



DISTRICT 84 TOASTMASTERS

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA

Volume 2, Issue 10 (April 2022)

Synergy



**WINTER PARK
TOASTMASTERS**

Club 3674

Winter Park, Florida



Winter Park Toastmasters Reap the Benefits of A Rich Club Culture *Page 6*

On the cover: Lilian Kattelmann shared her journey to the USA and becoming a business owner at the March 25, 2022 meeting of the Winter Park Toastmasters Club.

In this Edition...

Planting Seeds of Success By Discovering Hidden Talent	3
Beth Ramsay Appointed as 2022-2023 Region 1 Adviser	4
The Grass is Greener Where You Water It	5
Winter Park Toastmasters Reap the Benefits of A Rich Club Culture	6
We Are Unique And Creative Just Like Every Flower In The Garden	10
Weeding - A Vital Task for a Thriving Toastmasters Garden	11
Cultivate Your Garden with Pathways	12
The Magic of Time Travel	13
A Table Topics Spectacular	14
How to Speak With Diverse Audiences	14
Word Search Puzzle	15
What's Happening in District 84?	16

CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT

District Mission

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

Publisher

Debi Jo Londono, DTM

Public Relations Manager

Maria Martinez, DTM

Editor

Ramdeo Seepaul, DTM

Inform Section Editor

Vickie Goodman, DTM

Inspire Section Editor

Debby Kerr-Henry

Entertain Section Editor |

Marjane Taylor

Staff Writers |

Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

Sandy DePrimo, DTM

Ramini Sowjanya

Julie Salgo

Marjane Taylor, DTM

Kristine Totanes

Photographer |

Pamela Winter

Proofreaders

Pim Parpart, DTM

Julie Salgo

Cover Photo by Anglea Ardrey-Reynolds, IP5



**TOASTMASTERS
DISTRICT 84**
Serving Central & North Florida

**Empowering
individuals
through personal
and professional
development**



Synergy is a publication of Toastmasters District 84. Published once a month, the newsletter aims to inform our audience through relevant information and tools to help members and clubs to think and work creatively to achieve goals, inspire through ideas and stories that can be applied to our personal and professional lives and finally, entertain through content that is interesting and presented in a way that is fun to read.

Planting Seeds of Success By Discovering Hidden Talent

by District Director Debi Jo Londono, DTM; PQD Paula Summa, DTM; CGD Vickie Goodman, DTM

Most of us join Toastmasters because we recognize an inadequacy or shortcoming in ourselves – a lack of confidence, can't think on our feet, being afraid of or unable to speak in front of a group, lack of leadership skills, or just can't organize a project or presentation.

Debi Jo joined because she felt inadequate when presenting at business meetings. Paula joined to gain self-confidence. Vickie joined because her failure as a manager to provide employee evaluations earned her the reputation of being a slicer and dicer, leaving employees deflated.

And yet – here we are today, the top three leaders of our District.

We did not join Toastmasters to become leaders, but somewhere along the line, another Toastmaster tapped us on our shoulders and planted a seed with the simple words, "I think you would be good at...", or "You seem to have a gift for..." Suddenly our worlds expanded. The short path we had defined as our journey when we joined Toastmasters blossomed into a multi-lane freeway. Were these people correct? Did we have talent or a gift that we were unaware of?

We don't always see in ourselves what other people see in us. Sometimes it takes someone else to plant the seed.

Henry Ford said, "The true measure of a successful leader is their ability to discover the hidden talent in those they lead and challenge them to achieve greatness. You are right if you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing."

We all come into Toastmasters thinking we cannot. Yet the magic of Toastmasters is in its club mission: "...to provide a supportive and positive learning experience..." This is the framework upon which our dedica-

tion to mutual encouragement builds confidence in every member. Our focus on listening to and observing one another gives us the perfect opportunity to uncover those hidden talents.

If our District is to succeed in supporting the success of our clubs, we know we need a team of leaders willing to stretch their wings and discover the breadth of their talent. Everyone has a talent, ability, or skill that can be fertilized and cultivated through support and opportunity.

Look around your club, Area, and Division. Find the talent and plant the seeds of success and leadership. Leadership should be approached as an opportunity, not a chore. How can you help develop and build the District root support structure so that it blossoms and blooms?

Identify future leaders by their current actions. Who shows up early and often? Who is prepared to step in and take on a role at the last minute? Who is passionate about helping others and making a difference? Who is working their path diligently and who has the desire to acquire DTM status?

Mentor those that you identify, or help them find a mentor. You will build your skills while helping another person discover and develop their passion and skills.

Encourage these future leaders by inviting them to District events, such as TLIs and monthly forums presented by the District. Share your knowledge and share resources.

We are preparing to elect new club officers and District leaders. Many committees and events will require a leader, and it is time to plan for continuity and strong leadership at all levels. Have you felt that tap on your shoulder? Maybe it's time for you to blossom.

We don't always see in ourselves what other people see in us. Sometimes it takes someone else to plant the seed.

—
DISTRICT 84 TRIO

Continued on Page 4, Planting Seeds

Planting Seeds, Continued from Page 3

"Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you can imagine." (Roy Bennette)

Or perhaps you can support and nurture that seed you see in a fellow member. Reach out and let them know that you see the talent within because, as Nero said, "Hidden talent counts for nothing." Our District is yearning for these talents to be revealed.

Interested in leadership opportunities? Check out the [Club Leadership Handbook](#) and the [District Leadership Handbook](#). ■



From left to right: Paula Summa, Debi Jo Londono, and Vickie Goodman

Time and Time Again...

**District 84
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
May 13-14, 2022**

REGISTER HERE >

**Embassy Suites
by Hilton**

**Kyngs Heath Road,
Kissimmee FL**

Beth Ramsay Appointed as 2022-2023 Region 1 Advisor



Past District 84 District Director (2019 — 2020) Beth Ramsay, DTM, was appointed Region 1 Advisor by Toastmaster International. She will serve a 15—month term from April 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023 by providing support to Districts 2, 9, 21, 32, and 96. Region Advisers serve as mentors to guide and support the Districts while helping to increase their capacity to build membership and new clubs. These volunteers are also an essential link between the Districts and Toastmasters International. Beth plans to "to support the District leaders to achieve the District mission. I also view the Region Adviser role almost as the "Area Director" for Regions - meaning coaching, mentoring, and hand-holding (where appropriate) is all part of the role. It is NOT to do it for them, or tell them what to do, but rather share best practices and support where each leadership team needs it."

Beth brings 20-years of training, connecting, and coaching to this new position as well as a record of service to volunteer organizations since 1991 that she would like to continue. Completing a four-year commitment as a Club Growth Director through to Immediate Past District Director has taught her "a lot in the problem-solving and mentoring arena as it pertains to Toastmasters specifically."

District 84 congratulates Beth and wishes her well as she assumes this new role. ■

The Grass is Greener Where You Water It

by Maria Martinez, DTM, Public Relations Manager



Maria Martinez

The vivid argument started to sound like the well-known proverb “the grass is always greener on the other side,” suggesting that we often assume that better things are happening elsewhere, not around us.

“The grass is greener where you water it.” The words of my mentor resonate with me to this date.

When we join Toastmasters, we typically join with a fervent desire to grow. There is something within that fuels the need to find a club or accept an invitation to check a club out. In my experience, most people come because they want to learn something or to develop a skill or competency. They grow close to their fellow members, learn to appreciate our leaders, and enjoy the many benefits afforded by being a Toastmaster.

That is when we, seasoned Toastmasters, come in. For most of us leaders, it is intrinsic to our nature to reach out and help that new member achieve their goal. As their journey progresses, members embrace and welcome new challenges and opportunities. This is how we water the grass.

Someone saw something in me.

Although I did not envision where my path would take me, the encouragement and mentoring I received propelled me to accept opportunities to serve. As I grew as a confident member reaching goals and achieving my objectives, I became a mentor. After serving at the Club level, I felt equipped to take on what became a series of roles at the District level. The grass became increasingly greener for me.

Grab a watering can.

As we start to recover from some of the most unprecedented times, let’s seize all the opportunities to grow and help others do the same. After all, Toastmasters is the perfect environment for growth to take place, and as Toastmasters, we are the best people to help facilitate nurturing and development. Let’s start by renewing our commitment to ourselves and our clubs. We can’t pour

from an empty vase and then...then, let’s find those around us who are ready- hungry to take on the challenge.

Let’s water the grass because it is time to GROW:

G – Give yourself and those around you the best you have to offer. Give grace freely and genuinely.

R – Rally those around you and strengthen your club- your tribe. There’s power in community.

O – Observe and seize those hidden (or not so hidden) challenges and opportunities to serve.

W – Watch what happens when you believe in yourself as you share your experience and celebrate your successes.

As we begin to look towards the end of the Toastmasters year and the beginning of a new one I encourage us all to think of ways to develop our continued growth.

- Determine what will help you continue your journey
- Ask someone to mentor you or step up to be a mentor
- Explore the resources available
- Attend a District sponsored event
- Volunteer to gain experience

It takes a village.

It takes a group of dedicated people to run a club and our District. This is prime time for us to align and engage those with the desire, skills, and talents to continue their leadership journey. For us and the **Public Relations** team, this means people with varied skills and experience as writers, editors, proofreaders, graphic designers, videographers, photographers, social media managers, and other creatives. Not enough experience? Consider still stepping up because there is one thing we do well around here- we learn together. Please accept this as your personal invitation. Connect with a member of the PR team or me, and let’s talk.

Fill out this statement: *For the 2022-2023 year, I want to grow in these areas _____, _____ and _____. To achieve this, I need to _____ and _____. The best person to be my accountability partner or mentor would be _____, _____, or _____. I am committed to making this happen.*

The grass is always greener...when we water it. Let’s water our grass right here and now. ■

WHAT MAKES A
STRONG CLUB?

“

Diversity. The club is so
organically diverse. Many
generations and ethnic
groups are represented here.”

SEAN TUCKER

Connect. Engage. Grow. Thrive.



74+ MEMBERS STRONG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Park Toastmasters Reap the Benefits of A Rich Club Culture

**Story and Photography by
Angela Ardrey-Reynolds, IP5**



Sartorial Style: Consistently President's Distinguished Winter Park Toastmasters Club requires members attend meetings dressed for success in business casual attire, one of the many rich club traditions (March 25, 2022).

At a time when so many clubs are struggling to add members, how on earth does Winter Park Toastmasters Club (WPTM) attract and involve so many members? I made it my mission to find out.

I started by fulfilling my journalistic duty - *research and fact check*. I Googled their name and found WPTM appeared to have a current and robust presence across multiple platforms. I perused their social media and reviewed their website. I discovered some interesting facts that made the huge club membership even more confounding for me:

- *I discovered they started as an exclusive male club whose members consisted of doctors, lawyers, politicians, and businessmen.*
- *I also learned they meet only in person and hold high dress standards for all members. Their description on Meetup says, "We cater to professionals, so come dressed for success in business casual attire (jackets, collared shirts, and ties for men; collard shirts, jackets, or dresses for women)."*
- *And one more thing . . . they charge an admission fee! According to their website, "Attending members and regular guests pay a \$7 fee per meeting to assist with room rental and light refreshments."*

I couldn't help but wonder what was going on? Added costs and dress code are typically not a draw, but I didn't want my personal perceptions or biases to taint my investigation. I would maintain my journalistic integrity as I continued with my mission.

Next, I knocked on their social media door to see if anyone was home. I left a "Hi, let me introduce myself" message on their Facebook Messenger. The response was immediate, and the correspondence continued for days. Even before we met, Q&As were happening, relationships were building, and I anticipated our upcoming face-to-face meeting.

Finally, the day arrived. Dressed in corporate attire and with camera and portfolio in hand, I entered the door of Club #3674, focusing on my mission. I arrived earlier than the 7:30 a.m. start time, anticipating the usual hustle and bustle of meeting preparations.

The room was already professionally set up. Impressive. I was greeted as soon as I entered the room. Red table-



Blake Smith shared a speech at the March 25 meeting of Winter Park Toastmasters Club.

cloths draped the rows of tables, seats were labeled for all functionaries and the leadership team at the front tables. Breakfast foods and drinks lined the back table.

What a great first impression!

The flowsheet I was given as I entered offered the program agenda with descriptions of the various roles (which I'd noticed on the club website had been filled weeks before). Trophies were displayed by the lectern. This was more than I was used to seeing during a meeting.

Fellowship, Variety, and Communication were evident from the moment I walked in. Members arrived ready to participate. It was easy to engage with others while mingling and laughter set a light-hearted tone throughout the meeting. I learned that mem-



"Traditions. We keep the standards up. But what I love the most about this club is the friendships."

CARMELO BELARDO III



Carmelo Belardo III responding to a Table Topics question at the March 25 meeting of Winter Park Toastmasters Club. Speeches are recorded and shared on Facebook and YouTube.

bers meet regularly for social events, taking time to bond over common interests and pursue these outside the meeting. There is the weekly lunch at a local restaurant, women often go for coffee following the meetings, and there's even a group that formed a musical band after discovering their shared interest. The band, named "Double Clutch," after the Toastmasters speaking error when someone unintentionally repeats a word or phrase, has been entertaining Toastmasters and other groups for over two years.

Not only did this jam-packed meeting start and finish on time, the program flowed without a hitch, showcasing the club's thorough **advance planning and organization**. I enjoyed four speakers, four evaluations, numerous Table Topic presenters, and the usual evaluation team functionary roles. They also have a *Dinger* who periodically taps a hotel desk bell to remind a speaker to incorporate the word of the day and a buzzer for those experienced Toastmasters who continue to insert those unnecessary ahs, ums, and fillers. This very effective business meeting was designed to enhance the fun yet still respect the meeting structure.

Paper ballots were collected to acknowledge the top 2 Table Topics and Speeches. As a fun alternative, evaluators turned their backs to the room for the vote by raised hands, enduring some light-hearted comments ("Somebody please vote for the guy!") until the winning evaluator was acknowledged. Winners received trophies and lots of applause. Members' employers are notified of Pathway Achievements. As an excellent follow-up resource for members and guests, all speaking roles are videotaped and posted every week on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

As the largest club in District 84, I wondered about the membership drives. "Membership drives aren't necessary," I was told. "We're always getting new members."



Planned meeting intermission fosters camaraderie and relationship building by allowing members to mingle.

One member has been in the club for 41 years, and many others are not far behind.

So, what keeps WPTM thriving?

Club President Sean Tucker replied, "Diversity. The club is so organically diverse. Many generations and ethnic groups are represented here."

Amy White stated, "*Mentorship, community, and professionalism. My first mentor called me on the weekend and met me at my son's baseball game to hand me my manual. I was shocked how far he went out of his way for me.*"

Carmelo Belardo III commented, "*Traditions. We keep the standards up. But what I love the most about this club is the friendships. Honestly, if I need to sleep on their couch or borrow money from them, they're there for me. We build lifelong friendships here.*"

Jeff Rufenacht remembered, "*High standards and relationships. The first meeting I attended was a eulogy meeting for a WWII fighter pilot who had just passed a few days earlier. After that first meeting in 2004, I thought I would get better just through osmosis if I could just hang out here and not speak. That's how good this club is. This is not just a speaking club; this is a family. Also, I believe the high standards set us apart. We are a group of high performers and achievers.*"

After the meeting adjourned, I mingled with members seemingly reluctant to leave the camaraderie of their Friday morning gathering. My questions had been answered, and the lessons were clear: the keys to club growth and success are teamwork and a club culture that values planning, preparation, consistency, quality, responsiveness, camaraderie and timely celebration across every platform available.

Winter Park Toastmasters Club proudly engages every member and every guest, week after week.

Mission Accomplished! ■



Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

Strong Mind | Strong Body | Believe the Unbelievable. Professional Coach, Speaker, Writer and Photographer. Connect with Angela on [LinkedIn](#).

We Are Unique And Creative Just Like Every Flower In The Garden

by Sandy DePrimo, DTM



Sandy DePrimo

"Life begins the day you start a garden." — Chinese proverb

Every spring, we find ourselves planting new seeds in the garden, covering them with soil, and watering them in hopes of creating beauty in the world. How does that relate to Toastmasters?

Spring is time for renewal in Toastmasters. Our members are planting seeds of hope in the communi-

ty with open houses, trade shows, and special events that will catch the eye of potential members. Guests are invited to attend club meetings, aka the Garden Festival.

Selecting the seeds creates a forum for guests to experience Toastmasters in full bloom. How do we do this? Well, we create exciting table topics that pique their attention. The guests are invited to participate in hopes that they will begin to sprout before leaving the meeting. The intention is to show them that fear does not make a garden grow. The Garden Club can help erase feelings of panic and sprout new skills right before their eyes. A meeting invites them to think, "I want what you have."

Ideas to help your Garden Club meeting a blooming experience:

- Make guests feel like a welcome part of the garden
- Ask why they came to the meeting and what they wish to accomplish.
- Base table topics around the benefits of membership.
- Create a panel discussion on the benefits of membership.
- Get a booth at a fair or convention.
- Have themed meetings.
- Have an improvisation session in the club.
- Wear a Toastmasters pin to the grocery store.
- Talk about Toastmasters in a job interview.

- Have a mentor help them on the first visit so they can see the nurture they will receive.
- Talk, Talk, Talk.

In the short time I have been a Toastmaster, I have seen so many people start with an intense fear of speaking. They are more afraid of the first step on stage than the first word spoken. I tell them to look at the audience as a garden of potential. You, too, can flower and bloom like the other members. Every flower is special, and every Toastmaster is just as unique and beautiful. "People are beautifully made just like flowers in the garden!" – Mwanandeke Kindembo. It's time for you to be a part of the garden and bloom like a bright and colorful flower!

Matshona Dhliwayo said, "A seed is its own world, a garden is its own universe."

Each Toastmaster is a collective garden of talent and continuous growth. Be an example and praise the clubs' accomplishments every week. This will show the growth and budding of the speakers. It provides a feeling of security for the guests. They will want what you have. After all, an un-watered garden does not produce any flowers.

It's springtime, go plant your seeds for the garden club! After all, "Life begins the day you start a garden." — Chinese proverb. ■



Weeding - A Vital Task for a Thriving Toastmasters Garden

by Sowjanya Athmakuri Ramini, LD5, DL5, Area 93 Director



Sowjanya Ramini

On Articulators Toastmaster club's 26th Anniversary, Michelle Dettlaff, DTM, revealed the secret to running a successful Toastmasters club. "Just as different people have different personalities," says Michelle, a Toastmasters veteran of 20 years, "different clubs also have different personalities."

Building a community within your club is essential if we want members and guests to come back week after week. For instance, the Articulators club has a Rugby player, an artist, a CPA, and several small business owners. Club members support each other by going to rugby games and playing together; they support each other's businesses and civic and charitable activities.

"Isn't that part of the club mission – creating a supportive environment?" asks Michelle.

Rejoicing in the many great successes she has seen in her 20-year journey, Michelle lovingly mentioned promotions fellow members have achieved and members who have become keynote speakers. "Success looks different for different members," Michelle says, reflecting on when she had trouble finding a voice for herself in a male-dominated industry. Toastmasters equipped her with tools to express herself, becoming part of her success story.

What happens when you get a member who does not fit into the club culture? Clubs can quickly deteriorate if a member is working against the club's collective goal, bringing the whole mood, the culture, and the productivity down. Guests will immediately see and feel the disharmony in a club when a member is negative, disruptive, or working against creating a supportive environment.

According to Toastmasters International Rules, a club may collectively decide to "Vote-in" or "Vote-out" a member, choosing to accept or reject any individual.

"You will never have a flourishing garden if you do not care for the weeds," says Michelle.

This does not suggest that if a member is having a bad day, you should kick them out. Use your best evaluation skills and have a conversation with the member, identifying the problem behaviors, trying to resolve identified conflicts, and suggesting the areas of improvement. A member who is constantly negative or continually non-supportive requires some corrective action. If it does not work, club members may choose to dis-enroll the member by voting them out of the club.

If clubs do not pull the weeds, visiting guests will quickly see the conflict and will not want to return because they have no other experience with the club. After all, why should they? Take care of these weeds early and often.

Michelle speaks from personal experience. In 2006, Articulators did not have a positive and supportive club environment. It was not fun, and it felt like a chore to keep coming back. After realizing that not everybody is a viable member, Articulators decided to follow the vote-in and vote-out process, enhancing the club atmosphere and attracting positive members. The club has been thriving ever since.

Continued on Page 12, Weeding



Cultivate Your Garden with Pathways

by Rachael Assignon, DTM



Rachael Assignon

Voltaire once said, "Il faut cultiver notre jardin." Translation: we must cultivate our own garden. One of the ways we can cultivate our garden is through Pathways. Full of projects that lend themselves to growth, Pathways is designed as a trellis to support and stretch us.

If you're a regular reader, you may recall that we solicited your Pathways success stories in the February edition. The goal of the "Share Your Love of Pathways Campaign" was to collect stories about how Pathways has impacted Toastmasters in District 84. As a thank-you, we gave away two gift cards. The results are in! We are pleased to announce the winners: Kim Dombrowski and Sandra Savage.

The campaign was not really about gift cards so much as it was about the stories of transformation gained from Pathways. True to form, District 84 Toastmasters shared meaningful testimonials about how Pathways have transformed them personally and professionally.

While there were many enchanting stories, one Toastmaster stood out. She shared how she took leave from her career in favor of raising her children. Despite answering a higher calling, she was able to cultivate her seemingly dormant career through Pathways. Her name? Amanda Howard, DTM.

Amanda Howard initially joined Toastmasters in 2013 and quickly earned her Competent Communicator in the legacy educational system. Shortly thereafter, Amanda left Toastmasters and later rejoined in June 2018 in the wake of the Pathways rollout.

Amanda quickly adapted to Pathways and the E-learning modules as a corporate trainer. A self-proclaimed know-it-all, Amanda jumped into Pathways to get acquainted to facilitate learning amongst her fellow club members.

Working through paths, Amanda explored projects that would benefit her personally and professionally and

those around her. For example, her club was considering a name change. By leveraging the project 'Reaching Consensus' in Pathways, she led her club through the process of choosing a new name that was ultimately embraced.

Amanda is now actively interviewing to rejoin the workforce after a five-year absence. She is pleased to report that she can successfully answer any behavioral questions using applicable experiences from her time in Toastmasters. Amanda states, "I had specific examples about when I led a team, when I had to coach somebody, when I had to be innovative in my approach to a problem, how I resolved the conflict."

Amanda credits Pathways for her career blooming, despite not being employed. "I know that I am eligible for a higher level of employment because of my experience in Toastmasters. That experience was driven especially by the projects in Pathways," she stated with undeniable confidence.

Amanda earned her DTM in Pathways in July 2021, and she's just getting started. Where will Pathways take you? ■

Weeding, continued from Page 11

It was truly a painful and challenging process, but the outcome was rewarding.

"Magic happens when you find engaged members who can see the bigger picture and are looking to improve themselves, not just somebody who wants it for their resume," Michelle observed.

Water, sunlight, and fertile soil are essential for a successful garden. Similarly, a desire to learn, commitment to being mutually supportive, and courage to be authentic are necessary to bloom in the Toastmasters Garden.

Michelle observed that many clubs are struggling right now. "It is possible to turn the club around, but you have to make hard decisions," declared Michelle. "If members are sabotaging healthy growth at your meetings, pull the weeds - vote them out!" ■

The Magic of Time Travel

by Landon Proctor, DTM



Landon Proctor

If anything on this planet is close to magic, it is time. Time moves faster when you have fun and moves slower when your boss has meetings that could have been summed up in an email. Time causes shorter northern days and longer southern days, and time zones help us equalize time across the globe.

Time is the one thing that no one can have more of and the only thing that we all have for sale. The only way this Toastmaster has found to describe time is as magical. There are no wands and no spells, but the magic is undeniable.

There is nothing like stepping off a 6-hour flight and realizing that it only took you three hours according to local time. Time has given you bonus hours, thanks to those magical time zones! This is exactly what would happen if you left Orlando International and flew to Los Angeles International Airport. Sure, it's still beautiful and sunny, but it is significantly less humid, and everyone has a place to be. You need a place to be too if you are going to fit in, and you have three bonus hours now. What are you to do? Might I suggest visiting a new Toastmasters club?

This is exactly what I did on my first visit looking for a new home and a new home club as I moved from Florida to California. As I was greeted at the first club I visited, I couldn't help but be amazed that I was standing in the same region where Ralph Smedley held his first Toastmasters meeting almost one hundred years ago. I had physically time-traveled to be at this meeting but in my mind, I was time traveling to the late 1920s. I was imagining Toastmaster Smedley introducing me to the other members of his club, the sound of the gavel echoing across the room, the finely dressed men (wait, where are all the women?) and even the smell of cigars in the air as people gave speeches and received feedback all in hopes of improving themselves. I am soaking

it all in, absorbing the past, and grinning. My smile must have caught the attention of the club president, who decided to call on me, and suddenly I was yanked into the future and back into my time. Like any good club president, they had called on me to introduce myself. I am a little dazed as I had just rocketed through 100 years of time and space as if I was Captain Kirk on another weekly adventure aboard the Starship Enterprise. I wonder if I am some type of Time Wizard but soon realize that I am again surrounded by the diverse group of men and women who make up a modern Toastmasters club. I am overjoyed to be back in my own time with great people who weren't living in my imagination. These people are all there for the same reason: to improve themselves. The magic of time cannot change that, despite the challenges, circumstances, and pandemics that it may throw at us.

I spend the week visiting a few more clubs until I find my new home club and even manage to find a place to live in between my visits to Toastmaster clubs. My flight back to Florida does have one surprise left for me. Time decided to take back its bonus hours. Time sure is magical. ■



2020-2021 DISTRICT 84 LEADERS

HALL OF FAME AWARDS LUNCHEON DISTRICT 84 CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022 AT 12 PM

PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE BY
REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE

A Table Topics Spectacular

by Julie Salgo, Retired Learning and Development Consultant



Julie Salgo

Plagiarism is the best form of flattery. Why reinvent the wheel when we can visit other clubs and learn from them, while collecting Ambassador Points for ourselves in District 84? Here's a new approach to making Table Topics the focus of your club's open house, allowing maximum participation and fun for all members and guests.

Rather than soliciting speakers for the program, recruit 3-6 Table Topics Masters (depending on your time allotment). Ask them to work together to prepare 3-6 different ways to run their own Table Topics session. Each must execute their portions within 6-8 minutes. Obviously, the less they talk, the more target speakers they are able to include within the given time limit.

Assign an evaluator to each Table Topics Master to provide an evaluation of the presentation within the usual 2-3 minutes.

Recruit two timers, one to time the six Table Topics Masters and the six Evaluators, the other one can time all the respondents who should be allowed 30 – 60 seconds. The shorter time allows for more participants and keeps the action moving through the room.

Other roles might include Grammarian with the Word of the Day, Ah Counter, Vote Counter, and Chat Monitor. Adjust these roles to allow participation by everyone at the meeting.

When conducted with energy and enthusiasm this format for an Open House can be quite impressive and allows guests to experience the crisp time management and a variety of ideas, meeting roles and comments. You may also be surprised at the positive feedback from attendees at the end of the meeting.

This is also a great way to fill in when a prepared speech is not available. I think evaluating Table Topics provides a great opportunity for Table Topics Masters to grow and learn in this role. How many of us are guilty of speaking more than the respondents?

As a club Ambassador, I have learned many tips, tools and tricks to take back to my home clubs, and I encourage others to do the same. ■

How to Speak With Diverse Audiences

Giving a speech or presentation to an audience of people who speak various languages or have differing cultural backgrounds requires special tact on the part of the speaker. Here are some tips and techniques on how to effectively engage a diverse audience:

- **Enunciate clearly.** If possible, try to speak with a neutral accent to better include all audience members.
- **Don't speak too fast.** Remember that the normal pace of speech in one language might become incomprehensible for people relatively new to that language.
- **Be careful with metaphors.** Some metaphors that are appropriate in one culture can be offensive to another. A good example is references to sports not popular or practiced in a certain country, or phrases that are comical in one culture yet offensive in another.
- **Know the meanings of words outside your native language.** Unless you are absolutely sure of the meaning and pronunciation of a word you are using in a given language, do not use it. In some languages, slight variations of a vowel will completely alter the meaning of a word.
- **Avoid slang, jargon and idiomatic expressions.** Diverse audiences may not understand slang from a given country. English phrases such as "that dog don't hunt" or "cool as a cucumber" might be colorful, but the meaning could be lost on a large part of the audience.
- **Be mindful of body language, eye contact and personal space.** Posture, mannerisms and eye contact speak volumes and what is taken for granted in one culture might be considered offensive in another.

Source: <https://www.toastmasters.org/>

Word Search Puzzle

by Julie Salgo, Enigmatologist

Pathways is an online curriculum, providing a customized, interactive, and flexible learning experience tailored to specific learning needs. Members can work on projects whenever and wherever they want. There are 11 specialized learning paths to choose from. How many can you identify in this word search puzzle?

I	D	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	I	E	S	I	A	M	U	H	F
N	X	R	Q	L	D	Y	V	P	V	Q	N	A	E	D	W	J	E
F	S	S	E	D	J	C	R	I	F	N	J	A	O	T	I	V	N
L	C	P	W	T	S	G	T	E	O	P	L	A	N	N	I	N	G
U	I	G	I	U	W	C	A	V	T	L	H	M	F	S	I	B	N
E	M	S	I	H	E	L	A	K	F	S	M	J	A	D	X	N	C
N	A	E	O	F	S	T	T	H	H	B	A	U	O	D	A	O	I
C	N	Y	F	K	I	N	C	N	H	U	S	M	Z	V	L	I	G
E	Y	E	L	N	B	J	O	B	E	R	M	B	K	L	H	T	E
V	D	P	G	S	G	S	A	I	E	M	S	O	A	L	B	A	T
I	P	P	T	U	I	B	C	P	T	M	P	B	R	V	S	V	A
S	F	Y	O	E	Z	D	H	F	I	A	O	O	U	J	K	I	R
I	B	E	N	G	A	G	I	N	G	R	L	Z	L	W	O	T	T
O	P	C	V	E	L	M	N	U	A	Q	R	E	W	E	G	O	S
N	P	M	R	I	M	E	G	T	O	S	J	T	R	C	V	M	F
A	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	J	O	E	X
R	S	X	D	K	K	O	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	D
Y	R	B	W	F	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	N

Coaching
Collaboration
Communication
Development
Dynamic
Effective

Engaging
Humor
Influence
Innovating
Leadership
Mastery

Motivation
Persuasive
Planning
Presentation
Relationships
Strategic

Strategies
Team
Visionary

What's Happening in District 84?

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 Club Coach & Mentor Forum

With: WC "Bobby" Blackmon

May 2nd

8:00 PM

This month's highlights:

"How to Strengthen Your Club"

Let's talk about ways to elevate your club, reestablish structure, and other proven ways to strengthen membership.



TOASTMASTERSD84.ORG

Meeting ID 847 0417 6502
Passcode 318989

AREA DIRECTOR

WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE ON THIS
ROLE? WE HAVE THE ANSWERS!

LEADERSHIP PANEL DISCUSSION

A panel of experts, including past and current Area Directors, will be on hand to answer your questions and help you decide where you want to go in your leadership journey.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW



Monthly Sessions

Learn how PATHWAYS is the companion on your Toastmasters journey!

Zoom ID: 853 1202 4512
Passcode: 448672

17th of every month at 7 pm ET

April focus

Open Mic Night:
Bring your questions

May focus

Open Mic Night:
Bring your questions

June focus

Open Mic Night:
Bring your questions

**TOASTMASTERS
PATHWAYS**
— learning experience —



new Synergy Podcast

Episode 23

The Challenge of a Pandemic Mindset

In this episode, John accompanied by Fred Bergeron and Stephana Johnson, PRM District 7 explore current challenges that affect membership, and growth worldwide.

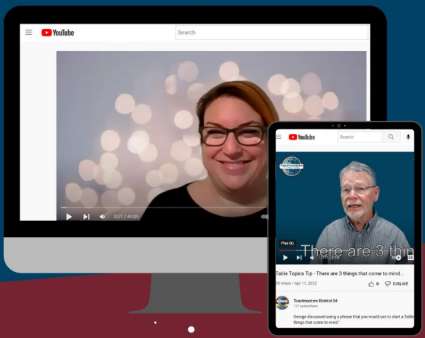
Hosted by: John Morrow

<https://toastmastersd84.org/the-d84-synergy-podcast/>



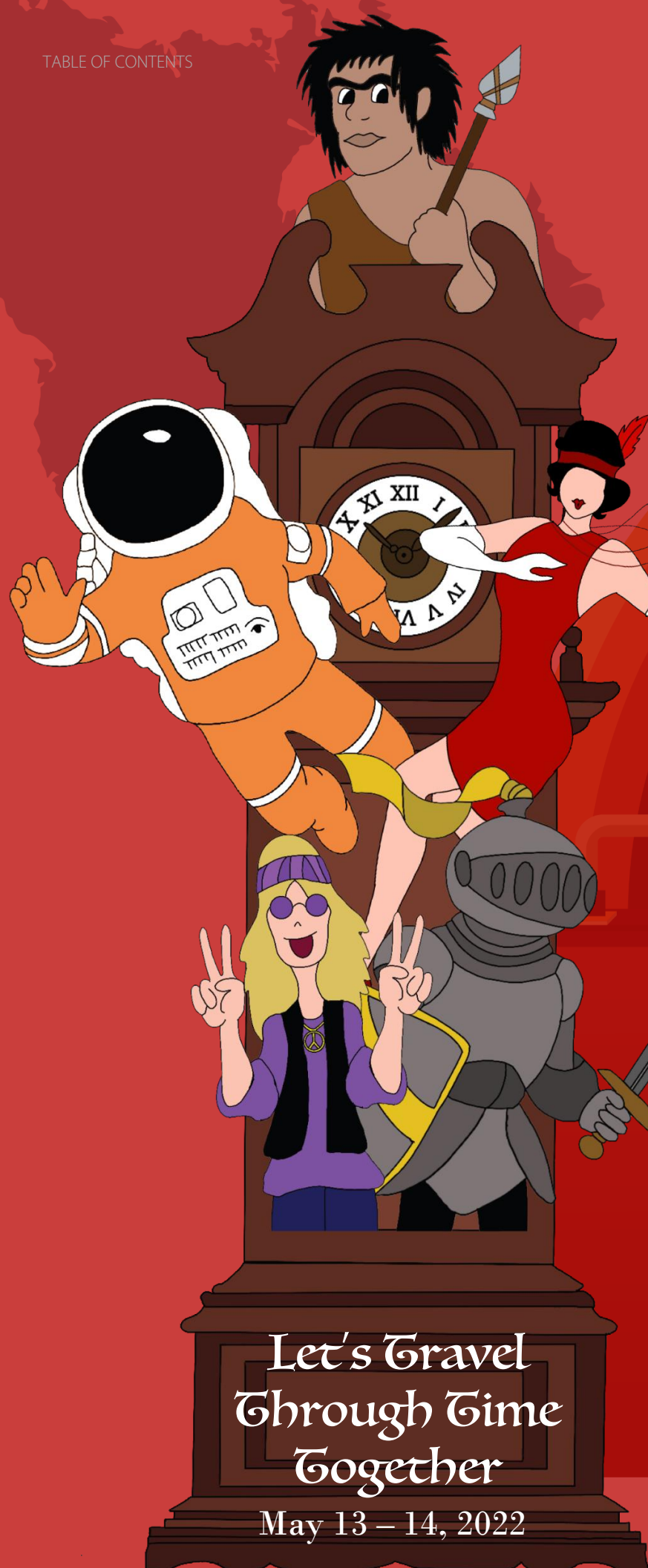


DISTRICT 84 YOUTUBE





CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE



Let's Travel
Through Time
Together

May 13 – 14, 2022

2022 District 84

CONFERENCE
SUPPLEMENT

Welcome From The Conference Chair



Barbara Amato, DTM

Welcome Time Travelers!

Prepare to embark on the event of a lifetime. Toastmasters District 84 annual conference is a time to reflect, celebrate, and prepare for the future.

This year's theme, Time, and Time Again, time travel, is something that people have considered for as long as we remember. Think of Hollywood and all the wonderful time travel movies. **Romance**, "Somewhere in Time", "About Time", and "The Time Traveler's Wife"; **Humor**, "Back to the Future", "Austin Powers, The Spy who Shagged Me", and "Hot Tub Time Machine"; and the **Thought Provoking**, "The Planet of The Apes", "Time After Time", and the classic "The Terminator".

Each of these show an author, director and actors who let their imagination run free. After two years of political strife, pandemic, and now international tension, it is time for us to step back and open our minds. We can only affect change one step at a time, and the first is the ability to imagine and inspire.

Our conference is a place to teach, mentor, learn, and move forward.

Our eight educational sessions will follow two paths: Timeless Classics and Time of Enlightenment.

Along with standard educational sessions, we will offer the Time Warp Tech Lab, where you can sit with five leaders in technology to sharpen your skills (I would recommend that you bring your laptop.) Topping it all off is the Smedley Lounge, a place to relax, network and spend time with your fellow Toastmasters.

We will have our Talent Show on Friday night, hosted by Dennis Wooldridge. Here your friends will entertain you with their skills. We also have our costume contest and dinner with friends.

Saturday will be an eventful night. We will have the energetic Landon Proctor as our keynote speaker and view the International Contest Speeches and the announcement of the winners.

Our legendary Hospitality Suite will be open both nights after the conclusion of dinner. We will also have all the standards, Basket Raffle (bring in your baskets!), 50/50, and our salute to Veterans.

This is just the tip of the ice burg. Time and Time Again will offer each of us an opportunity to learn, relax and recharge. As Toastmasters, we are leaders in our families, communities, and clubs. It is important for us to grow, challenge, and rejuvenate.

Let's Travel Through Time Together!

[Register here!](#)



Time travelers at the Time and Time Again Conference reveal held during the 2021 Voices Around the World Conference, May 2021. Photo credit: William McCombie, DTM

Conference Schedule

Friday's Schedule

May 13, 2022

1:00-5:00 p.m. — Registration Desk Open

1:00-5:00 p.m. — Smedley Lounge Open

1:00-5:30 p.m. — Raffle Table Open

6:00 p.m. Banner Parade

6:15 p.m. Pledge, National Anthem,
Color Guard

6:35 p.m. Salute to Veterans

6:45 p.m. District Director Opening
Remarks

7:05 p.m. Recess for Dinner

8:15 p.m. Costume Showcase

8:30 p.m. Talent Show

9:30 p.m. Costume Awards

10:15 p.m. Hospitality Suite

Saturday's Schedule

May 14, 2022

8:00-12:00 p.m. — Registration Desk Open

8:30-11:50 a.m. — Time Warp Tech Lab
Open

8:00-4:30 p.m. — Raffle Table Open

8:30-4:00 p.m. — Smedley Lounge Open

8:00 a.m. First Timers Session

8:30 a.m. See Education Schedule

12:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon

1:45 p.m. Keynote Workshop

3:00 p.m. See Education Schedule

4:00 p.m. Basket Drawing

6:15 p.m. Doors Open for Dinner

6:30 p.m. Dignitary Procession

6:45 p.m. Inspirational Moment

6:50 p.m. Recess for Dinner

7:40 p.m. Keynote Speaker

8:10 p.m. Contest Announcements

9:55 p.m. DTM Walk

10:25 p.m. 2023 Conference Reveal

10:35 p.m. Installation of Officers

10:45 p.m. District Director Farewell
Address

10:55 p.m. Incoming District Director
Address

10:55 p.m. Raffle and First Timer
Winners

11:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite



Bobby Blackmon, DTM, 2020-2021 Division H Director, led the Division H contingent during the Voices Around the World Conference Banner Parade, May, 2021. Photo credit: William McCombie, DTM

Keynote Speaker

Landon Proctor, DTM

Landon P. Proctor comes to us today with a perspective on Toastmasters clubs and District cultures that most haven't yet had the chance to experience. Over the course of the last three years, Landon has been an active, physically present member of four different Toastmaster Districts across the United States. Life circumstances forced him to move from the friendly confines of District 84 of Florida to Southern California where he served D1 and D52. Eventually moving yet again to the Big Easy, New Orleans, Louisiana where he now serves in D68. He has not just seen but has participated in these Districts from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast and to the Gulf Coast where he lives now. This Coast-to-Coast Toastmaster is a self-made entrepreneur, venture capitalist, performer, charity founder and director, and even a professional pirate.

Keynote: The Coast to Coast Master

Club culture is a term that is thrown around by leaders at all levels of Toastmasters and is used to describe organizations, businesses, and communities. The whirlwind story of Landon Proctor's involvement in 4 districts in 5 years will showcase how culture affects members. Through exploring clubs and districts coast to coast and examining the effects of cultural phenomena, he is ready to share what he learned on his journey as the Coast to Coast Master.

A Timeline of Landon's Toastmasters' Journey

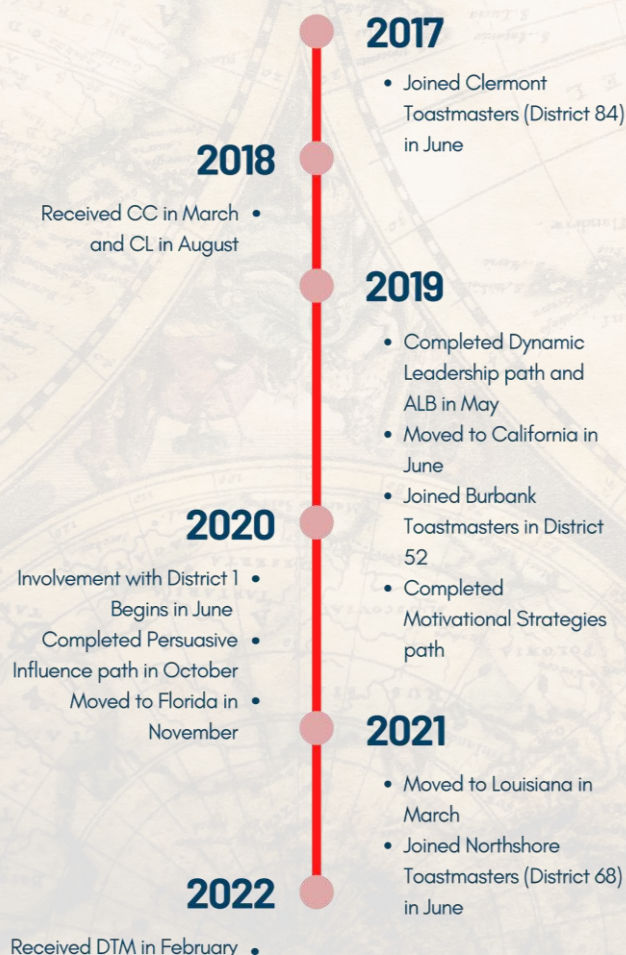


Photo credit: William McCombie, DTM

Educational Sessions Schedule

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Session Time	General Sessions	Time of Enlightenment	Timeless Classics
8:00 a.m.	First Timers, make the best of the time you have <i>Presenter: Amy Anne Fischer</i>		
8:30 a.m.		A Time for Leadership <i>Presenter: Earl Kitchings</i>	From Once Upon a Time to Happily Ever After: the Power of Storytelling <i>Presenter: Angela Ardrey-Reynolds</i>
9:40 a.m.		Speak and Profit Now <i>Presenter: Mark Gai</i>	Time for Diversity and Accessibility <i>Presenter: DeeJae Durante</i>
10:50 a.m.		Here and Now of Toastmasters: A Momentous Endeavor <i>Presenter: Debby Kerr-Henry</i>	How to Create Learner-Centered Experiences <i>Presenter: Rachael Assignon</i>
1:45 p.m.	PLEANRY: Move It or Lose It – Creating an Impactful Club Culture <i>Presenter: Landon Proctor</i>		
3:00 p.m.	Laughter Yoga <i>Presenter: Brenda Alloco</i>	Unleashing your Undeniable Leadership <i>Presenter: Donald Toldson</i>	Your Timeless Story, Easily Crafted <i>Presenter: Tom Hobbs</i>



Recipients of the District 84 Golden Gavel Award at the 2021 Voices Around the World Conference, May 2021. Photo credit: William McCombie, DTM

Time of Enlightenment Educational Sessions

These sessions are inspirational and are geared toward developing leadership and personal growth.

How to Speak Now, So You Can Get Paid Later | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 9:40 a.m. | Presenter: Mark Gai

Giving a speech and speaking for profit are two different skills. Novice speakers give up too soon and experience disappointment that can derail their speaking careers. Many aspiring speakers are too bashful, inexperienced, and often too afraid to charge for and monetize their knowledge. In this session, you will learn how to position yourself as an expert and get paid for your knowledge, experience, and skill set. Learn from my mistakes to shorten your learning curve while creating a talk that gets you the applause and cash in the bank.



The Here and Now of Toastmasters: A Momentous Endeavor | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 10:50 a.m. | Presenter: Debby Kerr-Henry

A contemplative discussion about the meaning of Toastmasters—post pandemic. Let's regroup and reset with intentionality and purpose. Why are we Toastmasters in our present times? And why should we direct valuable time towards Toastmasters? Perhaps it has something to do with the word: momentous. I believe we need to personalize and own these answers to move forward with renewed energy and purpose.



A Time for Leadership | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8:30 a.m. | Presenter: Earl Kitchings

This presentation will discuss several prevalent factors for developing and becoming a dynamic leader. This session will address what makes an effective leader, leading from the front, leadership standards, and leadership courage. Participants will discover the importance of being an interactive leader and ways to implement simple suggestions for improving their leadership role.



Unleashing your Undeniable Leadership | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m. | Presenter: Donald Toldson

Most undiscovered leaders are an often-underutilized resource in most organizations. While some people (i.e., professionals, managers, volunteers) are stretched to their capacity, others in the organization must emerge to provide leadership to their peers and administration. This session will challenge and unleash the potential leadership capabilities and qualities from within. Learn to discover the undeniable leader. You will learn about the principles and benefits of effective leadership, the need and value for leadership, self-discovery in leadership, and the cost and price of leadership.



Timeless Classics Educational Sessions

These sessions focus on skill enhancement and are applicable to any stage of the Toastmasters' journey.

From Once Upon a Time to Happily Ever After: the Power of Storytelling
| Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8:30 a.m. | Presenter: Angela Ardrey-Reynolds

We hold the keys to our own adventures and possess the power to create a journey worth traveling. A speech that hooks your listener is a speech that reveals your heart. You will learn that you are the creator of your world through your words and your story. You will learn how to create a speech worth remembering using the 5 W's of journalism with a unique twist - human emotion and heart.



It's Time for Diversity and Accessibility | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 9:40 a.m.
| Presenter: DeeJae Durante

As Toastmasters, we specialize in communications and practice leadership skills. What happens when we interact with someone and realize they have a disability? We may feel embarrassed since we may not know how to communicate as well as we thought. In this session, we share ways to be prepared for these situations. You will learn how DEI is related to communication and how it's becoming more important and imperative we learn and discuss.



Your Timeless Story, Easily Crafted | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m. | Presenter: Tom Hobbs

Cut the difficulties to learn and retain your speeches or presentations. You can reduce time and increase your authenticity when crafting your presentations. You will experience what changed it for me: cut the time to learn your presentation, say it with authenticity, recall all the important words every time. You will learn a simple formula for crafting your timeless stories.



How to Create Learner-Centered Experiences | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 10:50 a.m. | Presenter: Rachael Assignon

Have you ever considered being a trainer? In this interactive workshop, we will explore principles of adult learning to create immersive learning experiences that engage life-long learners. This session will challenge old thinking by implementing effective techniques and exposing rookie mistakes.



General Educational Sessions

Laughter Yoga | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m. | Presenter: Brenda Alloco

Laughter Yoga has the power to change your mood within minutes by releasing certain chemicals from your brain called endorphins. The class takes you through a series of intentional laughing exercises followed by breathing techniques that help get more oxygen into your body, ending with a deep breathing and calming exercise that will have you feeling great and relaxed.



First Timers, make the best of the time you have | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8:00 a.m. | Presenter: Amy Anne Fischer

First Timers session is your chance to get all your questions answered about what to expect from your conference experience, meet other First Timers and meet your current District Trio. It will be short, informative, and fun. It's all for YOU! Hope to see you there!



Move It or Lose It – Creating an Impactful Club Culture | Saturday, May 14, 2022, 1:45 p.m.. | Presenter: Landon Proctor

A vibrant and consistent club culture creates an opportunity to exceed your goals, retain members, convert guests, and form an engaging, memorable event with each meeting. Your culture must fit you and your club, but it also must fit your community. Exercise your mind, body, and social skills in this dynamic workshop exploring club and District culture. In this session, you will play physical and mental games and challenge yourself and those around you to discover the formula for creating a vibrant and welcoming club that is guaranteed to attract new guests and retain current members.



DTM Class of 2021: District 84 Toastmasters who were recipients of Toastmasters International's highest educational award, the Distinguished Toastmaster or DTM, at the 2021 Voices Around the World Conference, May 2021. Photo credit: William McCombie, DTM

The Evolution OF FASHION

Middle Ages (500 to 1400)

Medieval clothing was colorful. Even the cheapest clothes would be dyed in one form or another. The color of your clothes represented your wealth. Pants didn't exist for most of the middle ages. People wore hoses attached to their undergarments—practically thighs for males. Hats were very common and fashionable.



Roaring 20s

"The Roaring Twenties" women became liberal with barrel line tunic dress with a dropped waist and an asymmetrical hemline. Their hair was a bob paired with a cloche hat. They wore heavy makeup emphasizing eyes and lips. The "College Boy" as young men were called, often wore double-breasted jackets with Oxford bag trousers or knickerbockers.



Prehistoric (33,000- 10,000 B.C.)

Neanderthal man was probably the first to make clothing. They tanned animal skins to make clothing and boots. Humans used bone and ivory needles like these to sew warm, fitted garments. The needles show how humans found a skill in working with bone.



Victorian (1820 and 1914)

This period is renowned for corsets, bonnets, top hats, bustles, and petticoats. Full skirts largely dominated women's fashion during the Victorian period. Shirts were made of linen or cotton with low collars and were worn with wide cravats or neckties. Men wore top hats with wide brims in sunny weather.



1940s

After the depression, shoulder pads became popular for women. Dresses were made of men's suits due to the rations. Makeup highlighted the eyes and lips with mascara and bright red lipstick. Men's fashion of the period stayed similar to the times before. They had a short cut, combed back hair. Suit jackets had wide lapels and wide-leg pants.



The Evolution OF FASHION

1950s

Women wore shirtwaist dresses with full skirts. Hair was short and curled, and they always wore gloves when out. Men wore the "Grey Flannel Suit" with narrow shoulders, oxford shoes, and a fedora hat. They wore casual clothes like the plaid sports shirt with pants while they were with their family in the suburbs.



Current Times

2000s fashion is a mash-up; trends saw the fusion of previous vintage styles, global and ethnic clothing (e.g., boho), as well as the fashions of numerous music-based subcultures. Hip-hop fashion generally was the most popular among young people of all sexes, followed by the retro-inspired indie look later in the decade.



Hippie 70s

Fashion in the 1970s was about individuality. Anti-conformist casual-chic approach to fashion consisted of sweaters, T-shirts, jeans, and sneakers. 1970s fashions for women included Tie-dye shirts, Mexican 'peasant' blouses, folk-embroidered Hungarian blouses, ponchos, capes, and military surplus clothing. Pants included bell-bottoms, gauchos, frayed jeans, midi skirts, and ankle-length maxi dresses.



Future

We are on the cusp of an integrated fashion that links directly with technology. Clothes embedded technology to achieve tasks such as data gathering. Size adjustments may be automatic; new textiles may bring the ability to weatherproof garments. Future fashion will feature: growing garments, modular-shape apparel, 'flavored' couture, body-nourishing clothes, 'power' garments, 'connected' couture, 3d printed clothes, and lab-grown leather.



2021 Voices Around the World

FLASHBACK



Photo credits: William McCombie, DTM

Time and Time Again...

Let's Travel Through Time Together



TOASTMASTERS
DISTRICT 84
Conference
May 13-14, 2022

Your guide to:

- Conference Program
- Keynote Speakers
- Educational Sessions
- Award Recipients
- Conference Ads
- And much more!

2022 District 84 Conference Book



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

Photo and Graphics Credits: Koki Kubo (logo, Page 1), Angela Ardrey-Reynolds (Pages 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9) Pamela Winter (Page 4), William McCombie (Page 4), Maria Martinez (Page 5), canva.com (Pages 10 and 14), Sandy DePrimo (Page 10), Sowjanya Ramini (Page 11), Rachael Assignon (Page 12), Landon Proctor (Page 13), Pim Parpart (Page 13), Julie Salgo (Page 14)