



**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

# The Founder

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

JUNE 2014



Daniel Midson-Short  
**WINS CONTEST**  
at District Level

*Why Le Gourmet?*

*District Messages*

**The Hidden Support  
of Toastmasters**

*Travel As*

*A Toastmaster*

MR.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

*More than a Speech:*

*My Journey to a  
Keynote*

**...and MORE!**

**Founder's District:  
The Birthplace of Toastmasters**



**Marie Hulett,**  
**Editor in Chief of *The Founder***  
**(with Bonzi, her pet chicken in 1978)**

Those of you who read the last issue of *The Founder* will probably remember I am a huge animal advocate. In fact, animals have always been a big part of my life. One of my favorite pets was my rooster, "Bonzi." I got him and his sister as just-out-of-the-egg baby chicks; they were part of my 4-H project and both were "guaranteed hens!" (My best friend, who was also in 4-H, got six "guaranteed hens," of which five turned out to be roosters!)

Even though having a rooster seriously impacted my egg-laying hen project, I have to admit, Bonzi was probably the most remarkable and wonderful pet I have ever had.

This bird thought he was a human...or more likely, my family and I were some really strange looking chickens! He would watch TV basketball games with us and try to peck the ball on the screen. He closely watched the players run from one side of the court to the other. It was hysterical.

Bonzi would sit in my lap and coo, preen my hair, or bring me worms to eat. In fact, he would not be satisfied unless I pretended to eat the delectable tidbits he presented; then he would trot away proudly and find me some more!

Though my home was "technically" not zoned for chickens, I lived in a community that had "grandfathered" agricultural residences everywhere. Most of them are long gone now, replaced with tracts of cookie cutter homes, and home owners who would probably have a fit if

one of their neighbors had chickens. But my neighbors all loved my two birds and often came by to visit and bring them treats. They were neighborhood celebrities.

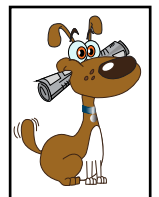
Recently, I started to look into how I could change the zoning codes in the city where I currently live so that I can have three or four pet hens. I'm a vegetarian for ethical reasons and I do not wish to support the extremely cruel and inhumane egg industry. Having three or four hens would supply my family and me with all the eggs we need—not to mention, I miss having pet chickens.

There has been a nation-wide trend where cities are re-evaluating their old codes that forbid owning these wonderful creatures. So I decided to bring it up to my city leaders at a recent council meeting.

I prepared a speech and presented, and to my surprise, I felt my voice quavering and my knees shaking! I couldn't understand how that could happen. I give speeches at Toastmasters all the time, AND I host a radio show. In spite of that, I couldn't calm my nerves. I was very frustrated. But when I finished, everyone in attendance remarked about the terrific job I did presenting!

All the Toastmaster speeches at my club had paid off. Even though I was nervous, I put into play everything I had learned and I was able to deliver a speech about something I was passionate about. I would encourage all of you to try this; it's an amazing experience. I don't know if the chicken ban in my city will change any time soon, but I'll keep you posted.

Now-onto a little fun. In our last edition, I had you all search for "Founder" the dog (who was hiding on p. 8 in the plaque and p. 10 on the shoulder of the woman wearing stripes). Two lucky winners were given free admission to the District Conference. Founder is again hiding in two spots in this issue. The first two readers who correctly identify both locations will each win a \$25 gift certificate to the Toastmasters International Store. If you find him, email me at [mhulett@coastline.edu](mailto:mhulett@coastline.edu). Happy Searching!





WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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© Richard Dennis Daugherty Photography

Enjoy browsing photos by Richard and Linda Daugherty from our fabulous birthday celebration and District conference, including the International Speech and Table Topics Contest. (P. 24 and 25)





## Harry Yan, DTM Founder's District Governor *The Essence of Excellence*

Isaac D'Israeli, father of British Prime Minister Benjamin D'Israeli once said, "It is a wretched taste to be gratified with mediocrity when the excellent lies before us." As we head down the home stretch and look ahead to the new Toastmasters' year, my fondest wish for you is for you to aim high, embrace excellence, and soar above the level of mediocrity.

To live a life of excellence we must first understand excellence is a not an act, but a habit. It is not something we do once, but something we do over and over again. Aristotle once wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do." The key to excellence lies in the habits that we acquire. Good habits are the essence of excellence.

There are two basic habits that will empower us to live a life of excellence. The first is, learn something new every day. Learn a new word or a new language. Step outside your comfort zone and learn a social skill such as public speaking, coaching, encouraging the elderly or counseling students. If we are to excel, we must be well informed and versatile. Maslow once said, "When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail." Imagine someone hammering a screw or kicking a vending machine to make it work! Fill your tool box with a vast variety of tools by learning something new

every day. At any moment we could lose our job or even lose our life savings, but we cannot lose the knowledge nor the skills we have acquired.

The second habit is to maintain a positive attitude. The first habit empowers us to achieve our goals. The second habit enables us to enjoy the journey. One way to maintain a positive attitude is don't let fear of failure prevent you from trying new things. Don't focus on failing. Focus on succeeding. If you think you can't, you won't. If you think you can, there is a good chance you will. It's your attitude that determines your altitude. Remember, our glory is not in never failing, it is in rising each time we fall.

Another way to maintain a positive attitude is, turn a negative situation into a positive one with humor. Just think of how much better you felt after a good laugh. Laughter gives us the power to rise above a setback so that we no longer feel sorry for ourselves. The ability to see humor in a situation eases stress, fear, hostility and anger, and releases built-up tension. None of us have complete control over all the things that happen to us, but we do have a choice in the way we perceive them--humor helps. Take the things that you do seriously, but take yourself lightly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Governor this year. It has been an exhilarating and enjoyable experience--an experience that I will always cherish because it has immensely enriched my life. I thoroughly enjoyed working side-by-side with my fellow District officers--making new friends and deepening relationships with long-time friends. This is not the end of a journey, but a beginning of another chapter. I will continue serving Founder's District as the Marketing Advisor and other supporting roles. I look forward to meeting with you and getting to



know you better in the new Toastmasters' year. I wish you all the very best for success. Pursue your passion. Learn something new every day. Maintain a positive attitude and you will soar above the level of mediocrity.



Photo Courtesy of Richard Daugherty

## **An Interview with International Speech Contest Winner Daniel Midson-Short** **By Ian Cunliffe**

**Ian:** So Daniel, what first got you involved with public speaking?

**Daniel:** I was 17 and living in Australia when my school introduced public speaking as part of a youth leadership program. I really enjoyed it and the experience taught me how to think and speak on my feet.

A few years later, I started my own coaching business at the ripe old age of 24. I was doing life, business and executive coaching, and people were constantly looking at me and asking 'Exactly how old are you?' And back then Australia was not exactly fertile ground for the life coaching movement. But somehow, I pulled it off...

**Ian:** When did you realize you were actually pretty good at public speaking?

**Daniel:** About 4 years ago. I joined Toastmasters and I started with the goal of "What can I learn from this?" and I quickly discovered that the Toastmasters program works a lot like an exercise program - the more you work at it the stronger you get. I'd been in Toastmasters for around 6 months when my club president suggested to me that I enter the humorous speech contest. So I did. I went on to win for my club, area and division, and I was shocked when I went on to win district! But I gained immensely from the repeated experience of study and practice. It was when I won at district that, while I knew I still had a lot to learn, I started to realize that I had potential.

**Ian:** What was your message in this year's speech?

**Daniel:** My message and my title were both "Pay attention!" Pay attention to the things and the people that are important to you in your life.

**Ian:** How did you settle on this for your message?

**Daniel:** I was traveling in France, visiting the Louvre, when

I witnessed a strange phenomenon. Here were all these people amidst this stunning setting, yet no one was really looking at the art! Everyone was taking photos and then walking off while posting them to Facebook, without actually looking at or really experiencing what was right in front of them.

I realized that this was symptomatic of a greater problem that many of us experience. When we are with special people or in a special moment, are we really in the moment? Or are we busy checking status updates on our smart phones?

**Ian:** What are some important elements of a winning speech?

**Daniel:** A clear message that people can take away is essential. Generally, your message needs to become clear within the first couple of minutes. There are exceptions, but more often than not it's good to be clear on your message right up front.

Another important element is that the delivery is clearly practiced, without being too obviously prepared. Steve Jobs is worth studying for this. He rehearsed obsessively but always sounded like he was having a one-on-one conversation with his audience.

**Ian:** If you could give some advice to a speaker who was about to compete at district, what would it be?

**Daniel:** I'd talk about preparation. It's important to block out your time 3-4 weeks in advance.

Go to several clubs in the first 2-3 weeks and look for feedback. Your speech is working if the comments people give you after the speech are very specific about how your message or a particular part of your speech touched or affected them. But if audience feedback is of a general variety like: "It was great," then you may still have some work to do.

You want to make all your adjustments in the first few weeks and then commit to the final version in the final week. It's important to settle on that final version and really be able to visualize it.

And how you drill is very important too. Don't drill in your head or in the shower. Drill out loud, and drill at something. Visualize inanimate objects as people if you have to - my couches have been some of my best practice audiences!

**Ian:** What are you doing presently outside of Toastmasters?

**Daniel:** I'm a consultant for a company called Primespeak. I help dentists and their teams to achieve better communication and stronger relationships with their patients.

**Ian:** Thanks Daniel! I appreciate you sharing your thoughts with my readers. Good Luck in Malaysia!

*Ian Cunliffe is an author and public speaking coach. His articles and other interviews can be found at [www.publicspeakingwisdom.com](http://www.publicspeakingwisdom.com)*

## Reflections on the Year

*By Siri Payakapan, Ph.D., DTM, PRO*



It's hard to believe this is the last month of my working with you and for you as your Public Relations Officer (PRO), responsible for "Letting the World Know" what's happening in the 200+ Toastmasters

Clubs in our District. Besides on-the-job training, I have gained fresh insights into District leadership dynamics, how to collaborate with leaders with diverse points of view.

Time flies when you are having fun!

If you were at the Leadership Breakfast in February, you would remember that everyone was asked, "What leadership role you were interested for next year?" I surprised myself by responding confidently "Lieutenant Governor Marketing (LGM)." I was ready to challenge myself with the next higher level of leadership.

I am sure you would agree that Toastmasters never stop giving us opportunity to grow. Running my LGM campaign, I recruited fabulous leaders to help designing a flyer; setting up Facebook Page "Siri Payakapan for LGM"; showcasing campaign flyers at area, division and district contests. You might have read my email announcing my candidacy a week before the Spring District Conference. But you missed my 2 minute- and 1-minute prepared speeches, because nobody ran against me. What a relief!

The most rewarding experience was forming a LGM team. Knowing that marketing requires quick responses from anywhere in the District, I reached out to many of you in all eight divisions. Retaining strong clubs and membership will be a high priority. To charter as many new clubs as feasible, we have

four New Club Launch Teams lined up. Each team is responsible for two divisions. With your leads and active participation, many new clubs can be promptly chartered anywhere within the District.

Starting on July 1st, you will have LGM team of 27 strong leaders who are committed and ready to work with you to strengthen retention, attract new members, and build new clubs. Looking forward to more fun with you all!!!



## What Makes Clubs Successful?

*By Pan Kao, DTM, LGM*

Why are clubs like Parsons Toastmasters (2151) and Possibilities Unlimited (7368)

so successful? How can I, as the LGM, duplicate the success of these clubs in all clubs in Founder's District? It's easier said than done. The answer relies on one word—volunteers. Toastmaster's International is a volunteer organization and it needs a lot of volunteers to be successful.

The word "District Leadership" has different meanings to everyone, including Division and Area Governors. Almost everyone thinks that District Leadership means District Trio. Personally, I strongly feel that it should include Division and Area Governors. Actually, they are where rubber meets the road. All the heavy lifting is done by them, not the District Trio. Appreciate and say thanks to your Division and Area Governors when you have a chance.

The Trio, Division, and Area Governors need to communicate well and share the same goal in order to be successful as a team. It is for that reason that The Founder's District needs more than just the District Trio. It needs a team of volunteers. Hopefully, incoming 2014-2015 Division and Area Governors will also feel strongly that they are part of the District Leadership.

With them as the major part of the District Leadership, Founder's District will be shining next year and will have many successful clubs as well.

## Let's Make Founder's District DISTINGUISHED!

By Linda Ulrich, DTM, LGET



Can you see us? How about now? We're walking across the stage in Kuala Lumpur carrying a banner that declares that Founder's District is a Distinguished District!

Yes, we are that close and it's all because of your great accomplishments this year. We started the year with 212 clubs and 8,844 membership payments. We currently have 206 clubs (we need 219 to be Distinguished), 8,946 membership payments (we need 9,110), and 72 Distinguished clubs (we need 85). If we want to be Select Distinguished we will need 223 clubs, 9,287 membership payments, and 96 Distinguished clubs before June 30. We can make this happen, but it's going to take each of us completing those communication and leadership awards and bringing back members who've left

Here's what we need each of you to do. Call members of your clubs that didn't renew in March and tell them you miss them and want to know what you can do to help them make the decision to come back to the club.

Sometimes it's money and we can't fix that, but sometimes we all just want someone to recognize our efforts and appreciate what we offer. But membership is also about the skills we learn and share with each other and the benefits we receive – share that with those folks as well.

If you attended the Spring Conference, please send an email to me to let me know what you thought went well and where we can improve. These conferences are for our members, so the only way we know what you think is if you tell us. Send your comments to [lget@foundersdistrict.org](mailto:lget@foundersdistrict.org).

Did you receive your postcard for the upcoming LACE sessions on June 7 and June 21? Go to [www.foundersdistrict.org](http://www.foundersdistrict.org) and register for the sessions you want. Although this is where most of our incoming club officers receive training, it's also an opportunity for us to hear about topics that matter to us as Toastmasters members and individuals. You can't get better training for the \$12 registration fees. If you are an incoming officer in a club that had all seven officers trained in January/February, contact your Area Governor for special instructions to receive your \$5 discount. Register now!

Our first DEC meeting of the 2014-2015 Toastmaster year on Thursday, August 28 is a celebration of the successes in 2013-2014. This is the time when we recognize our best of the best in the District – Area Governor of the Year, Division Governor of the Year, and Toastmaster of the Year. Everyone is invited to attend. Be looking for more information on the District website around July 1.

If you completed the Competent Communication manual between July 1 and June 30, contact Della Mahone ([della.mahone@pmi-oc.org](mailto:della.mahone@pmi-oc.org)) or Carolyn Bramlett ([cjbram.1@gmail.com](mailto:cjbram.1@gmail.com)). We have a free advanced manual to give you in recognition of your success and to help set you on your way to be an Advanced Communicator Bronze. There are 15 advanced manuals. Which one will you choose?

It's been a great year and I've thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Lt. Governor Education & Training and I'm looking forward to being your 2014-2015 District Governor!



2013/2014 District Leaders, Siri Payakapan, Harry Yan, Linda Ulrich, and Pan Kao  
Photos (p. 6 and p. 7) Courtesy of Richard Daugherty

## **Member's Share**

### **Godzilla Plays Rugby**

**by Ted Nozaki**

**Woodbridge Toastmaster Club**

I have been in the Woodbridge Toastmaster Club for three years. I have earned my CC and am about to finish my tenth speech in advanced manuals for my ACB.

Last year I became a coach of the Los Angeles Rugby Club—LARC (social team) which consists of old boys, Japanese players, and rookies. One team in the club is named “Godzilla,” after the Japanese team with the same name which has twenty years of history. LARC has a very competitive top team competing at Division One and a second team competing at Division Three.

At the end of season banquet, to my surprise, I received the President’s award for the effort I made to put together a great team that demonstrated the pure rugby spirit. I was requested to make an impromptu speech at the event. I made the following speech:

“Godzilla finished this season with the result of two wins and nine losses. Most of the games we lost were good one with close scores.

Nearly 60 players wore the Godzilla jersey to participate in the league games. The team was a superb blend of the original Japanese Godzilla members, LARC old boys, and new players. The original Godzilla guys enjoyed “Fifteen to a Side” rugby which couldn’t have been played without the old boys because of the lack of players. LARC old boys had a great time playing quality rugby at a much higher level than regular old boy games. Rookies had plenty of play time with the experienced senior players. Without the Division 4 Godzilla team, those young players couldn’t have had much play time. We found many talented rookies during our games. LARC Godzilla started as an experiment to see how

this would work out; however, there is no doubt that the result was a success.

Thank you very much for those who participated in Godzilla’s games. I appreciate Chris Gleiter and all LARC members to allow Godzilla to be part of LARC. Our journey will continue. We will aim to win more games at Division 4 next year!”

There was big applause after my speech. Many people said to me that the speech was inspiring. After three years at Toastmaster Club, it was so natural for me to deliver an inspiring speech when I needed to make one. I have to thank all those who helped me at the club.

### **Toastmasters Making a Difference**

**by Vidette Vanderweide**

**Tongue Tamers Toastmaster Club**

Five years ago, I quit my corporate job cold-turkey and decided to follow my “bliss” and start a business. I began an online branding and marketing strategy business, consulting with entrepreneurs; however, I found myself at a point where I was no longer fulfilled. The topic of branding and marketing strategy is something I know a lot about, but it wasn’t filling my soul and I decided to evolve my business to a new level that I knew would fill my soul!





Over the years of building my business, there was one thing I became so passionate about that it was bubbling to spill out of me.

That was encouraging women, especially moms, to put themselves first! This idea definitely is not the norm in our culture and can be viewed as being somewhat selfish. However, I found that the more self-care I dedicated to myself daily, I became a more patient and compassionate mother, a more fulfilled spouse, and all-around better person.

I learned strategies to create “Zen” in my own life when I had the stress of building a business quickly to replace my corporate income, all while still having dinner on the table by 6:00 for my family. I wanted to teach these principles on a larger scale with “Modern Zen” retreats and on a television channel that was NOT about drama, fighting between women, and judging others unfairly. I wanted “healthy” television to inspire women, to teach them principles to live by and most of all, to create a whole new paradigm for women in our modern world.

The problem was that I had no television experience. I had no contacts in media that could help me. I had no idea what to do, to be honest. So, I enlisted the help of my husband who loved to do filming and editing as a hobby and told him we’d become experts together.

But what do experts do besides teach? They expand their skills! They become great communicators, and they continue to help others. What better place to do this than at Toastmasters?

I looked for a group close to me and became a member on my first visit. I am now close to completing my Competent Communicator in 11 months and have competed in two speech competitions. I got out of my comfort zone, went full-in, and am reaping the benefits so I can passionately step forward towards my dream as an inspirational media personality.

To be a great communicator online, I had to know where I needed work. I loved the genuine care in feedback that my fellow members and guests took to help me improve my speaking. I love giving my own feedback to others who are making a difference in the world in their own way.

As I joined Toastmasters, I launched my online TV channel, VidetteVTV, for busy moms. The more episodes I create and the more speeches I give at Toastmasters, the more comfortable I get in taking another step on my “blissful” path. I am filled with joy everyday as I produce new episodes for my channel knowing I am truly getting better and better at communicating my message clearly and confidently because of the help of my Tongue Tamers Toastmasters group.

My favorite episode so far for my “Life Reinvented” show is “What the Heck is the Epic Flow?” When we live in the epic flow in our lives, it’s when we live our dreams, we experience our hearts overflowing in joy and we tap into our individual creative geniuses... just like I am doing now. Living in the epic flow is where we create peace of mind, fulfillment in life, and truly live life... reinvented.

You can view this episode and all our episodes on <http://VidetteVTV.com> and for our subscribers, you can also download a free copy of my book, *S.O.U.L. Mama - Seeing Only an Unlimited Life*.

## **Toastmasters International Mission**

***We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders***

## **Founder’s District Mission**

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

## Mr. Responsibility is Glad to Help

*by Chris Christman, DTM*

It's taken him more than an hour and two busses to get to the Division B meeting, but he's the first to arrive; he has set up the room: taken care of every detail and all is ready for the meeting to begin. James Dawson, CC, CL, the Sergeant at Arms, steps to the lectern to introduce Division B Governor Ryan Matsunaga. Sergeant at Arms may not seem like a very big job, but Ryan says James makes every effort to make sure it's done well. The fact that he is doing this at all is another story of how Toastmasters can transform lives.

**First Impressions of James ...** I remember the first time James visited Pasadena Community Toastmasters Club three years ago. When asked if he would like to participate in Table Topics, he said yes, with no sign of trepidation. I don't remember what his topic was, but I do recall that there was a long silence before he spoke and many long pauses in between sentences without even any ahs, ums, or you knows to break the silence. The sound of silence was deafening and a bit discomforting but I was totally impressed by his willingness to be mute, while searching for the precise thoughts worthy to be uttered.

**Why do you want this job? ...** Later we learned that James came to Toastmasters because of his inability to answer the most mundane questions on job interviews, questions like "Why do you want this job?" His typical response was something like "Duh!"-- not the kind of answer that would impress a prospective employer even though James is a college graduate with a degree in computer graphics and design and an impressive portfolio of creative work. Most of us are able to "finesse" an answer that we think an employer would like to hear even for the most lackluster job. But James is not a "finesser". He always seems to be searching for some



unimpeachable truth before responding to anything.

**His Ice-breaker Speech ...** In his ice-breaker speech, we learned that he did not speak until he was at least three years old, and exhibited early signs often associated with autism or Aspergers Syndrome, a variation of autism usually reflecting high intelligence. He recalls methodically arranging his food on his plate as a child as if food would be better if it were symmetrically arranged. Perhaps this habit was indicative of some innate organizational or design skills.

James joined Toastmasters because, "I felt that my difficulties in communication were holding me back, especially in the area of employment." I was determined that Toastmasters would help him get a job. It became my personal mission to facilitate that.

**Outstanding Service to Club 9452...** In the last three years, he has been the most conscientious and responsible member and officer I have ever known in my 27 years in Toastmasters. For the first two years, he never missed a meeting, was always the first to arrive and was always infinitely prepared for his assigned role. Promptness and reliability made him the ideal Sergeant at Arms. In addition to setting up the room, this required arriving early enough to go on a little trek to the 2nd floor of Vroman's Book

Store to obtain the key to our meeting room.

His faithful attendance is rendered even more impressive when you know that James lives in Tujung and doesn't drive. It's a journey of more than an hour on two busses. I don't know of anyone else who would do that to attend Toastmasters meetings week after week and always be the first to arrive. Meanwhile he prodigiously applied himself to the required tasks to earn his CC and CL and moved up the leadership ladder to VP of Education and President. He always faithfully attended all trainings; assisted me at Area Contests when I was the Area B-1 Governor; and attended most Division B meetings. Never before, at least in recent years, had any other officer in our club been that devoted. After three years of consistently outstanding service, we created a special award for him in recognition of three years of continuous service in three different offices, sometimes serving double duty when other officers could not complete their terms.

**His service to Division B ...**After he completed his term as President, I encouraged Ryan Matsunaga to appoint him Division B's Sgt. at Arms, a duty which he has faithfully and diligently served for the past year. When he accidentally missed the January meeting, I panicked, positive that he must have been abducted by aliens because James is Mr. Responsibility. The explanation: he thought his term had ended in December since he didn't know that the Division officers serve for a year unlike our club's six month terms. Despite that one lapse, Ryan credits him for being reliable, detail-oriented, always glad to help, pleasant and friendly, and for his improved presentation skills.

**How Toastmasters has helped him ...** Obviously, he has found great value in Toastmasters to be so devoted, "I feel so much more comfortable speaking in front of other people, and know what I have to work on," he says. Plus he enjoys "the camaraderie." He credits "the people in my club are very supportive." He also has enjoyed serving his club and says that being an officer has made him "more assertive, though I feel I still have a long way to go." I hope that means that he will be in Toastmasters for a long time because in addition to helping himself, he has made a significant contribution to the club and division. He is now working toward achieving his ACB and ALB, and, hopefully, will continue to take advantage of all that Toastmasters has to offer.

**His job as a volunteer ...**At the current time, he is also working as a volunteer data input clerk for a non-profit organization. This is helping him to develop marketable job skills but "I also feel like I am helping other people," he says

in reference to the low-income families and children served by the organization. As usual, it takes two busses and an hour of his time to get there to work for FREE!

**Employers hiring autistic workers ...**Recently I read an article titled "How Autism Can Help You Land a Job." It tells about how two companies, SAP, a German based software company, and Freddie MAC in the USA are actively recruiting autistic workers because they believe that features of autism may make them better at certain jobs. Though people with autism are characterized by social deficits and repetitive behavior, they have a very structured nature and like non-ambiguous, precise outcomes according to one employer. Jobs which seem to require the strengths of autistic workers include identifying and debugging software problems; or writing manuals to give very precise instructions; and a variety of other jobs requiring focus and great attention to detail. This is an auspicious sign since 85% of adults with autism are estimated to be unemployed, maybe because they can't answer a prosaic question like, "Why do you want this job?"

**A man who is super responsible ...** Recently in a session of table topics at the Pasadena Community Toastmasters club, James was asked, "If you could have one super power, what would it be?" James as usual, always thoughtful, always searching for the precise answer said, "Having a super power requires a high level of responsibility towards other people." So rather than hastily choosing something like super strength, or the ability to leap tall buildings in a single bound, or the ability to know what everyone is thinking, he said he would have to think about it to figure out what super power he felt could be used most responsibly for the most good which could take a while to decide. Nevertheless he was voted the Best Table Topic Speaker of the day.

**You can help ...** That answer reinforced my impression of James Dawson as one of the most responsible people I have ever known. Surely there must be a job out there for a man that conscientious and reliable; a man who can always be counted on to be there on time; a man who is precise, thoughtful, thorough, and detailed; a man with computer skills in graphic design and data input; a well informed, knowledgeable man with a good vocabulary and a wide range of interests; a man who won't be busily tweeting or texting friends. So what if he can't quickly answer mundane questions, surely there must be a job out there that "wants" him. If you know of a business, or employer who might need a man like "Mr. Responsibility", or if you can help him get in the door for an interview, contact James at [dwsnjms@yahoo.com](mailto:dwsnjms@yahoo.com) or me at [gxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gxman@sbcglobal.net) for further information.

## Founder's District Hosts Marketing Workshop at National University

*Saturday, July 19, 2014*

*By Claudia Heredia*



The District's Summer Marketing Workshop is coming up on Saturday, July 19th at National University in Costa Mesa. Space is limited! If you are one of the lucky 80 attendees, you will enjoy a free lunch by Stonefire Grill as well as the following free

training opportunities:

**Building A Championship Club** by 2005 World Champion Lance Miller, DTM. Lance will share how to create a successful, dynamic club environment; how to build membership; handle difficult people; and get the show on the road! You don't have to travel to the 2014 International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August to be trained. You have the opportunity to learn from the best right here in Founder's District.



**Club Mentor Training** by the best in the business, Lauren Kelly, DTM, PID, PDG and Alanda

Dyer, DTM, PDG. You will learn how to serve as Club Mentor and earn credits toward your ALS.

**New Club Launch Team Training** by our most experienced New Club Chairs, Norm Stein, DTM and Frannie Stein, DTM, PhD. The session is designed to train four new club launch teams. This is also a good

opportunity for you to learn about the chartering club process; becoming a Club Sponsor or Club Mentor, earning credits toward your DTM.

As for the fun, you will get to participate in a game or two and a chance to win big prizes, which will be handed out throughout the event. That is not all. Each attendee will also receive a free promotional packet!

You will like the training facility at the National University in Costa Mesa, CA. The registration will be ready for you at 9 AM with networking opportunity, followed by training sessions, Q&A session, and another opportunity for networking during lunch. The workshop ends promptly at 2 PM.

Stay tuned. Founder's District web site at [www.foundersdistrict.org](http://www.foundersdistrict.org) will have more details in mid-June. See you there!

*Claudia joined Toastmasters in November 2009 and is currently serving as Club President for Tools 2 Lead. She loves competing in speech contests and mentoring. She enjoys reading, planning, and hosting parties and get-togethers, and spending quality time with friends and family.*



# Founder's District Marketing Workshop

**DON'T MISS THIS GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY!**

- **ATTEND INFORMATIONAL CLASSES**
- **FREE TRAINING BY 2005 WORLD CHAMPION OF PUBLIC SPEAKING:  
LANCE MILLER**
- **OPPORTUNITY TO WIN PRIZES!**
- **CHANCE TO EARN CLUB MENTOR/CLUB SPONSOR CREDITS FOR DTM**
- **FREE LUNCH CATERED BY STONEFIRE GRILL**

## Details:

▶ JULY 19, 2014

▶ 9:00 AM—2 PM

National University

3390 Harbor Blvd.

Costa Mesa, 92626

**FREE PRIZES!**

## QUESTIONS:

Claudia Heredia  
714.470.6012

Check out Founder's District website  
for more information!  
[www.foundersdistrict.org](http://www.foundersdistrict.org)



## Good Luck Victoria Dotson!

By Daniel Cossack, DTM



Our beloved past District Governor, Victoria Dotson, DTM, is relocating to the state of Washington. We recently had our last chance to enjoy her company and say our goodbyes. Second Stage Club #3742 hosted a Goodbye Party on Saturday, May the tenth, with Victoria as the guest of honor. The party took place at the

Mesa Verde United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa. Well-wishers dropped by and spent some time with Victoria and hung out with friends.

Victoria Dotson was the 2012-2013 Founder's District Governor and is best known for her bold leadership style, jovial work ethics, and love for animals. The picturesque and serene Washington

State is fortunate to have someone as beautiful as Victoria. We'll miss her.



## Mark Your Calendars For LACE!

If you haven't already done so, please register for the *Leadership and Communication Experience (LACE)* to be held June 7, and June 21, 2014. You may register online by visiting our website: [www.foundersdistrict.org/home/lace](http://www.foundersdistrict.org/home/lace).

LACE is an opportunity for our members and club officers to obtain high-level training and information on topics that will drive their success. It was originally developed to supplement Toastmasters club officer training requirements, but because of its high-quality, interactive workshops, it has emerged as a well-known and admired curriculum throughout the region. LACE is unique to Founder's District in affordability, scope, value, quality, diversity, and excellence.

Some of our featured workshops include Laura Scott and Joel Esparza, presenting on how to develop and

deliver succinct but memorable introductions that will set the proper tone for business and personal introductions, facilitate your club meetings, drive your future business success, and enhance your community or professional presentations.

Charley Patton will conduct a class on discussing difficult topics. Brian Adams will help you develop mental martial arts techniques to defend against your toughest opponent...you! The wildly engaging Nadine Nofziger will demonstrate how to become a culturally inclusive speaker. Della Mahone will show you how to delegate! And this is just the tip of the iceberg!

For a complete listing of workshops, visit [www.foundersdistrict.org/workshops](http://www.foundersdistrict.org/workshops).

Early Registration is just \$12 and includes lunch!

**LACE** is for **EVERYONE!**. Guests are welcome!

## Why Le Gourmet?

By Stanley Solin



I joined a Toastmasters breakfast club in 2008. It was everything I expected and more. In January, 2009 I visited a T/M dinner club in Paris. They were the best club in Europe. How do I know? They told me so. I arrived early to be sure my butterflies were

flying in formation so there was plenty of time to get to know the people before the meeting. Included aperitifs didn't hurt.

Dinner came before the meeting making for time to get to know each other better. After the meeting many stayed in downtown Paris to go to a café. The difference between a breakfast club and dinner club is night and day literally.

When I returned to California I searched for a TM dinner club and found Le Gourmet. Le Gourmet meets once a month and at a different restaurant every month. Almost everybody belongs to other TM clubs. Almost everybody is a DTM and is seriously committed to the Toastmasters Mission. Most members are the working leaders of Founder's District—the people who make it all happen.

I have had the opportunity to visit well over a dozen TM clubs, all are different, all have talented members, but Le Gourmet is second to none in the talent category. Perhaps that's the reason there is little turn over.

My schedule prohibits the breakfast clubs now, I prefer to sleep later. I do belong to two lunchtime clubs. I find that breakfast and lunch clubs are great too, but I don't really get to know the other members other than from information from their speeches. Members who attend breakfast and lunch clubs generally have tight schedules. That does not seem to be the case with members who attend dinner clubs.

You learn a lot from their eating habits too—who likes healthy stuff and who doesn't. At Le Gourmet it is your choice.

I like to be with bright talented people who are not just takers but energetic doers. Doesn't everybody? My only complaint is they meet only once a month!

*Stan Solin has been retired from a forty year career in marketing since 1995. He lives in Anaheim with his Gourmet Chef wife, Estelle.*

## HPL Project a Success

By Meline Talarian, ACG, ALB

Since February 2013, I had been working on a book that I titled, POWER vs. Heart in Leadership. I had the burning desire to share my message about the importance of having a heart as a leader and treating fellow humans kindly. However, my challenge was managing my time so I could write every day. For several months, I wrote on and off but didn't seem to be able to make headway as fast I wanted to. Then, it hit me! "Why not choose this book as my project for the High Performance Leadership (HPL) program?" I thought. And, I did! That's when magic happened.

I joined the HPL program in Division B and everything started to fall into place. With the guidance of our HPL program group leader, Scott Vejar, and the support of the rest of the HPL members, I was able to focus on my project. Their encouragement was a powerful tool to keep me motivated.

In a very short period of time, I put together my project team, which comprised of an editor, a graphic/web designer, and my beta readers. I created a mission and vision statement that focused my journey. I developed a detailed project plan and was able to stick to my deadlines. I identified the steps I needed to take in order to achieve this goal. Knowing that I had to report on my progress each month, I was eager to keep moving forward so I had something new to share with the HPL group when we met. I finalized the manuscript and, by the end of March 2014, I sent my book for publication.

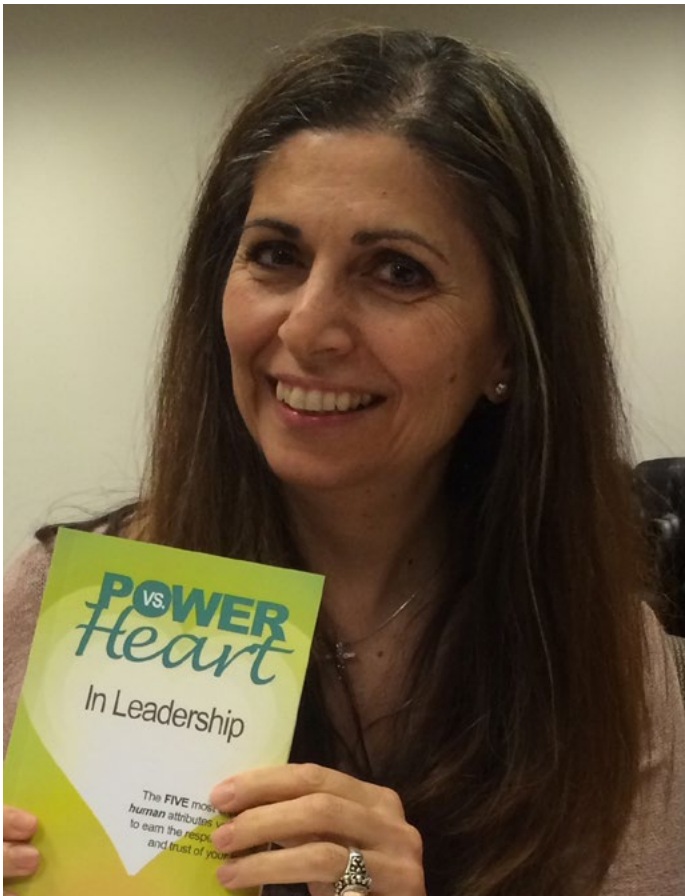
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I am proud to say that as of April 1, 2014, my book **POWER vs. Heart in Leadership** is available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) in the U.S. and internationally. The book talks about the five most important human attributes leaders need in order to earn the loyalty, respect and trust of their teams.

I also have a website [www.powervsheart.com](http://www.powervsheart.com), where I blog monthly and also share my messages through a Facebook page **Power vs. Heart** as well as a Twitter account [@powervsheart](https://twitter.com/powervsheart).

I was very inspired by the HPL Program in Division B. I am happy to share that I will lead the next HPL team. My goal is to encourage my fellow Toastmasters to challenge themselves by becoming involved in the HPL program and, in the process, to become better leaders.



## **Innovative Speakers Host Leadership Seminars at Edison**

*By Mike Winterer, ACS and Robert Bolton, CC, CL*



Within the Toastmaster's logo the words "Where Leaders Are Made" holds a significant place. Toastmasters is equally about communication skills as it is about leadership, and we have asked ourselves how we communicate and lead outside of Toastmasters. Toastmasters should not be just about our organization, but also what we do to give back to our communities.

For a company club, many would think there are limited opportunities to give back to their community - the hosting company itself. Companies spend thousands of dollars on outside consultants to teach core leadership and communication skills to their employees. A company Toastmaster club can provide much of the same education for little or no cost. So we asked ourselves, "Why not?"

Innovative Speakers (Club 1748564 – Southern California Edison) has found an innovative way (pun intended) to do that; by hosting lunchtime Leadership Seminars on topics in line with core Toastmaster principles.

Innovative Speakers hosted such a Leadership Seminar on Tuesday May 13, 2014. This is the first of several planned seminars that Innovative Speakers will be hosting for Edison as a way of sharing Toastmaster's principles on Communication and Leadership, with emphasis on Leadership.

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A Senior Vice President within the company kicked off this series as the keynote speaker. He presented Edison's focus on leadership training, including his own take on the differences and importance of both leadership and management, emphasizing how both are critical to the success of any successful organization.

That a Senior Vice President took the time to create and present such a powerful subject is as much a

credit to Edison's leadership as it is to Innovative Speakers for securing that talent and coordinating an event open not just Toastmasters, but the entire company.

SCE has shown its continued support of Toastmasters by authorizing the club to run events such as Engineer Week Celebration and All Hands Meetings; Innovative Speakers has reciprocated by fostering continuous improvement, helping to develop Edison's leaders of tomorrow.

## **The Hidden Support of Toastmasters**

*by Nadine Nofziger, DTM – Division C Governor*



I joined Toastmasters about 25 years ago; I needed to find out why the American culture was so different than the European culture. On and off, I was involved with several clubs, happily in love and mother of a beautiful daughter.

Then it happened. When my daughter was only 8 years old, my loving companion was diagnosed with cancer. My life changed 180 degrees. I had to quit my amazing international job to take care of my husband and be there for my daughter. I took a job close to home which offered me the benefits of being close by whenever I needed to be home quickly. I became a full-time caregiver.

I was crushed, depressed and truly disliked this "stupid" job. I felt alone with my pain and fears, but then I got involved again with all my clubs.

What's surprising is, I never shared my feelings with my clubs. I never talked about the pain or the financial disaster, but you see, Toastmasters was my healing force!

Every time I went to a meeting, I received positive acknowledgment and support. I was welcomed with smiles and sincere embraces. I felt secure and loved, and it helped me to deal with whatever was happening in my personal life. Toastmasters gave me the strength to keep going through this ordeal and be the best mother I could be.

When I see my daughter now, realizing her dreams at UC Santa Cruz, I can sincerely thank Toastmasters for being my lighthouse at all times.

It was strange to think that one of my best presentations was done very close to my companion's grave. I remember leaving the club meeting and supportive hugs to rush to his grave with a cry of joy and tell him "I did it again my love...I did it again!" He believed in me. Toastmasters believed in me. The force behind Toastmasters has no competition. This is what this association is all about...it gives you the strength to believe in YOU.

## Travel as a Toastmaster

By Robert Kelleman, DTM



For a unique travel experience try visiting a Toastmasters club on your next vacation or business trip. Sometimes people forget we're a global organization with 292,000

members in all 50 states and 122 countries. With over 14,350 clubs worldwide, there are plenty of opportunities to meet fellow Toastmasters both in the U.S. and abroad.

Two years ago while visiting London, I was looking for a break from sightseeing and also for a good place to eat. It just so happened there was a Toastmasters meeting that night at a pub not far from my hotel. Not knowing what to expect, I stopped in for a visit and it ended up being one of the highlights of my trip. Not only did I enjoy a great meal, but I also met a lot of interesting local people.

The London club was quite similar to any you would attend here in Southern California, except for the accents of course. The members were extremely welcoming and were all very impressed with "our visitor from the states." Before and after the meeting the members asked me many questions about American Toastmasters, my trip to London and life in the U.S.

My guest experience was so enjoyable I visited a second London club that week as well as one in Madrid, Spain the following week. The London club asked me to participate in Table Topics and one member even walked me all the way back to my train station. The Madrid club asked me to fill in as their General Evaluator, and being a newer club they were very interested in learning how

they compared to other clubs I had visited. All of the Toastmasters I met were very friendly and excited to meet me. They gave me travel advice, restaurant recommendations, asked me to pose for pictures, and invited me to visit again. As I plan future trips to Alaska, New York, Japan and Kenya, I'll be sure to include some Toastmasters visits along the way.

When you're traveling it's easy to find clubs to visit through searches on Toastmasters.org, Facebook.com and Meetup.com (in fact my home club, Dynamic Forecemasters, recently had a visitor from Tennessee that found us through our Meetup.com site). Note that many international clubs are either bilingual or English speaking, although if you are able to understand another language, visiting a non-English club would be fun. If you are able to it's also a good idea to email the club beforehand so they know a special visitor will be attending. Also restaurant-based clubs have the added benefit of providing you a reasonably priced meal while dining with fellow Toastmasters.

So the next time you're on a vacation or business trip soak up some local culture and meet new people by attending a Toastmasters meeting, or two. It will be one of the most memorable highlights of your trip!

*Robert Kelleman, DTM, is the Founder's District Public Relations Officer for 2014-15 and an avid traveler having visited 48 states and several countries.*



# Top 5 Lessons for Club Presidents

by *Lionnel Yamentou, ACB, ALB*

When I joined Toastmasters International in June 2012 as a charter member for the All Nations Toastmasters Club, I had no idea what I was signing up for. All I knew was that I had never been exposed to such an organization that could help me develop world-class speaking skills. It was exciting, and it still is as it gives me great joy to witness people grow into exceptional speakers and leaders.



I was encouraged to serve as VP Membership for the new club, and six months later, I was invited to lead the club as its President, which I did for the following year. The experience leading the club has been rewarding as I discovered skills I did not know I had. However, I learned more about the role when I allowed someone else to take up the club presidency.

If you have accepted the challenge to lead your club, especially as President, you will find below a summary of the key lessons I learned while serving in this role.

## 1. Build Leaders Around You

The true assessment of your impact as President can only be effectively measured when you are out of office. The moment you are elected, identify someone else with potential for being the next club President and start grooming that person. You will learn most by teaching and mentoring.

## 2. Leave a Long Lasting Legacy

Have a vision for the club. Based on that vision, set goals or objectives, and targets that must be reached before your term ends. The Club Success Plan can help with this process. If done well, your legacy can be used to enhance your profile as a leader. Your service as club President must make a measurable impact on the club members individually, and as a whole.

## 3. Hold Executive Team Meetings Regularly

If this cannot be done at least once a month, call or email your club officers on a regular schedule to discuss their progress, challenges and provide assistance or advice when necessary.

## 4. Use the Distinguished Club Program as a Benchmark

The DCP program provides a great measuring scale to judge the health and performance of the club against its past achievements and other clubs in the Area, Division and District.

## 5. Participate in Officer Training

The LACE training is necessary for club success. If officers don't know what they are supposed to be doing, nothing will get done. LACE training is a great opportunity to learn from the best, and regular educational sessions at the club level are always a plus.

When you have followed the guidelines above and you have grown into a better leader through this club level experience, you can then tackle a bigger challenge: serving as Area Governor. To your success as club President!

## Parsons Toastmasters Honors Dr. Lucy Jones With Award At 40th Anniversary Event

*By Krystal Rose, CC, CL*

Parsons Toastmasters honored Dr. Lucy Jones, Science Advisor for Risk Reduction at the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena, at its 40th Anniversary celebration on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The event was held at Parsons' Pasadena corporate headquarters, and guests enjoyed mingling with current and past Toastmasters members and Parsons executives as well as the guest of honor, Dr. Jones, who was recognized for her outstanding achievement in communications and leadership.



Michelle Bender, Krystal Rose, Dr. Lucy Jones, Shannon O'Connell, Kristin Blomstrom and Pam Tartaglio

Toastmasters Vice President.

"Dr. Jones was selected for this recognition specifically for her success in significantly growing awareness and educating the community about earthquake preparedness," said Kristin Blomstrom, Parsons Toastmasters Vice President of Membership.

Dr. Jones, who thanked Parsons Toastmasters for the honor, currently serves as Science Advisor for Risk Reduction in the Natural Hazards Mission of the U.S. Geological Survey, leading

long-term science planning for natural hazards research. Respectfully known by the public as the "Earthquake Lady," Dr. Jones has the ability to make talking about earthquakes understandable and straightforward, acting much like a translator between scientists and the general public. Her ability to communicate with the public has allowed her to successfully advocate for community earthquake preparedness and collaboration. She was recently appointed as Los Angeles' first Seismic Risk Advisor, making her the first city appointed seismologist in the country.

"The cornerstone of Parsons Toastmasters is to help people develop their leadership and

communications skills. Members look to leaders in their community for guidance, support, and for role models to follow. Dr. Jones' communications aptitude, along with her knowledge and passion for her work, have influenced members in and around the Pasadena community," stated Krystal Rose, Parsons

"It's an honor to have presented Dr. Jones with the Communications Achievement Award at our club's 40th Anniversary celebration," added Pamela Tartaglio, a Parsons Toastmasters club member.

Parsons Toastmasters meets regularly each Tuesday from 12 to 1 p.m. in Pasadena. For more information about the event or the club, please visit [www.parsonstoastmasters.com](http://www.parsonstoastmasters.com)

## Toastmasters was designed and created for YOU AND ME

by Ligia I. Molina, DTM, QS



Today, good communications skills are vital if you want to be successful in your career and your life. Although Twitter and other social media are popular, they will never take the place of a person-to-person conversation. The person who is able

to express ideas confidently and clearly will make his message be heard and understood.

The Advanced Communication and Leadership Training / Speakers Bureau, ACTS Club # 416, has implemented the Speakers Bureau program. Club members are encouraged to accept the challenge to step up their communication skills as a Qualified Speaker. Once they qualify, they are given the opportunity to speak outside the Toastmasters club, to businesses, organizations, schools, churches, etc.

I would like to share with you a personal story about a recent opportunity for me to speak outside of Toastmasters. I am the founder and organizer of **Humanitarian Action on Behalf of Children**, a non-profit organization to help needy mothers and their newborn babies in the very poor areas of Nicaragua, Central America. I have been giving presentations about this project at several organizations, churches and clubs.

Word gets around and, after hearing about my project, the United Nations, Pasadena Chapter, extended an invitation for me to give a one hour

presentation to the membership and guests. The event was held on Monday evening, May 12, 2014. It was a success; the audience was moved and inspired by my presentation and ready to support it. I would like to express my gratitude to Chandra Persad, Rochelle Chernikoff and Michelle Bender, a great example of Toastmasters collaboration and support for a fellow Toastmaster.

This presentation was a challenging one, speaking to an international organization with a diverse audience for one hour, including a PowerPoint presentation and Q&A session. Do you think I could have given this speech without the benefit of my Toastmasters training? Probably not.

Toastmasters trained me to be able to deliver a quality speech to a very special audience. At this speech I had to **"Inform"** the audience about the Humanitarian Action on Behalf of Children project, **"Document"** what I was speaking about, use my **"Storytelling"** skills to describe life in Nicaragua, and **"Entertain"** the audience so they didn't fall asleep. I used my **"Persuasive Skills"** to convince them to support the project.

My project, **Humanitarian Action on Behalf of Children**, has received the benefit of the speaking skills I have developed as a Qualified Speaker. My Toastmasters skills will also benefit many needy mothers in Nicaragua. It feels wonderful to be able to give back to people in my home country.

Yes, my fellow Toastmasters, the world is waiting for you as a Speaker and as a Leader... **Toastmasters was created and designed for You and Me!**

If you are interested in donating to Humanitarian Action on Behalf of Children, please contact Ligia I. Molina at [ligiainolina@gmail.com](mailto:ligiainolina@gmail.com).

## More than a speech: My journey to a Keynote

By Lucille Olszewski



There I was, on stage in front of hundreds of colleagues. This was my first keynote speech in front of a prestigious roomful of people that included many vice presidents and a sprinkling of CEO's. After my third sentence, the crowd laughed and I knew it was going to be

OK. For the first time in my life, I was in control of an audience. I was calm, cool, and together.

Roll back to May, 2013.

Me! Of all the worthy, talented and amazing women in the wind energy community, "I" was selected to receive the *2013 Woman of the Year Award*. I was totally caught off guard as my background was highlighted; they read a letter from my son and then announced my name. That was an incredible experience!

As I came back from accepting the award, a friend who happened to be a CEO of a major company was waiting for me in the wings. She gave me a hug and congratulated me in a warm voice; then it seemed like time warped! Her voice became distorted like a fun house, thunderous with evil tones. She said **"YOU WILL SPEAK AT NEXT YEAR'S LUNCHEON!"**

Terror riveted through my body. Through the entire **YEAR** I worried and got grey hairs! What could I possibly say to these people? And how could I stop shaking long enough to say it? I had no clue. I am a confident but not a particularly outgoing person. I knew I needed help. **LOTS** of help!

So I began to evaluate my options. A personal coach, Dale Carnegie classes, media training, and then my friend Lisa suggested Toastmasters as she belonged to a professional Project Management Toastmasters group and found it very helpful. It was now December and over half the year was gone.

I looked online and was pleasantly surprised to find that there were many meetings held morning, noon, and night on every day of the week. I had no excuse not to check it out.

I went to seven different clubs to find two that suited my situation and personality. I found that they were business oriented, fun oriented, and just casual, but all had the goal of striving to make members better speakers. I learned very quickly that I could not just sit back and observe. Every club I visited made me feel very welcomed and challenged me to test my speaking ability during Table Topics.

When I first got up to talk, my whole body trembled and it was very visible. In each of the meetings I went to, it became clearer to me that I needed to get comfortable and settle into a group quickly.

At my first meeting as an official member, I met Nadine. She gave a wonderful presentation on "how to give a speech." It was perfect timing. I gave my second Toastmasters' speech which included parts that I intended to present in my keynote. It fell flat. Things that were supposed to be funny, weren't. I was still shaking and my voice quivered. I received valuable feedback from the club members that day, confirming that my speech needed work. Nadine quickly pulled me aside and said, "If you need help to prepare, just ask."

I thought about her offer for less than a second and we set up a time to meet. Over the year I had rewritten my speech at least 30 times. In one meeting, Nadine gave me a download of 15 years of Toastmasters experience, several ideas on hand gestures, voice modulation, and new points to consider.

With one week left, I rewrote my speech for the last time. I practiced morning, noon, and night incorporating all that I learned at Toastmasters and through Nadine. She and other members gave me the encouragement that I needed to succeed.

As the moment approached, I became more and more confident. Instead of being afraid, I was actually looking forward to the Keynote.

Joining Toastmasters has been a rewarding experience. It not only helped me prepare for this important event but it has given me confidence in other areas of my life. I plan to continue to obtain my Competent Communicator award and maybe even enter a contest.

*Lucille Olszewski is a consulting meteorologist and Toastmasters member.*

## Spring Conference Review

By Marie Hulett, ACB, ALB



What recent Founder's District Event combined eating birthday cake, extolling the virtues of procrastination, frolicking with a 160 pound wolf, staring at the Mona Lisa, and mingling with 214 Toastmasters members and guests (not necessarily in that order)? If you guessed our Spring Conference, then you would be absolutely correct!

On May 3, 2014, Toastmasters from all over Southern California gathered at the beautiful La



Mirada Holiday Inn to celebrate our district's 70th birthday and Toastmaster International's 90th birthday! Daniel Rex, CEO of TMI, kicked off the extravaganza with a riveting keynote address that showcased all the amazing milestones that have been

reached throughout the decades. He wished that Founder Ralph Smedley -- who could only wistfully dream of someday having four-hundred clubs...an impossible number in his lifetime -- could see how we currently charter that very amount...EVERY SIX MONTHS! Wow!

Check out all of the conference photos [here](#).

At the free business meeting, 163 registered voting delegates elected new District Officers. It was a fun and educational experience to behold and something that we can all take part in.



During lunch, we celebrated the educational achievements of our fellow Toastmasters and enjoyed a sumptuous meal which was followed up with educational presentations and one of the



most entertaining Table Topics competitions ever. Contestants were asked to talk about the benefits of procrastination! You can probably imagine some of the hysterical answers that were given! Ted Triplett





took third place, Susan Griggs took second, and the winner was David Cates.

Conference attendees also enjoyed a terrific opportunity drawing with fabulous prizes and a beautiful dessert—our Founder’s District birthday cake.

Of course, since we all like to eat, we were served even MORE food—a delectable dinner combined with great company and more awards.

Gwen Earle, ACB, ALS, Diane Beall, DTM, Norm

© Richard Dennis Daugherty Photography



Stein, DTM, and Frannie Stein, DTM, all received awards from the District Governor for going above and beyond the

call of Toastmaster Duty to make our district great. Colette Gardner, DTM, received the Gene Beckwith Memorial Award. Sherry Tomasula



received the Roy D. Graham award. Debi Morales, our District Treasurer, received the Helen “Homer” Blanchard award.

And Tonya Littlewolf from Wolf Mountain

Sanctuary received the C&L award for the magnificent work she does in the community with Humane Education and Wolf protection.



© Richard Dennis Daugherty Photography





Finally, it was time for the “headline act,” the International Speech Contest. Eight individuals presented some of the most outstanding speeches ever given at a district conference. Judges definitely had their work cut out for them. But in the end, a moving and heartfelt speech by Daniel Midson-Short that began with an inspirational story about seeing—REALLY seeing—the Mona Lisa, was declared the winner. Second place was awarded to Rob Swineford and third place went to Jill Dunn.

This was an assembly of competitors that truly reached the pinnacle of public speaking. Daniel will be representing all of us at the International Convention in Malaysia this August. We wish him the very best.

For more information on the 2014 International Conference where Daniel will be competing, visit [www.toastmasters.org/Members/2014InternationalConvention.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/2014InternationalConvention.aspx).



## Possibilities Unlimited #7368 Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Gayle Larkin ACG, CL and Valerie Ojeman ACB, ALB



Richard Daugherty receives a special award from Club President, Susan de la Portilla

Possibilities Unlimited Toastmaster Club (PUTM) is around today because of a vision held by Max and Diana James. They took action steps to make their vision a reality. And we are celebrating 25 years of the power of communicating that vision.

As members of the Crystal Cathedral South church, Max and Diana decided to start a Toastmasters Club. They chose the name "Possibilities Unlimited" because it paralleled the theme of Robert Schuller's ministry - Possibility Thinking. The club was originally a closed club for members of the church but eventually became a community club, open to the public.

PUTM continued to meet on the Rancho Capistrano campus until the early 2000's when they moved to Carrow's Restaurant and where they continue to meet every Monday night at 7:00 pm.

Joan Way became the club's first DTM 1992. Richard Daugherty is one of our current DTM's and has been with the club since 1999. Other members of our club who have attained their DTM are: Al Ott, Lee Pound, and Solon Goodson. Some current members are soon to join this prestigious group.

The 25th Anniversary Gala was attended by 70 members, former members and distinguished guests. As always happens when one or two or 70 members of Possibilities Unlimited get together, the excitement in the room was palpable as the guests greeted each other and got into the festive mood of the evening.



Mission Viejo Mayor, Trish Kelley, started the festivities by presenting a Proclamation from the City of Mission Viejo honoring Possibilities Unlimited for their significant achievement.

Guests were treated to an elegant meal, entertaining piano music and a caricature artist drawing the likeness of the guests to serve as memories of this significant anniversary. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was

Richard Daugherty, DTM. Founder's District Governor Harry Yan, DTM entertained the audience with a speech titled, Invest for Success.

President Susan de la Portilla surprised Richard Daugherty, DTM with the "Perseverance Award." It is well known that Richard held the club together when there were only three or four people attending the weekly Monday night meetings.

The current members of Possibilities Unlimited are so grateful that Richard had the foresight to preserve the club so we could be together to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

The evening ended with members raising their glasses as instructed in the Special Occasion Speech Manual, giving their own unique toast to Possibilities Unlimited emphasizing how the experience of being part of this warm, welcoming and dynamic group has made a positive change in their lives.

I hope everyone who joined us for our 25th Anniversary Gala looks forward to joining us in April 2039 for our 50th Anniversary... Save that date!

*Gayle Larkin, ACG, CL is currently serving as the Area G-5 Governor. She is a member of two clubs, Possibilities Unlimited and Lensmasters. She and her husband, Frank, have been in Toastmasters since April of 2001. Gayle is also serving as a Learning Master with Toastmasters International. Frank and Gayle have five children and eleven grandchildren who live from California to Illinois. Being in Toastmasters has been a life enriching experience.*

*Valerie Ojeman, ACB, ALB has been a member of Possibilities Unlimited for 5 years and is currently serving as the Area G-2 Governor. She is also a member of Lensmasters Toastmaster Club which is enriching her life by opening up the world of photography and communication. Valerie has two daughters and four grandchildren.*





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