



↑ **Pandemic-proof Speech Contests.** Area 24 Director Rachael Assignon, Chief Judge Rebecca McGilton and Division B Director, Tina Smith, delivered trophies to Amber Goldberg (1st place winner in the International Speech Contest) and Jan Thomas (1st place winner in the Evaluation Contest). **Photo credit:** Rachael Assignon, Area 24 Director.

Together Everyone Achieves More



DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

March 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

District 84 Marches Forward

by Ramdeo Andy Seepaul, DTM, District 84 Newsletter Editor

"People are sent into our lives to teach us things that we need to learn about ourselves." — Mandy Hale

The world commemorates one year since the Covid-19 pandemic upended life as we know it. The pandemic tested our resolve and provided many opportunities to grow as Toastmasters (**Page 2**). Maintaining and increasing membership remains a challenge for many Clubs. We celebrate all Clubs that have risen to the challenge by continuing to share the value and benefits of Toastmasters over the last year leading to 528 new members in District 84 since last July (**Page 3**). How did these Clubs accomplish this feat? Paula Summa offers tips on **Page 3**. Vickie Goodman suggests that we gain control by embracing the madness by formalizing and working a plan to maximize the value of our Toastmaster's membership in this month's Club Corner (**Page 5**).

Bobby Blackmon surmises that March is the month of transition, renewal, and planning for new

achievements. He provides the *what*, *when*, and *how* to transform this season to one of gladness and growth (**Page 9**). Marjane Talyor's take on this month's theme will leave you with a chuckle or maybe a cacophonous cackle (**Page 15**).

Why renew your membership? Four Toastmasters who dedicated four decades of their lives to Toastmasters offer insights. Read their enlightening, entertaining and inspiring stories on **Pages 12-14**. Several District 84 Toastmasters also share what keeps them engaged in Toastmasters (**Page 7**).

Five District 84 Toastmasters recently crossed over. We celebrate their lives with heartfelt tributes from their Club members (**Pages 16-18**).

Let us keep embracing challenges, discovering new opportunities, and marching forward on our individual and collective paths.



Keep Going and Keep Growing

Vickie Goodman profiles four members who dedicated four decades to Toastmasters.

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March Madness

Marjane Taylor offers a hilarious take on renewals, contests and conference.

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Heartfelt Tributes

District 84 Toastmasters pay heartfelt tributes to Toastmasters who recently crossed over.

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Consistently President's Distinguished
Oviedo Toastmasters share the secret to success is investing in each other's growth.

Page 21



There are two types of people, cheerleaders, and those who wish they were. Cartoonist Koki Kubo illustrated our District 84 Director, Pim Parpart, Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa, cheering our members and Club's successes from the sidelines.

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COVID-19 One-Year Anniversary Reflection

by Pim Parpart, DTM, District 84 Director



Pim Parpart

It's hard to believe that just one year ago, on the night of March 14, 2020, Toastmasters International sent out a memo stating that all District in-person events including contests must be done online or canceled all together, due to the pandemic. At that point, all Club contests were already completed, but only a few Area contests had been held. What about the other 40 Area Contests, 9 Division Contests and a District Contest?

We had a very short timeframe to assemble people to handle all the unknowns and figure out how to do contests online. Our Covid-19 Taskforce was formed, led by Past International Director, Dennis Wooldridge, DTM.

After many long hours of discussions with the Leadership Team and all the experts we could find, the decision was made to cancel all contests and as well as the District 84 Conference. It was one of the hardest decisions that the District 84 Leadership has ever made. Many other Districts around the world had to make the same decision.

Since then, many of us hurriedly learned how to run Club meetings on Zoom and other platforms. Many members lost their jobs during the shut-down and, as a result, we also lost many clubs.

Here we are, one year later - March 2021. Never in a million years did I think that we would still be facing this pandemic and still required to do all of the contests online. Luckily the vaccine is finally here, and I am hopeful that we will not be talking about COVID-19 again next year in March, 2022.

District 84 has a lot to be proud of. We had two very successful virtual TLIs. All Clubs and Areas successfully completed online speech contests. To keep members engaged and entertained, we have provided many online workshops. Members are actually having fun zooming all over the District, and the world, to visit clubs. We have even learned how to have fun on Zoom using virtual backgrounds, and other cool features.

Look at how much we have learned and grown as a District with these new technologies. I see creativity flowing everywhere. Many Clubs are now trying hybrid meetings to allow members to attend either in-person or online at each meeting - the best of both worlds!

New online Clubs were born and many more are on their way. Now is the perfect time for us to embrace the new normal and work together to support all our clubs in achieving excellence. Together we can do it! After all, we are Toastmasters! ■

► CLUB GROWTH

Membership Growth Is Doable!

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84 Club Growth Director



Paula Summa

Did you know that online meetings are becoming more successful now than ever before? At first, most of us were hesitant to have meetings via Zoom or other online platforms. It was new, different and more complicated. Now that we have become more educated and acclimated to this new and different way of meeting, we have become more proficient at

it and are finding that it's not so bad, after all.

We are also finding that increasing membership in our Clubs can actually be easy via these online platforms. Using social media, visiting other Clubs, and bringing in guest speakers from all over the world are just a few ways new members have been brought into many of our clubs.

Congratulations to the Clubs below that have achieved the highest number of new members in District 84 this Toastmasters' year. Kudos to all who have worked with their teams to increase Club membership and spread the word about Toastmasters.

A Club must have a minimum of 8 paid members to retain their "active club" status with Toastmasters International. Less than eight members for two consecutive renewal periods can result in the Club being listed as "suspended". It's especially important during contest season to make sure your Club remains "in good standing" with at least eight paid members in order to allow your members to compete in the Area, Division, and District contests. Now is the time to make sure your Club membership renewals are submitted and new members are added to our Clubs.

Club open houses, personal invitations, Toastmasters displays at community events, and reaching out to past members and guests have also helped to bring new (and returning) members to our clubs.

We are currently more than half-way through Talk Up Toastmasters, one of three membership drives incentivized by Toastmasters International. Gain five

members between February 1st and March 31st, and your Club will receive a special ribbon for your Club banner, plus a 10% off certificate for purchase in the TI store, plus District 84 will also give your Club a \$25 gift certificate to the TI store!

This Toastmaster 2020-2021 term ends on June 31, 2021. There is still plenty of time to work on increasing your Club's membership. If your Club is working towards becoming Distinguished (or better), both membership and educational goals must be met.

Check your club DCP report via the link in Club Central to confirm the number of new members your Club needs by June 31st to reach Distinguished. Work with your Area Director and Club Coach to make a plan for membership growth. Hold an online open house and advertise on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Meetup, etc.).

From July 1, 2020 through March 8, 2021, District 84 has gained **528** new members! This is proof that membership growth is doable! Let us continue to bring new members to our Clubs and invite them to be part of our Toastmasters D84 family. Thank you to everyone for being part of this amazing District 84, and helping to grow our membership by sharing the value and benefits of Toastmasters! ■

Name of Club	New members (7/1/20 – 3/8/ 21)
FAIRWINDS Speaks	26
Plant City Toastmasters	16
Apopka Foliage	10
Winter Park Toastmasters	10
The Reliable Speakers	9
Orange Park Toastmasters	9
CSX Toastmasters	8
Medtronic Communication Leaders	8
Hunters Creek Toastmasters	8
Talking Gators	8
Downtown Ocala Toastmasters	8
Toastmasters at Twelve	8

► DISTRICT 84 CONFERENCE

Bringing the Voices Around the World Theme to Life

To create an international atmosphere at the Conference, every Division will represent a Toastmaster region of the world:

Division A: Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Division B: Canada and the United States

Division C: The Whole World – All Regions

Division D: Eastern, Western, Central and Southern Africa

Division E: East Asia and Pacific

Division F: Western Europe

Division G: Latin America

Division H: Middle East and North Africa

Division I: Central America and Caribbean

What does this mean?

- Wear a costume that represents your Division's region for Friday Night Costume Night. You can also dress in the native costume representing your culture or ancestry.
- Help your Division decorate an assigned Conference area and bring or send decorations to represent your Division's region.
- Area's to be decorated include the Ballroom, Hospitality Suite, First Timers Classroom, Gift Basket Tables, and Registration Desk.

Tap into your creativity! Click on the link below to see what countries belong to each region:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QGFb4wMo-O4JF132oloS4Ey2iyQHAZoR/view>

Coming soon to Facebook and YouTube

Videos of Costume Ideas from Each Region ■

► DISTRICT 84 CONFERENCE

Conference Duties by Division

Division A: Audio Visual

Division B: Ad Book Sales

Division C: Decorations

Division D: Registration

Division E: Logistics

Division F: First Timers

Division G: Hospitality Suite

Division H: Classroom Moderators

Division I: 50/50 Raffles/Gift Baskets

What does this mean?

You can volunteer to help out with any of the Conference duties when you sign up for Conference.

First preference is to help with your Division's responsibilities. You can help in any capacity, we will not turn away your help!

Go here to register for Conference, book your room and/or purchase an ad for the Ad Book:

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



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 Division Contests
[Click here for contest schedules](#)
- ❑ Report Two Educational Goals

► CLUB CORNER

Taming March Madness

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair

Feeling a bit frenzied or overwhelmed? Of course, you do! It's March and there's so much going on that we sometimes don't know if we're going or coming! Gain control by embracing the madness. Experience the exhilaration that comes from corralling those many tasks/goals/deadlines, formalizing a plan, and getting them done!

Collaborate with your team. Take time as a Club Executive Committee to measure your successes and plan for a strong year end. Rather than lose steam, stoke the fire of excitement and possibility. Include the new Club officer self-evaluation forms to help your officers in their leadership journey and allow your Club to track leadership growth and close previously missed gaps. Every officer should report on their area of focus, identify at least two goals, and provide a plan to accomplish those goals (with the help of their committees) by May. This is also a great way to involve other members as potential Club officers for next year. Remember, Club elections should be completed by your first meeting in May.

Renew! Renew! Renew! Inspire and motivate those members, old and new, to commit to their continued growth and development by getting those dues paid by March 31st. You know what to do. Enough said!

Last chance to redeem a free path! — There are still over 168,000 free paths remaining to be redeemed by March 31, 2021—did you or your members forget to claim yours? For those of you who renewed your membership for the October renewal period by December 31, 2020, visit your Toastmasters profile, click the "Choose A Path" button, and follow the normal path selection process to redeem your free path.

Celebrate your successes! Plan a special mid-year event to acknowledge the educational achievements of your members as encouragement to continue the push to complete a Pathways Level or two before June. Focusing on member progress keeps members motivated and inspired and helps push your club to achieve Distinguished status. Celebrate that all of your members are enrolled in Pathways. Does your club need a special Pathways educational presentation? Contact the Pathways Committee Chair for help: vgoodmandtm@gmail.com. Celebrate the new members that have joined since July and acknowledge their progress. Look around....you'll find many reasons to celebrate!

Shape up your club image. When was the last time your Club website was updated? Do you have a Club Facebook page? Have you created an appealing ad for the Voices Around the World Conference program book? Have you advertised your Club meeting on your community events website, or through the many Nextdoor sites set up to keep neighborhoods in the know? Gather a committee and delegate bite size tasks to give your Club an appealing facelift and strong community presence. Don't forget to ask guests that visit to join your club!

Broaden your members' horizons: Encourage your fellow members to register for an incredible, world-wide cultural experience at the 2021 District 84 conference, <https://www.toastmastersd84.org/conference>. Perhaps several members will want to share a ride and a room, or get an entire group to go. You'll definitely have more fun than should be legal and those attending will return with an entirely new excitement for Toastmasters. ■

Happy March Charter Anniversary

Anniversary	Club	City	Charter Date	Division Area	DCP History	Club Info
44	Lillian R. Bradley	Jacksonville	3/1/1977	A 10	DCP-History	Clubinfo
41	Triple Crown	Ocala	3/1/1980	G 71	DCP-History	Clubinfo
39	Uptown	Tallahassee	3/1/1982	H 80	DCP-History	Clubinfo
38	L3harris Communicators	Palm Bay	3/1/1983	B 24	DCP-History	Clubinfo
34	Capital City	Tallahassee	3/1/1987	H 81	DCP-History	Clubinfo
33	Omni Toastmasters Club 6861	Heathrow	3/1/1988	I 93	DCP-History	Clubinfo
31	Uptown	Orlando	3/1/1990	D 43	DCP-History	Clubinfo
30	CSX	Jacksonville	3/1/1991	A 12	DCP-History	Clubinfo
28	Toast-Stars	Melbourne	3/1/1993	B 22	DCP-History	Clubinfo
28	We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar	Tallahassee	3/1/1993	H 84	DCP-History	Clubinfo
23	Toastmasters on the Halifax	Daytona Beach	3/1/1998	I 90	DCP-History	Clubinfo
20	Garnet & Gold	Tallahassee	3/21/2001	H 83	DCP-History	Clubinfo
16	South Beach	Satellite Beach	3/1/2005	B 21	DCP-History	Clubinfo
15	Mandarin	Jacksonville	3/24/2006	F 60	DCP-History	Clubinfo
14	New Horizons	Jacksonville	3/31/2007	A 13	DCP-History	Clubinfo
8	Horizon Stars	Orange City	3/1/2013	I 92	DCP-History	Clubinfo
8	MIDLAKE LAND	Lakeland	3/19/2013	E 53	DCP-History	Clubinfo
6	CIT	Jacksonville	3/10/2015	F 62	DCP-History	Clubinfo
5	Adecco	Jacksonville	3/22/2016	F 62	DCP-History	Clubinfo
4	Mac Masters	Jacksonville	3/13/2017	A 12	DCP-History	Clubinfo
3	SMA	Daytona Beach	3/19/2018	I 91	DCP-History	Clubinfo
1	OCLS	Orlando	3/1/2020	C 32	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	20	14	1.43
West Volusia Toastmasters	13	10	1.30
Florida International Talkers	14	11	1.27
Apopka Foliage, Club 840	12	11	1.09
World Toasters	15	14	1.07
Highway Safety Club	8	8	1.00
Melbourne FL Toastmasters Club	8	8	1.00
Trailblazers Toastmasters Club	10	10	1.00
Toastmasters of St Augustine	12	12	1.00

District 84 Toastmasters share why they joined and stayed in Toastmasters

I love to speak. Toastmasters' meetings are a venue for my voice. Clubs provide a stage to present my speeches on various topics. I am currently a member of four clubs in four Districts, including an advanced Parliamentary Club, and plan to join a newly chartered workshop Club. Besides opportunities to speak, I learn from other's expertise, gaining knowledge from these different Clubs.



Denise Badolato, DTM

That gratifying feeling from having the privilege of paying it forward by inspiring others who seek to enhance their speaking and leadership skills is one of the reasons I remain committed to Toastmasters. I enjoyed being mentored by the most amazing individuals from the very start of my Toastmasters experience. How selfish it would be for me to keep that to myself and not share that same commitment to others.



Janet Beckles, DTM

Six years ago, I was invited to a Toastmasters Club meeting. I had my doubts; however, I attended, and I was hooked. My goal has always been to inspire others. Little did I know I would find the venue to continue inspiring people for as long as I can. I stay with Toastmasters because I believe it is the most affordable, beneficial, and comfortable means to inspire others to become better communicators and better leaders.



Norma L. Cress, DTM

It feels like only yesterday that I joined Toastmasters. I have stayed with my Toastmasters Club because I took on one of the officer roles soon after I joined. I became so involved, and I felt a responsibility to serve well. I think it is more fun to be involved. I made friends outside my home Club and discovered that's when the real fun starts with Toastmasters!



Koki Kubo, DTM

Most courses of learning culminate with graduation, indicating you have arrived at the pinnacle and there is nowhere else to go on that path. Not so with Toastmasters! The learning and enrichment never ends. Many of us stay because we rightly know that you never stop learning, but that you learn much from others, and from service. Toastmasters affords us the chance to grow, learn, and serve, all while having fun!



Lisa Rider, DTM

My 5-year journey with Toastmasters has been bursting with excitement and energy! I stay in Toastmasters because I love serving in my Clubs and my District. My favorite District roles were as a Club Coach, helping nurse a failing Club back to health, and serving as a Division Director working with five dedicated Area Directors!!! I love helping people grow personally and professionally. Toastmasters – building a better version of you!



Steve Vaughn, DTM

FROM THE PRM DESK

Conference Conversations

by Fred Bergeron, DTM, District 84 Public Relations Manager



Fred Bergeron

On Monday, March 1st at 5 pm, I interviewed Sandy DePrimo, District 84 Education and Conference Chair for our Voices Around the World Conference, happening on May 14th and 15th 2021. Sandy mentioned that May will be her four-year anniversary in Toastmasters.

She has visited other Toastmasters' venues virtually, including Japan, Canada, and England (twice), and those international visits didn't cost her one red-cent! Traveling to Clubs across the globe was the inspiration for the Conference theme. Sandy came up with this theme to allow fellow Toastmasters the opportunity to learn about each other on a more personal level - "cultural learning" as she likes to describe it."

The Voices Around the World conference will offer three tiers of educational classes:

Explore – Education enhancing Toastmasters knowledge
Immerse – Dancing, music, and entertainment sessions
Inspire – Motivational sessions

Three different styles of dance classes will also be offered: Bollywood, Salsa and Line Dancing

Plans are already in place to prepare for the hybrid event, to include livestreaming certain aspects of the Conference, and asking presenters to be prepared to present virtually as well as in person.

We will have two keynote speakers, Lea Tran, and Region 8 International Director Roy Ganga, with more interaction and energy than ever before. Attendees will wear costumes from around the world for Friday evening's festivities, while Saturday evening is reserved for more formal attire. Most importantly, we elect our new District leaders at the District Council Meeting on Saturday, May 15th.

Any questions pertaining to the conference, please feel free to reach out to Sandy DePrimo at d84conferencechair@gmail.com. ■

District 84 Social Media Links

Facebook Page

Status: Open to the public

Description: Simply like the page and be notified of District 84 events, achievements and news. Promote the content of this page to your Club members, friends, and communities.

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

YouTube Channel

Status: Open to Public

Description: Subscribe to this channel to receive access to District 84 videos. Enjoy them, share them, embed them to your Club's web pages, email them to your friends and communities.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT1409vVqoggiNJ5PBF15zA/featured>

Twitter Page

Status: Open to the public

Description: Simply like and follow the page to be notified of District 84 events, achievements and news. Engage with your Club members, friends, and communities by tweeting and liking the content of this page.

Link: https://twitter.com/tm_d84

LinkedIn Group

Status: Open to the public

Description: Keep in touch with your fellow Toastmasters to build your professional network on LinkedIn.

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/district-toastmasters-23aaa2205/>

► TRANSITION

Springing from March Madness to March Gladness

by Bobby Blackmon, DTM, Division H Director



Bobby Blackmon

March is the month of transition; the month to leave behind all things cold, harsh, and burdensome; the month of renewal and planning for new achievements. It can also very easily become a literal "march of madness" that drags on for months as you try to get out from under those burdens. You can prevent this by taking the opportunity to plan how, what, and when you will

make the transition from March Madness to March Gladness. Here are some ideas that might assist in your "house cleaning" and help you "spring" forward!

What: Take an in-depth look at areas of your life from which you are not receiving great satisfaction on a regular basis. This area could include work, home, school, a personal or professional relationship, or even Toastmasters.

How: Once the issue is identified, how do you deal with it? Take the time to write down that area that harbors the displeasure, then as unemotionally as possible, examine each for the exact variables that are responsible for why "grade A" satisfaction is not being received. Being specific is especially important because we often step away from a person, thing, or organization that truly contributes to our growth and happiness because of a single undesired variable. If we can identify that variable and redirect or eliminate, or at least distance it from the rest of what is truly good for us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, a new and *vibrant* conduit is opened. The result: you are still you, and the instrument or mechanism of growth is also still the same. The difference is that the variable impeding your progress is no longer a dissonant note in the symphony of your personal growth and happiness.

When Toastmasters switched to the new Pathways program I, at first, experienced some reticence because the Pathways part of the website was not accessible. This really bothered me because I really enjoyed my

Toastmaster's training. The speeches, evaluations, and leadership roles brought satisfactory progress to my growth, but I also found the study material extremely beneficial. Understandably, this new lack of accessibility bothered me until I made the discovery that my thirteen-year-old Goddaughter thoroughly enjoyed going through the levels of Pathways with me. Since we live in different cities, she signs into my Toastmasters account, and together we go through each level. Besides the obvious benefits of having access to the material, we spend even more quality time together. There is also the fact that, since she is helping me, I am less willing to skip through certain aspects of the curriculum. Since she is also the one who submits my projects, I can serve as a good role model for my precocious young assistant, which encourages her to complete her own educational studies successfully. At least, this is the story she tells me any time I try to skim too quickly through the reading material. Our time on the site keeps us both happy and on our "educational" toes.

When: What is the best time for you to tackle this variable that has been running amuck in your field of gladness? The million-dollar answer is: as soon as it's convenient, as long as the time is now, *NOW*, or *NOW*! The sooner we address the distractions to our happiness, the sooner and better we can learn, grow, and transition our potential March of Madness into a vibrant March of Gladness!

From my Toastmaster's home to yours, may your spring cleaning and renewal be all that you need it to be. ■



Lisa Yang

"People at Toastmasters are the coolest. They come from all walks of life and have so much to offer. They lift me up when I am down and inspire me to be a creative and effective communicator. I love that each meeting is full of learning opportunities, and there are no boundaries to meet new people. One thing is for sure, I am never bored when it comes to Toastmasters!"

Division Speech Contest Schedule

Division	Date	Contest Time	Zoom Link	Additional Info	Contact Info
Division A	Sat, March 27 th	10:00 am	Division A Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 871 7436 2523 Password: 7PZ1fs	askdtm@gmail.com
Division B	Sun, April 11 th	2:00 pm	Division B Zoom Link		tsmith5628@gmail.com
Division C	Mon, April 5 th	6:00 pm	Division C Zoom Link		catkinsmartin@gmail.com
Division D	Sun, March 28 th	12:00 pm	Division D Zoom Link		rfis953712@gmail.com
Division E	Sat, April 17 th	1:30 pm	Division E Zoom Link		etiencken@gmail.com
Division F	Sat, March 27 th	1:00 pm	Division F Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 992 5747 9619 Passcode: DivisionF	john_s_lasch@hotmail.com
Division G	Sat, March 20 th	10:00 am	Division G Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 819 1297 9201 Passcode: 719614	nancywilkins@me.com
Division H	Sat, April 17 th	4:00 pm	Division H Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 890 2341 4771 Passcode: 287975	wcblackmon7@gmail.com
Division I	Sat, April 24 th	1:30 pm	Division I Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 822 0269 7332	ghsmith911@gmail.com

District 84 Speech Contest Schedule

Contest	Date	Contest Time	Zoom Link	Additional Info	Contact Info
Evaluation Speech Contest	Saturday May 1st 2021	2:00 pm	District 84 Evaluation Contest Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 976 4124 8044 Passcode: cPKuot Phone Passcode: 770952	queenfeliciaanne@yahoo.com
Humorous Speech Contest	Saturday May 1st 2021	6:00 pm	District 84 Humorous Speech Contest Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 976 4124 8044 Passcode: cPKuot Phone Passcode: 770952	queenfeliciaanne@yahoo.com
International Speech Contest	Saturday May 8th 2021	5:00 pm	District 84 International Speech Contest	Felicia Shorter	queenfeliciaanne@yahoo.com

Discover HUMOR in Communication

Join us at District 84's
**NEW ADVANCED CLUB
GRAND OPENING!**

Featuring a Special Guest Headliner!
Fun Improv Session (Table Topics)!

Join us for our very first meeting on
Sunday, March 28th at 6:30pm EST
Zoom Meeting ID: 736 931 5951
Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month
from 6:30-8pm EST

Learn how to add humor to your speeches and
presentations.

Learn improv techniques to enhance your
communication skills!

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 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!

Contact Pathways Committee Chair:

Vickie Goodman, DTM
vgoodmanDTM@gmail.com



*Free
Online
Event*

RESUMES that RESONATE



presented by

Julie Salgo

Learning and Development Consultant

**MARCH 20, 2021
4 PM**

Hosted by
**Peace Talkers
Toastmasters Club**

ZOOM ID: 273 257 970

Passcode: 599862

Julie Salgo developed and conducted several workshops, consulted numerous employees while working for Northrop Grumman as a Learning and Development Consultant. Julie assisted anyone who was either looking for jobs or promotion with the necessary skill development of writing an effective resume, conducting interviews for people on both sides of the table, and building a supporting networking system. Even after retirement Julie is eager to help people free of charge.
Contact: fjulika@cfl.rr.com

► COMMITMENT

Long-term Members Keep Going and Keep Growing

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, D84 Pathways Chair



Vickie Goodman

All of us have experienced Toastmasters who come and go, and we are sad for their loss. Sad because we will miss what each person brought to our Club, and sad for the loss of experience and opportunity we know will occur to those who have left. Does one ever graduate from Toastmasters? I know my answer, but District 84 has four Toastmasters who have maintained their membership for

over forty years - some in the same Club they originally joined! These four members are distinguished by their commitment, dedication, and service to Toastmasters, and we want you to share in their enlightening, entertaining and inspiring stories. They are examples to all of us to keep going if we want to keep growing!

Randy Desilet, DTM



With 48 years as a Toastmaster in Division H, DTM Randy Desilet holds the D84 record for the most years of consecutive membership. I was privileged to meet Randy when I first joined

Toastmasters nearly 30 years ago

and include him among those who have inspired me to continue to stretch my skills over the years. I recently asked Randy to provide some insight into his long Toastmaster career – why he joined and why he keeps renewing:

"It seems that when someone joins Toastmasters, it is at a crossroad in their life - when they realize they have a personal and professional need to improve their communications skills and they seek out or happen upon the Toastmaster program. My Toastmaster crossroad occurred when I started to work with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as a Chemist in the Crime Laboratory. I was required to testify in a Court of Law as an expert witness, to explain my findings to a jury, and

defend them under cross-examination. Like many, I feared public speaking and so to succeed in my work, I needed to improve. So how did I find Toastmaster? In the course of a conversation at a State training program, a fellow employee mentioned Toastmasters. I thereupon asked that fateful question, "What is Toastmasters?" I joined Toastmasters and have been a member for 48 years. The Club that I first joined was the Tallahassee Toastmasters Club 1135, and it continues to be my home club over all these years. I like the diverse mix of members, both state and private employees, and the wide range of educational backgrounds and professions. I learn something new at every meeting.

A bonus with Toastmasters is the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Serving as an officer and working on committees is a practical laboratory for developing these skills. I've taken advantage of that "on-the-job-training to serve in every Club officer position as well as Area and Division Governor. A natural consequence of becoming



"I like the "learn by doing" principle in Toastmasters. I find this approach works best for me. My favorite part of the weekly meeting is the Table Topics, where we work on our impromptu speaking skills."

Randy Desilet, DTM



more proficient in leadership and public speaking is that the resulting confidence will lead to professional leadership opportunities. During my career, I held supervisory positions and felt that Toastmasters helped prepare me.

I like the "learn by doing" principle in Toastmasters. I find this approach works best for me. My favorite part of the weekly meeting is the Table Topics, where we work on our impromptu speaking skills.

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Keep Going and Keep Growing

Continued from Page 12

The confidence and skill to speak off-the-cuff are the most useful in everyday life. I notice very quickly, when I have missed meetings, how rusty I get.

Toastmasters has been an important part of my success professionally and personally. The confidence and skills learned made a difference in my life. Today I continue to learn from others and am especially inspired as I help newer members and watch them grow. Toastmasters is definitely habit-forming."



Donald Marx, ATMB, CL

Forty-Seven years ago, Donald Marx found himself trying to make a living in sales. He quickly discovered that you could not sell the product you're trying to sell if you cannot communicate effectively. Someone mentioned

Toastmasters to him, and he attended and joined Greater S. Bay Toastmasters in Kendall. Although he has moved a bit over the years, he has maintained a continuing membership in a Toastmaster Club and for the past 13 years has been a charter member of the Golden Triangle Club in Eustis, FL. Don provided the following description of his Toastmasters experience:

"When I consider the value that Toastmasters has brought to my life, I immediately think of the role as Toastmaster of the meeting. The Toastmaster must make sure everything goes as planned. My non-Toastmaster life required me to hold about 30 meetings a month, so I needed to practice running meetings to avoid experiencing typical meeting hazards. Practice at my Club helped me avoid repetition, effectively maintain the agenda, positively run an organization, and create the opportunity to hear ideas from others during these many meetings. I was encouraged to try new things when I saw others trying them and developed the courage to do so. Over the years, I enhanced my way of communicating by painting a picture with words.

I continue to renew my membership as a way of giving back. Somebody helped me get to the place I'm in, and I

want to support others on their journey. I love watching others develop and grow and encouraging others to improve their communication skills in order to get their message across. I have learned a lot about people. I am applying the skills I've learned to improve the community around me through other organizations, Chambers of Commerce, the Police Department, and the City of Mt. Dora. I've found most organizations recognize Toastmasters to be more organized, efficient, and effective.

To anyone thinking about leaving Toastmasters, I'd ask, "Are you as good as you will ever be? We can always grow and always get better. Maybe you don't need to come to every meeting, but continue your relationship and share your strengths with others."



Dr. Ashok N. Shahane, DTM

Dr. Ashok Shahane is the most senior member of my home club, Early Bird Toastmasters 3651 in Division H. His original Club was in Palm Beach. Ashok came to Florida with a doctorate in Civil and Environmental Engineering but was surprised that following a technical

presentation to his peers, not a single person asked a question. That's when his Chief Engineer recommended he go to Toastmasters to help overcome his pronounced native Indian accent. He recently shared his story with me.

"I still have an accent but I often wonder what would have happened if I had never joined Toastmasters 43 years ago.

At every meeting, I hear different stories and different speakers from diverse backgrounds, and I've been inspired to present over 400 speeches, even winning some awards. This motivated me to write some books, including several related to Toastmasters.

Past International Director Don Plasket, was my mentor for 16 years, encouraging me to try new things, like the Humorous Speech contest.

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Keep Going and Keep Growing

Continued from Page 13

When I told him I had no sense of humor, he simply said, "develop one." It was the best advice and taught me about the wonderful learning laboratory we have in Toastmasters. No matter how basic our skills, we can improve and enhance them just by practicing and listening to the feedback from others.

I also learned the essential skill of active listening. Our mind can absorb more words per second than we can speak because we are meant to listen to one another. Toastmasters provides an opportunity to transform yourself. Those around me notice my transformation over time, and I am sure Toastmasters is a major contributing factor to my professional success. I stay in Toastmasters because I believe we have an obligation to help one another, and I continue to set new goals for myself. My newest five-year goal is to provide a TED Talk and I am practicing my presentations in various Toastmasters and Rotary clubs. I am confident that the practice and encouragement from my mentors will help me succeed."



Ty Patten, ATM, CL

In 1981, Ty Patten was running a small business installing commercial real estate signs and he kept hearing his clients talk about Toastmasters. He decided to check it out and attended the

Winter Park Toastmasters. It was an all-male club at the time and included professional attorneys, CPAs, PhDs – a group with the respected experience and wisdom that he wanted to be around, so he joined the Club. After forty years with the same Club, Ty continues to marvel at the wealth of experience others continue to bring to the Club.

"Of course, for the past 25 years when the Club became co-ed, women have been included in that fascinating experience," Ty declared in our interview. "I was amazed then and am more amazed now at what I see and learn every meeting. Sometimes just a simple word or thought can change your entire outlook."

When I asked how Toastmasters has impacted his life, Ty replied, "I believe that God gives us opportunities, not for

our self, but so that we can help others. I take great delight and pleasure in watching other members grow and blossom. I also love the camaraderie. I have made life-long friends, including wonderful professional speakers and authors. I love being with others who give back to the world. Toastmasters has helped me in my professional and personal life and allowed me to create other organizations, like the Peace Maker Program, and lead conflict-resolution groups. I love to keep learning."

Why should members continue renewing their membership? Ty has a simple answer, "Are you done communicating? You have to keep learning and growing or you're going to be left behind." ■

► RECOGNIZING 30+ YEAR TOASTMASTERS

District 84 recognizes the following members who have 30 or more years of membership and service devoted to the improvement of Communication and Leadership.

Toastmaster	Original Join Date	No. of Years
Randy Desilet, DTM	9/1/1973	48
Donald Marx, ATMB, CL	4/1/1974	47
Leona Vlacancich, MS2	1/1/1975	46
Ashok Shahane, DTM	8/1/1978	43
Ty Patten, ATM, CL	10/1/1980	40
Roy Scherer, ATM	4/1/1984	37
Walter Schamel, DTM	4/1/1984	37
Gordie Allen, ATM	4/1/1984	37
H Dowell, ATM, CL	10/1/1984	36
Collon Fox, VC3	10/1/1984	36
Khamil Ojoyo, ATM	4/1/1987	34
Rosalyn Miller, CTM	8/1/1987	34
Janice Thomas, EC3	1/1/1988	33
Jerry Testa, ATM	4/1/1989	32
Dennis Froio, DTM	4/1/1989	32
Blake Smith, DTM	7/1/1989	32
Kim Glaner, CTM	12/1/1989	31
Lani Wynne-Hampton, DTM	4/1/1990	31
Carol Francum, DTM	5/1/1990	31
Renate Wilms-Rovin, DTM	6/1/1990	31
Thomas Norman, CTM	10/1/1990	30
William Valentino, ATMS	5/1/1991	30
Judd Spitzer, DTM	6/1/1991	30
Vickie Goodman, DTM	6/1/1991	30
Lyn Porpora, DTM	7/1/1991	30

► HUMOROUSLY SPEAKING

March Madness: Of Continuation, Contests, and Conferences

by Marjane Taylor, DTM, District 84 Administrative Manager



Marjane Taylor

What's March madness? Some would say it's one of the biggest, most exciting and fun events in sports and involves oodles of basketball games. Toastmasters might say it involves continuation, contests, and conferences. Oh, my!

Continuation of Membership. It's time for that last sprint down the

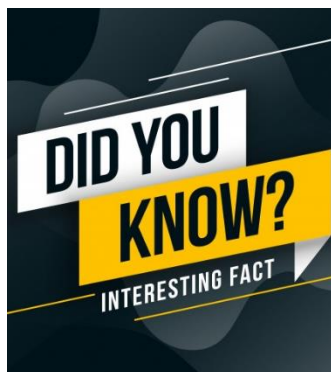
court to get renewal payments submitted before the end of the month. Basketball settles for the Final Four. We up the ante in Toastmasters and go for FIVE! Score big by adding five new, dual, or reinstated members between February 1 and March 31, and you'll be celebrating with a Talk Up Toastmasters Award.

Contests. Have you been toiling away for years, trying to get to the Holy Grail of Toastmasters contests-the World Championship of Public Speaking? Are you new to Toastmasters and trying to make your mark by becoming a champion in a speech contest? This may be the year for your Cinderella Story! Or are you one of the many "helpers" who serve as Contest Chairs, Contest Masters, functionaries, and judges? I don't know what has been more challenging - a full year of COVID-19, or several months of what seems like near-daily requests for assistance at contests around the world. (How did we ever manage to find functionaries before it was so easy to join in on Zoom?!)

Conference. Nine Divisions. Three contest categories. Sweet Sixteen? No! D84 Toastmasters aren't content with Sweet Sixteen. We're going for Sweet 27! That's the potential number of total contestants in the Speech Evaluation, Humorous Speech, and International Speech Contests at the Division level (see schedule on Page 10). Once we determine the winners, we will be sweetly celebrating with Voices Around the World. All that celebrating takes some planning though, and once again...March Madness strikes! Yes, if you haven't done it

already, March is the time to get those ads submitted for the Conference Book, sign up to lead an educational session, and decide on what you can donate as a raffle item. (I'd suggest a basketball, but frankly, I'd rather bid on tickets for a trip around the world, or even to the nearest beach hotel.) The D84 Conference is the highlight of the year. It is a chance to renew friendships, make new friends, attend awesome educational sessions, enjoy great meals, hear keynote speeches, and much more. And don't forget...The Big Dance! March Madness wouldn't be complete without it. (In this case, I'm talking about the Hospitality Suite, which I am quite certain is much more exciting than a basketball game.)

Haven't Had Enough Madness? I've saved the best for last! Have you ever wondered how to discover humor in communication and add more humor to your speeches? District 84 is chartering a new Club, and if you make haste, you too may be able to join as a charter member. Do you "fear the funny?" Then this is the Club for you! Our goal is to have all charter member applications by Friday, March 26. We'll be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays each month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (see flyer on Page 11). We aim to make playing at this Club the most fun you've had in years, with monthly humorous educational headliners, round robin and written speech evaluations, and training exercises to improve your improv skills. The Grand Opening meeting will be held on Sunday, March 28. There won't be any road games, as they'll all be on Zoom, so don't be a benchwarmer. Join us! ■



The first unofficial Toastmasters meeting was held on March 24, 1905. Much like Toastmasters meetings today, the participants took turns leading and speaking at each meeting. Smedley and the older, more experienced men evaluated short speeches, while the younger men were invited to join in the evaluations.

► TRIBUTE

David Barrett

by Theresa Fellingner

"...proud veteran, devoted to family..."



David Barrett

David Barrett was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was a devoted husband, father, brother, friend and Toastmaster. As president and "captain of the ship" of the Orlando Advanced Toastmasters Club in 2019, David led

the Club through the first years of Pathways, steering us through the rough waters into new beginnings of learning with skill, confidence and encouragement. David was very active in Toastmasters. He loved conferences. He was a presenter to help new Toastmaster achieve their highest goals. Prior to his illness, he was an active member of Ace giving them amazing coaching tips. Whoever met David was impressed, learned from his wisdom. David leaves behind his son and daughter. His many Toastmasters friends will truly miss him.

Here is one of his musical tributes that was recorded on YouTube. We will miss David Barrett for his talent, kindness and encouraging leadership.

My Song
Unstained <https://youtu.be/JO5MolQZumk>

Debra Levy

by Dee Melvin, DTM

"...set the standard of being a servant leader."



Debra Levy

We lost an amazing, strong, confident and compassionate woman and friend when Distinguished Toastmaster, Debra Levy died on February 11th.

Debra was born at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. She married Charles Levy, Jr (better known as Chuck to those who loved them both). She graduated from Eastern Florida State College in 2020 and was attending the University of Central Florida, pursuing her

bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Debra was the epitome of everything she did: Civil Servant, Air Force Reservist, Distinguished Toastmaster, Red Hat Queen, John Maxwell speaker, Ordained Minister, college student, mother, grandmother and wife. She was a federal civil servant for over 32 years and proudly served our country for over 30 years as an Air Force Reservist. Debra never did anything by half measure.

Debra joined Toastmasters in 2003. Her dream was to have a club at Patrick AFB. Debra never let anything stand in the way of her dreams so she got busy making that happen. Beachside Broadcasters chartered in 2004. She was the Club's first President. She served as an Area Governor and earned her Distinguished Toastmaster award, an accomplishment achieved by less than 1% of Toastmasters worldwide.

Debra set the standard of being a servant leader. She led by example and was the kind of leader you could not wait to follow. All she had to do was ask.

Everyone who knew her has stories to share of how she touched our lives, inspired us to be more than we knew we could be, how she made us laugh, how she befriended us... Her smile warmed our hearts, and her larger-than-life personality lit up the room.

She was a mentor, confidant and inspiration to many. Our world was much brighter when she was in it. We loved you, Debra. Rest in peace.

► TRIBUTE

Dr. Charles Carroll

by Dr. Ram Nayar, DTM

"You can do what I can't do. I can do what you can't do.
Together we can do something beautiful for God."
— Mother Teresa



Dr. Charles Carroll

The quote above fits well with the philosophy of Dr. Charles Carroll, DTM, and ED.D., former president of three Toastmasters clubs: Port Orange, Daytona Beach, and Accelerated Pacesetters Advanced Club. Dr. Carroll was an Air Force veteran, having served in Korea. He retired from Daytona State College (DSC) as a Senior Vice-President. During his tenure at DSC, he created a Leadership Development Institute,

which included establishing a Toastmasters Club at the college. His professional background was in the allied health field as a psychologist and hypnotherapist. He authored several books, as well as organized and conducted workshops and seminars for District 84 conferences.

What separated Dr. Carroll from his Toastmasters peers and elsewhere was his mentoring style. He was soft spoken at all times, a patient listener, and one who let you make the final decision for yourself. Humility was Dr. Carroll's hallmark. He often went beyond his duties to help fellow club members, with both club and personal goals and needs. Anyone who had the opportunity to meet Dr. Carroll will remember his smile, his genuine interest in getting to know the person, and his kind words, "Reach out to me anytime if I can be of help to you, and I will do the same." This statement aptly personifies Mother Teresa's words as a reflection of Dr. Carroll.

Members of Clubs to which he belonged, as well as all those who came in contact with Dr. Carroll in different settings, will long remember him as one who inspired them with his genuine interest in their dreams. We, the Toastmasters' family, will forever remember Dr. Charles Carroll, a gentleman, scholar, and, above all, a friend. He leaves behind his wife, Leigh, and daughter Courtney, and one grandchild. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Carroll passed away on February 9, 2021, after battling a rare form of blood cancer.

Jimmy Millhollin

by Pam Richardson, DTM

"...devoted to service."



Jimmy Millhollin

A toast to a man who was always devoted to service. When Jimmy Millhollin walked into a room you couldn't miss him with his tall stature, soft smile, cowboy swagger and a California tan. For those of us who were fortunate enough to know this man for his

leadership and laughter know how we were charmed by his big heart for the community and his friends. After serving a 24-year Naval career, he began his Real Estate career beside his cherished wife Annette for the past 33 years and led a Remax Real Estate office. Those who had the opportunity to work along side of him during his Presidency at Flagler County Realtors, the Flagler Chamber, Coastmasters of Palm Coast and Accelerated Pacesetters knew that he would act on behalf of the membership looking strategically ahead for the organization. As a Toastmaster he earned the honor of Distinguished Toastmaster and Area Governor. One favorite story was how he made salsa with his hand chopper like a TV pitch man and created hysteria in the audience with his dry, self amused sense of humor. After battling cancer since 2017, Jimmy spend the remainder of his time back to the water in the early mornings kayaking and fishing on the quiet intracoastal next to his best friend and wife who was there through thick and thin. He passed away on January 30, 2021, but left an everlasting impression on all of us.

► TRIBUTE

Glenn Tapley

by Jessica Connery

"inspirational, hilarious, and caring"



Glenn Tapley

"You'd love Glenn, he's been out for a while but you'll love him when you meet him". She used words like "inspirational, hilarious, and caring", to describe a man who was on a health induced hiatus from attending the Club's weekly meetings. I'd just joined Toastmaster's and felt that our local Club had a camaraderie that I'd not seen in other clubs.

I quickly learned that this gentlemen played a central role in the Club's integrity, even in his absence.

A few months later I entered a meeting when the woman who'd told me about Glenn jumped up and said "He's here!! You have to meet Glenn!" I was introduced to a man sitting in a wheelchair and rocking a US Navy Veteran hat. Once the meeting started Glenn asked to speak for a moment.

He explained that he'd faced life threatening health issues over the last six months and that members from the Club had come to see him. In his time in the hospital and then convalescing at home, he'd been so well taken care of by people he'd come to view as family: Toastmaster's Club members. He went on to note that despite his health restrictions and the significant challenge he faced at getting to the meetings he'd realized how important his attendance is to his mental well being. In fact, his doctor ordered him to continue attending meetings because of how good they make him feel!

Without even knowing this person I was touched by his sincerity and the love the members have for him. I got to know Glenn well over the last 3 years. His sagacious personality appealed to me and he became a mentor, not only in Toastmaster's, but also in life. Glenn made Toastmasters more than a place to learn about public speaking. He helped to make it a place to make life-long friends. May his life be a blessing.

Down Memory Lane

"I walk down memory lane because I know
I'll find you there"
— Tim McGraw



Left to right: Samantha Wilson, Tom Kraemer, Immediate Past International President Deepak Menon, Ram Nayar, District 84 Director Pim Parpart, Charles Carroll.



► LEADERSHIP

Get Outside Your Comfort Zone

by Amanda Dodd, Area 61 Director



Amanda Dodd

I am the Area 61 Director for the 2020-2021 Toastmaster year in Jacksonville, Florida. Most of the Clubs in my Area are corporate Clubs, and I have one community Club. Since the pandemic began, all my Clubs have been meeting online, which has been interesting. I have heard many describe the Toastmasters experience with the phrase, "Get used to being outside of your comfort zone" and this

exactly describes my experience as an Area Director. In fact, becoming an Area Director was a great stepping stone into that "uncomfortable zone."

I have grown tremendously as an Area Director through attendance at the meetings of all Clubs in my Area. I also learned to appreciate teamwork as I helped organize my Area contest, jointly coordinated with the Area 62 contest and Director, Kimberly Young. By holding the contests on the same morning, we scheduled functionaries to cover both contests, and we also used the same Contest Master. I enjoyed working with the Area 62 Director and the Division F Director, John Lasch, to put together two energetic contests.

I have learned that, as an Area Director, I am not alone in the endeavor. I have the support and assistance of the Division Director as well as the Area Directors inside and outside of Division F. I appreciate the support and preparation provided by our District Trio and other experienced members who worked with me and helped me develop strong relationships with Club presidents within my Area: Florida Blue Toastmasters, Southside Toastmasters, Toast of DB and Jacksonville Bullmasters. It has been great working alongside them this Toastmaster year.

As a Toastmaster, I've learned that you are not alone in your journey, and we always work together. When we help one another reach our goals then we will have a successful Club, a successful Area, successful Division, and a successful Area Director. I encourage everyone to get outside of your comfort zone because that is where you learn and grow. ■

Public Speaking Webinar Series

Recognizing that laughter is one of the best feelings on earth, public speaking experts at Toastmasters International want to explore humor to its deepest level—and you are welcome to join in on the fun! Watch one or both of the latest webinars in the public speaking series on demand and get ready to laugh out loud while watching what funny looks like in action—not just on a stage, but in real life.

The Humor Workshop—Part I

Discover the various humor types, as well as some funny (and not so funny) cultural considerations, and how to sprinkle a little laughter effectively and appropriately into many aspects of your professional and personal life. [Watch now](#)

The Humor Workshop—Part II

Find out why laughter is the best medicine and learn how to hone the healing power of humor. Hear the panel explain how to lighten the mood, using improvisational techniques. [Watch now](#)

Toastmasters International launched this series with the basics. Learn how to conquer your speech fears and master life situations where speaking is required!

[Watch now](#)

Communicating Across Cultures:

Learn and hear stories from cross-cultural experts.

[Watch now](#)

Interview Success:

Listen to tips and insights from global business leaders. [Watch now](#)

Thriving During Social Distancing:

Hear perspectives from an online panel of Toastmasters experts. [Watch now](#)

► GRATITUDE

Writing Meaningful Thank You Notes

by Michael W. Robinson, DTM, Past Division G Governor



Michael Robinson

Recipients of thank you notes feel valued and appreciate that their efforts, talents, abilities, and time are recognized. There are multiple methods to send a note of thanks – email, text message, paper cards, electronic cards, and a hand-delivered slip of paper. Whichever means you choose, our Toastmasters experiences offer numerous occasions and situations to express your gratitude.

Writing the note doesn't take long but does require forethought. You want to pen (or keystroke) meaningful words of gratitude and graciousness. Let your expressions be appropriate to the occasion or the recipient's positive impact for which you are grateful. Some people to send a thank you note:

- The Speech Evaluator, for agreeing to evaluate you and offering stimulating suggestions for improvement.
- The Contest Chair, Contest Master, Chief Judge. These three functionaries lead the contests. Sometimes the Contest Chair and Contest Master are the same person. Double duty! The Chief Judge recruits judges. That's no small feat.
- The Open House Coordinator/Committee Chair. An excellent way to make the public aware of Toastmasters and its benefits is by hosting an Open House. A lot of time and effort are involved, including marketing and coordination.
- The Club President, for serving as your CEO and, if applicable, for leading the Club to Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or President's Distinguished status.
- Your Mentor. The reason to thank this person is apparent. Mentors help guide new members through the beginning phases of club membership by assisting with the first three speeches and acclimating the mentee to various club roles and Toastmasters hierarchy in general.

Other Toastmasters to consider thanking are Club Coach, Area Director, Division Director, and let's not forget our

District Trio – District Director, Program Quality Director, and the Club Growth Director.

As you start to write, your words will flow. Write your thoughts as they come to you. The recipient won't criticize you for grammar usage or punctuation. Remember the adage – it's the thought that counts.

Here are some personal thank-you phrases:

- I appreciate your leadership
- You have great insight. Thank you for speaking
- I appreciate your time and effort.
- I am grateful for our mentor/mentee relationship
- I appreciate your assistance.
- Thank you for sharing your expertise.
- Thank you for providing me with advice.
- Thank you for the courtesy you extended to me during my new role.
- Thank you for showing what it means to be part of a Toastmasters team.

Conclude the thank-you correspondence with a warm closing. I suggest the following:

- With gratitude,
- Gratefully,
- Warmest thanks,
- With sincerity,
- Warmly,
- In warm appreciation,
- Warm regards,
- With warm regards,
- Blessings,

If you have many thank-you notes to write, an excellent way to fight fatigue is to write 3-4 in one sitting. Stand up and take a 5-minute break, then write additional notes. Repeat as needed. Have fun while enjoying the time-honored tradition of writing thank-you notes. ■



► CLUB PROFILE

Oviedo Toastmasters Invest in Each Other's Growth

by Tonya Kaynar, Rob Warrington, Eric Boehm and Paula Summa

Oviedo Toastmasters, Club # 3179, chartered on 12/1/1997, and has been President's Distinguished over 20 times in the last 23 years. The Club is a regular recipient of the Notable Nine and Incredible 20 awards and is consistently one of the first Clubs to receive incentives offered by the District. It won the Golden Gavel award last year and is on track to become President's Distinguished again this year.

Oviedo Toastmasters has been honored to be the home Club of several past and current District leaders, including Area Governors and Directors, Division Governors and Directors, District chairs, and the District Club Growth Director. Several Club contest winners have gone all the way to the District competition, and many past, and current, members have earned their DTMs while being an active member of Oviedo Toastmasters.

What makes Oviedo Toastmasters a unique club?

"Welcoming, fun, camaraderie, personal development-positive, supportive, encouraging, leadership." These are just some of the many words that Oviedo Toastmasters members used to describe the atmosphere and vibe of their Club. It also helped that, before the pandemic, the Club met at IHop on Alafaya Woods in Oviedo. Members and guests alike were able to order savory pancakes or a steamy coffee before the meeting started and enjoy chitchat in a private meeting room reserved every Thursday night from 7 to 9 pm.

Nowadays, the Club meets virtually via Zoom (still Thursday's at 7 pm). The Club is transitioning to hybrid meetings and many of the members are looking forward to being back at IHop and interacting in-person again.

The major difference that sets us apart from other Clubs is every member's participation and apparent interest in the development of others. The Club is a literal depiction of "All for one and one for all." Guests often express that they have never felt more welcomed and included when visiting Oviedo Toastmasters Club.

The other thing that sets Oviedo Toastmasters apart from other Clubs is the organized events that occur both inside and outside our Thursday night meeting. Our annual "T-bay" auction which raises money for the Club by allowing members to auction off items to other members. Club members regularly participate in community events, and find ways to engage outside of the Club, such as picnics and annual celebrations.

Joining any Toastmasters Club will benefit you in countless areas. It helps with building confidence, leadership, and public speaking skills. Still, Oviedo Toastmasters is a place where you can build these skills in a safe and supportive environment; a place where you will develop new and long-term friendships. It is a place where you can look for guidance and feel supported; it is a place where you will not be judged.

The members at Oviedo Toastmaster provide the needed support and motivation to others to expand their experiences and possibilities. The Club has a mentoring program, orchestrated to guide members along their Pathways journey. In addition, the Club has members with amazing backgrounds and boundless knowledge who freely give their time in order to help others become triumphant.

If you live in or near Oviedo, if you know someone who you think Toastmasters would benefit, or if you are looking to join a new or second Club, then come join us at Oviedo Toastmasters! We promise to make you feel like family! ■



District 84 Club Ambassador Program

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February 2021 Report

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Reports received

Clubs visited

Ambassador
Awards

Club Ambassadors

Rachel Sutphin

Heidi Vetter

Most Visited Clubs

- 3 Laugh Lovers (California)
- 2 CEO Toastmasters
- 2 First Coast Speakers Advanced

Most Club Visits (Cumulative Points)

- 13 Denise Badolato (93)
- 12 William Lambert (79)
- 5 Linda Udall (37)

Best Practices

- All members/guests must use the word of day in a sentence
- Members shared thoughts on how to energize members
- The agenda outline is posted in the chat and 3 new club members introduced themselves at start of meeting

Best Quotes

- "you don't need a parachute to go skydiving"
- "that was my last 'um' for today"
- "we're going to let you know; we're brutally honest, with love"

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

► COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

Division B Shared the Value of Toastmasters at the Strawberry Festival

by Deborah Wilde, DTM



Deborah Wilde

Toastmasters in Division B decided to market their Clubs at the local Strawberry Festival that was held On February 20th and 21st in Melbourne FL. In charge of gathering volunteers and scheduling the days were Avis Williams and Cecilia Stinson of the Melbourne FL Toastmasters club. Setting up the booth and tables started out early in the morning on the first day, and Avis and Cecilia, two dedicated

Toastmasters, stayed until the festival closed that first day.

A few more people joined them throughout the day to help promote all of the Clubs in Division B, including Deborah Wilde (Metro Palm bay, FIT Club, and Melbourne FL Toastmasters), Judy Hayes (Metro Palm Bay, Melbourne FL Toastmasters, and Advanced Communicators Club). They enjoyed many visitors to the table.

Visitors were met with enthusiastic descriptions of the Toastmasters experience, benefits, and membership information. The Strawberry Festival is one of the most widely attended events in the community, which made it a perfect place to market our Clubs, educate the community about Toastmasters, and grow some of the clubs.

By the end of day one we'd distributed a total of over 100 goodie bags and conversed with people from all walks of life - and hopefully piqued their interest in Toastmasters. All in all, day one was tiring but exciting for all involved.

Day two started bright and early again, with Avis, Pim and Ron Parpart uncovering the booth and resetting the table for the day to come. They were joined by Tina Smith, Division B Director, and Rachel Sutphin of SouthBeach Toastmasters. When it came time for the festival to open to the public, they were raring to go with enthusiasm and lots of energy. They also had lots of visitors and talked up Toastmasters all over again.

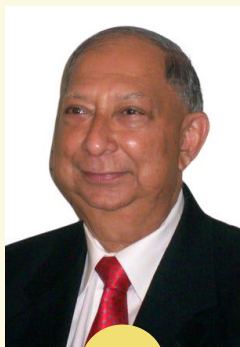
Everyone enjoyed the morning, regaling the visitors with stories about Toastmasters and what they have come to love and enjoy about their clubs. They invited all the visitors to visit us at our clubs in hopes they will join. Cecilia Stinson returned to help that afternoon, greeting visitors as only she can!

As the group packed up to leave at the end of the day, they reflected on what we have accomplished. Everyone agreed that we introduced Toastmasters to a whole new group of people, and reminded others who had previously been members of what they were missing. We opened the eyes of the community to Toastmasters, and also learned that none of us were shy or afraid to talk to strangers - thanks to Toastmasters! ■



LOL Corner

by Dr. Ashok N. Shahane, DTM



Ashok Shahane

A Laconic Reply: US President Calvin Coolidge was known to be a man of few words, so much so that his nickname was "Silent Cal." At one dinner he attended, a young lady seated near him told the President that, prior to the event, she made a bet with her friends that she could get the President to say at least three words. His reply..." You lose!"

Bob Hope's Last Words: Bob Hope was an icon for humor for most of his life (1905-2005). In 2005, Mr. Hope was in poor health and approaching the end of his life on this planet earth. His son asked, "Daddy, what kind of casket do you want?" Bob Hope replied, "Son, surprise me, please!"

The Secret of Long Marriage: Kirk Douglas, an American Actor, was married for over 60 years. When asked about the secret of his long-married life, he frankly admitted that he had no secret, but he shared this story. He told his new wife that he married her to demonstrate his tremendous love for her, and in return he wanted his wife to serve him breakfast in bed every day. His wife lovingly and calmly said, "Kirk, since I love you, I will be happy to serve you with daily breakfast in bed, but you will have to sleep each night in the kitchen."

Presence of Mind: Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain in World War II, was strolling in London one day. He entered into a coffee-shop, bought a cup of coffee, and sat down. The lady sitting on the other side of the table said, "I know who you are! You are Mr. Churchill!" Pleased to be recognized, Mr. Churchill smiled and the lady continued. "Mr. Churchill, I want to tell you that I don't like you as a Prime Minister and I don't like your face. I actually hate your guts." That caught Mr. Churchill by surprise, but the woman continued, adding, "Mr. Churchill, if I was your wife, I would put poison in your coffee." Mr. Churchill looked straight into her eyes and replied, "Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink that coffee with poison in it."

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

▶ QUOTABLE QUOTES

Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life!

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

— Nelson Mandela

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

— Walt Disney

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking."

— Steve Jobs

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough."

— Oprah Winfrey

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."

— James Cameron

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans."

— John Lennon

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart."

— Helen Keller

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."

— Aristotle

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

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

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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 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

April 12 | May 10 | June 14

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.

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



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
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Fred Bergeron, DTM – Public Relations Manager

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