valentine's Day as a theme to share your love of Toastmasters with others. Here are some fun ideas for your Clubs during this membership drive:

- Have a special Valentine's themed meeting, asking people to wear red or pink and keep speeches and Table Topics related to the theme
- Post fun Valentine's Day or love-related pictures and backgrounds

- Hold an Open House
- Invite special guest speakers
- Advertise outside of Toastmasters.

Post on your personal Facebook page, Meetup, Twitter, and other social media platforms

- Have a fun membership contest within your Club. There are several variations to this game, here is one of them:

Ask each member of your Club to bring in at least one guest per meeting during the months of February through March. The guest cannot already be a Toastmaster, and they must be a new guest, not someone who has visited this Club previously. The member receives a point (or make it a heart for Valentine's Day!) for each guest they bring in. If the guest joins the Club, the member will receive an extra point (or heart). By the end of the contest, the member with the most hearts (or points) wins a special prize. You can determine the prize based on the funds in your Club's treasury. It can be as simple as a \$10 Starbucks or Publix Gift card, or perhaps an item from the [Toastmasters online gift shop](#).

Share with your guests the many reasons that we love Toastmasters, whether it be the love of speaking, sharing with others, self-improvement, enhancing communication or leadership skills, creating professional presentations, or simply meeting new people. Many of us have made friendships through Toastmasters that will last a lifetime and in some cases, members have literally found the love of their lives or strengthened their relationships, see related stories on **Pages 7 and 12**.

Now is the time to Talk Up Toastmasters. Let's bring our love of Toastmasters to others and work together to grow our clubs! ■

Talk Up Toastmasters Membership Building Program

Program Dates: February 1 – March 31



ADD

Add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members to your roster within the contest dates to qualify

EARN

Earn a “Talk Up Toastmasters” ribbon for your banner

EARN

Earn 10% off next club order from Toastmaster International

EARN

Plus, receive a \$25 TI gift certificate from District 84



Talk Up Toastmasters!
5 NEW MEMBERS

► LEADING WITH HEART

A Q&A on Servant Leadership

by Debi Jo Londono, DTM, D84 Program Quality Director



Debi Jo Londono

I was asked, “What do you love about the servant leadership opportunities Toastmasters provides”? Before I answer that, let’s talk about servant leadership.

What is servant leadership?

The servant leadership hierarchy puts the members at the very top and the leader at the bottom. The

leader serves the members above him or her. This doesn’t mean servant leaders make the coffee. It means the desire to serve comes from a genuine desire to help others.

Who can be a leader?

“Toastmasters, Where Leaders are Made” is more than a tagline. All Toastmasters have the opportunity to improve their leadership skills. John Quincy Adams said “If your actions inspire people to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

Where do you hone your leadership skills?

At the Club Level, the obvious answer is to run for an officer position. You also improve your leadership skills by taking on projects, such as committee chair for your Club’s open house. You are also improving your skills every time you are the Toastmaster of the Day or the General Evaluator.

When you are ready to step outside your Club and challenge yourself, consider serving as the Area Director. If you have served as an Area Director, consider the Division Director role.

When does the opportunity to lead the Area or Division become available?

The Toastmaster year is July 1st thru June 30th. Area Directors are appointed by June so they can attend

training and hit the ground running on July 1st. Division Directors are elected at the Business Council Meeting normally held during the Conference in May.

Why should you take advantage of the servant leadership opportunities Toastmasters provides?

I would like to answer the first question, “What do I love about Toastmasters leadership?” Toastmasters has changed my life and rocked my world. Being a Toastmaster has given me a sense of belonging to something bigger than myself. When you are a leader, you have the opportunity to impact the lives of others. You help your clubs grow stronger, help more people see and seize the available opportunities. Along the way, you realize your own comfort zone has grown a little larger. You realize that the feedback you have received has made you a better leader and a better person. You know it’s ok that you are not perfect; you do your best, then try to do a little better.

How do you get involved in leadership beyond the Club?

Successful servant leadership starts with a desire to serve. Do you have the desire to grow, see the bigger picture, and serve the members while improving your skills? If you want to serve as a Division Director, then send your nomination packet to [Beth Ramsay](#), our District Leadership Chair, by February 28th, 2021. [Click here for details.](#)

If you desire to be an Area Director, email pqd@toastmastersd84.org. Interviews will be conducted starting in March.

Whether you serve your Club, Area, Division, or District, you have the opportunity to impact lives and inspire people to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more. Seize the opportunity! ■

CLUB CHECKLIST (Jan. – Mar. 2021)

- ❑ Hold Club Executive Committee Meeting
- ❑ Host an Open House
- ❑ Add 5 or more members to earn Talk up Toastmasters rewards
- ❑ Conduct the Moments of Truth Assessment
- ❑ Support Area Contests (Feb. 1 to Mar. 14, 2021)
[Click here for contest schedules](#)
- ❑ Report Two Educational Goals

► CLUB CORNER

Focus on Connections To Reinforce Commitment And Passion

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair

Find your Pathways Passion: Involvement in the Pathways Educational Program is essential to your growth. Base Camp Managers should check the Member Progress Reports to find out where each member is working, what projects are completed or are in-progress, and who may need encouragement to progress or finish a level. Get member commitment to complete one or more Pathways Levels before May 30th. You can [watch this helpful tutorial](#) on how to check member progress.

Strong Relationships Require Knowing Where You Stand: Is your Club currently in good standing? Don't risk your club's future! You can find this detail and more when you view the [Daily Reports – October Dues Renewal Status](#) to ensure your club is listed as *Verified Complete*. Refer to the [Club Status Guide](#) to determine how a club's status affects different features and areas of the Toastmasters program. The deadline to return to good standing and avoid suspension is March 31st, 2021.

Don't Wait to Show Your Commitment: Start collecting April dues renewals early. A minimum of eight members—at least three of whom were members of the Club during the previous renewal period—are required to be submitted before April 1st to keep your club in good standing. Club officers can start submitting payments for renewals **NOW** through [Club Central](#), so go ahead and start collecting and earn those special [D84 LOVE INCENTIVES](#) as described on the D84 website.

Share Your Love: Add new members to your club by simply inviting others to your meeting. Participate in the [Talk Up Toastmasters membership-building program](#), which features the opportunity to earn a special ribbon and qualify for 10% off your next club order. Add five new, dual, or reinstated members between February 1st and March 31st, 2021 to qualify! Add your own Club reward to the member who brings in the most guests during this period.

Gift Yourself the Perfect Path for FREE: March 31st is the deadline to get a free Pathways Path, the Toastmasters' special gift of love and appreciation to members who renewed their membership for the October renewal period in 2020. Remind members who qualified to visit their Toastmasters profile, click the "Choose A Path" button, and follow the normal path selection process to redeem this free path by March 31st, 2021.

To Increase Passion, Stay Involved: Area Contests are being held online and are now in progress. Fan the flames of possibilities for those contestants who worked so hard to advance and reinforce that Toastmasters bond by encouraging members to volunteer to participate and attend these contests. Area Contest winners will advance to the Division Contests in April. Check out the [D84 Online Contest Resources](#).

Building Relationships Requires Attraction and Access: Have you noticed a new look on the TI home page? Use the left and right arrows at the center of the landing page to access favorite resources: *Online Club Meetings*; *Why Toastmasters*- promotional information to give to guests; *Toastmaster Magazine*; the *Toastmasters Fast Track* program; and *Tips & Resources* to boost your online confidence. CHECK IT OUT and be inspired to freshen the look of your own Club website or Facebook page! ■

► REFLECTIONS

Once Upon a Time ... or Could it be Real?

by Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, 2020 District 84 Vegas Day Bride



Where do I begin?
We were two
individuals who
found each other
through a shared
love. Stan and I
are both writers
and public
speakers, both
possessing a dream
to pour our
experiences into
the hearts of
others.

Too good to be
true, right? Two
people sharing the
same passions?

But somehow, somehow, our paths crossed in
Toastmasters.

Now, fast forward to today ... six months into a new
marriage. All I can say is, *"Stanley Reynolds, thank you.
Thank you for all those little things you think I don't see –
like holding my hand when we walk, serenading me as a
love song plays, reminding me that I am brave when I seem
scared, showing me the beauty of a north Pacific sunset,
and believing in me for who I am."*

My love for writing and speaking might have introduced
me to books and auditoriums. But this connection and
love gave me something far greater ... it gave me my
truest love, the man I now share my life with.

Six months ago, Stan and I were married at the 2020
District 84 Vegas Day event and, in that moment, it was
nothing short of a fairytale.

Once upon a time, I had a dream,

... I am getting married,
... there is a pandemic,
... lots of unfamiliar guests,
... many strange costumes.

... WHERE AM I? Am I dreaming of Alice in
Wonderland? I would like a cup of tea.

I recall,

... my brother walking me down the aisle,
... an officiant ... wait, it's a pirate,
... Elvis singing "Love Me Tender,"
... Ms. Las Vegas dressed in her finest,
... WHERE AM I? Is this a strange twist of
Wizard of Oz? I want my red shoes.

The officiant declares,

... *"Dearly beloved, fellow salty sea dogs,
Distinguished Toastmasters, and honored guests,
we are gathered here to join Angela and Stan in the
union of marriage. The boarding of their ship that
will take them around the world and back."*

... Am I on a ship?

... Is Stan my captain?

... Am I really getting married?

... WHERE AM I? Where's Peter Pan and the
pixie dust? Can I fly?

The pirate bids his farewell to us,

... *"To make this ship sail, you will need
teamwork, communication, and untold strength.
You will need to monitor the winds, watch for
storms and keep your eye on your destination. You
will need to keep your sails patched, your hull
repaired, and your compass calibrated. There are
no two people more equipped to navigate these
waters than the two of you and your love and
devotion."*

... *With the power vested in me as Captain of the
Renegade Pirates, it is my honor and delight to
declare you married."*

Wait, maybe it's not a dream,

Continued on Page 8

Once Upon a Time...

Continued from Page 7

... I see a ring on my finger,
... a bridal gown hangs in my closet,
... a man sits next to me with a compass,
... my camera holds pictures from faraway lands.

Of course it's a dream! ... Don't be silly. ... These days,
people don't embark on journeys of boundless treasure,
magical adventures and uncharted waters ... or do they?

Six months ago, I married this man.

Six months ago, I began a new chapter.

And yes, fairy tales and treasures and enchantment and
magic are all REAL ... especially for this writer and her
captain. The End.

Oh wait, I almost forgot ...

Where are we going from here? We are co-authoring
several books and developing educational resources. We
are also preparing for a teaching tour in Uganda.
Moreover, we start our mornings with quiet time,
enjoying a good cup of coffee as we watch birds visit the
feeders outside our windows. This is our time together to
reflect and dream, and to share our hearts.

Now I can say, "We are living happily-ever-after." ■



Contest Support

Global Leaders Advanced Club welcomes Division
Speech Contest winners to visit our Club on March 13th
and April 10th, 2021 to practice their speeches in
preparation for the District 84 Contests. Please
email jcynthiatm@gmail.com for Zoom meeting
information.

► FROM THE PRM DESK

Networking Opportunities

by Fred Bergeron, DTM, District 84 Public
Relations Manager



Fred Bergeron

I am a people person and
social butterfly, so
networking and social
interaction bring me
happiness. I've made
great friends and social
connections over the
years and networking
helped me grow my
business, expand my
sphere of influence,

and gave me the opportunity to work with other,
like-minded individuals. I've had the pleasure of
participating with three primary networking
groups: Business Network International (BNI),
multiple Chambers of Commerce, and my favorite
networking organization, Toastmasters.

But 11 months ago all in-person networking
opportunities ceased. This did not bode well for us
social butterflies! That is, until we discovered
virtual networking. Although it's not the same as
face-to-face interactions, we quickly adapted to
this new normal. Virtual relationships are a
standard and exciting part of my daily life.

I've also been able to really expand my networking
opportunities thanks to the many social media
platforms I've been able to learn about and
experience. Zoom is great, but there's also
Facebook, YouTube, podcasts, MeetUp, and so
many more! Since networking virtually, I've been
able to expand my sphere of influence, make new
friends from around the world, and still enjoy the
camaraderie of my Toastmasters family.

"The roadmap to greatness can be reached, only if
you have a strong network, and a good
relationship with others." Forbes Magazine ■

▶ PERFECT PAIRING

Connection Between Love and Toastmasters

by Bobby Blackmon, DTM, Division H Director



Bobby Blackmon

When one says the word “love,” Toastmasters probably is not the next word that comes to mind for most. However, I have come to comprehend that love and Toastmasters go well together: like word and action, empathy and listening, understanding and patience.

But wait! Toastmasters is an organization designed to help

professionals and others become better communicators and more effective leaders. How, and where, does love fit in the picture?

Great question! With the advent of Zoom as our platform, many have taken advantage of the opportunity to visit other Clubs across the globe. What do we find in our visits? We find diverse groups of people all working together towards the common goal of self-improvement. This is the big picture, but let's get a bit more intimate. Each time a member presents a prepared speech and another member offers an evaluation, several love actions occur. These love interactions include sharing, trust, empathy, and reciprocity between the speaker and evaluator, as well as the remainder of the club members.

Whether a prepared speech or an impromptu table topic, we often share unexpected revelations that issue directly from the speaker's heart and soul. Let's be honest, speaking to an audience can be scary, and disclosing our fears, dreams, and goals before total strangers can be downright terrifying. Yet, with the loving encouragement, understanding, and patience from our Toastmasters family, we find ourselves confidently diving into the deep water of a well-prepared presentation, accompanied by only a few butterflies. Indeed, shallow waters are not love's main swimming grounds. The loving support, focused

listening, and personal connections that occur during Toastmasters meetings often go ocean-floor deep.

Even the act of serving as Toastmaster, taking the lead and responsibility for the entire meeting, results from mutual respect and admiration. Very few new members walk in ready and willing to take the lead, but given a little time, and dare we say “Toastmaster Love,” we find ourselves center stage. We may be nervous, but we are doing it, knowing that any stumble will be cushioned by that loving team pushing us forward, much like our first time with other important life transforming actions.

Just as with other life-transforming first steps, once we get the hang of it, we tend to take for granted all that it took to get us there and all that is involved in maintaining our progress. This is of course why it is important to practice, practice, practice!

My own love journey with Toastmasters is continually changing and growing. Like most relationships, I have experienced both ups and downs and, with dedicated time to the relationship, the downs have been few, and the ups have been many and spectacular! Also like most lasting, great relationships, I have learned that the more I put into it, the more I get out of it.

If these things are not evidence that love and Toastmasters do, indeed, belong together, then I do not know what love is. Just like word and action, empathy and understanding, patience and listening, and yes, communication and leadership, Toastmasters and love is the perfect pairing.

When you next celebrate all the love in your life, remember your heart, remember your growth, and remember Toastmasters. I hope you join me and continue to say, “I Do,” to this wonderful relationship. ■

Happy Charter Anniversary

Anniversary	Club	City	Charter Date	Division Area	DCP History	Club Info
44	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	2/1/1977	A 10	DCP-History	Clubinfo
32	Vista Toastmasters Southwest Orlando	Orlando	2/1/1989	E 51	DCP-History	Clubinfo
29	Orange County	Orlando	2/1/1992	D 43	DCP-History	Clubinfo
18	Ponte Vedra Beach	Ponte Vedra Beach	2/6/2003	F 64	DCP-History	Clubinfo
17	Viera/Suntree	Viera	2/10/2004	B 21	DCP-History	Clubinfo
14	Club Orange	Orlando	2/26/2007	C 34	DCP-History	Clubinfo
11	Toastmasters at Twelve	Daytona Beach	2/11/2010	I 90	DCP-History	Clubinfo
8	FIS Orlando	Orlando	2/1/2013	C 31	DCP-History	Clubinfo
5	Y	Ocala	2/19/2016	G 71	DCP-History	Clubinfo
3	Mad Talkers	Madison	2/22/2018	H 81	DCP-History	Clubinfo
1	The Toast of Celebration	Celebration	2/24/2020	E 50	DCP-History	Clubinfo

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

Name	Educ. awards	July 1 base	Ratio
Let's Talk Toastmasters Club	22	14	1.57
We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar Toastmasters Club	18	14	1.29
West Volusia Toastmasters	12	10	1.20
Florida International Talkers	13	11	1.18
Apopka Foliage, Club 840	11	11	1.00
World Toasters	14	14	1.00
Four Corners Toastmasters	14	15	0.93
Top O' The Rock Toastmasters Club	19	21	0.91
Trailblazers Toastmasters Club	9	10	0.90
Daytona Beach Toastmasters Club	18	20	0.90

► TOASTMASTER TESTIMONIALS

District 84 Toastmasters share what skills they learned through Toastmasters

I love being able to give sincere positive feedback. In the workplace or in family relations, one kind sentence can change how a person feels about themselves. It can change the relationship; it can open doors to better discussion. The evaluation process teaches us to highlight that which is good before we dissect that which could be improved. Using words to shine light on good work, qualities, or effort helps those things flourish. Try it, you will love it, too!



Jeannie Elliott, DTM

Toastmasters showed me not only how to find my voice, but how to fall in love with it. I remember the first time I sat in a Toastmasters' meeting – October 2018. I forced myself to walk into the room and find a seat. I was late that day, but it did not matter to me. Taking that first step meant I was finally done with being a timid speaker.



Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

One thing that I love about improving communication and public speaking skills is the journey. Most importantly, I enjoy the people that you get to meet and befriend on said journey. From a professional standpoint, connection can bring opportunity. From a human standpoint, connection can be animating and the catalyst for bringing forth a brighter, better self.



AndrewPaul McIntosh

Why do I love Toastmasters? - Family comes to mind. Toastmasters has given me friends - some as close as family! Toastmasters is a blessing. Communications? - I was already a public speaker when I joined Toastmasters, and a pretty good one, but I didn't realize how much I still needed to learn. Toastmasters provided me education, structure and support. Toastmasters delivers a system that empowers us to become leaders if we so choose. Volunteer and Grow!



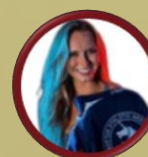
Stanley Reynolds

I love the camaraderie and friendliness of the club members. The Club culture gives the participants the confidence to make mistakes without feeling that they are judged. The members encourage and support the participants to become better speakers and human beings.



Francisco Campos, DTM

Speaking has always been awkward for me. I am outgoing, but I often spoke too fast and stumbled on my thoughts and words. Now being a Toastmaster member for 9 months, I gained confidence and clarity in my thoughts and words which has opened numerous opportunities and created many lifelong friendships without the awkwardness!



Ciara Carter

► OUR PANDEMIC WEDDING

Toastmasters Strengthened Our Relationship Allowing Us to Create New Memories Together

by Cathy and Richard Hoar, DTM

Planning for a wedding is a difficult, laborious, and time-consuming task that can cause friction between any engaged couple. Planning a wedding in 2020, added a new layer of complexity which Cathy and I were not prepared for. It was only by the grace of God that we were able to overcome them and have a dream wedding that we will never forget.

When Cathy and I first met, it was very much like an Abbott and Costello comedy routine. I brought my dog to attend Dog Obedience (aka Owner Leadership) Class. Cathy had the wonderful experience of registering my dog and me for the class. What ensued between us has been nicknamed the "What's your dog's name?" routine. Although I thought it was hilarious, Cathy was not impressed with my antics! Over time, I managed to woo and win her heart. Our relationship blossomed as we enjoyed morning walks with our dogs.

Although Misty (Cathy's doggie) and Midog (Richard's dog) have both crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, our love for each other has persisted. Over the years, our interests, hobbies, and love for the Lord have aligned. On May 15, 2020, I proposed to Cathy in the living room of her house.

I can say without hesitation that planning for the wedding, which happened on November 20, 2020, was the culmination of all the events both Cathy and I had experienced in Toastmasters. Locating a venue, selecting the food, and finding a keynote speaker (Pastor), were just a few of the items Cathy and I knuckled down and started working on. Just like a Toastmasters event, we had a limited budget. One by one, the Lord supplied our needs, and all the planning paid off.



Here are a few of the blessings we experienced to make our dream wedding come together: Troy Palmer, a fellow Toastmaster, provided all our pre-wedding pictures. Pastor Wilkerson, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, flew down with his wife the day of our wedding to officiate and returned home the next day. Central Baptist Church provided the venue for both the wedding and reception at a surprisingly minimal cost. I met James Golden, our caterer, at a gas station while trying to air up two flat tires. Our photographer, Photography by Brown, donated his services to a Toastmasters event where I chaired the First-Timers Experience. He did such an outstanding job that we reached out to him, and he didn't let us down. These are just a few of the blessings bestowed on Cathy and

me. What was more remarkable, however, was the number of people in attendance.

Cathy and I were overwhelmed with the outpouring of friends, family, and Toastmasters who attended. We were ecstatic to have our Toastmasters family celebrating with us. A highlight of the night was gathering together for a group picture ([see cover page photo](#)). Our thanks to everyone whose attendance made that night so special.

Although Cathy and I did not meet in Toastmasters, it has allowed us to share some wonderful moments together. It has allowed us to grow together, collaborate together and prepare for our future together. Toastmasters doesn't change lives, it just gives us the tools to change our own lives. Cathy and I have used those tools to improve our lives individually, solidify our relationship and create new memories together. Planning our wedding was a difficult, laborious, and time-consuming task but it brought us together to tackle bigger and better things in the future together. ■

► TOASTMASTER TESTIMONIALS

District 84 Toastmasters share what they love about Pathways

I love that Pathways is electronic. I don't have to print evaluation forms, course material, or worksheets. The course stores all the forms at the end of the project. I can download the course and forms, as PDF files, saving them in my electronic files. I can type directly into the fillable evaluation forms, worksheets, checklists and in Level 5 Agendas, milestones, etc. Then I save them so I can email the PDF files to fellow Toastmasters.



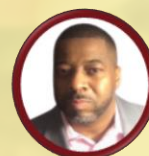
Denise Badolato, IP4

I love that Pathways not only develops you as a better communicator, but many of the paths also develop you as a leader. Additionally, projects do not have to be Toastmaster-related to earn credit. I can use my time volunteering in Kitty Care at the Leon County Humane Society for Toastmaster projects, too. Win for the cats and a win for my Toastmasters journey.



Sue Leitholf, TC5

Pathways gets easier to use each time I log in and comprehensive so you can progress at your own pace and do so with fluidity. I like being able to grow technically as a speaker and Pathways, by way of exercises as well as informative nuggets, helps me focus on the foundations of being a great communicator.



Derek Bell

Pathways is a flexible and interactive tool that allows me to develop my own personal and professional skills and help others to do the same. I can access curriculum anywhere and anytime by logging in on-line. The path I have selected can be navigated at a pace that is comfortable for me. Furthermore, Pathways has aided me in gaining the self confidence needed to become a better communicator. I am looking forward to accessing new paths and gaining new skills via Pathways.



Olivia A. Jones, DTM

Reluctant to transition to Pathways, I finally made the jump after becoming VPE. I quickly warmed to Pathways, appreciating the self-assessments and the convenient access to Pathways via my mobile devices. The speech assignments fit my interests well, and I love the flexibility of choices. An iPad has replaced my heavy backpack of TM materials, and I enjoy learning to integrate modern communication tools like podcasts and webinars. This old dinosaur is glad he made the switch.



H. Julius Hackett, DTM

I am most impressed with the educational quality in each assignment. I repeatedly refer to the invaluable information in the Level 1 to refine my skills. I also found the self-assessments for Level 2 eye-opening and helpful in identifying my strengths as well as strategies to improve in other areas. The freedom to be creative in meeting the assignment tasks in general is so positive! Based on these experiences, my excitement to move forward is growing!



Patricia Goodwin, EC2

► RESILIENCE

Seven Behaviors That Can Prevent Future Club Growth

by John R. Morrow, DTM, District 84 Membership Chair. Paraphrased from Author, Podcaster, and Minister, Carey Nieuwhof of Barrier, Ontario, Canada.



John Morrow

Based on Carey's recent article on church growth in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with his permission, I saw insights on what these unprecedented times can do to most non-profits. As such, here is my secular interpretation on what will guarantee failure going forward in a post-pandemic culture if we resist change.

- 1 Club leaders bet everything on the return to physical meetings.

These leaders see virtual platforms as a "temporary stop-gap" that can be discarded when physical gatherings can resume. Not a good long-term plan.

- 2 Club leaders see success only in terms of the number of people attending a physical gathering.

The idea that as soon as a club starts in-person gatherings, they will recoup their membership losses is not a realistic expectation.

- 3 Club leadership treats the "virtual" attendees as an after-thought and not a part of the core membership.

This is like treating members as a sub-culture. Zoom has proven we can, with the right attitude, have a vibrant Club comprised of physical and virtual members contributing on an equal basis.

- 4 Club leadership is only getting feedback from their "Echo-Chamber."

When your focus is solely on the "LIVE" group while ignoring the virtual members, you are essentially listening to the echo of your own voice. Everyone has a voice that should be heard and embraced. Listening is an intentional behavior.

- 5 Club leaders are dead set on a return to "normal" meetings.

REALLY? Toastmasters is a communication and leadership educational organization with a Club mission statement that screams best practices, not the preservation of what was once normal. You cannot recreate the past. You can only innovate for future successes. Get out of your box and start taking risks.

- 6 Club leaders are deathly afraid of modern technology, so they dismiss it as a "sub-standard" approach to a successful club plan and positive Club growth.

Here is a painful truth, the "Brick-n-Mortar" days are gone. This does not mean the end of physical gatherings, not at all. It means that Clubs going forward will be hybrid and diverse across technology, geography, cultures, languages, genders, age demographics, and more. Technology opens the door to far more exciting and educational meetings with real-world opportunities. This is exciting news!

- 7 There are some of you out there reading this and screaming at me in your minds. There it is! Mind, or in other words, mindset. The adage of "My way or the highway" will not promote growth, will not help clubs retain that growth, and ultimately handicap the educational opportunities that no one else but Toastmasters International can provide to all of humanity.

Maggie Sabatier-Smith said, "To get to where you want to go, you have to leave where you are."

D.L Moody said, "We should not fear failure nearly as much as succeeding at something that simply doesn't matter."

So, I leave you with my take on what the 2021 mission of the Club is to me, in my own words:

"Our goal is the creation, maintenance, and growth of existing and new clubs that provide a supportive, innovative, and nurturing environment to everyone."

Sometimes, that "Mission" shows up as a club thinks and exists outside the box. ■

District 84 Club Ambassador Program

January 2021 Report

23

Reports received

18

Clubs visited

3

Ambassador
Awards

Club Ambassadors

Deborah Wilde
William Lambert
Susan Schultz

Most Visited Clubs

3

Stellar Advanced

2

Heartland Talk of the Town

2

CEO Toastmasters

Most Club Visits (Cumulative Points)

3

Deborah Wilde (22)

3

William Lambert (19)

3

Susan Schultz (17)

Best Practices

- SHOE method for giving speech evaluations
- Tag team table topics
- Club allows 5 minutes for evaluators to write up their evaluations and members to provide round robin evaluations.

Best Quotes

- "laughter is the best medicine"
- "where the blame games ends, ownership begins"
- "unleash the giant within you"

The deadline to submit Club Ambassador Visit forms
and all documentation is April 15, 2021

Report submitted by Cynthia Johnson, DTM, District 84 Ambassador Chair

► GROWTH

District 84 Welcomes Six New Clubs

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84 Club Growth Director

Growth can be very important to everyone, whether it be intellectual, financial, or physical growth. In

Toastmasters, one of the ways our District grows is by chartering new clubs.

Chartering a new club is a team effort. Our D84 Extension Chair (Marie Loeffler, DTM), New Club Sponsor/Mentor Chair (Judy Hayes, DTM), Pathways Chair (Vickie Goodman, DTM), Area and Division Directors, New Club Sponsors and Mentors, current Club members, corporate personnel, and so many others play a huge part in the chartering process.

New Clubs start with phone calls and emails to the introductory meeting, then planning the agenda and assisting with the demo meeting, marketing the new Club and, finally, submitting the charter paperwork. Through regular communication and attendance at the new Club's meetings, our team helps to bring these new Clubs to our District and continues to share their knowledge and experience with these Clubs to become self-sufficient and successful. Working with and getting to know each of these dedicated and enthusiastic people enhances my experience as Club Growth Director and as a Toastmaster!

I am very proud to announce that during January 2021, we have chartered **six new Clubs** in District 84. These Clubs took advantage of a special incentive offered by Toastmasters International that waived charter fees, saving these new clubs over \$500 each! Although not all are listed on TI website as newly chartered clubs yet... their charter paperwork has been submitted, and they are in the process of receiving their approval and club numbers from TI. Each new Club will receive a Club banner from District 84, and each charter member will receive a special Charter Certificate from TI. Each Club will celebrate with a charter party! Congratulations to all!

District 84 Toastmasters, please welcome our six newest clubs!

➊ **Virtually Speaking** – an online corporate club in Division D, Area 41. Sponsors: Ajay Koovackal and Felicia

Shorter. Mentors: Dwight Dillon and Rauha Jessup. Coordinated by Rita Pilate.

➋ **SBA Toastmasters** – an online corporate club in Division H, Area 81. Sponsors: Sue Leitholf and WC Blackmon. Mentors: Vickie Goodman and Felicia Shorter. Coordinated by Ann Laine.

➌ **Spanglish** – an online bilingual community club in Division G, Area 73. Sponsors: Marie Loeffler and Natalia Cox. Mentors: Norma Cress and Robert Wood.

➍ **Technically Speaking** – an online corporate club in Division B, Area 24. Sponsors: Rachel Assignon and Bethany Boring. Mentors: Rachel Assignon and Megan Buchner.

➎ **NBC Universal x BEN** – an online corporate club in Division F, Area 64. Sponsors: Dwight Dillon and Cynthia Johnson. Mentors: Dr. Pamela Russell and Niloofar Ghazi-Moghaddam. Coordinated by Wale Adekanbi.

➏ **Divine Charisma** – an open community club in Division A, Area 11. Sponsors: Murika Davis and Janelle Thomas. Mentors: David Emanuel and Castella Owens. Coordinated by Fratina Emanuel.

In keeping with this month's Synergy theme about love, I want to share my love with everyone who helped to bring these clubs to our District. **A very special thank you** to all who assisted in the chartering process, and who continue to share their knowledge and experience with these new Clubs and their members.

There are several more Clubs on the road to chartering within the next few months. TI has extended the new club charter incentive until June 30, 2021, giving us more reasons to charter more clubs this year! Online clubs, special interest clubs, corporate clubs, Rotary associated clubs.... the possibilities are endless!

Let's continue to work together to grow our District with new clubs, new members and new friends! ■

► TOASTMASTER TESTIMONIALS

District 84 Toastmasters share what they love about Toastmasters and Advanced Clubs

In First Coast Speakers Advanced Club, we have three evaluators for each speech who target content, delivery, and language, respectively. After they report, the floor is open to other feedback. One might give a 5-minute speech and get 20 minutes of evaluation! This kind of very advanced, detailed, and nuanced evaluation is extremely beneficial.



—
Pat Hoyt

Toastmasters has helped me become more assertive and given me more confidence in myself. I learned how to express myself more clearly and efficiently. I have formed life-long friendships and everyone is your cheerleader. The discipline and organizational skills I've learned in order to write speeches have enriched all areas of my life. I highly suggest you find a club in your area and visit. It will vastly improve your speaking and leadership beyond anything you can imagine.



—
Tina Smith, DTM

I've had plenty of fun as I grew from challenging my comfort zone. I've had many learning opportunities as a new member, becoming an officer and as a long-tenured Toastmaster. Opportunities to mentor and be mentored satisfied my quest for growth and allowed me to contribute to the organization I love and the people I cherish. I have developed great friendships, met leaders and role models. I plan to continue until I learn how to do it all correctly. If that takes me another thirty years, sign me up.



—
Douglas Tambor, DTM

The term "club" can be misleading. The added value in joining an advanced TM group are many, including precision learning theory and an authentic opportunity to present longer "Pathways" projects. The honest evaluations and specific feedback from peers maximizes development to excel your own skills. We are the premier training organization for advancing one's speaking and leadership skills.



—
Nate Guteris

I joined ACE because of the extraordinary support I received when I was preparing for the International Speech Contest a few years ago. Since joining, I have continued to enjoy the selfless way ACE has supported my development both inside and outside of Toastmasters.



—
Nancy Ford, DTM

LensMasters Advanced club is such a great place to practice my Toastmasters skills while being able to learn more about taking pictures (something I love to do)! What a great idea to have a club embracing two of my favorite things - Toastmasters and photography.



—
Pamela Winter, DTM

► CLUB PROFILE

Lakeland Toastmasters' Legacy of Excellence

by Nicole Walker, Club President, Lakeland Toastmasters

How does a club achieve the President's Distinguished Award 17 times in the past 18 years? "Teamwork makes the dream work!" This is a common phrase, but it's more than that. As a member for the past seven years, I will provide my perspective on the legendary Club 2262.

Lakeland Toastmasters Club 2262 is celebrating 60 years as a chartered Club. This 60 years of consistent focus on personal and collective growth builds a foundation of excellence. The vision of the 1961 founding members to provide a "mutually supportive and positive learning environment" has endured well into the 21st century — and has no signs of stopping!

Lakeland Toastmasters consistently produces and attracts Distinguished Toastmasters. Achieving the President's Distinguished status each year hinges on reaching educational goals. With strong leadership, the Club's focus has been to complete educational projects and get them properly documented and recognized. Because of this focus on educational goals, in my years as a Lakeland Toastmasters member, I've benefitted from my interaction with multiple, dynamic DTM members including Dr. Nora Ramirez, who has passed on since my joining; the incomparable Mr. Bill Brisbin, now an Honorary Member of Lakeland Toastmasters; Mr. David James aka "Mr. Enthusiasm"; Mr. John Morrow, currently Club VPE and known district-wide for his infectious optimism; Mr. David Loyd, my first official mentor and still a tremendous example to me; Dr. Maria Martinez, the personification of a growth mindset and high achievement; Dr. Lana Tatom Headley, resident author and trailblazing educator; Ms. Carol Noren Johnson, the "rapping teacher;" Dr. Diane Longstreet, yet another force in the local education system, specifically higher education. These members aren't all the DTMs that have been members of Club 2262, and I risk missing someone by providing names, but these are the ones I have personally interacted with. No one wants to be a slacker while in the company of high caliber people!

Lakeland Toastmasters is a community within the community. People want to come to this Club.

Like so many of our fellow District 84 Clubs, the environment is so welcoming that people feel like someone rolled out a red carpet just for them. That's the kind of feedback we consistently get when someone visits a meeting. In that environment, guests see themselves joining the group and succeeding. I felt this way not only as a first-time visitor, but I still feel that way each time I go to a meeting. I don't know how many times I've heard a member say, "I really didn't feel like coming tonight . . . but I'm so glad I did!" Our Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on Monday nights, so people could have all kinds of reasons not to show up! But they do, and the community keeps drawing people back.

Alongside our fellow Area 54, Division E, and District 84 Clubs, we want to make the 2020-2021 year another one for the history books! In the meantime, we are planning a big 60th Anniversary bash for Monday, May 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. This celebration will be virtual with the potential for a hybrid element, but more details are to come. We'd love to have our District family join us! Reach out to us anytime at lakelandtm2262@gmail.com, and we'll send you the information about our upcoming meetings. We gather on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays of the month, currently on Zoom.

Best to you all in your pursuit of your club goals this year!



► ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

Lessons Learned From The Club Ambassador Program

by Cynthia L. Johnson, DTM, District 84 Club Ambassador Chair



Cynthia Johnson

With over 16,800 Toastmasters clubs in 143 countries around the world, the District 84 Club Ambassador Program was my vehicle for staying engaged in 2020.

Did you know the District 84 Club Ambassador Program was developed by Scott Hoehn, Past District 84 Governor in 2008? This program's growth and popularity have allowed members to be

recognized as Club Ambassadors when visiting other Clubs. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions, many Toastmasters Clubs began using Zoom and other virtual applications to continue to hold meetings, which greatly expanded opportunities to visit clubs outside the District, nationally and internationally. With the extra time on-hand and unable to travel, I decided to take advantage of these virtual Club visits. Zooming all over the world has broadened my knowledge and appreciation for Toastmasters, technology, and the creativity of people.

My experience "Zooming around the world" as a Club Ambassador since March 2020 has made me realize how much the Toastmasters organization brings people together, and this was very valuable for me.

I visited clubs in several countries and also clubs that were organized as online-only clubs. This was an enlightening learning experience, and I discovered these clubs have online-specific functional roles (chat and video monitor) in addition to the normal meeting roles. I was fascinated by the potpourri of speeches offered by diverse people from various countries. I was engaged in many conversations, which seemed to be the norm for Clubs welcoming visitors to their meetings. I also discovered that table topics, round-robin evaluations and story-chains are regular Club activities, and many online Club meetings tend to last at least 2 hours.

Additionally, as an ambassador from District 84, I had several opportunities to talk about the Club Ambassador Program. My participation helped the Club and helped me strengthen areas I wanted to focus on, like giving evaluations and table topics. Sometimes I was even

named the winner, which was a great boost to my confidence. Visiting clubs as an ambassador helped me complete a Pathways path, received triple crown recognition, and helped my Club receive President's Distinguished status.

The Club Ambassador Program (CAP) is a fun and exciting challenge for every member. To qualify for the CAP pin, you must submit the completed forms verifying that you:

- Visited at least three Clubs that they are not a member of
- Learned three unique things about the host club that is different from your home club
- Participate as a speaker or functionary while visiting the Club

For the past 12 years, District 84 Toastmasters have visited many clubs, gaining valuable experience, knowledge and serving Clubs that they visited. District 84 selects the person who visits the most clubs over the year as Club Ambassador of the Year. The first award was given at the 2008 Fall Aloha Conference. The Club Ambassador of the Year recipients (number of clubs visited in parenthesis) for the last 12 years are:

2008-2009 – Nga Nguyen
 2009-2010 – Frank Ricchi
 2010-2011 – Deb Wilde (50)
 2011-2012 – George Kustopolus (60)
 2012-2013 – Edwin Mercado (46)
 2013-2014 – Ted Allman (70)
 2014-2015 – Wanda Brown (29)
 2015-2016 – Julie and Michael McLean
 2016-2017 – Thomas Spencer (16)
 2017-2018 – Michael Nunez (14)
 2018-2019 – Julie McLean (37)
 2019-2020 – Cynthia L. Johnson (81)

Now is the best time to visit clubs anytime and anywhere from the comfort of your home! I challenge you to break the previous Ambassador's Club-visit record. Maybe 2020-2021 will be your year. ■

► TOASTMASTER TESTIMONIALS

District 84 Toastmasters share what they love about servant leadership

The concept of servant leadership - putting others before ourselves by listening, encouraging them to excel, and building community, is taught in scriptures but is not often seen in the modern world. It is refreshing to be part of Toastmasters where these qualities are encouraged in our clubs and beyond. Toastmasters is made up of people, and people thrive in an organization where their leaders step back and let them develop to their fullest potential.



Marie M Loeffler, DTM

Servant leadership entails helping others to find their voice. This is achieved by mentoring new Toastmasters who are seeking to improve communication and leadership skills. Serving others also helps members grow and define their own leadership style. Toastmasters has allowed me to take personal responsibility, serve others, and advance the Toastmaster mission.



Donald Kahrer

Serving others has always given me a sense of satisfaction. When I began as a Toastmaster, I was privileged to be selected as the Sergeant at Arms for my Club. My club's needs have never ended and neither have the opportunities to serve. Then I was nominated for President, and later for Area Director. These experiences have made me believe that I can be a leader for other Toastmasters. But for now, I choose to be the servant that my club and the organization need. This way I continue to do what I love, which is just to serve.



Héctor Javier Rocafort



VOICES MAY 14-15
AROUND THE **WORLD**

► DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Calling all Stagehands!

by Leslie LaForty, Stage Manager for the Voices Around the World Conference

Do you have stage management experience?

Are you looking for something to work on for your HPL or DTM project?

Are you going to the District 84 Conference?

Would you like to volunteer during the Conference?

We are looking for two (2) assistants to help before, during, and after the Conference.

Duties:

- Assist with setup, operation, and strike of conference
- Making sure that parades, awards ceremonies, and mainstage presentations run smoothly
- Act as the point of contact for specific areas of the Conference floor (i.e., making sure transition of rooms goes smoothly, making sure areas are secured, etc.)
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Must be available May 13 – 16, 2021 for setup/takedown and duration of Conference
- Must be registered for the Conference
- Must be able to meet (via Zoom) with Stage Manager and Conference Team at least three times prior to the Conference
- Must have some stage management/production management experience

If you are interested and meet most of the requirements, click here to fill out the application.

Applications will be accepted until February 28th, and final decisions made by March 8th. ■

Retaining Membership

by Deborah Wilde, DTM, District 84 Renewals/Retention



Deborah Wilde

Membership growth is essential to maintaining a Club's health and strength, and retention is a key part of the Club growth process. In order to grow our Clubs, we first must think about retaining our current membership, and there are some proven ways to do this.

Consider surveying members to find out specifically what their current needs are. Even if you've done this in the past, time changes all things. I encourage you to survey member needs on a regular basis and work to plan your Club program to meet those needs. Because many Clubs are no longer meeting in person, we have new opportunities to try new things.

This new, virtual platform provides new opportunities to improve our speaking skills. How? We are able to notice things in a virtual speech that we may not notice in person. Try asking everyone but the speaker to turn off their cameras and allow the speaker more focus on speaking to the camera, adding gestures and facial expressions without the distraction of the audience.

This practice also allows the evaluators to really tune in to the speaker. Evaluators can also adjust their Zoom settings to Speaker View, which provides the same benefit by minimizing camera shots of everyone but the speaker. Better evaluations ultimately lead to better speakers.

The virtual platform also offers many more opportunities to interact with others who, due to proximity or geography, you might otherwise never meet or rarely interact with. We now have a broader group to interact with, learn from, ask for assistance with special projects, and even encourage to join our Club.

These expansive opportunities can entice members to renew their memberships, as well as attract new members. Remember: membership retention and growth is vital to the success of every club.

If you have any questions on membership retention please email [Deborah Wilde](#). ■

► BEACON

Past District Director Helps Women Realize Brilliance

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

"They say women carry it so gracefully, but no one ever mentions how heavy it is!"



Sowjanya Athmakuri

"What is so heavy?" I asked.

"A woman's brilliance," responded Beth Ramsay, past D84 Director and TLI keynote speaker. "I know exactly how heavy it can get because I help squeeze brilliance out of Brilliant Women everywhere."

In a recent interview I asked Beth to explain what she does. Simply put, she is a friend, a helping

hand, a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and, most importantly, a light that illuminates a path forward. She is a certified life coach who can help women get clear on what they want to be by analyzing and changing the current "wiring" of their brains, which are programmed from birth by everyone and everything. She helps women establish boundaries restricting those external forces that pull in directions they may not want to go, emphasizing that "No" is a complete sentence.

Beth doesn't shy away from telling the world that she was once vulnerable; a stagnant soul, conditioned to stay contained within certain standards that did not allow her to live life to her fullest potential. Eventually she picked herself up, rolled up her sleeves, and was determined to help herself and other "Brilliant Women" in her vicinity.

In addition to gaining mastery in several behavioral studies such as CORE mapping and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, she taught herself to be a fierce leader and a motivational speaker. "If I'm not learning and packaging and passing it on to help other people," Beth affirmed, "then I am not doing what makes my heart sing."

Her upcoming work includes an irresistible list of projects being prepared with utmost love and care for the ladies of the community.

Projects will include: "Squashing Fear," "Sacred Money Archetypes," "Five Mistakes to Avoid in Personal Finances," "Spirituality and Crossing Over Through a Medium," and "The Gift of Forgiveness."

"I want to bring value to the ladies in the community," Beth said, with her unwavering commitment to her fellow women, and I believe she is cut out to do just that!

By the end of my talk with Beth, I fully realized how life could be exhausting when stuck in old records and living by standards set by someone other than yourself. In Beth's mind-set and re-direction efforts, she is determined to help women establish a foundation that reveals and supports who they want to become. Everything she does is to make life bearable and even fun, whenever possible.

As an avid Toastmaster, Beth has served in several leadership roles, with the most recent as the D84 Director. As the Keynote Speaker for the D84 Toastmaster Leadership Institute she offered inspiration, motivation, and education to all. Beth speaks highly of her Toastmaster friends around the world and we are thankful for the positive reinforcement and cheer that she brings to every occasion.

The story wouldn't be complete if I didn't give a shout out to her love of four-legged fur-babies. "Horses, dogs, birds and fish. God was having a really good day when he created them," she declared.

Beth and Bill, her husband and alter-ego for 20+ years, take care of over a dozen rescue dogs, cool horses, and chickens on her sprawling Fruitland Park, FL farm. Beth beams with joy when she talks about these humble creatures that have changed her life for the better.

Beth's presence on social media makes her easily reachable. [You can find her here.](#) ■



▶ TOASTMASTER TESTIMONIALS

District 84 Toastmasters share what they love about D84 conferences

I love the fact that we are a big family and that we have this reunion once a year. It's a great place to network and meet more family members. Conference is always fun and educational, filled with good food and, of course, good drinks!



Deb Wilde, DTM

Conferences have been a tradition for me since 2009. Friday evening will be memorable as always with Costumes of the World. Many voices will be heard in representing this amazing, come-to-life, world-wide experience. Saturday is always fun with great educational sessions in the morning. As night falls, we magically transform into evening attire for dinner and the highlighted keynote speaker. Toastmasters will celebrate the DTM Walk. The night ends with dancing, drinks, and fun to enjoy with your Toastmasters friends.



Theresa Fellinger, DTM

What I love about the conference is that it calls us to a higher purpose with "Voices around the World," an opportunity to bring culture, dance, music, and art together as we share and listen to one another. In a time when the people of the world seem to be very separate in their thinking, this conference has an opportunity to do something about it. Stay happy and fill your life with joy.



Oscar Kaalstad

Conference every year is special for me. It's a time where I can connect with people that I email or see online. I get to learn a lot and do a lot of hands-on training. The dinners are nice because there's a lot of entertainment and the award ceremonies are fun. The purpose of the conference this year is so important - Voices Around the World, providing awareness of the unity we can achieve one day. Toastmasters found a way to connect a divided world and find unity by traveling the world through Zoom. That tells me that Toastmasters are special people who embrace the world for its beauty. That's the kind of beauty we want to represent with Voices Around the World.



Sandy DePrimo, DTM

What do you love about Pathways?

As a Pathways Guide, I told members they would find projects related to their occupation. As a retired septuagenarian, I wondered if there would be something for me. I have since found a LOT for me. The evaluation resource encompasses all the elements of a good evaluation in a standardized, easy-to-use format. My biggest surprise was how introspective and interesting the projects are for speaker and listener. I still occasionally wonder what's in some projects for me - but I keep finding things!



Rauha Jessup, DTM

▶ PATHWAYS Q&A

How Do I Get the DTM Capstone Project?

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Committee Chair

Question

Can you please give me some clarification about finding the DTM Project in Pathways? I get different information from different people and I can't find any requirements or where to get the project online? I feel like trying to become a DTM is chasing a moving target.

Answer

Congratulations on trying to pursue completion of your Toastmasters educational and leadership accomplishments! It sounds like you're entering 2021 with a great goal. I suggest you log into Base Camp and use the following directions as a guide while you navigate.

Anytime that I have a question about what to do, I go to Base Camp and select the Tutorials and Resources tab. Answers to most questions can be found in the resources listed here, though you may have to check out several before you find what you're looking for. Under Tutorials and Resources, I selected Project Descriptions and then I selected English as the language in order to narrow my resources to items in English. Project Descriptions provides overviews of ALL Pathways projects, including the DTM Project (just scroll down the alphabetical list of projects). This is a great resource in general for learning about the requirements of any project in any path. When I opened the DTM Project description, this is what it said:

"Contact World Headquarters to access this project once all other requirements have been met. Please contact World Headquarters at +1 720-439-5050 or educationprogram@toastmasters.org to request the Distinguished Toastmaster project. In order to qualify, you must have completed one full path and through Level 3 of a second, different path. This project is designed to give you an opportunity to develop and fulfill a multifaceted project on your way to achieving your Distinguished Toastmaster award."

Contacting TI through the email listed is always a good way to get answers, but you may have to wait a day or 2 for a reply due to the pandemic. I suggest you include "DTM Project Request" as the subject of your email. In the body of the email, be sure to give your complete name and membership number as part of your request for the DTM Project materials. Within a day or so you will receive a message from TI telling you the project has been loaded into your personal transcript under the Paths and Learning tab on Base Camp. Navigate to your transcript and simply launch the project as you do all Pathways projects.

For answers to your Pathways questions or help with navigation, attend our Pathways Open Mic Support Session on the 1st and 15th of every month at 7:30 p.m. using the following link: [Join Pathways Support Forum](#) or email vgoodmandtm@gmail.com ■

District 84 Pathways Program Support

Online Drop-in Help Sessions

- **What:** Ask questions, get general help or specific navigation instructions.
- **When:** 1st and 15th of every month
- **Time:** 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- **ZOOM Link:** [PathwaysOpenMicSessions](#)
Meeting ID: 860 6865 0505
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!

Contact Pathways Committee Chair:
Vickie Goodman, DTM
vgoodmandtm@gmail.com



► COMMITMENT

Seven of Seven Officers Trained

The following Clubs met the Club Officer training requirements for the Golden Gavel Award by having all seven officers trained during both rounds of TLI.

5-Star Toastmasters
Advanced Communicators Club
Bartow Toastmasters Club
Central Florida Facilitators
Clermont Toastmasters
CrossWay Toastmasters Club
Darden Toastmasters Club
Downtown Jax Toastmasters
Downtown Ocala Toastmasters
Early Bird Club
Early Bird Ocala
Global Leaders Advanced Toastmasters Club
Highway Safety Club
Hunters Creek Toastmasters
Jacksonville Toastmasters
Lakeland Toastmasters
Leadership Toastmasters
North Jax Toastmasters Club
Ocala Noon Toastmasters Club
Orlando Advanced Toastmasters
Orlando Toastmasters Club
Ormond SpeechMasters
Oviedo Toastmasters
Speak Up America Club
St. Mark AME Text Talkers
The Talking Mocs (Florida Southern College)
Titusville Toastmasters
Toastmasters at Twelve
Toast-Stars Club
Trailblazers Toastmasters Club
Vista Toastmasters Southwest Orlando
We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar Toastmasters Club
West Volusia Toastmasters
Winter Haven Toastmasters Club 2104
You Talkin' to Me? Toastmasters

► TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Interviewing in The Age of COVID

by Ron Parpart, DTM, Past District Governor

Job Interviews in the age of Covid-19

**Free Online event Hosted by
Peace Talkers Toastmasters Club
Saturday February 20, 2021
4 PM – 5:30 PM
Zoom ID: 273 257 970
Passcode: 599862**



**Presented by Ron Parpart,
DTM, PDG
Manager, Product Support,
Collins Aerospace**

2020 is over, but we are still living in “the new normal”. Will things ever go back to the way they were? Maybe, but I believe we’re a long way from that day. What about you, how has your life changed? Do you need a job or are you trying to get a better one? One thing hasn’t changed. You will still need to interview for that job and after last year, the competition is tougher than ever. Meanwhile, the interview experience has changed. For starters, it will likely be a virtual one. Are you ready?

All the advice and strategies you’ve learned in the past still apply, but now there is more. Working remotely, using Zoom, Covid-19 related protocols in the workplace for in-office works, and the social and political unrest of the past year have all affected the way we work. They also affect what it takes to be a successful job candidate as well as how interviews are conducted. Are you prepared for an interview in 2021?

One thing hasn’t changed: the better prepared you are, the better your chances are. The Peace Talkers Toastmasters Club in Melbourne, FL is hosting Ron Parpart to present a workshop on February 20th to share his experiences, knowledge, and successes with you. I hope you will come and take advantage of this opportunity. I won’t guarantee you’ll get the job, but it can’t hurt to take advantage of this free opportunity, right? See you there, on Zoom. ■

District 84 ADVANCED TOASTMASTERS CLUBS

Click the club's name to attend the virtual meeting. If a password is required, email or call the Toastmaster listed.

Club	Meeting Date(s)	Meeting Time	Membership Requirements/ Must have completed	Specialty	Additional Advantages	Contact information
Accelerated Pacesetters	2 nd Saturday, (Dec. is 3 rd Saturday)	11:15 AM	Pathways Level 2	Round-robin and formal evaluations focused on content, delivery, language.	Contest prep and mentoring to new leaders.	Andrew Kokitus, DTM, andrewkokitus@gmail.com , 386-852-2848
ACE Advanced Toastmasters	1 st and 3 rd Monday	6:00 PM	Pathways Level 2	Round-robin and "Targeted" Evaluations	Contest prep, allow feedback from speakers, longer speeches and presentations, Pathways assistance, one-on-one coaching and mentoring, "Evaluate the Evaluator" meetings, help preparing for business presentations and TEDx-type talks	Nancy Ford, DTM, nancyford1@gmail.com
Advanced Communicators	4 th Monday	6:00 PM	Pathways Level 2	Panel evaluations	Majority of the members are current and past District leaders	Becky McGilton, DTM, mcgiltonr@gmail.com
CIA Toastmasters	1 st and 3 rd Monday	6:00 PM	Either Pathways Level 2 or membership in another club	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations (Saw, Heard, Felt)		Norma L. Cress, DTM, nlcress@cfl.rr.com ; 352-361-8242
First Coast Speakers Advanced Toastmasters*	2 nd Thursday and 4 th Saturday	6:30 PM- Thursday and 3 PM- Saturday	Pathways Level 2 (or CC) and must have a home club	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations (Delivery, Content, Language- as specified on contest judging form)	Contest Prep, Guests may participate in Round -robin	Contact club via website: www.firstcoast.toastmastersclubs.org
Global Leaders Advanced	2 nd Saturday	9:00 AM	Pathways Level 2 (or CC)	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations (Saw, Heard, Felt)	Offers Key Note Speakers/ Guests may participate in Round-robin	Meeting ID: 868 2160 7186, Password: 932603
LensMasters	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Thursday	7:00 PM	Any new or experienced Toastmaster is encouraged to join! No photography skills necessary.	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations/Table Topics based on photographs shared	Theme is centered around Photography. Professionals, amateurs, or anyone who simply likes photography.	Pam Winter, DTM, pamela.winter.dtm@gmail.com
Orlando Advanced Toastmasters (OATS)	2 nd and 4 th Saturday	10:30 AM	Can be 2nd club or only club	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations (Saw, Heard, Felt)	Contest preparation, speaker may discuss evaluations, club alternates between evaluate the evaluator and evaluates Table Topics.	Sandy DePrimo, DTM, sandydeprimo@outlook.com
Stellar Advanced Toastmasters	1 st and 5 th Saturday	10:30 AM	Pathways Level 2 (or CC)	Round-robin and Panel Evaluations	On 5th Saturdays: "special purpose" meetings that focus on technology, current trends and techniques	Joe Flanagan, Sparky4braves@gmail.com , 386 209-1912

*Hybrid meeting on the Second Thursday at Cullhane's Irish Pub starting in January at 6:30pm. Online only on the fourth Saturday at 3pm

BE A CLUB COACH!



www.toastmasters.org

District 84 Clubs with 12 or fewer members need your help...

*Invest in the future of Toastmasters!
Share your expertise!*

The Club Coach Team needs volunteers!

Our Club Coach program offers ongoing training to all Club Coaches AND to the club officers of clubs that qualify for Club Coaches!

- A Monthly ZOOM “Club Coach Forum” to discuss best practices and network with other Club Coaches!
- A Monthly ZOOM “Club Coach Education Session” for Club Coaches and club officers to discuss the “who, what, where and why’s” of what is expected of the Coach and the club.
- A WIDE variety of resources to assist the Coach and the clubs to reach success!

The many benefits of becoming a CLUB COACH!!!

1. Grow and practice your leadership skills.
2. Help to support and guide other clubs in our District.
3. Share your knowledge of Toastmasters.
4. Gain more insight on how to bring our clubs to excellence.
5. Meet new Toastmaster friends.
6. Step “outside the box”.
7. Help other Toastmasters learn and grow.
8. Assist and guide other clubs to reach Distinguished.
9. Earn credit towards your DTM!

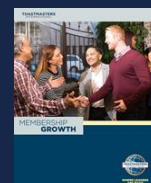
Please contact District 84 Club Coach Chair, Mary Arnold, if you would like to become a Club Coach (or, if you have a club that would like a Club Coach assigned to them)
fairytale.godmother@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

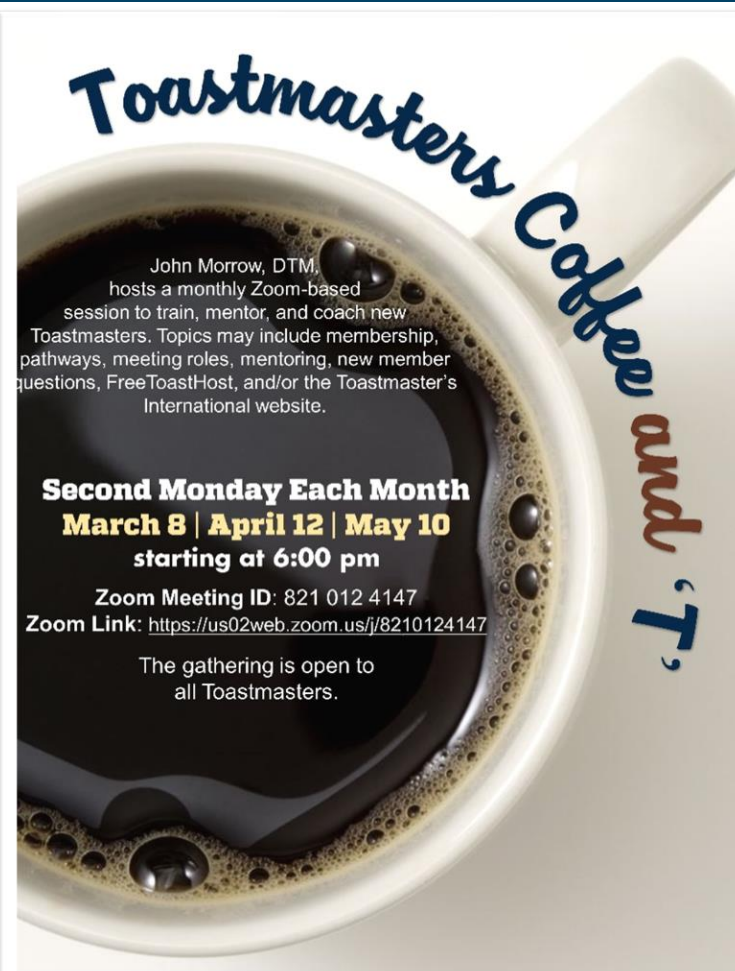
<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/club-coach-troubleshooting-guide>

<http://dashboards.toastmasters.org> clubcoach@toastmasters.org

www.toastmasters.org/membershipbuilding



Club Growth Director, Paula Summa, DTM
psummadm@gmail.com



Toastmasters Coffee and T

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
March 8 | April 12 | May 10
 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.



2020-2021 Golden Gavel Award

District 84's Most Prestigious Award

To qualify, all seven criteria must be met:

- 1 Must have 7 Club Officers trained both rounds of TLI
- 2 Must have 2 club members trained on Contest 101 at TLI or at Division Officer Training
- 3 Must have achieved Smedley Award or Talk Up Toastmasters Award in the current Toastmasters year
- 4 Must have 2 Moments of Truth conducted at your club by April 15, 2021
- 5 Must have at least 1 member with Triple Crown Award in the current Toastmasters year by April 15, 2021
- 6 Must be a Perfect 10 President's Distinguished Club by April 2021 Renewal
- 7 Must have 2 Club Ambassadors in the current Toastmasters year by April 15, 2021

Once your club has completed all the above requirements, please submit proof of completion by April 15, 2021 to Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono at pqd@toastmastersd84.org

Clubs that win the Golden Gavel Award will be recognized at the Annual Conference in May 2021



TOKEN OF APPRECIATION

FREE PATH

FOR EVERY MEMBER WHO RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE OCT-MAR PERIOD

MUST BE REDEEMED BY MARCH 31ST, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
<https://www.toastmasters.org/education/free-path-faq>



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

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

THIS IS YOUR TIME! THIS IS YOUR CHALLENGE! CALLING FOR DISTRICT LEADERS FOR 2020-2021

Are you searching for new experiences and opportunities for leadership growth?

Wouldn't you like to be a part of what goes on at a higher level to run our District?

Want to gain (and test) your creative skills?

Then YOU need to consider elected-leadership roles at the District level. You can do this!

We are looking for candidates for the following positions:

Directors for Divisions for A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I
Club Growth Director
Program Quality Director
District Director

The deadline for nominations is February 28th, 2021.

Click on the link on the home page of our [D84 website](#) for details and applications.

Questions? [Email Beth Ramsay](#), District Leadership Chair. ■



► CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

JC Williams Spirit Award



JC Williams, DTM

Presented annually to a deserving Toastmaster in honor of the life and spirit of Distinguished Toastmaster JC Williams. JC's life was dedicated to extraordinary service to others. He retired in 1974 after over 20 years of service to his country in the US Navy Submarine Service.

He coached hundreds of children over 25 years in various sports, serving as their coach and as their leader, teacher, and mentor. Throughout the years, JC fostered and mentored 26 young adults through both good and trying times.

Please consider nominating a Toastmaster who exemplify the spirit of service to others in Toastmasters and in their communities.

Criteria:

- Served as Club officer
- Served Club as other than Club officer
- Served at District Level in some capacity
- Community service
- Narrative
- Testimonial (optional)

Process:

- All nominations are submitted to the Club President (members may self-nominate or anyone can place a name into nomination)
- Clubs may submit one nominee to the Area Director
- Area Directors may use the Area Council to screen nominations
- Area Directors may submit one nomination to the Division Director
- Division Director may submit two nominations to the District Administration Manager
- District Administration Manager sends nomination packages to the selection committee
- The selection committee: Trio, District Public Relations Manager, District Administration Manager, District Finance Manager and Immediate Past District Director.

More details can be found at:

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

LOL Corner

by Dr. Ashok N. Shahane, DTM



Ashok Shahane

Why Worry?

There are only two things to worry about. Either you are well or you are sick. If you are well then there is nothing worry about. But if you are sick, there are two things to worry about. Either you will get well or you will die. If you get well, there is nothing to worry about. If you die, there are only two things to worry about.

Either you will go to heaven or hell. If you go to heaven, there is nothing to worry about. But if you go to hell, you will be so darn busy shaking hands with friends, you will have no time to worry.

Whose job is it?

There are four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blames Somebody when Nobody does what Anybody could have done.

A medical Term

A man told his doctor he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was over the man said "Now Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me." The Doctor replied, "Well, in plain English, you are just lazy." The man responded, "Okay, now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife and family."

Source: Shahane A.N. Useful Stories for Daily Life, Father & Son Publishing, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida ■



In just three months, we will be immersing ourselves in the spectacular beauty of the world around us. Our conference vision is to:

Explore — Immerse — Inspire

What does that mean? As the conference chair, it is my mission to provide opportunities for our members to **explore** art, dance, song, food, and educational classes from around the world. My goal is for members to **immerse** themselves in culture. It is my pleasure to see all of you deliver **inspiring** speeches.

I have big goals and they will only be met with the help of a lot of amazing Toastmasters. Currently, I have created a team to immerse our conference attendees in the world of arts and crafts! That is correct! There will be an art gallery (or immersion center) to showcase fellow Toastmasters' and guests' talents. A jotform will be arriving in your inbox for Toastmasters who want to display their art or crafts in the gallery! I cannot wait to see all the art from around the world in one place!

I have created a Facebook page: **TM D84 Conference 2021**. Please visit the site and select the follow button. I will post questions that help me and my team identify what our Toastmasters are hoping to see included at the Conference in order to celebrate all Toastmasters within District 84. Suggestions will help us create fascinating and immersive offerings for "Voices Around the World" in May of 2021.

Join us on Facebook! Join us in person on May 14-15, 2021 for the time of your life! The world is waiting to hear your inspirational messages!

May 14-15, 2021

Embassy Suites by Hilton
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, Florida 34746 ■

District 84's 2021 Toastmasters Annual Conference

May 14—15, 2021

"Voices Around the World"

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando

Lake Buena Vista South | 4955 Kyngs Heath Rd | Kissimmee, FL 34746

➤ **FRIDAY includes:**

Registration opens at 3:00 pm
Art and Craft Display
Choice of Awesome Educational Sessions
Cocktail hour for Hotel Guests starts at 5:00 pm
Banner Parade
Scrumptious Dinner
Keynote Speech, Lea Tran, DTM
Wear your Best "Voices Around the World" Costume
Hospitality Suite for Fun, Friendship, and Dancing

➤ **SATURDAY includes:**

Free Breakfast Buffet for Hotel Guests
Breakfast at a Discount Price for Non-Hotel Guests
Choice of Awesome Educational Sessions
Arts and Crafts Display
Candidate Showcase
Hall of Fame and Awards Luncheon
District Business Council - this is where the voting takes place

➤ **Saturday Evening**

Wear your bling and finery - Formal Attire Requested
Dignitary Walk
DTM Walk
Scrumptious Dinner
Keynote Speech, International Director Roy Ganga, DTM
Hospitality Suite for Fun, Friendship, and Dancing

➤ **World Explorer Rate: \$149**

Register for World Explorer Rate:
<https://form.jotform.com/203178975132156>

VIP Rate: \$169.00. A very limited number of tickets is available.

VIP tickets include VIP seating and 2 drink tickets.

Register for VIP ticket:
<https://form.jotform.com/203178417902152>

➤ **Book your hotel room for the event at special rates available on an exclusive basis.**

Book your room:
<https://book.passkey.com/event/50109666/owner/10810031/home>

Explore Immerse Inspire



VOICES MAY 14-15
AROUND THE WORLD



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

Synergy
Newsletter of Toastmasters International, District 84
news@toastmastersd84.org
Pim Parpart, DTM – Publisher
Ramdeo Seepaul, DTM – Editor, Graphics
Vickie Goodman, DTM – Coeditor
Fred Bergeron, DTM – Public Relations Manager

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