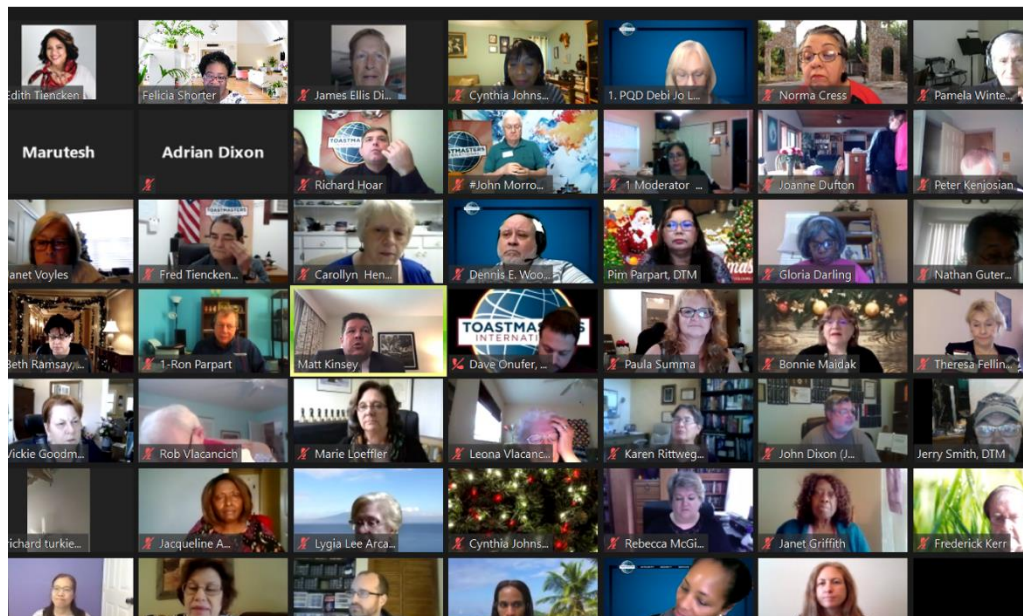




DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

January 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

↑ **Rapt attention:** District 84 Toastmasters listened keenly to Toastmasters International 1st Vice President Matt Kinsey's inspiring keynote speech on 'Who is a leader?' during the first winter TLI in December 2020. For details on the January 23rd and 30th, 2021 TLI, see Page 6.

Together *Everyone Achieves More*

Charting a SMART Path to Success

by Ramdeo Andy Seepaul, DTM, District 84 Newsletter Editor

"People with goals succeed because they know where they're going."
— Earl Nightingale

There is something exciting and refreshing about January and the start of a new year. It's a new beginning, a fresh start or 'turning over a new leaf.' The challenges of 2020 have provided several opportunities for personal growth (**Page 12**), even when we doubted ourselves (**Page 26**). As we transition to the second half of the Toastmaster's year, this is an opportune moment to reflect and introspect on both our individual and club's progress towards achieving our leadership and communication goals.

To our most recent members: Did you complete your first or second level in Pathways, or maybe even your first path? Did you participate in your first speech contest? *To our seasoned members:* are you pursuing the Distinguished Toastmaster Award? Did you enjoy serving as a club officer over the last six months? Did you attend TLI (**Page 6**). Where is your club currently in the Distinguished Club Program?

Are members and the Club receiving credit for each speech presented? Whether your goals in Toastmasters are to hone your communication skills or strengthen your leadership capabilities, keep the journey in focus. Constant check-ins allow us to keep track of progress, makes it easy to keep up with any changes and amend our plans if needed.

Planning for success requires setting SMART goals, choosing a theme, and taking massive imperfect actions (**Page 4**). An alternative approach is brainstorming, organizing, prioritizing, finalizing and accountability (**Page 8**).

As you plan for success, remember to recognize our exemplary Toastmasters who go above and beyond through selfless service to enrich our lives, see examples on (**Pages 10, 16, 23**).

"This is the beginning of anything you want." Plan for it. Happy New Year District 84.



Moving Forward

Beth Ramsay, DTM, shares a three-step approach to moving forward by setting up for success. Page 4



Investing in Goal Setting

Derek Lott, DTM, shares why investing in setting goals can pay dividends. Learn how to brainstorm, organize, prioritize, finalize actions and be accountable. Page 9



Mentoring Primer

Paula Summa, DTM, discusses the importance of new club mentors and Toastmaster mentors. Page 18



Fostering Synergy

Richard Hoar and Cathy Hoar share plans to foster alliances between Toastmasters and Rotary in District 84. Page 27



Cartoonist Koki Kubo illustrated our District 84 Director, Pim Parpart, Program Quality Director, Debi Jo Londono and Club Growth Director, Paula Summa, 'shooting for the stars' as we transition to the second half of the Toastmaster's year.

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Where to next?

by Pim Parpart, DTM, District Director

Every time my husband Ron and I finish a vacation, we always ask ourselves, "Where to next?"

We love traveling and will take 2-3 vacations per year. I am retired but Ron is still working. His company gives him 5 weeks paid vacation and it is a "use it or lose it" deal, so we must take vacations often. I know it is a great problem to have.

With face masks on and always observing social distancing, we just had a fabulous Christmas Vacation in Vegas, and we already have the next vacation lined up. I have never been to New England and I heard it is beautiful in the fall, so we already booked a New England cruise in September 2021, assuming they will be sailing safely by then.

I have been a Toastmaster for over 30 years and have already achieved 3 DTMs. However, that does not mean I am a "Done Talking Toastmaster!" I am still asking myself, "Where to next?" Because I enjoy speaking and serving others, every time I finish a speech I have another speech lined up. Every time my term as a Club Officer is coming to an end, I think about what I want to do next term to continue to serve my club.

Friends, let's make 2021 the Best Year ever. The tide always turns at its lowest point, and I think we all had our lowest point in 2020. Where will the tide take us next? It can only go up from here.

Happy New Year 2021! ■



► FOCUS 2021

New Clubs & Membership Growth

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84 Club Growth Director



Paula Summa

Happy New Year, fellow Toastmasters! My vision this year is a renewed and stronger commitment to focus on building new clubs and increasing membership growth.

Every year in Toastmasters, we ask Area Directors to charter at least one new Club. We currently have several new clubs pending; however, we need several more to charter before the end of June 2021. I encourage you

to take advantage of the TI incentive that can save the new Club up to \$525. This incentive ends 1/31/21, so now is the time to submit the charter paperwork for those clubs that are already in the charter process.

For those of you who have not found a new club to charter, there are many opportunities for you to start new corporate clubs, special interest clubs, community clubs, online clubs. Reach out to large or small local businesses, community groups, such as libraries or Chambers of Commerce. Contact VFWs, Elks or Woman's Auxiliary groups. Visit special interest groups, like book clubs, gardening clubs or bicycle clubs. Talk to people you meet at the gym, at school, or the hair salon. We have an experienced team that will help you with the charter paperwork and others who are willing to help sponsor and/or mentor new clubs.

Is your Club participating in the Distinguished Club Program (DCP), or are you coaching a club? Clubs are required to maintain 20 members (charter strength) or a net gain of 5 new members from their July 2020 base membership. Please do not wait until the last minute to get those membership goals accomplished. Start working on them now; make this your focus for the new year.

I encourage all clubs to be sure that at least eight members are paid every renewal period in order to avoid being suspended and a potential reinstatement fee.

With most of our clubs now meeting online, there are many opportunities to bring back past members and attract new members. Offer to assist those that are hesitant to attend a virtual meeting. Show them how easy it is to use Zoom and how much they will enjoy your meetings.

Visit clubs outside of our District (and outside of our country) and not only invite them to visit your Club, ask them to speak at your Club! Advertise your special meetings (guest speakers, Open House, educational sessions, etc.) several weeks in advance. The more guests that attend your meetings, the more opportunities you create to add new members.

The District will reimburse clubs up to \$30 for either food, advertising or supplies for a club Open House. [See the details on the Open House Flier.](#)

Please join us at our Zoom Club Coach Forums, held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 8 pm. We have special sessions and guest speakers who share important tips and ideas. Learn how to take advantage of social media in order to increase membership, ways to reach non-Toastmasters when advertising and tips on working with corporate clubs.

Let's all focus on club and membership growth this new year, let's all work together to bring our club and membership numbers up... and let's all celebrate our successes in 2021!

I thank you, as always, for everything you do for District 84. I wish each of you a happy, healthy and successful 2021! ■

TOASTMASTERS TIPS

Introducing Speakers

If you host a special event, you may be required to introduce speakers. Try these quick tips for delivering thoughtful speaker introductions:

Don't steal the show by making the introduction too long (60 seconds or less is sufficient), or by speaking on a topic that is in no way related to the speaker.

Briefly mention the topic the speaker is addressing, but don't reveal too much about his or her speech.

Establish the speaker's authority and expertise. This information will help solidify with the audience the speaker's credibility as a subject matter expert.

State the speaker's name and speech title. Make sure the audience is formally introduced to the speaker and their speech.

► PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Your Big Moving Forward Plans in 2021 – 3 Tips for Your Success!

by Beth Ramsay, DTM, D84 DLC Chair, Immediate Past District Director



Beth Ramsay

A shiny new year is upon you! How do you greet this new year to maximize your chances of success in everything you do? I will share three tips to get you going in the right direction.

I learned these tips from the masters who taught me the subtleties of master horsemanship, often referred to as being a “horse whisperer.” I adore horses and have

eight of them in my yard, but I didn’t get my first horse until I was 47. I had a LOT of learning to do!

Being a horse whisperer simply means being prepared with knowledge, understanding the mindset and behaviors of both my horses and me, and setting very clear goals regarding what I prefer to happen in the way I want it to happen.

One instructor repeatedly told me that, regardless of the goals you set, in order to maximize achieving them, I had to “set up for success.” I couldn’t just go hop on a horse. Oh, no! I needed to check my supplies and equipment to ensure they were in good condition and that I had everything I needed. Next, I had to be clear about what I wanted.

So let’s dive in to set YOU up for success in 2021!

Setting Up for Success Tip #1: The art of goal setting is lost on many people. I wrote “art” deliberately. If you have heard of setting “S.M.A.R.T.” goals, that’s what I mean right here.

“I’m going to lose weight” is not a SMART goal. Rather, “I will lose 7 pounds by the end of 7 weeks from now, <insert date>.” See the difference?

For those who are not familiar with S.M.A.R.T. goal setting, here it is:

S – is it Specific? (You must be clear about what you want.)

M – is it Measurable? (How much weight, money, travel, work hours, etc.)

A – is it Attainable/Achievable? (Notice in my losing weight example, I made it 1 pound per week, which is doable. Losing 30 pounds in 7 weeks is NOT doable if you want to live.)

R – is it Realistic? (Not sure you will reach your goal of becoming a nuclear physicist if you can’t grasp trigonometry or chemistry.)

T – is it Time-bound? (You must include a due date.)

A plan without a goal is just a wish. I’d love to get up tomorrow and look like Catherine Zeta-Jones, but I don’t think that’s “A” (achievable), nor is it “R” (realistic)!

This style of goal setting can be used in your personal and professional life, and yes, even your Toastmasters life!

Setting Up for Success Tip #2 –If making resolutions doesn’t seem to stick, try this instead: Choose a Theme.

For years I made resolutions on January 1st, which promptly went out the window by January 6th. Why? Probably because I wasn’t clear in my goal-setting process as described above. Plus, the way I was doing it made me feel like I was punishing or depriving myself of something good!

Four years ago, I began using a THEME for the year. I spent clarity and focus and thinking time to figure out what I wanted to happen in the new year, then developed an overarching theme. Here are some examples:

2017 and 2018 - Coming Home: As renters of two separate farms for six years, we were sick of being unable to do what we wanted with the property. Everything we did was focused on this theme: saving money, getting rid of things we didn’t need, searching for options, packing up, and finally moving into our new farm in August 2018!

Moving Forward Plans, Continued on Page 5

Moving Forward Plans

Continued from Page 4

2019 - Health: I focused on getting healthy. I had a full eye exam, physical check-ups, and lost 20 pounds. I started to meditate and practice yoga.

2020 - Enjoy the Journey (You should recognize this one!): This theme performed double-duty, serving both D84 during my District Director term, as well as providing a focus for my personal life and relationships. Plans for 2020 were derailed, with C-19 grinding everything to a halt. Even with that adversity, I got to control how I moved through that time and space. Some of the journey I enjoyed and some I didn't.

So what's my theme for 2021? "Scale." I'm focused on scaling my Brilliant Women business; to grow, to multiply, to touch more lives. I've hired a wonderful, full-time virtual assistant who is everything I'm not. She's a creative tech wizard who makes my plans and ideas come together and look good, leaving me free to launch my signature virtual programs, changing lives as a result.

Setting Up for Success Tip #3 –Become an MIA: take Massive Imperfect Action. No matter what you do, just do something! Don't wait for everything to be perfect before you act on your goals, for it will never be so.

Did something you tried, fail? The good news is you can start afresh at any time, not just on January 1st. You must take a step forward to learn, to grow, to achieve. Who knows? You might just surprise yourself! The only wrong move is no move at all.

I heard a statement from Ravi Zacharias before he died that became so meaningful to me, I've scheduled it to appear in my online calendar every Friday: "No one ever built a legacy by standing still."

What's your legacy? Decide your theme, set your goals and then take your Massive Imperfect Action to make 2021 your legacy! ■

FOUR LIFE-CHANGING KEYS TO SUCCESS:

1. Decide exactly what you want
2. Set a deadline
3. Take action every day
4. Persist until you succeed



ORLANDO ADVANCED TOASTMASTERS (OATS)

Expert evaluations that create strong speakers!



A great place to practice! Join us on the
2nd or 4th Saturday of each month @
10:30 AM.

Contact: Sandy DePrimo
Sandydeprimo@outlook.com

▶ TRAINING FOR SUCCESS

TLI is Not Only for Club Officers

by Debi Jo Londono, DTM, D84 Program Quality Director



Debi Jo Londono

Members and club officers still have two chances to attend Officer Training at the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI.) In addition to the required Officer Training sessions, we will have fun elective sessions and a keynote speaker for the upcoming TLIs.

Educational Electives

Contest 101 - Troy Palmer, DTM

An interactive session with answers to your contest questions from D84 Contest Chair.

Hybrid Meetings - Ron Parpart, DTM

Learn more effective ways to conduct hybrid meetings.

Evaluate like a Champion - Susan Schulz, DTM

Learn to make your evaluation an exceptional value to the speaker and your audience. The speaker's best value is your heartfelt encouragement, acknowledgment of their successful presentation skills, and your suggestions, or "gifts" of opportunities to improve.

Facebook Marketing

Learn to design posts to attract new members and connect with the audience you want to reach. Learn how to promote your Club and find new members. In addition, you will learn the tricks to get your information shared within Facebook with very little work.

Pathways Base Camp Manager - Vickie Goodman, DTM

A quick review of BC Manager responsibilities, access, and level completion, with a focus on more in-depth navigational tools, learn to generate reports and track member progress from our D84 Pathways Chair.

Motivating People - Marie Loeffler, DTM

Explore how leaders can inspire others to find and sustain the motivation needed to be successful.

Mastering PowerPoint - Felicia Shorter

With the apparent continuation of our Zoom environment, this fun and interactive session will help members learn or

improve their PowerPoint presentation skills - an essential asset well into the future!

Saturday, 1/23/2021

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/202915660263150>

12:30 pm Opening Session

1:00 pm – All Officer Roles Training

2:00 pm - Exciting Electives

3:00 pm – All Officer Roles Training

4:00 pm – Keynote Speaker, Beth Ramsay, DTM, IPDD

Saturday, 1/30/2021

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/202915961821154>

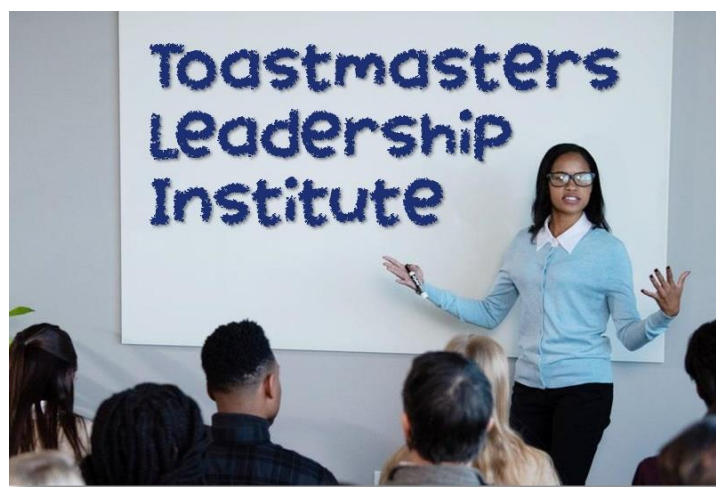
2:30 pm Opening Session

3:00 pm – All Officer Roles Training

4:00 pm - Exciting Electives

5:00 pm – All Officer Roles Training

6:00 pm – Keynote Speaker, International Ms. Florida 2020 Dr. Lily Brannigan ■



Mark your calendars for the winter TLI dates!

Saturday, January 23, 2021: 12:30 pm Opening Session
Register: <https://form.jotform.com/202915660263150>

Saturday, January 30, 2021: 2:30 pm Opening Session
Register: <https://form.jotform.com/202915961821154>

THIS IS YOUR TIME! THIS IS YOUR CHALLENGE! CALLING FOR DISTRICT LEADERS FOR 2021-2022

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

NOW is your time.

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

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



> **Division Director**

Division Directors lead and support the Division through the supervision and support of the Area Directors. Division Directors ensure that each club achieves its mission and fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

> **Club Growth Director**

A Club Growth Director is responsible for all aspects of marketing, club-building, and member- and club-retention efforts within the District.

> **Program Quality Director**

A Program Quality Director is responsible for all aspects of education and training within the District. This includes supporting quality club programming efforts, promoting the Distinguished Club Program, and planning and executing the District conference.

> **District Director**

A District Director is responsible for directly overseeing and managing the District's day-to-day operations, finances, and human resources.

► PERSONAL GOAL SETTING

Make 2021 Your Best Year Yet, No Matter What!

by Derek Lott, DTM

**Derek Lott**

It appears that 2021 is going to pose as much challenge as 2020. I was looking forward to 2021 and I am still very hopeful. No matter what, my focus needs to be on my goals. Most of us in the business world spent much of Q4 up to our eyeballs, developing the 2021 business goals. Even in the midst of social unrest, a pandemic, and political

instability, we had to recap the best and worst of the year and set goals to win in 2021.

While involved with this sort of business analysis, I realized, many years ago, that I was missing an opportunity to apply these analytical skills to my own life and build a personal plan for the coming year. Until that realization hit me, I'd typically spend a brief moment in thought before the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve, then "recommit" to the same resolutions I'd made the year before—only to quit before the end of January and repeat the cycle the following year. Research has confirmed that 90-92% of New Year resolutions fail. Many quit within 60 days of getting started.

Whether 2020 was a great year for you or not, it is now in the rearview mirror, and I challenge you to consider a different approach: Dedicate some time to plan your goals and put your goals in writing. A Harvard research study revealed that the 3% of MBA graduates who wrote down their goals were far more successful in the long run than the other 97%. If successful companies commit nearly three months to this exercise, imagine how much better off we would be if we committed even a few hours.

How do you start? The first and most important element of the process is gathering the required resources. You will need to allocate time. If you aren't willing to commit time to work on you, then none of this matters. You will need 7-10 hours to adequately create your plan. The only other resources needed are pen and paper.

I consider goal setting a skill that will serve you well through all aspects of your life and career. I've increased my skill and success by using the following steps in my approach to goal setting.

Step 1 – Brainstorming (2-3 hours)

Take time to write down what went well, and what didn't, in 2020. Brainstorm ideas that would make 2021 your best year ever. If you are new to this exercise, you will draw blanks for a bit, but keep pondering the questions. Think about your spiritual life, your family, your personal life and health, your professional life and finances. Maybe you want to help at the local nursing home or foodbank. Could a family vacation or reconciliation with an old friend be overdue? Could a bit more exercise or a healthier menu be an opportunity? Consider going back to school to further your education, saving more to your 401K, or paying off some debts. Keep asking yourself what would make 2021 special, memorable, amazing, stupendous, out of this world, your best year yet!

Step 2 - Organize & Prioritize (2-3 hours)

Now that you have all of this output, you probably feel really good. You've also freed up space in your mind to focus on organizing this information.

Best Year Yet, Continued on Page 9



Best Year Yet

Continued from Page 8

I use four buckets to categorize my personal and professional goals:

1. Spiritual
2. Personal (includes family and health)
3. Professional
4. Financial

Once I organize my goals into these areas, I give each idea a priority:

Priority A: There's no question that this is important and would be amazing to get done in 2021. It would drive disappointment if not completed.

Priority B: This is really important to complete as soon as possible, but I wouldn't be too upset if it didn't happen in 2021.

Priority C: This is a want, but if I don't get it done in my life, it's ok.

Next, assess the A list: Do I have the time to complete the goal? Do I have the finances required to make it work? Do I need others' support, and if so, are they on board? If you answer no to any of these questions, then reprioritize the item to a B or C. You should end up with one or perhaps two items to work on in each category. Do not try to boil the ocean. I have learned to avoid this tendency because it overwhelms and leads to prematurely quitting—and rightfully so. You want to pursue incremental and sustainable growth and development.

Step 3 – Finalize Actions And Accountability (3 Hours)

Give your goals a timeline by placing them in each quarter. If the goal will take all year, place it in Q1 and draw a line all the way to the end of the year. Take a good look at what you have created. If you are excited about the possibilities and a little nervous or even scared, you're in the right place. Next, sketch out the high-level actions needed for each of your goals. Sometimes it's hard to know all of the actions needed, but you should have a general idea of the steps needed to achieve the goal. Seal the deal by sharing your goals with someone who can hold you accountable. This could be a mentor, sponsor, spouse, friend. The key is to find someone who will take you seriously and call you out on your excuses.

As you work through this new process, remember that every step is not engraved in stone. As you learn and move through the year, feel free to adjust things. Caution: Don't

change goals because things become difficult! This is another opportunity to use your mentor in the process.

Review your goals daily until you have them committed to memory. This will help your subconscious mind influence situations that arise and may infringe on your key priorities.

Take these steps, and I guarantee you will go further and gain clarity on your journey. Remember, while 12 months may sometimes seem to fly by, it's more time than you think. A lot can happen in a year. Many external and unforeseen forces can be thrown into the mix, so allow yourself room for error and grace for changes to be made.

I'd love to hear about your experiences and answer any questions you may have. What are some tips and tricks that have helped you set and achieve your goals? Feel free to contact me at DerekCLott@outlook.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

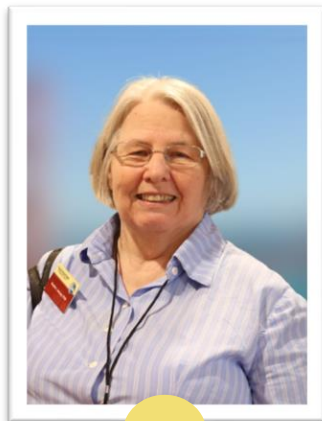
vgoodmanDTM@gmail.com



► REWARDING SERVICE

Sewist Extraordinaire Recognized for Selfless Service

by Robin Collins, DTM



Rauha Jessup

It is with great pride that I recognize fellow Toastmaster and friend, Rauha Jessup, DTM, for her outstanding community service. She's a resident of Tallahassee, and her knowledge and quiet focus are well known throughout District 84 and Division H, where she has become a valuable resource to all of our clubs. I first met Rauha in 2006, and she was an established member even

then. She has been a member of Toastmasters for long enough to have earned multiple Distinguished Toastmaster Awards – and we all know how much work is involved in achieving just one DTM!

Rauha is a member of several clubs and often holds multiple club officer roles across all clubs, including two roles in my home club, We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar. However, I recently discovered that attending Toastmasters meetings and assisting with Division H, Area, and club events are not Rauha's only volunteer activities.

Last spring, due to the Covid shortage of personal protective equipment, a notice went out to our local "sewists" to make fabric face masks for residents of Leon County. In typical Toastmasters practice, we'll pause for the Word of the Day: A sewist is a person who sews. In my childhood, a woman was referred to as a seamstress or sewer (pronounced "so-er".)

Rauha began sewing as a child, much like I did. In fact, we were both members of 4-H clubs in our home towns in the Northeast. Rauha's lifetime of sewing and volunteering was a great match for this project and she answered the call.

Rauha has previously presented speeches in our Club about her personal sewing projects and, earlier in 2020, we had personally talked about her sewing face masks for others. However, I was not aware of her extensive involvement in the face mask project until early December when I read an article in the local newspaper entitled "Sustainable

Tallahassee Honors Mask Makers." As I read the article I was awestruck!

I knew she had made and donated many fabric face masks, but I had no clue that Rauha would be one of the top 13 local sewists recognized for their service. According to the article, Rauha was recognized as one of the sewists having donated 300-499 masks! The total number of locally donated masks was 15,387 from scores of volunteers, but Rauha's contribution of time, materials and skill to make hundreds of masks this year is remarkable from any viewpoint.

I'm confident that Rauha Jessup is not the only District 84 member with a generous spirit, but it is so nice to see the public acknowledgement and appreciation of her generous efforts and to learn more about this wonderful Toastmaster, leader, and friend. ■

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



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
- ❑ Attend TLI on Jan. 23, 2021, and Jan. 30, 2021
- ❑ Conduct the Moments of Truth Assessment
- ❑ Complete Club Contests by Jan. 31, 2021
- ❑ Support Area Contests (Feb. 1 to Mar. 14, 2021)
- ❑ Report Two Educational Goals

► CLUB CORNER

Keep Your Eye On the Prize

by Vickie Goodman, DTM, District 84 Pathways Chair

Focus on Club Quality: A new year offers new opportunities to remember club goals, check club progress, and tweak our plans and goals. The Toastmaster year ends June 30th but we need to take a hard look NOW in order to make the necessary adjustment to ensure success of members and clubs. Take some time to complete the [Club Quality Checklist](#) to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your club, or reflect on club progress in achieving the goals made based on your [Moments of Truth](#) club evaluation last fall.

Semiannual Club Officer Election: Plan for club leadership. If your club elects officers twice a year, submit your new officer list online via Club Central or email it to clubofficers@toastmasters.org. Clubs without current officers will lose access to Club Central January 30, 2021. Start grooming members now to assume leadership roles in July. May elections will be here before we know it.

Complete Your Leadership Goal: Did all club officers attend training in December? There are still two Toastmaster Leadership Institute (TLI) sessions available via Zoom: January 23rd and January 31st. Officers must attend at least one session to ensure your club is on track to become a Distinguished, Select Distinguished, President's Distinguished, or even a Golden Gavel club. Attendees benefit from the knowledge, experience and inspiration shared during officer training and in a broad variety of elective sessions offered. Registration information is on the [D84 website](#) and has been emailed to all members.

Generate Publicity: Announce club contests and open house celebrations using every social media outlet available, including local news, organization sites, and community event calendars. Download professional [customizable fliers](#) and invitations to promote your event. Personalize and share them with friends, family, coworkers, and other members of your community. Ask every member to maximize your events by posting invitations and fliers on their own Facebook page with a comment of at least 3 words or use club funds to 'boost' your post for only \$7 for even better distribution.

Don't Wait to Increase Membership: Every club needs new members! Creating public awareness will bring guests to your meetings. In addition, local organizations often establish special awards to acknowledge outstanding service or effort. Search your local area for announcements of nominations for special recognition awards and apply for those awards relevant to Toastmasters (e.g. Best Business & Career Training). This is a great way to raise awareness about your club.

Speech Contests Excite and Motivate Members: Don't let your members miss this opportunity for fun and growth. Clubs must complete Evaluation, Humorous and International Speech Contests by January 30th! Resources for holding online contests are on the [D84 website](#). Club winners advance to the Area Contests to be held in March.

Exceptional Resources Educate and Inspire: There are so many resources available on both the TI and D84 website - you just have to take some time to EXPLORE! Have you noticed a new look on the TI home page? Use the left and right arrows at the center of each side of the 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! ■

► REFLECTION

2020: Not Just the Year of the Pandemic

by Bobby Blackmon, DTM, Division H Director



Bobby Blackmon

Finally, we are here! We made it! We are happily out of 2020 and into a new year! Mentally, I am jumping up and down and waving my hands out of joy, just like many of you.

At the same time, however, I can't help but wonder, "Why all the fuss about transitioning into a new year?" After all, on Friday, January 1st, the sun rose in the

morning and set at the end of the day, just as it did on December 31st. We are also still experiencing a world pandemic. When it comes right down to it, all a new year represents is a change in numbers, doesn't it?

Many of us take time at the end of our day to reflect on the challenges and achievements, considering what we could have done differently and areas of possible improvement. We then, smartly, use this information to plan an even better tomorrow. Could we not use a similar strategy for ending 2020 and transitioning into the dawn of the new year?

I think many of us felt as if we had been ambushed in 2020. We had no idea that the world we knew would change so drastically. Nor did we know that this unexpected and undesired change would last so very long. However, much as we might do at the end of an incredibly bad or "character building" day, we are thankful to look back on the past year with a sigh of relief, "We made it through!"

But the thanks should not stop there. We can count among our blessings the fact that we are no longer victims of that pandemic ambush. Our shared experiences have given us knowledge. We now know how to present effectively on video communication platforms and how to successfully work from home. We learned to survive, and even thrive, while spending day-after-day enclosed at home with loved ones; and, of course, we've learned ways to protect ourselves in environments that may not be best for our health. Most importantly, we effectively learned that we could take a sucker punch while at the lectern of life and still keep speaking, keep leading, keep standing

and keep moving forward! We learned these things and so much more.

None of us asks for tragedy in our lives. But isn't it amazing how those unexpected, unwanted, and inhospitable experiences that remind us of how human and vulnerable we are, can simultaneously demonstrate just how strong, adaptive, and elastic we can be?

As Toastmasters, we occasionally enter a meeting to find that not one of the prepared speakers showed up and the Table Topicsmaster is absent, yet we are unfazed by this situation. We simply move forward in implementing a productive and enjoyable meeting. This is the same opportunity, on a much larger scale, that the new year offers us. It can be argued that we were ambushed in 2020, and many of last year's challenges are still before us. But we are forewarned and thus armed with the knowledge and experience necessary to move forward and triumph. What are our 2020 takeaways? Experience, knowledge, and understanding! Subsequently, what will we do in 2021? Stand, speak, and continue to lead and move forward out of the chaos with plans for a productive and enjoyable new year. ■

Stellar Advanced Toastmasters

First and Fifth Saturdays
Zoom Virtual Meetings
10:30 A.M.

We are "Evaluation Central"
Contact: Joe Flanagan, DTM
sparky4braves@gmail.com

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

► COMPETITIVE EDGE

Enhance Your Toastmaster's Journey Through Advanced Clubs

by Paula Summa, DTM, D84 Club Growth Director

Are you practicing your contest speech? Do you want (or need) more detailed evaluations for your speeches or presentations? Do you wish to enhance your evaluation skills? Joining an Advanced Toastmaster Club may be just what you're looking for.

District 84 has eight Advanced clubs and two more that are close to chartering. Advanced club members are required to have completed a CC or Level 2 in Pathways. Some clubs may have additional requirements, such as dual membership in at least one other club.

Most advanced clubs focus on giving more detailed evaluations, many include a "Round Robin" evaluation, where everyone gets a chance to evaluate the speakers. Some clubs include Table Topics regularly, while others don't have them at all. Some clubs evaluate the evaluators and/or Table Topics. The one thing that they all have in common, is that they all have experienced members who are happy to work with you to enhance your Toastmaster skills. Many members are award winning speakers and/or evaluators, most are DTMs who are (or have been) in leadership roles, including District and International Directors!

Our advanced clubs invite you to visit them and see for yourself how an advanced club can truly enhance your Toastmasters journey! See the flyers located throughout this edition of Synergy, **Page 14**, and on the D84 Facebook page, to find out more about each of our Advanced clubs and how you can visit them!

Here are some testimonials from members of some of District 84's advanced clubs:

"Orlando Advanced Toastmasters (OATS) are trendsetters. Their expert evaluations will bring your speech to a competitive level. Anyone wishing to learn and grow through extensive evaluation is invited to visit OATS. We meet every first and third Saturday at 10:30 am."

— Sandy DePrimo, DTM

"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

"I never would have reached my level of success in Toastmasters competitions or in my business without the incredibly focused, high level, and valuable critique I've received at **ACE**, my Advanced Toastmasters Club."

— Jeremy Udell, DTM

"The value in joining **Stellar Advanced** is precision feedback, honest opportunity for longer Path projects, and to excel your own skills. The term "club" can be misleading. We are the premier training organization for advancing one's speaking and leading."

— Nate Guterias, DTM

"At **ACE Advanced Toastmasters**, experienced leaders and contest champions generously provide comprehensive, round-robin evaluations. The two-way feedback helps me to craft my presentations for maximum impact. Last year I was selected to present at Elevate Daytona Beach to give a TED-type talk and launched my consulting business, both with the confidence that my club would keep me speaking ACE-fully."

— Gina Tyckoson, 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

"I love being a member of **LensMasters** Advanced, because it gives me the opportunity to improve my photography skills while learning how to articulate my own artistic style. I recommend this club for anyone interested in photography, regardless of their current experience level."

— Chuck Field, DTM

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	7:00 PM; 6:00 PM effective February 2021	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	1 st , 3 rd 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

Speakers Bureau Helps Toastmasters Advance

by Mark Gai, ACS, D84 Speakers Bureau Chair

Did you know that as a Toastmasters member in good standing in our District, you now have the opportunity to apply and be listed for potential speaking opportunities outside of your current Toastmasters club?

Your profile listing in District 84 Speakers' Bureau is helpful to gain additional speaking experience (for those with aspirations to enter a professional speaking field), and also learn new speaking skills to reach diverse and eager audiences. This opportunity is in addition to your contest participation, leadership assignments and club educational pathways.

Event planners, conference organizers and community leaders are constantly looking for high quality speakers for their respective events. If you have a qualified expertise, tangible and proven subject matter content to share with audiences outside of Toastmasters clubs, consider submitting your application.

Here is just a sample of the diversity and breadth of topics from some of our bureau speakers (For a full listing of current members, visit the [D84 website](https://form.jotform.com/202818866825164)).

Apply Here: <https://form.jotform.com/202818866825164>



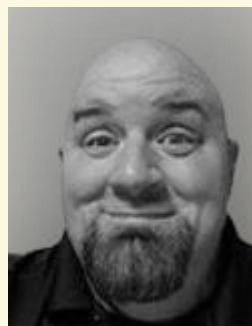
Dr. Manal Fakhoury, DTM can be described as an Ollin, Illuminator, and Cross-Pollinator. Her list can also include connector, influencer, scientist, philanthropist, inspirational speaker, coach and mentor. Her aspiration is to add value to others. An accomplished Toastmaster, storyteller, humorous speaker and activist. Manal is the President and CEO of Fakhoury Leadership International, a personal and professional development institute.



Fred Haley, DTM is a Certified Coach, Teacher and Speaker with the John Maxwell Program. Fred has conducted public speaking workshops, ghost written speeches for national celebrities and mentored business associates to improve their presentations. A member of Toastmasters since 1998, Fred has served as a District Officer for five years, won speech contests and earned two Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) awards.



Julie McLean, DTM is passionate about Toastmasters, Public Speaking, and Leadership. She loves to share her knowledge with as many people as she can. Julie specializes in presentations on Conducting Productive Meetings, Developing Effective Leadership Skills, Listen Effectively, and Bullying in the Workplace.



Joseph Shaw, DTM As master storyteller, Joseph writes and speaks about how businesses can foster Creativity and Innovation in team environments, how people of differing and sometimes entrenched ideologies can overcome their differences to have productive conversations, and how employing the paradigms of storytelling can produce tangible results in your work and personal life.



Gail Hill Smith, DTM is a Board Certified Health Consultant and Educator graduating with honors from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition - Columbia University. With over 25 years in the health industry she founded Your Nutrition Partners. The mission of YNP is to help close the gap of the health issues that can be eliminated or diminished with education around proper nutrition, lifestyle and nutritional supplementation.

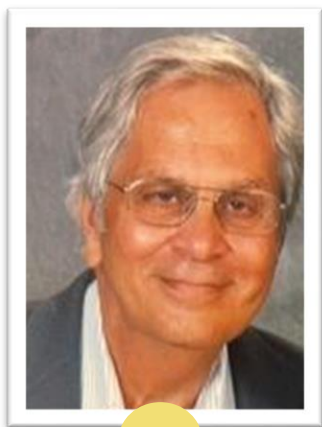


Jerry Smith, DTM is Southern Storyteller Jerry Smith uses his Southern voice to entertain audiences with his original Tall Tales and personal stories that reflect his experiences with Grandparent hood, aging and several humorous or embarrassing life experiences that involves snake handling (not on purpose) or doing a light show from the top of his head for the whole cul-de-sac. Jerry also has some inspirational stories that he enjoys telling.

► REFLECTIONS

A Tribute to George Bennis, A Storied Toastmaster

by Randall Crosby and Sandy Murphree. Submitted by Cathy Gorgensen.



George Bennis

I met George at my first Toastmasters meeting in August of 2018. He was a speaker that day, and though I forget the title, I'll never forget the speech itself and how it was delivered.

George told us about a day in 1963 when, on his way to work like any other day, the radio announcer told the world about the

death of President John F. Kennedy.

George brought the story to life and kept us enthralled from his first words to the last. He inspired me at that first meeting, and I thought, "I hope to be as good a speaker as he." I wanted to emulate his style, stage presence, humor, and his natural storytelling abilities. My experience helped me quickly understand that Toastmasters allows us opportunities to learn from others and, that day, we all learned something from George.

I began my Toastmasters journey just as George was ending his. I would have liked to have known him better and for a longer time. Those of us who knew George miss him a lot, not only for his great storytelling but for his kind heart and the many contributions he made to others.

— Randall Crosby, President, Toast of St Johns County Club #9551



George Bennis joined Toast of St. Johns County Club in his mid-70s, primarily because he enjoyed the socialization. He had a long career as a sales manager in Michigan, where he was also an amateur actor in various productions. We enjoyed George and George enjoyed us. He was our best storyteller right from the start, and applied these skills to nearly every role he took on. George enjoyed being our jokemaster and worked hard to find short stories that were to the point and always made us chuckle - a marvelous way to begin each meeting!

He loved Toastmaster contests and represented our Club at the Area and Division level in both the Humorous and International Speech Contests. George appreciated evaluations and was often heard to say that giving and receiving suggestions for improvement was one of the best parts of Toastmasters because it served as encouragement for us to keep doing what we do well! He also enjoyed being the test speaker for Evaluation Contests.

There are two stories George told that stand out in my mind. The first was his Elvis story about going to see the King backstage following a performance in which Elvis had selected George's wife, Carolyn, to participate in a song. Each time George told the story, we felt like we were right there with him! Even though we had heard the story before, he kept us so engaged that the ending always came as a surprise! The entire story was a dream! We knew it was a dream, but we still believed his story each time he told it. Now that is a talented storyteller!

The second was his speech about his first date. It was good, but we encouraged him to add more expression and physical gestures. He listened to all the feedback and started refining and developing this speech, using it in many humorous contests. It was a hilarious winner!

We miss George and his many stories.

— Sandy Murphree, Treasurer, Toast of St Johns County Club #9551 ■

Happy Charter Anniversary

Anniversary	Club	City	Charter	Area	DCP History	Club Info
62	Harris	Melbourne	1/1/1959	B 22	DCP-History	Clubinfo
60	Lakeland	Lakeland	1/1/1961	E 54	DCP-History	Clubinfo
49	River City	Jacksonville	1/1/1972	A 13	DCP-History	Clubinfo
35	Downtown	Orlando	1/1/1986	C 32	DCP-History	Clubinfo
31	The Talking Mocs (Florida Southern College)	Lakeland	1/1/1990	E 53	DCP-History	Clubinfo
11	The Reliable Speakers	Orlando	1/11/2010	C 33	DCP-History	Clubinfo
11	World Golf Village	St Johns	1/20/2010	F 65	DCP-History	Clubinfo
10	Toast to DB	Jacksonville	1/4/2011	F 61	DCP-History	Clubinfo
9	Energy Speakeasy	Orlando	1/13/2012	D 42	DCP-History	Clubinfo
6	Stick To The Script!	Orlando	1/7/2015	C 34	DCP-History	Clubinfo
4	Village Voices	Wildwood	1/6/2017	G 73	DCP-History	Clubinfo
3	ACTS2Speak	Melbourne	1/9/2018	B 21	DCP-History	Clubinfo
2	Pro-Talk	Jacksonville	1/9/2019	A 12	DCP-History	Clubinfo

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

Club*	Educ. Awards	July 1 base	Ratio
Let's Talk Toastmasters Club	20	14	1.43
We Can Speak-Podemos Hablar Toastmasters Club	18	14	1.29
West Volusia Toastmasters	11	10	1.10
Trailblazers Toastmasters Club	10	10	1.0
World Toasters	14	14	1.0
Apopka Foliage, Club 840	11	11	1.0
Florida International Talkers	10	11	0.91
Leadership Toastmasters	10	12	0.83
Daytona Beach Toastmasters Club	16	20	0.80
Top O' The Rock Toastmasters Club	16	21	0.76

*current as of 1/12/2021

► MENTORING PRIMER

Take Advantage of Toastmasters Mentoring Opportunities

by Paula Summa, DTM, Club Growth Director



Paula Summa

A mentor (noun) is an experienced and trusted adviser, while to mentor (verb) is to advise or train.

"If we seek help from knowledgeable and experienced people, we can achieve our goals faster and avoid making mistakes and wasting valuable time." — Sophocles

Toastmasters describes a mentor as someone who:

- Takes a personal interest in and helps an inexperienced person (mentee)
- Serves as a role model, coach, and confidante
- Offers knowledge, insight, perspective, and wisdom useful to the mentee
- Helps someone become successful and learns new skills themselves

Toastmasters offers the opportunity to serve as two types of mentors.

A *New Club Mentor* works with a newly chartered club for the first six months (or longer). This mentor is an experienced Toastmaster who is assigned to a new club prior to, or at the time the Club is chartered. They educate the Club on how to run a Toastmaster meeting, officer roles, contests, the DCP program, Pathways, and whatever else is needed. They guide the Club to become "self-sufficient" and successful. This type of mentor earns credit towards their DTM once they have completed their 6-month assignment. Often, the mentor becomes a member of the Club, and continues to work with the club long term.

The second type of mentor is an experienced Toastmaster who assists a new member individually. This mentor typically works with the new member for the first three speeches; however, it's highly recommended that they continue to work together for as long as possible. A member can request a specific person to be their mentor, or have one assigned to them. Typically, the VPE heads up the mentoring program in each Club, or a Mentor Chair

can be appointed. If your Club does not offer a mentoring program, or at least assign a mentor to every new member, please get with your club officers and request that they adopt this policy. Toastmasters has a downloadable training manual on Mentoring, as part of the Successful Club Series, as well as a separate Pathways Mentoring module.

Whether the mentee is an individual, or a new club, the mentor's job is to guide them in their journey by being a positive role model. The mentor provides the mentee with encouragement and the desire to learn and grow simply by answering questions, reviewing speeches, discussing meeting roles, offering positive advice, and effective feedback. The mentee is more confident because they have someone to rely on, which makes starting that new journey a lot easier.

We may not realize it at the time, but we have experienced many mentor-mentee relationships throughout our lives. Parents, family members, friends, educators, neighbors, and associates. Is there someone in your life that made a positive impact on you? Someone who shared their values and insights? Someone who "taught you the ropes" when you were learning something new.

I bet that most of you, as Toastmasters, have been (or will be) both a mentor and a mentee several times during your journey in Toastmasters. Do you remember your first mentor in Toastmasters? Mine was Sara Alsup. A wonderful lady whose smile and encouragement is what made my very first Toastmaster experience a positive one. Have you had the pleasure of mentoring a new Toastmaster yet? Or a new club? It brings a smile to my face whenever I see someone from one of the clubs that I have mentored attending a Toastmasters Leadership Institute or a District conference.

A mentor-mentee relationship provides many opportunities and has many rewards. Experience them for yourself. Benefit from the skills of a mentor — then become a mentor and share those benefits with others. ■

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

► DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Anyone Can Sell Ads—Even You!

by Rachael Assignon, Area 24 Director



Rachael Assignon

Not everyone was born to be in sales. I feel that way, too, even though I ranked top seller for Girl Scout cookies several years in a row in my troop. My sales career ended early in life.

The Voices Around The World Conference will be here before we know it. Even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, District 84 is planning an unforgettable

conference to maintain our reputation for holding legendary events. For many years, the conference has been an occasion to learn, network, and more importantly have more fun than any person should be allowed!

The District is keen on defraying the cost of the conference to members by selling ads and offering sponsorship packages to businesses. This is an opportunity for clubs, members, and businesses to get noticed in the conference book. We encourage members with businesses of all sizes to purchase an ad in the conference book. Make the services you can offer known to fellow Toastmasters in the District.

Consider approaching businesses that support Toastmasters clubs, such as trophy shops, printing services, caterers, and locations that host clubs. We rely on these services for the operations of our clubs, and they rely on our patronage. Return the favor by asking these businesses to purchase an ad and allowing District 84 to spread the word about their excellent goods and services.

Buy an ad to honor members' accomplishments, such as those who have completed a path in Pathways or achieved the DTM. Celebrate the Club achieving the Golden Gavel, President's Distinguished, and other designations. Division and Area Directors can give thanks to clubs and members for their year of service. Members can give kudos to the officers for an enjoyable year.

There are many sizes to choose from to make your ad come to life. The sizes and costs are posted in the [Conference Ad Sales Flier](#). Choose your ad size and sponsorship packages on this [jotform](#).

Not certain of the ad design for your Club or business? We've got you covered! We are offering design services for a nominal fee, so you have one less worry. The fee schedule, along with ad requirements and specifications, can also be found in the [Conference Ad Sales Flier](#).

If you're still not convinced that you can sell ads, we offer you the [Sales Talking Points](#). But wait, there's more! We are here to answer your questions and support you in the sales effort. Check out the last page of the [Sales Talking Points](#) for names and contact information.

Let's all pitch in to make the Voices Around the World Conference a stellar event! ■

Conference Incentives for Clubs Announced

Explore – 8 members (or 40%*) of your Club register for the Conference by March 1st, the Club will receive a FREE \$25 Ad in the Voices Around the World Collectable Conference Book.

Immerse – 15 members (or 75%*) of your Club register for the Conference by March 15th, the Club will receive a FREE \$45 Ad in the Voices Around the World Collectable Conference Book.

Inspire – if 20 members (or 100%*) of your Club register for the Conference by March 31st, the Club will receive a FREE FULL-PAGE Ad (\$125 value) in the Voices Around the World Collectable Conference Book.

*The smaller number applies. Only one ad per Club.

Additional details can be found at [Conference Incentives for 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

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 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, 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 (ie, making sure transition of rooms goes smoothly, making sure areas are secured, etc)
- Other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- Must be available May 13 – 16 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 criteria, click here to fill out the application.](#)
- Applications will be accepted until Feb 1st. Potential candidates will be notified by Feb 10th. ■

Accomplished Army Veteran is TLI Keynote Speaker

by Debi Jo Londono, Program Quality Director



Lily Bree Brannigan

Our Keynote Speaker for the January 30th TLI will be Dr. Lily Bree Brannigan. The Keynote starts At 6:00 pm.

Dr. Lily is a western North Carolina native where she was an all-county and all-state cross-country athlete and Girl Scout Gold Award recipient.

Lily left home in 1993 to enlist into the United States Army where she served in the Pacific Theatre as an East Asian linguistics specialist.

While stationed in Hawaii, Dr. Brannigan earned her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and then returned stateside to attend Cornell University, obtaining both a MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in Comparative Literature.

Lily relocated to the Los Angeles area for a few years to take a position at Mount St. Mary's University to simultaneously teach and work in the entertainment industry. A promising career was cut short when the ghosts of Lily's past presented themselves in the form of what the VA ranks as the most severe form of Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD). But ever the stout-hearted Girl Scout, Lily was determined to continue serving her community through whatever means possible.

She began volunteering at area festivals, at equine therapy centers, and by tutoring immigrants through the Adult Literacy League. She now dedicates most of her time as a volunteer in Florida's Guardian ad Litem program, serving in her home county as a voice for foster children who may otherwise have no one to speak on their behalf.

In 2019, Dr. Brannigan competed for the title of Ms. Orlando and won. The victory enabled her to become Central Florida's hostess for the Kennedy Space Center's 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Lunar Landing, welcoming men and women from all over the world to our great city in recognition of NASA's crowning achievement.

In 2020, Dr. Brannigan took the title of International Ms. Florida, qualifying her to move forward in competition towards the designation of International Ms. in June 2021. If crowned, she can facilitate the shattering of age-old stigmas that once precluded women from sharing their stories surrounding a mental health diagnosis. ■

► GRATITUDE

Recognizing Renate, a Superb Toastmaster

by Vicky Iozzia, VP of Education, Radiant Ridge Toastmasters



Renate Wilms-Rovin

On December 14, 2020, the Radiant Ridge Toastmasters, Club 5807 dedicated our virtual meeting to a highly valued member. As VP of Education, after consulting with the other club officers, I decided to plan a meeting dedicated to, in honor of, and appreciation for Distinguished Toastmaster Renate Wilms-Rovin. Our club members appeared on zoom, and people from the

Homosassa Park, where she volunteers, spoke on pre-recorded videos. As Toastmaster, I emceed the meeting.

Our members spoke first, sharing what they knew about Renate and how she has interacted with the members. You can tell why Renate was honored by the quotes of the members.

"Nothing gets her down."

"She is a bright light and inspiration."

"She is like the post office. Nothing stops her from doing her job."

"She has passion and energy, good organizational skills, and mentors members willingly."

One member said that when she was thinking about improving her speaking skills, she told her mother about it. Her mother knew Renate from her church, and because of that relationship, she recommended that she attend a Toastmasters meeting and meet Renate. She is presently an active member of our Club.

These are quotes from volunteers and staff at the Homosassa Park, who appeared by video:

"You put 150% into everything you do."

"You are hardworking; you never give up."

"Max the bear appreciates the opera music she plays for him at the park."

"You are a fantastic person. I am glad to know you."

"You are my role model. I want to be a strong, sassy, and free-spirited as you are. We all love you."

Besides being a DTM, she has held almost all of the officer positions multiple times. She is currently our treasurer, but she has held more than one office in a Toastmasters year. She has mentored many members, including me. She is always available to answer questions patiently.

Renate has Toastmasters in her blood and her heart. She meets and greets everyone who comes to a Toastmasters meeting. She is always willing to answer any questions and go out of her way to help. She sits with all prospective members and helps them to understand the application and fees. Our members respect her. Her speeches are memorable, including the one about her trip to the Galapagos, and her stirring passion for recycling resources. Renate is a superb Toastmaster. She has been a Radiant Ridge member for over 25 years and is also a member of the Advanced Club in Ocala.

Renate says yes to life, yes to everything in Toastmasters. She had dreamed of going to the Galapagos. Although she is suffering with an illness, and against her doctor's advice, she followed through with her dream and had a great time. She documented it with photos and gave a great speech on her experiences there.

Her volunteer activities outside the Park are many and varied. She is on the Board of the Friends of the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, she does gardening at the Park, and she does manatee, hippo, opossum, and gopher tortoise programs for the public, volunteers in the animal enrichment program, and she was a puppeteer with the Park group. She is very active in the Family Resource Center in Citrus County. She delivers Meals on Wheels. She is active in her church, spending part of her time making sure that the grounds are pristine. In 2016 she received an award from Altrusa as one of ten women "who shape our community."

Renate and I have been friends for 25 years. What kind of a person is she? When someone is sick, Renate is the first one to send a card, make a visit, bake something, and bring a thoughtful present.

Recognizing Renate, Continued on Page 24

Recognizing Renate

Continued from Page 23

When her husband passed away, I suggested that she volunteer at Homosassa Park, and the rest is history. She is beloved at the Park, and I tell Renate that I take credit for everything she does there because I recruited her. She is my role model for self-improvement.

For the table topics portion of the meeting, club members asked Renate questions about herself and Renate did all of the table topics, with ease. Some of the things we learned about her are: how she came from Germany to the United States (with her family, coming from East Germany, leaving everything behind), learned to speak English (having studied it in school, she knew English, and picked up the rest when she moved to the US), her favorite speech (recycling), and her career as a nutritionist (having trained in Germany, she had to retrain in the US).

Renate is a humble person, and has, in the past, had trouble accepting compliments. In her thank you note to the Club, she said, "I am all charged up and feel warm all over with the plethora of kind words. I will not say "I don't deserve it" because I know Vicky's wrath would be upon me. It was fun, innovative and entertaining."

With the hard times that we are living, I am so glad that my Club could pay tribute to our Krazy Glue that holds us together, the spark plug that gets us moving, and the Eveready Bunny who never stops working. We all had fun and felt good after this tribute.

In my opinion Toastmasters clubs that have a member like Renate should make sure to appreciate them as we did Renate. It showcases what people do for Toastmasters and what Toastmasters does for them. The meeting was recorded and is on

[YouTube](#). ■



Celebrating Distinguished Toastmaster Renate Wilms-Rovin

Help Me!-Pathways Q & A

by Vickie Goodman, Pathways Committee Chair

Q: How do I get full credit for completing a Level or Path?

Member Responsibility:

1. Every Level has from 3 – 5 projects to complete and there are a total of 14 projects required to complete a Path. If you have completed each project, including the before and after assessment, your progress can be seen in Base Camp on your Educational Transcript. Each project completed within a Level will have a check mark next to it; each Level completed will also be checked off.
2. The final step in every level is to select the LEVEL COMPLETION tab at the bottom.
3. Select MARK COMPLETE in the Level Completion box.
4. This will change the status for the level you are completing to PENDING COMPLETION APPROVAL and will trigger notification to your VP Education or other Base Camp Manager. I always encourage members to notify their VPE via email of the completion to be sure your request is processed timely.
5. After the VPE submits the approval, the status for the completed Level will change to COMPLETED and you can select the option to VIEW CERTIFICATE which will allow you to download or print your certificate of accomplishment.

VPE/Base Camp Manager Responsibility:

1. The VPE must also enter the member accomplishment in CLUB CENTRAL as follows.
2. On the TI home page select LEADERSHIP CENTRAL.
3. From the drop-down menu select CLUB CENTRAL.
4. Select SUBMIT EDUCATION AWARDS.
5. SELECT MEMBER NAME by opening the drop-down menu.
6. Use SELECT EDUCATION PROGRAM tab to select completed level from the drop down menu.
7. SUBMIT
8. Both the member and the VPE or Base Camp Manager will get email notification from TI of the award.

Need more help with Pathways? Join me for our Pathways support sessions on the 1st and 15th of every month. This is an open Q & A session starting at 7:30 p.m. at the following link:

[Click here To Join Pathways Open Mic Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 860 6865 0505, Passcode: 265141 ■

► CLUB PROFILE

Saint Mark A.M.E. Text Talkers Aim For A Baker's Dozen

by Eric C. Butler, DTM, VPPR, Saint Mark A.M.E. Text Talkers Toastmasters

After standing in line at your favorite donut shop, you purchase a dozen of the most delicious assortment of donuts that the shop has to offer. Before heading home, you open the box with great anticipation to get first dibs on your choice, only to notice, not twelve but, YES!, thirteen donuts. A Baker's Dozen!

That's exactly what Saint Mark A.M.E. Text Talkers Toastmasters (Club 1316760) is aiming for. Our Club meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Orlando - at least we did pre-COVID-19, but more about that later.

We began our journey in May 2009; a dream of many of us attending the church under the Mentorship of DTM Eva Mae Brinson. We chartered with over 20 members and set our course for maximum achievement. We didn't know much, but we were all willing to learn. Some wanted to become better communicators, some wanted to become better leaders, while some wanted to become both. Some, quite frankly, just wanted to attend to see who was there. The bar was set, we knew what we needed to do, and we completed ten DCP Goals to achieve the first of many President's Distinguished ribbons.

As a sports fan, when your team wins the Superbowl or World Series or NBA Championship, you want to see that same team accomplish this goal the next year. But the same team rarely exists next year. Some team members will leave over salary disputes, some will retire, and some will be lost as free agents. Management must rebuild the team each year. While our Club does not pay to play per se, our leadership team knew we had to refocus and rebuild every year. We retained the few that wanted to continue, thanked the ones that had been part of the achievement for the year, and presented everyone (yes, everyone) with a certificate for something (this is a Club perk).

On July 1st each year, our Club knew what was expected. We knew the team players on board, knew the goals and would shoot to achieve President's Distinguished. We did this for twelve consecutive years. It was never easy, but it was simple. Toastmasters understand this is a distinction: the path to President's Distinguished is simple, just follow

the steps. But climbing those steps can be challenging, and we learn not to get frustrated at the Club or any individual. Communication and leadership is not for everyone. Some attend just to check it out, while others continue, sharpening their skills to use as a springboard in their lives and careers.

Text Talkers encourages members from diverse backgrounds to find their voices. We create an environment where feedback is supportive rather than punitive. Meetings are structured, adhere to rules, and respect individuals - all while keeping it fun. We never cancel or postpone a meeting, and always get something out of every meeting.

We now meet in a post Covid-19 Zoom world, accessible via computer or smartphone. Members are excited to see what continued growth and success this new medium will bring to our Club. Our members are working on their Pathways goals, aiming to achieve President's Distinguished status once again. Twelve years is great, but thirteen is the delight of that one extra. ■

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► INTROSPECTION

Becoming Wiser From Worry — A Story About Self—Mentoring

by Debby Kerr-Henry, Area 90 Director



Debby Kerr-Henry

When 2020 wrapped up, I had learned something about myself.

My plan for 2020 was to prioritize Toastmasters for one year, really give it my all, and then reassess my time and commitments. That was the plan, and I like plans. I tend to get fidgety when there are no plans or when plans change unexpectedly. Not always. Not when change makes

sense or when I choose the change. But when change happens, without the benefit of a plan, my breathing gets a little shallow, and my brain says, “Hey! Remember that thing called oxygen? Well, you’re running a bit low right now.”

December felt like this as worry creeped in like flies on rotten fruit. Before I knew it, all my wise ways for reducing anxiety took a hike. Really? I wondered, when I need you most? I had stopped jogging and biking and reading and writing. But to be honest, I hadn’t been doing these things for months—the very things that clear my head and fill my heart. Instead, I spent my anxiety-filled hours praying over and over: “God help me. God help me. God help me, please.”

I don’t mean to overdramatize (which I realize I’m dangerously close to doing), but I had high hopes for 2020, as I do with any new year. I’d selected “2020 Vision” as my mantra. Perhaps a bit corny, but for me, it carried meaning. I had hyperventilated through the beginning of midlife when I experienced too much change without a plan. But I’d put those days behind me and, simply put, “Vision” seemed like a great mantra for 2020.

But December arrived with no such “Vision.” I’d like to blame COVID-19, but the anxiety I felt went much deeper. A loved one’s well being weighed heavy on me. I understood that worry was something within my control, but I still worried. By December, anxiety and worry so overwhelmed me that I found myself frustrated with Toastmasters for tugging at my time and much-needed energy.

This is why I started a brand-new day in this brand-new year by writing this article attempting to work out my frustrations and, hopefully, help other Toastmasters who also might be struggling with some of life’s ‘stuff’. I thought about creating a Top 10 List with some clever acronym of how to become wiser from worry, but when you pray, “God please help me,” you must be open to unexpected and unplanned direction. As I searched for lessons in last year’s experiences, I wanted to find revelations that held others accountable for my misery. But this was not the lesson. My misery manifested from within. I certainly had reason to lay low in December, to retreat into my own bubble. But that very reason was why I needed to allow for more self-care, to engage in those things that help me cope, remembering that proper self-care is not selfish. It is essential.

Additionally, I was reminded, during these uncomfortable times, that I am still wholeheartedly human (for better and for worse), and still wholeheartedly trying my best; thank you God. Somehow, I think that’s the point; all that can be expected. Sometimes I’m on top of my game; sometimes not. And when I fumble, I need to do what I need to do to pick myself up—jog, bike, read, or write. Reach out. Reach in. Breathe deeply. Breathe fully. Pray. Pray. Pray. Feel the worry—then let it go. And in 2021, continue to become. ■



► STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Let's Build Connections in 2021 — Toastmasters and Rotary Soar with Synergy

by Richard Hoar, DTM, Cathy Hoar, DTM, District 84 Toastmasters/Rotary Alliance Co-Chairs



Cathy and
Richard Hoar

Rotarians and Toastmasters are not all that different. Both have hearts of gold, both help others, and both meet regularly to build a strong network of people. These are a few reasons why the alliance between Toastmasters and Rotary is such a good fit and will ultimately benefit District 84. To provide tips, tools, and techniques to help clubs leverage this alliance, the District Trio is proud to announce the formation of the

Toastmasters/Rotary Alliance Chair (TRAC). Richard and Cathy Hoar have been 'volunselected' to lead this endeavor. The TRAC will support the District mission, work to provide updated information about the alliance and find seasoned Toastmasters from District 84 to become Alliance Ambassadors. The TRAC's mission will be to build lasting connections between Toastmasters and Rotary clubs that can have a personal and global impact.

The Rotary mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advanced world understanding, goodwill, and peace through their fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Three of the four Toastmasters' core values of integrity, respect, and service are found in their mission statement. The Rotary accomplishes its mission by uniting 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers to share ideas and take action to create lasting change. These shared aims are good reasons to nurture this alliance, which will in turn, help strengthen our clubs.

The alliance offers benefits to members of both organizations. Members of Rotary will be able to connect with more people and cultivate new friendships. As Toastmasters, we will foster new relationships and enjoy a new level of fellowship with like-minded individuals.

Members of Rotary have access to an enchanted leadership development program. It was designed by TI to help Rotarians to develop and improve their leadership skills. Hopefully, this will inspire them to join a

Toastmasters club and continue their journey of self-improvement.

By visiting a local Rotary club, you can invite Rotarians to visit, and even speak at, your Club. Explain they will receive an evaluation, which will provide valuable, constructive feedback on their presentation. As Toastmasters, this will help build our evaluation skills because we will have to provide an evaluation to a non-Toastmaster, and it could result in a new member!

These are a few reasons why a Rotarian should join a Toastmasters club, but we need your help in reaching them. What can you do to help out?

If you are a Toastmaster and a Rotarian we want to hear from you. Your input would be valuable and can help shape the direction and future of the alliance in District 84. Please contact Richard or Cathy Hoar at richard.hoar@oarelectric.com or cknott1@hotmail.com.

Next, start building relationships with a local Rotary club by visiting their club meetings and invite them to visit your Club. Attend the District 84 workshop about the Toastmasters/Rotary Alliance on Zoom, Friday, February 26, 2021, and learn how to become an Alliance Ambassador. Once you have attended the workshop, consider becoming an Alliance Ambassador. We are looking for seasoned Toastmasters to visit local Rotary clubs and present how Toastmasters can enhance Rotarians' leadership and communication skills.

Rotary makes a difference in the world. Toastmasters makes a difference in individuals. The synergy is not between Toastmasters and Rotary but between communication and leadership. Toastmasters offers Rotarians the tools to learn both these skills. When Rotarians become Toastmasters, they build their communication and leadership skills and become better equipped to tackle the world's problems. Do you want to have a part in something bigger than yourselves? ■



► FROM THE PRM DESK

Professional PR Materials Available

by Fred Bergeron, DTM, D84 Public Relations Manager



Fred Bergeron

Happy New Year District 84!

Can you believe we are at the halfway point of finishing out a spectacular, although rather challenging year? We have seen quite a few articles on SMART goals in this edition of Synergy.

Something to add to those SMART goals are membership and membership drives, and what a better way to do it, than to display those Toastmasters branded materials.

District 84 has an expandable telescopic trade show banner stand that is available on loan to Clubs, Areas, and Divisions to use at open houses and community events to promote Toastmasters. We also have three Toastmasters branded tablecloths and promotional materials available. Together, these materials can be used to create an attractive professional on-brand promotional display.



Contact [Pim Parpart](#) or any other member of the Trio if you are interested in borrowing these materials for you next event. ■

► WORDS OF WISDOM

Some Thoughts to Ponder

Submitted by Dr. Ashok Shahane, DTM

"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of." — Benjamin Franklin

"It's not that I am afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens." — Woody Allen

"A speech without a specific purpose is like a journey without a destination." — Dr. Ralph C. Smedley

"A day without laughter is a day wasted." — Charlie Chaplin

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." — Albert Einstein

"To err is human, to blame it on the other person is more human." — Bob Goddard

"A danger foreseen is always half-avoided." — Anonymous

"Tit for tat makes the whole world blind." — Mahatma Gandhi

"I destroy my enemies by making them my friend." — Abraham Lincoln

"Never forget three people in your life: 1) who helped you in difficult times, 2) who left you in difficult times, and 3) who put you in difficult times." — Buddha

LensMasters

Help charter a new virtual Toastmasters club dedicated to building outstanding communicators and leaders who love photography in all its forms. Members will learn to articulate their photographic visions and convey the stories behind their images. We'll share and discover new tips to improve our photographic skills, regardless of our current levels of experience. Join us on Zoom every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursday at 7:00 P.M. Eastern Time (GMT -4).



Join any LensMasters meeting as a guest.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84697165893>

Meeting ID: 846 9716 5893

For more information, contact Chuck Field: chuckfield2003@gmail.com

District 84 Club Ambassador Program

December 2020 Report

27

Reports received

23

Clubs visited

1

Ambassador
Award

Club Ambassador

William Lambert

Most Visited Clubs

- 2** Lakeland Toastmasters
- 2** Toast of Celebration
- 2** West Volusia Club
- 2** Winter Haven Toastmasters

Most Club Visits (Cumulative Points)

- 5** Linda Udall (39)
- 5** Denise Badolato (36)
- 5** William Lambert (35)

Best Practices

- A brief education moment to improve communication or leadership with specific examples.
- Invited a guest from another club to attend club outreach to get members to visit.
- Evaluation of table topics speakers.
- Evaluator and speaker were upfront together during the evaluation.

Best Quotes

- "don't always go by your first impression"
- "stretch our intellect"
- "the root of goodness lie in soil of goodness"
- let's smile more/peace begins with a smile"



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

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