

Voices!

One Community
Many Voices

District 7 Toastmasters
AUGUST 2020



Are You the Next VP Pathways?

Cover Story - Page 6

We

Can

Help

Support Our Prison Clubs

**Your Contributions Make
All the Difference**

Contact Allan Edinger, Prison
Liaison, for more information
aedinger3@comcast.net

Change Happens

Phyllis Harmon, DTM

I heard from a club officer the other day that a new member was objecting to their club's culture, and was threatening to leave if changes didn't happen. The same type of ultimatums were voiced by several members as the traditional education program transitioned to Pathways—even knowing for three years that the change was imminent.

Change is hard. We don't like it overly much. Whether its fitting into an established culture or embracing the new education program, we appear to have no patience or bandwidth for stepping outside of our comfort zones.

I think we have all had a bit too much "change" since last March when the pandemic knocked on our national door. Don't get me wrong—I miss the olden days of face-to-face meetings and post-Toasties coffee klatches. I miss standing in front of an audience, feeling the butterflies in my stomach, and soldiering on anyway. I too liked some of the projects in the traditional program, especially the Storytelling and Interpretive Reading manuals. Those were great fun, and I used them repeatedly in completing my three DTMs.

Am I planning to quit because my Toastmasters life experienced a couple of spitballs? Of course not! I am made of sterner stuff. I'll face the Brady-bunch Zoom screen and deliver my speeches and evaluations right into the eye of the webcam to the best of my ability. I'm working on my fourth Path, having completed Levels 1 and 2 four times, all from different perspectives.

Not always do I appreciate the points of view of my club mates. But I don't let their beliefs deter me from remaining a member. Developing an inquiring mind and looking at the world through differing perspectives has given me a richer world view and a tolerance for opposing opinions.

I am quite sure that you too are made of sterner stuff, and can get past the spitballs in your Toastmasters life. I anticipate that it won't be long before we remember these times fondly and say with an inquiring smile, "Changes? What changes?"

I encourage you to stay the course and weather the changes. Remember, I'll be here if you need a virtual hug.



EDITORIAL

Volume 7 Issue 1 July 2020
Publisher
Phyllis Harmon, DTM

Associate Publisher
Brenda Parsons, ACS, ALS

Senior Editor
Phyllis Harmon, DTM

Associate Editor
Leanna Lindquist, DTM

Monthly Columnists
B. Lee Coyne, ATMS
Eldred Brown, DTM
Emilie Taylor, DTM
Harvey Schowe, DTM
James Wantz, DTM
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Neal Iversen

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VP PATHWAYS



Are You the Next VP Pathways?

Dave Bones, ACG, ALB, LD1

John has been in Toastmasters for over a year, and has completed three speeches. He loves going to club meetings every week. However, he is frustrated that after giving speeches the projects never show as complete.

Another member, Sally, has completed all the Level 3 projects. The system does not show the level as finished.

Bob has been in Toastmasters for 10 years. He has no idea how to enroll in Pathways so is unable to take advantage of what the Toastmasters education system has to offer.

What do all three stories have in common? Each member desperately needs help from someone in their club to help them resolve their issues in Pathways. In short, they need a club Vice President Pathways (VPP).

What is a VPP you ask? It is a new “unofficial” club officer role introduced in District 7 to help members with Pathways. It is particularly important because as of July 1st Pathways is the only



way for members to navigate through the education program and gain credit from Toastmasters International.

What does the VPP do? Great question! The VPP can help new members choose a Path, use Zoom to show them how to navigate through Pathways, and help schedule their Ice Breaker speech. All members will benefit from a VPP who will serve as a resource for Pathways questions and offer one-on-one Zoom sessions. The VPP can offer scheduled learning sessions or Q & A. Make learning fun. Be a cheerleader for Pathways. Do I see a Distinguished Club in the making?

I want to share a practice that works well in my club. We call it a “Pathways Minute.” Truth be told, it can be as long as three. One question is answered or topic addressed at the beginning of each meeting. In just a few weeks we have made substantial traction helping members that were previously stuck making progress. They are now both more clear and motivated to accomplish education goals within Pathways. This would be a great role for the VPP. If you can’t wait, ask your most Pathways savvy member to institute this practice.

While the VPP will not receive credit for being a club officer, there are many creative ways to include this role into the education program. Here are some examples:

Jim is the new VPP in his club. He can use

the development of the VPP role as his High Performance Leadership Project for Level 5. His club VPE, VPM, and a new member are the perfect Guidance Committee for his project. They have already held two of the five required Guidance Committee meetings. The personal learning, collaboration, and fun within the committee have been astounding.

Sandra completed Level 2 in her Path and joined the Mentor Program. She has received excellent guidance from her own mentors. It is meaningful for her to now pass along that kind of help to her club members. She sees this as a cycle of growth. Her positive mentor experience inspired her to want to share the joy and fulfillment of learning with others in her club. She realized the role of VPP would be perfect for her.

Sandra completed her required initial assessment within the Pathways Mentor Program. The next project requires her to help another member complete one of the projects in their own Path. Veronica just joined the Club, and wants to complete her Ice Breaker speech. She doesn’t know where to begin. Sandra, the new VPP can mentor Veronica through her first project and fulfill the second requirement toward her own completion of the Pathways Mentor Program. A win-win! Sandra will help her fellow Club member start her journey, receive her own education credit, and have fun doing it!

Do you feel inspired to help your club members navigate through their chosen Path? Does the role of VP Pathways sound like a good fit for you?

The Process

Step 1:

- Club decides if they want a Club VPP
 - Time commitment same as other Club officer, 6 or 12 months

Step 2:

- Vote in/elect your VPP
 - Formally as you would club officers or
 - Informally with club majority in favor

Step 3:

- Submit the name of your VPP to the Pathways Committee Chair, Dr. Gwendolyn Avington, pathways@d7toastmasters.org
- Questions, concerns, suggestions, share them with her too

your Club. Think of the excitement about the growth and connection within Toastmasters that you feel. I, personally, cannot bear the thought of even one member being lost or leaving a Club because they are struggling with Pathways. We are quite literally in the business of saving souls in this regard. Those who were once frustrated that we help can sometimes become our greatest advocates. The VPP is a conduit for this clarity, and rejuvenated motivation.

Your help is needed. I invite you to join D7 Toastmasters to collaborate, motivate, and teach as you serve as VPP in your Club. If your members need help with Pathways I urge you to consider adding the role to your Club roster. This will serve the needs of your current and

Fellow Toastmasters, as mentioned earlier, the VPP role is truly a win-win for everyone in

future members. The Pathways Committee recommends that 100 percent of District 7 clubs include this new role!

September 30, 2020 is the goal set by the District 7 Pathways Committee to have all VPPs in place. Please, help us reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more information coming your way!

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DUI's

(District Updates & Incentives)

PJ Kleffner, DTM - District Director



The D7 Trio spent two of the past five weekends being trained by Toastmasters International. The Trio in turn spent the other three weekends training our Area and Division Directors. We also provided Club officer training on June 27th, and ongoing makeup sessions through July and August.

I have been thoroughly trained, so why do I still feel like I don't know what I'm doing? If you are new to a leadership position, whether at the Club, Area, Division or District level, you may be feeling the same way. Welcome to leadership!

Being a leader is one of those jobs that requires hands-on, in-the-trenches, on-the-job learning. Yes, books and training courses are helpful, but there is nothing like real-world experience to bring it home. It's also one of those jobs that

may look easy from a distance, and you might think to yourself, "I can do that." The reality is it's often like the duck-on-a-pond analogy—looks calm and peaceful on the surface, but you're paddling like crazy under the water. The good news is that you CAN do it, and you will find it to be a very rewarding experience.

My biggest take-away from the past five weeks—both as trainer and trainee—is the importance of planning. A lot of our training was about developing our Club, Area, Division, and District Success Plans. If you have a solid plan and know where you are going, you are much less likely to get distracted (or thrown completely off course) when you encounter an obstacle. A good plan includes contingencies to handle obstacles and get you back on track as quickly as possible.



*There go the people. I must follow them,
for I am their leader.*

~Alexandre Ledru-Rollin

The Covid-19 pandemic was a major setback for us last year, but we managed a strong finish with a record number of members completing education awards. We are still dealing with many uncertainties around the pandemic, so we are making contingency plans for whether we have Toastmasters Leadership Institutes, speech contests, and the annual Spring Conference in person or online.

To encourage our Clubs and members to plan, we are offering many incentives, ranging from submitting your Club Success plan to paying your dues on time. You can see the [details on the D7 website at](#) or on page 15 in this month's *Voices!* Some of them have looming deadlines (September and October), so act fast to put some real cash in your pocket or the Club's bank

account.

Speaking of cash, have you always wanted to attend an International Convention and Speech Contest, but couldn't get past the price tag for registration, airfare, hotel, meals, etc.? One positive side effect of the Covid-19 pandemic is this year's International Convention and Speech Contest is all online, AND free of charge! Check out the agenda and register [here](#).

In closing, we have done a lot of work over the past couple of months training and planning for the year. It is now time to execute the plan and reap the rewards of our hard work. As your District Director, I will do my best to lead by staying out of the way, and trying to keep up, as all of you are accomplishing great things.

The Importance of a Plan

Eldred Brown, DTM - Club Growth Director

If you fail to plan, you plain to fail. Or, as I'd heard in my Marine Corps training, poor prior planning produces poor performance. So why is planning so crucial to success that failure to plan produces such poor results?

A plan shows clearly what needs to be done, what goals are to be achieved, and the amount of time to spend on completing the set goals. In this way, planning and time management are closely related.

For example, in planning my first Area/Division Director Training session last month, PJ recommended that I write down a few major time points in my outline. That way I could see when I was ahead or behind schedule and adjust accordingly. I wrote a comprehensive agenda of what I planned to present and when. The agenda was itemized down to every minute, which was much more detailed than I really needed it to be, but it helped me. The first time I presented the training session I recognized that I had fallen seriously behind schedule because of the challenges of moving participants to and from breakout rooms for the required small group activities. To finish on time, as Toastmasters pride themselves on doing, I realized that I had to cut out one small group activity and rush to the

finish. I didn't follow my own agenda as closely as I would have liked, but having the agenda in front of me showed me that I had fallen behind and forced me to adjust on the fly so I could accomplish my goal of finishing on time.

Have you ever tried to drive to a remote location to which you've never been before without a map to guide you? You probably got lost, didn't you? I did that recently when I used my navigator rather than a map to travel to the bottom of Abert Rim near Lakeview a few weeks ago. The navigator took me to the rim, all right, but to the top of the rim. I got an excellent view of the lowlands from this favorite hang-gliding launch point, but it wasn't where I really wanted to be. You probably know from experience that I was much less likely to get lost if I had used a proper map to guide me to my destination.

Plans are somewhat like that map. A plan helps you see where you want to go and how you want to get there. If you don't know where you're going, how will you know when you arrive?

A plan for your personal life will help you achieve what you want and map out how to get there. When you draft a Club Success Plan, you will help your Club decide what is most important and map your Club's path to success

as it serves the needs of your members. Your club will recognize what goals it wants to achieve and how it will achieve those goals.

Your club will have a clear destination in mind and develop a roadmap to guide you to your destination. That way you will know when you have arrived so you can celebrate your achievements. You're also less likely to get lost along the way. The Club Success Plan can be downloaded from toastmasters.org/resources/club-success-plan. If you're a club president, I

urge you to download this form, complete it with your club officers, and submit the completed form to your Area Director, Division Director, and Program Quality Director.

There's even a prize to be won if you submit your completed Club Success Plan before September 30. Please email me for more details at pqd@d7toastmasters.org. (The incentive is also detailed elsewhere in this issue of Voices!) Happy planning!



NEVER GIVE UP

Leaders Don't Quit

Lorri Andersen, DTM
Club Growth Director



Have you noticed that the way you have done things in the past doesn't seem to work today?

Do you work on a project or assignment at the office, home, or in your Toastmaster Club and it feels like the rules have changed and you're playing with a different deck of cards? Do you feel like you want to take an extended vacation or a long nap and hope when you get home or wake up everything will be different? You're not alone. Let me share some insight with you.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to listen to a live stream presentation on leadership by Dr. John Maxwell. I was impressed. I reflected and reread the notes I had taken almost daily. Dr. Maxwell asked the audience a number of questions: Have you ever had a difficult time in your life? What did you do? How did you get through it, and what did you learn? Did you improve and grow? Some of our best lessons come from the most difficult situations. Be open and let those experiences be your teacher. At the end of this year reflect back on this period of time and ask yourself what did I learn this year, what did I achieve? Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Learn all you can.

Did you ever want to stop what you were doing

and not finish? Did you get almost to that point and then catch yourself? The reason why you didn't quit is because you're a leader. I've heard it said that leaders have three core traits: stamina, steadiness, and stubbornness. Stamina is needed for fuel to keep us going. It's like running a race and finding the needed strength to go the extra mile, finishing what you started, and completing the work when you least feel like it. Steadiness is being balanced and clear headed. In trying times it's easy to get distracted. Stay focused and steady. Lastly, be stubborn. Stubbornness isn't always a bad thing; it can be used to benefit your situation.

I believe we're all leaders in Toastmasters. We're a team that works together to help others become more effective communicators and leaders. This results in their increased self-confidence and personal growth. When we help others with their personal goals, our own goals are met, to quote the famous words of Zig Ziglar. Let's continue to work together and help others. Next June we will be able to look back and say this has been a great Toastmasters year!

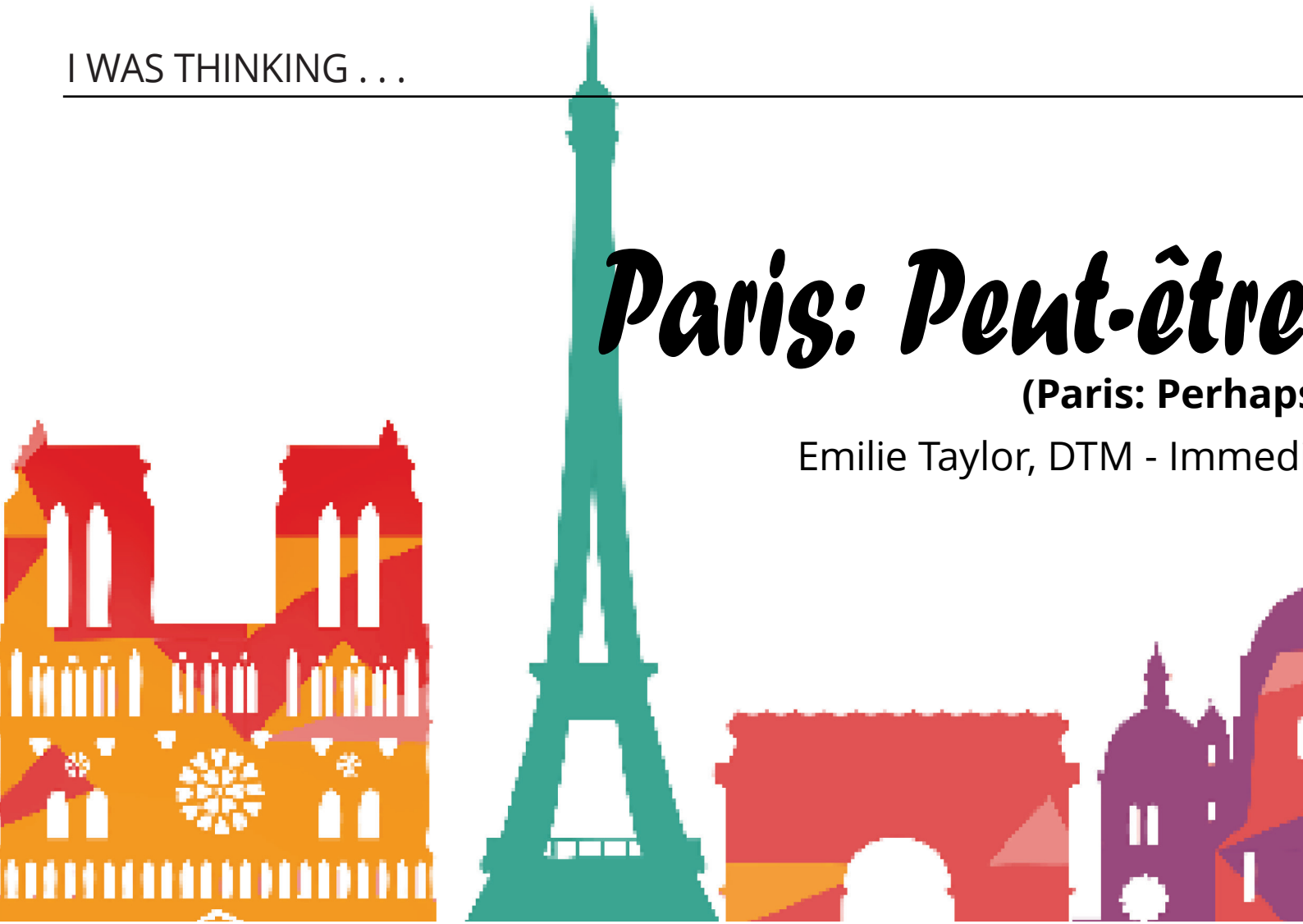
2020-21 District 7 Incentives

Program Quality Incentives Eldred Brown: pqd@d7toastmasters.org	Club Growth Director Incentives Lorri Andersen: cgd@d7toastmasters.org
Member Incentive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways Mentor Program (all year): Complete the Pathways Mentor Program and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Toastmasters Core Jacket, Cardigan, or Hero Hoodie. 	Member Incentive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Club Leads (all year): District 7 will award a \$50 Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters gift card to any member who submits a new club lead that results in a chartered club by June 30, 2021. Submit leads to cgd@d7toastmasters.org. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All leads will be entered into a final drawing. Three leads will be drawn and winners awarded a \$25 gift card from Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters.
Club Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moments of Truth: District 7 will award a \$25 Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters gift card to any club that conducts Moments of Truth by September 30. To qualify, please send an email to pqd@d7toastmasters.org immediately after you have completed the module to let me know. Club Success Plan: District 7 will award a \$25 Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters gift card to any club that submits a completed Club Success Plan to their Area Director, Division Director, and PQD by September 30. This completed Club Success Plan must be signed by all the club's officers to qualify. TLI Incentive: District 7 will award a \$50 Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters gift card to any club that has all 7 officers attend TLI for both rounds of training. (Jun-Aug AND Nov-Feb) 	Club Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Clubs: New clubs chartered by June 30, 2021 will receive a New Club Kit (\$198 value) consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom Club Banner (Item #322) Portable Lectern (Item #382), OR Timing Light (Item #6931) Open House: Clubs that hold an open house between August 1 and September 30, 2020, will receive a \$25 gift card from Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters. To qualify, notify cgd@d7toastmasters.org with the date and time of your open house. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive additional \$15 for each new member who joins as a result of the open house. Membership Dues Renewals: The first ten (10) clubs to submit dues renewals for at least 80% of their July 1 membership base by September 15, 2020 will receive a \$50 gift card from Fred Meyer, Office Depot, or Toastmasters. (Must be a minimum of 8 members to qualify)

Paris: Peut-être

(Paris: Perhaps)

Emilie Taylor, DTM - Immed



I was thinking about Paris and what could have been the Toastmasters Convention August 2020. I was truly looking forward to the trip for a myriad of reasons . . . and not all of them Toastmasters related.

I visited Paris wApril 2003 for three days including a round trip flight to Bonn, Germany. It was supposed to be my honeymoon—four years after the wedding—to visit my family in Bonn and then a side trip to Paris.

To those of you who have been to Paris, the time was indeed very short, especially when one day was spent at the Palace of Versailles and only two hours at the Louvre Museum before our flight back to Bonn.

Remember Chevy Chase in the movie *Vacation*? That famous Grand Canyon stop? Well, that was the Louvre Museum. A ticket, a

run to the Mona Lisa—not even enough time to catch a glimpse of the naked marble people on the way past!

This time around, I imagined a laid-back convention as I was no longer part of the District Trio. I was looking forward to hanging out and just chilling with my Toastmasters friends.

We are indeed very lucky to be members of this great “world” organization. We should not keep this best secret to ourselves. We need to share this organization with as many people as we think can benefit. And we should share with people we think it may not benefit. After all, we do not know what people need. Providing an opportunity to share can be a game changer for those who may not know that inexplicable, but palpable, something that brings out the greatness in each of us. It really made a difference for me.

Une Autre Foix

(Another Time)

iate Past District Director



There are many, yes many, that could have their lives changed for the better.

Currently, we have clubs in 143 countries—truly global organization. Due to COVID-19, we will have our first ever virtual convention, a free online event. Have you had a chance to look at the schedule? Aside from the excellent line up of speakers, my favorite after-hour event, the Sing Along hosted by Past International Director Ted Corcoran, is on the agenda. It is a fun in-person event, and I am sure we will have fun online as well. Anyone know how to sync 500 Toastmasters onto one musical extravaganza? (Neither do I.)

In the future who knows who will join Toastmasters and have the talent to bring us all together, singing. “We are the world, We are the Toastmasters, We are the one’s that change lives for the better!”

It takes only one voice to change a thought or idea to make a difference in the world. Thus, the circumstances we are working through have opened up more access and opportunity for those that may have not had the resources to buy a plane ticket, hotel, food, shots, and whatever else is needed to be a part of the big picture of Toastmasters. The world has fresher air for it as well! Thus breathe in the fresh air of inspiration of being part of the World Convention!

I was remiss to only have a picture of myself with the Flags. I realized I don’t have pictures with the flags as the background with any of my friends. I only have me in it. That is definitely something on my to-do list in future conventions. In the meantime, there is PhotoShop and creative cropping if we want a group picture!

Wednesdays Wonderful Webinars

JULY 1	AUGUST 5	SEPTEMBER 2
Start the Year Strong Beth Pinchot, VC3 Video Replay	Create a Club Success Plan That Works Eldred Brown, DTM Video Replay	Hang onto Your Members, Stop the Revolving Door Leanna Lindquist, DTM
OCTOBER 7	NOVEMBER 4	DECEMBER 2
Spruce Up Your Website Phyllis Harmon, DTM	How to Attract New Members	How to Hold a Club Contest
JANUARY 6	FEBRUARY 3	MARCH 3
Judges Training	WOW Open House	Succession Planning
APRIL 7	MAY 5	JUNE 2
How Being a Club Officer Makes You Stronger	Toastmasters 101	Finish the Year Strong



First Wednesdays
7-8 pm

Click Here to Register
for the next Zoom Meeting

Hang onto Your Members

Stop the Revolving Door!



Leanna Lindquist, DTM
Presenter

Online 9/2/2020
7:00-8:00 pm

Register
Here



[Click here to register for the webinar](#)

In the next Wednesdays Wonderful Webinar you will learn

- Why members don't renew
- How and when to start membership retention
- What added value you can provide to increase membership renewals

About the Presenter

Leanna Lindquist, DTM joined her son's Toastmasters Club June of 2009 and never looked back. She has served as District Conference Chair numerous times, Area and Division Director, and Public Relations Officer. 2016-2017 she was the District 7 Director. Currently she is the Education and Training Coordinator. As a member of three clubs she has held all club officer positions.

About Pathways

District 7 Video Replays

**Pathways
for Busy
People**



James Wantz, DTM
Presenter

July 13, 2020 - 7:00-8:00pm

PATHWAYS FUNDAMENTALS

*Are you a new member and not sure where to begin?
Does it feel like the learning curve never ends in Pathways?*



Dave Bones, ACG, ALB, LD1
Presenter

ONLINE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

7:00 - 8:00 PM



Click to watch webinar promotion

EUGENE TOASTMASTERS: OREGON'S FIRST CLUB (Part 3)

Harvey Schowe, DTM

Albert Holmes Baldrige was born in Connersville, Oklahoma September 27, 1902. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma, Norman Oklahoma, where he was a member of the forensic fraternity. He moved to Eugene, Oregon where he taught public speaking courses at the University of Oregon Extension School from 1927 through the summer of 1929. His six-week public speaking class, taught in the spring of 1929 included extempore speaking, speech content, gestures, platform deportment, and posture.

He moved back to Oklahoma September 1929. During the 1940's he worked in the Washington, DC office of the Department of Justice. He served as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Division from 1951 to 1957 then became head of the Anti-Trust Division. Albert Baldrige retired in 1968 and died in Denver, Colorado on June 23, 1987.

The January 1931 issue of *The Gavel* reported that John H. Rudd, Seattle YMCA Associate Executive Secretary of the Northwest Council and editor of Northwest Association News, promoted Toastmasters at the various YMCA centers in the Pacific Northwest. He wrote about Toastmasters International in the December issue of the *Northwest Association News*. The Northwest Council administered YMCA centers in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. John Rudd wrote about the potential for YMCA centers to have Toastmasters clubs. He sent copies of *The Gavel* and a letter to the YMCA center officials with a letter that said "As a program feature for

men, I can think of few things which are helpful and more easily promoted than a Toastmasters' club." He noted that clubs had chartered in Eugene, Oregon and Wenatchee, Washington.

Frank Stimpson Gannett, chairman of educational committee, announced the organization of a Toastmasters club at The Eugene YMCA Center on October 14, 1929. When the idea to organize a Eugene Toastmasters club occurred remains unknown, but was probably sometime between January 1929 and September 1929. John Rudd visited the Eugene YMCA Center early March 1929. Whether Earl Immel and Albert Baldrige played a role in forming a Toastmasters club is not known. The organization of the Toastmasters club probably involved Henry Howard, YMCA General Secretary, and Frank S. Gannett, Educational Committee Chairman.

In August 1928, University of Oregon officials hired assistant law professor Charles G. Howard and assistant law professor Wayne Layman Morse (later elected as U.S. Senator from Oregon) in September 1929. Both individuals taught public speaking classes in addition to law school classes and helped organize the Eugene Toastmasters club.

Eugene Register Guard newspaper articles given credit and provided copyright permissions for information and photographs used in District 7 Voices! magazine articles and District 7 history about the YMCA public speaking courses and Eugene Toastmasters club.



**Tip Top Techniques:
Delving into the Details
James Wantz, DTM**



**When in
Do As Rome
Namitha Somas**



**September 9, 2020
7:15–9:00pm**



Rome,
mans Do
sundaram, IP4



Your Undivided Attention
Megha Jindal, IP5

Feedbackers Toastmasters
The Evaluation Workshop Club
feedbackers.toastmastersclubs.org

Reflections on a Pathways DTM

Paul Fanning, DTM

I awoke that morning, not realizing that my life would begin to change, the familiar would begin to wane, leading to the ultimate resounding crash and the uncomfortable and unfamiliar would ascend. I set my laptop into motion to read the myriad of emails awaiting response, deletion or putting off, and there it was: “Alas, Babylon” was my response to the announcement by Toastmasters International (TI) on the rollout for District 7 Pathways—fateful words heralding the end (a thousand years of civilization being stripped away) or so I felt. My apologies to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—but there I thought, “Listen, my children, and you shall hear, of the midnight cry of Toastmasters so dear. On the eighteenth of September, in two ought 18 . . .”

I was unprepared for that announcement even though I knew it would be coming. We did not have all the Pathways Guides appointed! We were unsure as to what the program entailed. I envisioned the crumbling away of the bastions of the “legacy” program ruins, leaving behind piles of rubble and the scattered remains of fallen club members. My sigh could have been heard around the world.

While I am often confused for a stick-in-the-mud old dinosaur, I rapidly embraced the new program and enrolled in my two Paths. I did not set myself the goal of achieving yet

another Distinguished Toastmaster award (DTM) as (quite frankly) I believed that the award as we knew it would be gone and a “new” titled award would be introduced. Obviously, I was mistaken on several counts, yet was a seer into the morphed award it became.

I applied for and was granted my Pathways DTM award on July 2, 2020. What follows are my reflections on earning a Pathways DTM and my insights, recommendations, and the differences between the legacy and Pathways DTMs I have now earned.

Perhaps the first and foremost insight about the process is the difference in the delivery of the education program and the levels/paths achievement in Pathways. We can now forget entirely as of July 1, 2020 any of the “Legacy” CC, CL and advanced awards progression and structure. No one is going to pry from your fingers any of the awards earned prior to that date, but they cannot be applied to the Pathways DTM. Let us just say we have been dealing with apples (Legacy awards) and oranges (Pathways awards). Think “Paths” now and be prepared for similar concepts perhaps remastered or renamed within the Pathways education awards program.

If you wish to earn a DTM in Pathways, I highly recommend that you download your own copy of the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)



Award Application [Form 8956](#) from the TI

website. It is the best place to

begin your journey and will serve as a

guide to the changes in the award program. It outlines not only what is required, but what to do after you have completed the requisite areas of leadership service, education achievement, and verification. One salient change (for now) is that you can not request the award through Club Central. You can email, fax, or mail the application to TI. The email, fax, and mailing address are listed on the application. I believe eventually we will be able to request the award online. World Headquarters is still dealing with Covid-19 restrictions, and it does take much longer to process a DTM than through Club Central.

Following are the requirements to earn your DTM award in Pathways:

1 The primary requirement is completing two paths. Completion must be submitted through Base Camp and Club Central. If you have received your Pathways certificate of Path completion from TI, then you are set to go.

Now comes the next requirement that has been causing confusion—the Toastmaster Project. Erase the concept

of the High Performance Leadership (HPL) project that was a requirement for the

Advanced Leadership

Silver Award in the

legacy program.

In addition, do

not confuse the elective

HPL project found in some

of the Paths. These are not

the same, nor the same level of

required performance and leadership

committee involvement. There is not a workbook,

course of action, leadership development charts,

and signatures required. Disappointingly, you do

not even submit the Distinguished Toastmaster

Project to TI prior to your DTM for review and

awarding of a certificate. (Note that neither is

the HPL elective). It is all done through Base

Camp, and a date suffices on the application. It

is primarily and simply an after-achievement

project separate from completing two Paths.

Requirement number three is

also a change from the legacy DTM.

This is Club Officer Role Completion.

What had been required of your

former Competent Leader Award was

a six-month club office role service.

Now we have a full year or two six-month stints

2

3

as a club officer to qualify. It still includes the preparation of a Club Success Plan and attending an officially sanctioned club officer training session (the one where your club receives credit for the Distinguished Club Program goals chart).

Familiar to us all is requirement four, District Leadership Role completion, which was formerly part of the ALS requirements. It is still a full year as a member of the District Executive Committee. [A list of those roles can be found on the TI website.](#) (Pathways Guide may be used here as well.) No change or reinterpretation here. Remember some people may still earn credit for their District role by serving as a Club Coach until June 30, 2021.

Now comes a new change as well as major confusion in what role counts for what and where. The fifth requirement was also part of the Advanced Leadership Silver award (ALS) but has been redefined somewhat as well as expanded. You must serve as a New Club Mentor or Club Coach. Both roles require appointment by the District Director.

The New Club Mentor requires a minimum of six months service and the Club Coach requires that the coached club become a Distinguished club. The time commitment could be up to two years.

We now face the change that has caused a little head scratching—Club Sponsor, Speechcraft, or Youth Leadership Program (YLP) achievement for requirement six. Club Sponsors are appointed by the

District Director. Speechcraft and YLP programs do not require District approval.

And finally, the last step is for a Club Officer to sign the form in the Club Officer Verification Field and send to TI.

By now, being active in both District and Club officer roles and activities, you have achieved something remarkable and commendable—the Distinguished Toastmaster award! You have gained great insight into not only the art of speechcraft but also become an accomplished evaluator and an exceptional leader. You understand what your style of leadership is and how to use your communication style in an effective manner. You have an entire “toolbox” and bag of magic tricks at your disposal to be a truly competent, effective, and inspirational Toastmaster.

Here are the changes between the two DTMs. I see the legacy as being a progressive, guided learning experience contained within parameters that all Toastmasters used.

The Pathways program, although still progressive, is a more individualized program containing eleven Paths where you learn and practice skills pertaining to that Path. Like the legacy program, your journey in each Path begins with an Icebreaker speech that allows you to “get comfortable and confident” in your speechcraft and evaluation techniques before bringing in the third portion of the Toastmasters “triangle” of leadership. Pathways allows you to explore more in depth the role of leadership, its ins and outs, as well as your personal leadership style development. It has also adjusted to the new technology and 21st century in the myriad

electives found in levels three, four and five of each Path.

Call me crazy, but I think the crafting of the leadership role requirements after completing your basic learning, i.e. the paths with five levels each, makes sense. You can spend a year or two completing your Paths, then concentrate the next year in leadership roles, knowing you can always revisit your Paths, re-access the learning modules, and continue to learn at your own pace.

What I also like about Pathways is the further emphasis on District service where you share your skills, talents, and treasures with other clubs and fellow Toastmasters in the two support roles required—New Club Mentor or Club Coach and New Club Sponsor, Speechcraft, or YLP workshops. The enhanced Club leadership requirement of one full year gives you more opportunity to help your own club grow and develop while you hone your skills.

Working together means we are also achieving success together. In the long run making our membership experience positive, our clubs successful, and the District influential in developing training, service to, and recognition of clubs and individuals. We all become “winners” and are seen by our co-workers, friends, and families as being cool, calm, and collected as well as confident in the art of public speaking.

Sixteen years of riots, floods, fires, and earthquakes as an Emergency Disaster Services worker made that day in September just another day. Sure, there were eroded foundations, cracks in the walls, and some losses, but not to the anticipated devastation and destruction of (Toastmasters) civilization we agonized over. We have survived. We have persevered. Someday in the future, we will bemoan yet again another announcement of another “new” Toastmasters program.

The New York State motto is “Excelsior”—ever upward. Strive towards a Pathways DTM. Thrive in the changes in the program delivery system. Be alive in the wealth of the Toastmasters experience.

Excelsior Pathways!

DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER (DTM) AWARD APPLICATION

Please use this form to verify you have completed all requirements to achieve the award of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). You must be a paid member of the club listed below at the time Toastmasters International receives this form.

Please be sure you:

- Complete all requirements before submitting this application to World Headquarters.
- Ask one of your current club officers to email, fax, or mail (one method only please) the completed form to:

Email: education@toastmasters.org
Fax: +1 (303) 799-7753
Mail: Education Services
Toastmasters International
9127 South Jamaica Street, Suite 400
Englewood, CO 80112, USA

MY INFORMATION (required for shipment of the DTM plaque)

Name _____
Address line 1 _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____
Address line 2 _____ State or province _____ Email address _____
City _____ Phone number _____

PATH COMPLETION

Two paths in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience have been completed:

Path 1 _____ Date _____ Path 2 _____ Date _____

DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER PROJECT

Completed on this date: _____

CLUB OFFICER ROLE COMPLETION

Served either one 12-month term (July 1 – June 30) or two six-month terms (either July 1 to December 31 or January 1 to June 30) as a club officer (president, vice president, education, vice president membership, vice president public relations, secretary, treasurer, or sergeant at arms) and participated in the preparation of a Club Success Plan and in a district-sponsored club-officer training program while serving in this office.

Office held _____ in Club No. _____ Dates served _____
Office held _____ in Club No. _____ Dates served _____
(must coincide with one of the above officer terms)

Helped prepare a Club Success Plan for my club _____
(above officer terms) _____

Attended officer training _____

Item 8/956 Rev 6/2019

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Who Let the Dogs Out?

(Better yet, Who will read your story?)

Ken Coomes, DTM

Who are you writing for? Having at least a general idea of your readership helps with the writing. Your general readership for fiction is at least interested in your genre. If you're writing across genres, a subset of those interested in each genre constitutes your general readership. The non-fiction audience are those people who are interested in your subject matter.

But who is your ideal reader? You can enhance the effectiveness of your writing by creating a persona for her (or him, or them). Consider age, gender, profession, friends, hobbies, places this ideal reader hangs out. Not only will this help your writing focus, but some of this information, even if initially imagined, will help you target your marketing and promotion later on.

If you know and have access to your ideal reader, and she reads your first or second draft, value her feedback (you know, just like in Toastmasters; feedback is awesome for writers, too.) Listen to her, and tailor your writing to appeal to others like her.

If your first reader hails from a demographic different than that of your ideal reader, ask him to picture himself as your ideal reader, and to give you feedback from that perspective. Maybe your first reader isn't comfortable trying to place himself in the shoes of your ideal reader. In that case, graciously accept the feedback he offers, and go from there.

Let me say a little bit about approaching

your ideal or first reader. One approach (the one I do NOT recommend) goes

something like this: "Hey, I really need to get a lot of reviews on my book. Would you please read it, review it, and post the review on Amazon? That would really help me a lot."

A better approach (the one I DO recommend): "I know you're really interested in fast, simple meals. I've put together a cookbook that takes recipes from long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away. I upgrade them to modern ingredients, and convert them to fast, easy microwave meals. Since you love fast food prep, I thought you might find it helpful. If you would review it and tell me what you think, maybe post a review on Amazon, I would really appreciate it. And you may keep the copy you review."

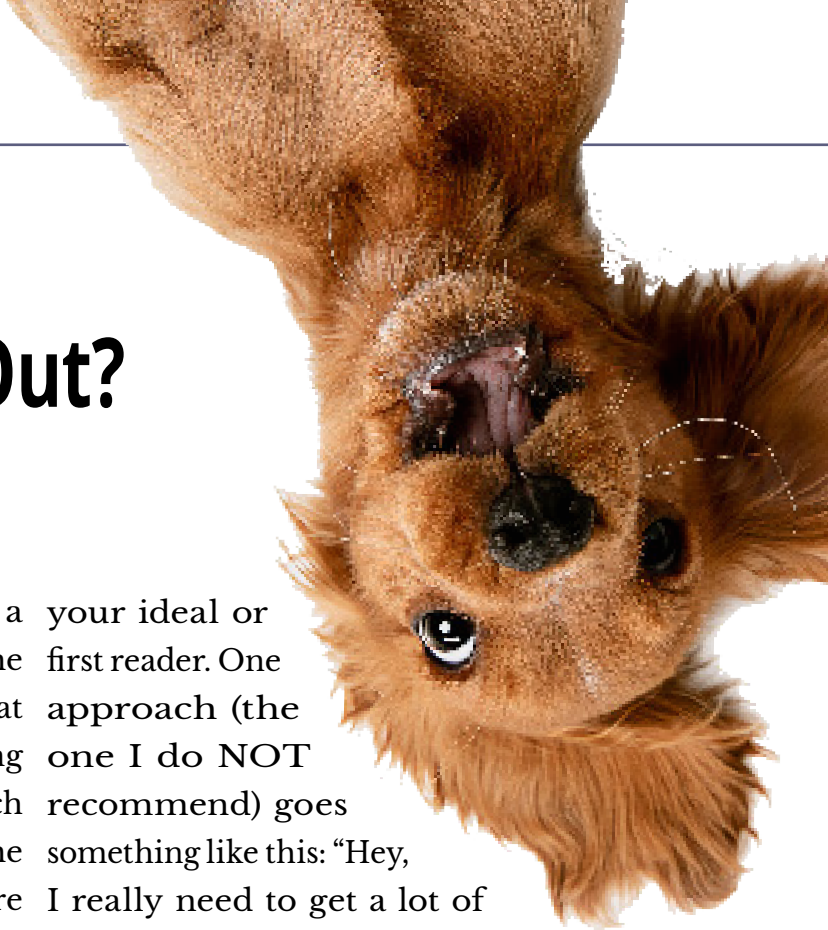
James Wantz is the winner of last month's contest, "share 100 words (or so) about where you found an idea, and what your idea might be."

Here is James's inspiration:

"I fed the small birds the crumbs of my dry ham sandwich. I wasn't hungry. They were.

I was entranced as they hopped and chirped from tidbit to tidbit. They didn't even heed the bars— they went right between them.

I was in prison, they were not. They found





bird heaven—and a building full of crumb-tossing humans and no predators.

At the start of a 12-year prison sentence, their freedom gave me hope and an idea. A human settlement on a world that is actually a prison—but not for them.

This became the idea behind my first book (unpublished)—entirely written while doing time.”

.....

Here is the writing-related exercise this month: Share 100 words (or so) about the persona of your ideal reader (and include your pitch, hook, or blurb from your writing). From those submitted to me at lupusgnome@hotmail.com I will choose the one I think most appealing to our readers and publish the winning entry here. I must receive submissions no later than midnight PDT September 8, 2020. Now, go define your ideal reader and tell me all about it!

Ken and his wife Joanne live in the Pacific Northwest, near two of his four children. He loves to read, write, play both kinds of golf (ball and disc) and design board games. He joined Toastmasters in 2011. He is currently a member of TV Toastmasters and hosts his own segment called The Write Stuff. He is serving the District as the 2020-21 Club Extension Chair. He has earned his PM1.

ALONG THE FLEXIBILITY FREEWAY

B. Lee Coyne, ATMS

In the current pandemic, the face of America has been changed. Everyday routine that we used to take for granted has taken a different form.

These changes lend themselves to a potential Toastmasters speech that reflects our flexibility and resiliency. Each of us had something within ourselves to offer.

Here are some prospects to ponder.

- Remote workplace. How did our shift to home base influence our actual job functions? Does the absence of peers during coffee break find yet another way to unwind?
- Shopping for goods. Has the need to distance oneself altered our consumer habits? Do we buy any novel article as a result of the pandemic?
- Remote learning. Have our children taken smoothly to moving from their old classroom to the computer screen? In what way is homework impacted?
- Travel planning. How has the covid-19 era made for changes to our vacation destination? Where do we now travel locally that opens new horizons?
- Inner psyche. What have we noticed about ourselves in our own ability to shift gears as new circumstances crop up?
- Have we acquired new coping skills that make us a better person overall?
- Change entails reflection for all of us. Toastmasters offers that unique forum for us to re-educate our peers and ourselves.

Lee has served as a social worker and stress therapist since 1975. He has been past winner of the Toastmasters International Top Ten Bulletin Contest.

Dive! Dive! Dive!

Pathways Frequently Asked Questions (Part 3)

James Wantz, DTM

In this 3rd Pathways FAQ installment, I am taking a deeper dive into four questions.

I am the Base Camp Manager (BCM) / VPE. How do I verify that the member has completed all the parts of a project before signing off on a project completion?

The Base Camp Manager / VPE is not required to ‘sign off’ on a project completion inside Base Camp—only Level or Path completion. There are projects that suggest the member work with the VPE to schedule a project speech with role play (Managing a Difficult Audience) or increase the time allotment for them to speak (increase a report from 2-3 minutes to 5-7 minutes). The BCM / VPE does sign off on Level completion and Path completion. If you are unsure if the member completed all projects in a Level, I would suggest asking them via email before signing off on the Level. Most Level 4 projects require work outside the club to accomplish goals. This may not be directly viewable by the VPE. Usually, a quick conversation will clear things up.

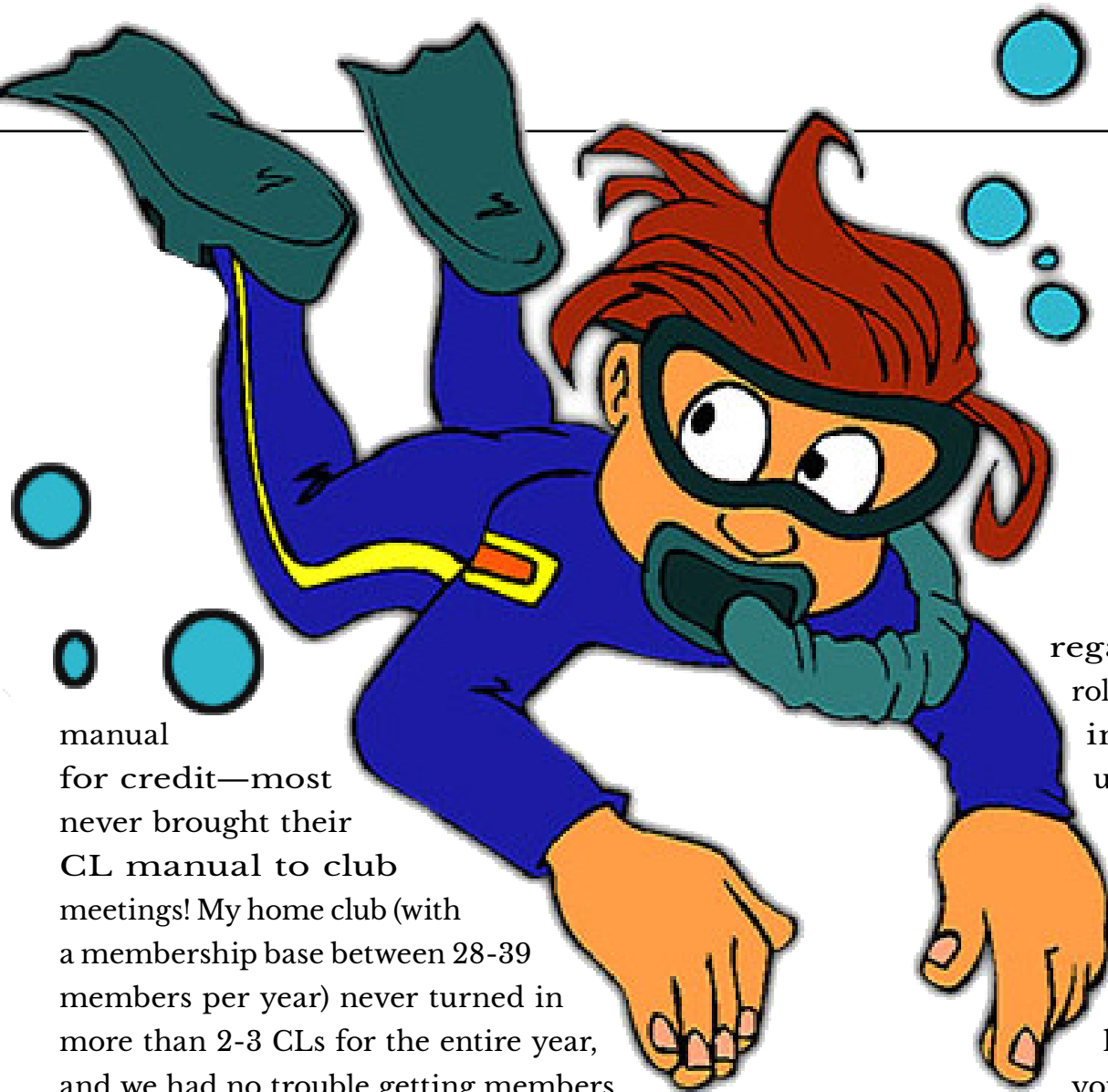
Toastmasters is a volunteer, non-profit program that relies on personal integrity. The BCM / VPE is not meant to be a police force inside the club. They are in their position to schedule members to give speeches, assign meeting roles,

and record awards (among other things). At the same time, the VPE is well within their role to ask members if they completed all parts of a Level before signing off on it.

Why are there so few projects that require meeting roles? What happened to the CL (Competent Leader) manual? How will we get members to fill meeting roles without the CL manual?

The Competent Leader manual is indeed gone. So far there are only three meeting roles required in Pathways: Toastmaster, Evaluator, and Table Topics Master. It is necessary to do each of these roles once before completing Level 3 of any Path. To find guidance on this requirement, type ‘meeting roles’ in the Search box inside Base Camp. Open the resource for how to complete these role requirements and where to record the dates of the role completion.

How you will get members to fill meeting roles now that the CL manual is gone? Well, ask them. To say that members will not do meeting roles unless they are getting credit (as the CL manual did) is a load of dingo’s kidneys. A very small percentage of CL awards were given out in any given Toastmasters year. Members were doing meeting roles but not applying them to a CL



manual for credit—most never brought their CL manual to club meetings! My home club (with a membership base between 28-39 members per year) never turned in more than 2-3 CLs for the entire year, and we had no trouble getting members to fill meeting roles.

There were other projects in the CL manual besides meeting roles. These have become projects inside several Paths. They don't have the same titles, however the CL project 'Help Organize a PR Campaign' can easily fit in the Strategic Relationships Path project titled Public Relations Strategies. Other projects such as 'Club Webmaster' fits nicely inside Manage Online Meetings, and 'Mentor New or Existing Member' now has its own Path titled Pathways Mentor Program.

The CL manual listed the meeting roles and the descriptions of each one. Where can I find that now?

The Navigator is the place to find all the information that used to be in the CL manual

regarding meeting roles as well as all the information that used to be in the new member packet. The Navigator can be accessed from the Pathways tab on Toastmasters home page, from your member profile

by clicking on the 'View' button in the light blue box to the right side of the page, or by typing 'Navigator' in the Search box inside Base Camp then clicking the provided link (the same way you do to get an Evaluation). It is probably even available in a few other places I haven't found yet. Once inside The Navigator you can even download a PDF copy of Navigator to have on hand (once we all get back to face-to-face meetings) as a quick role reference.

Why is the Pathways Base Camp user interface so . . . clunky (not intuitive, confusing, complicated, etc)?

Toastmasters did not develop their own software for Pathways. They purchased Cornerstone OnDemand—an LMS (Learning Management System) as the foundation for

Base Camp. This was done to keep costs low for members. If Toastmasters had created their own software . . . well, that would have been time consuming and cost prohibitive. Each Path might have cost twice to three times as much. LMS is already used across multiple institutions, corporations, and foundations for CE (continuing education) credits, compliance certification, and employee training. Because of Cornerstone's ongoing support of the platform, Toastmasters does not have to worry about their own proprietary software that needs constant upgrades and management. That means Toastmasters can focus on developing new curriculum and new Paths.

Yes, Cornerstone OnDemand is an off-the-shelf product that was not specifically designed for Pathways. However, Toastmasters is continuing to update the interface and make it more intuitive. The recent update to the Base Camp home page (May 2020) improved that page immeasurably! What I like about the LMS framework is that multiple learning styles are supported. In the old educational program, the primary learning model was visual. We had manuals and we had to read them. In Base Camp, projects incorporate videos, quizzes, and interactive elements that support multiple learning styles (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic).

Often, when I hear that something is not “intuitive,” I suspect that the person saying this means that it is not familiar or easy to use. I'm on a computer all day long, I play video games at night, I give presentations on Zoom, and I've even shown my cat how to use a smartphone. I am tech savvy. However, I am not on Facebook nor do I have an Alexa device (I only want my cat listening to me sing in the shower). When I

look at Facebook, I find it is not intuitive to me. I don't know how to navigate their app or their website. That is simply because I am not familiar with it. I suspect it is similar for how many people experience Pathways Base Camp. Yes, it did seem cumbersome at first. Yes, it took a bit of poking around to find what you needed. Yes, it is improving. The more I use a new software, the more “intuitive” it is to me . . . and then I grumble when they update it and change the look of all the icons (I'm still mad at Adobe from a few years ago).

What is your favorite color?

Ok, that's a bit off topic . . . but Forest Green. Thanks for asking.

This concludes part 3 of my Pathways FAQ. If you have a question that I did not cover—or one that you've heard in your club—email me at wantzjames@gmail.com to include it in next month's edition. Also email me if you have general questions about Pathways, Base Camp Manager, or just want to share pictures of your cat.



New Horizons Toastmasters

We Are Zoomers: Adapting & Moving Forward!

Jennifer Schmidt, ACB - VP Public Relations

My last in-person event with other Toastmasters was on March 7, 2020. I attended the Area Speech Contest at the Tualatin Library to support Kaushik Balasubramanian, DTM who won our Club contest. The atmosphere was energized with great speakers and happy chatter. None of us knew how the coronavirus would change everything.

Come for FUN, Stay for the GROWTH

When I first attended New Horizons on August 10, 2019, I was greeted warmly by everyone. It didn't matter I was a stranger they just met. Their annual picnic (remember those?) was planned that day and they invited me to join them. Talk about a great first impression! After that, every Saturday I happily drove 45 minutes from Vancouver for the 8:00 am meeting. Each time I attended, it was fun, educational, and supportive. Everything you could want from a Toastmasters club.

Zooming in a Different Direction

Due to the stay-at-home orders, in April of 2020, our meetings became completely virtual. Our club was familiar with the Zoom platform, because speakers who couldn't attend in the past, would participate remotely. Our technology guru, James Wantz, DTM projected speakers like Dr. Gwendolyn Avington, VP of Education, onto

our meeting room screen. Little did we know, this would be a practice run for a bigger effort.

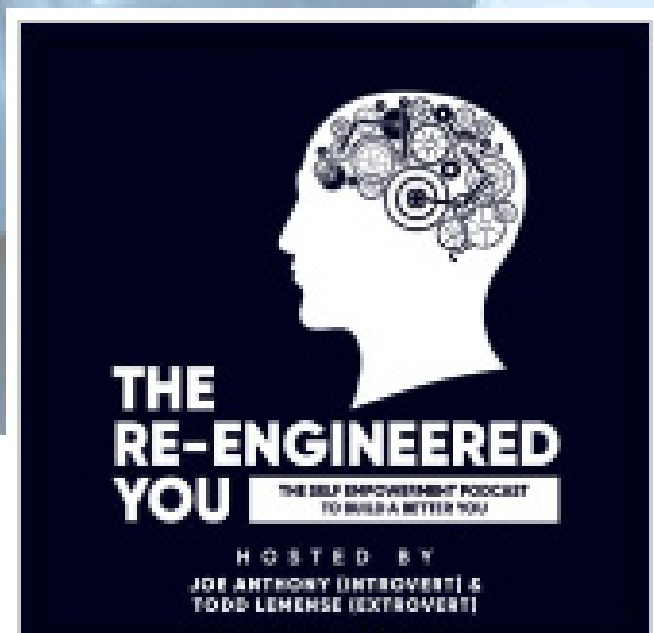
Technology Challenges Abound

"Unmute Yourself!" The most common phrase used when we started adapting to our new "window" and one of the many new details to learn! One time in the middle of a meeting, our Toastmaster and current President, Maren Zieba, had a dropped connection. Fortunately, she was dialed into the audio. She could still hear and speak in the meeting. Which meant no one noticed her absence as she scrambled to reconnect again. Whew, what a relief!

Creativity Within Our Boxes

Although in-person meetings are missed, I am proud that our club decided to adapt instead of not meeting at all. We took a creative approach for our officer's induction ceremony led by Bill Maher, ACB. We virtually "passed the gavel" to each other using objects such as a gardening tool or sneakers as the former team initiated the new leaders with enthusiasm. Each inducted member then shared their future goals. Definitely, not the usual ceremony, but still a meaningful one.

Looking back, after all the meetings, the venue may be different but the warmth still exists and the members are really what makes Toastmasters special.



Todd Lemense—

This wasn't my first try at self-help podcasting. Last year, I took two months off from work and started my own show. I spent what was left of my money, and even more on time. I recorded about 14 shows with guests from all over the world. I really didn't know how to interview and learned quickly that asking the right question was extremely important. Even though my guests and I were very enthusiastic, I was unhappy with the finished project. There were some good points, but the show was choppy. It needed structure, and real take-aways for the listeners.

Not being overly critical but still candid - I couldn't put this podcast out into the world. I was even more disappointed in myself for wasting my resources and all of my guests' time. I thought, "Well, I tried." and gave up way too soon. I dabbled in podcasting but I didn't commit. It never even crossed my mind to swallow my pride and ask for some help.

I know Joe Anthony from Storymasters Toastmasters club. He is an amazing evaluator and speaker. He uncovers fascinating stories and facts through his research. He is a fantasy writer

by trade, but his life-lesson, self-help articles are powerful and moving. Really makes you think.

We are two very different personality types. I am 100% extrovert, and Joe is 100% introvert. But I needed a new mentor to help me prepare for my first Toastmasters contest. I'd had mentors before, without any real progress. Not sure if it was because I needed to listen better, or maybe I just wasn't working with the right person for me. Well, last year, I didn't just win at my Club. I won third in Division!

After that, we started to work on writing weekly speeches. We met every Tuesday for breakfast, write, and visit. Even though we are very different kinds of people, we found that we have one thing in common. We both love to learn. We talked about Science and History and how they have a lot in common. Our conversations got so intense, we finally said we needed to record them. We wanted an archive and to share our life lessons and research. Working with Joe Anthony and creating The Re-engineered You self-help podcast has been one of the toughest, most rewarding projects I have ever done.

Joe Anthony—

I'm skittish as a collaborator. Even as a DTM, who's learned to shout 'Yes!' at opportunity, I'll still make a show of pulling out my calendar

The Re-Engineered You - The Self-Help Podcast In Disguise

Todd Lemense, MS3 and Joe Anthony, DTM

and saying “Uhhhm, let me see what I’m doing that month...” whenever I get the offer to collab.

But something about Todd’s attitude made me want to do this podcast. His enthusiasm is infectious. Whenever he hosts Tabletopics, he makes you want to share. My phone calendar couldn’t shield me from his kind of life’s-a-buffet energy. That, and neither of us had completed the Pathways podcast project yet.

Our first episode was a re-written speech Todd and I had outlined. It was about why Franklin Roosevelt bought a day-spa (where he would ultimately die) and how de-stressing is the secret power all great leaders share. This guts-and-glory president, who once stared down a torpedo from the deck of a battleship as it rushed toward him, bought a mineral bath to soak his toes in. What a speech! What a great episode it would make! We sat down to record with our brand-new Yeti microphones, and . . . nothing worked.

Our first podcast episode, and we couldn’t get the software to run on our laptops. Our podcast was a dud on our very first day.

As the realist (aka pessimist), I was ready to call it a day. But once again, having a high-energy collaborator saved us, because Todd suggested we do it anyway. With the microphones off.

For our very first episode, we talked about the history and science of leadership and

self-improvement, without any working equipment. And you know what? It was amazing!

It didn’t feel silly at all. It felt like good practice. We sat and read through the entire hour-long episode as if the world was listening, and afterward I felt like we had conquered the ocean.

As of writing this article, The Re-Engineered You is now on its 13th episode (7 released) and our Spotify reviews have been glowing. And it is truly thanks to respectful, spirited collaboration, and closing my calendar instead of coming up with reasons ‘why not.’

If you want to listen to a fantastic Toastmasters collaboration, you can check us out at re-engineeredyou.com or look for us on the major podcast platforms. If your goal is self-improvement, don’t tell the Universe what you want. Instead, ask science and history how to re-engineer a better you.

Todd Lemense joined Toastmasters in 2011. He is a member of Babble-On. Mentors of Focus, West Beaverton, Sporty Speakers, and PMI Portland. He is currently serving as VP Membership in Sporty Speakers.

Joe Anthony joined Toastmasters in 2014. He is currently a member of Storymasters where he serves as club secretary.

Finding Your Voice

David Freedman, ACG, ALB

On June 27th, David attended the TLI session, Finding Your Story. Attendees were given the opportunity to use the narrative formula shared in the session to write their stories for publication.

Learning to make your voice heard matters, especially when you're living with a disability. Turns out, I wasn't a fast learner.

I was born with a very rare condition called Moebius Syndrome in which the cranial nerves that control facial, eye and tongue movements didn't connected properly, leaving me unable to smile, move my eyes laterally or speak clearly.

During much of my early life, I dealt with constant bullying. Many people didn't believe I had a voice worth listening to. What little self-confidence I had took a nose dive. It wasn't until my senior year of high school that I was able to take concrete steps toward learning to speak up.

There, I discovered the theater and longed to appear in major parts. But the role of actors

is to speak and express themselves clearly and forcefully. But, if that's not possible, what were my chances? So there I was, for all our musicals, relegated to the chorus. Even though I had a solid singing voice, the possibility of attaining a major part seemed very far away.

To make matters worse, time was running out. I needed to have extensive dental work and jaw surgery before the end of my senior year—the same year we would be performing the musical Grease. I found myself in a dilemma. Do I participate in my last musical the same way as before, as a member of the chorus? Or do I dare ask for a larger part, knowing the answer might be 'no', and I might not have another chance?

I was terrified, but made up my mind to speak



to my drama teacher. I got along well with her, but knew the obvious reasons she might hesitate to choose me. How would an audience respond to an actor whose expression never changes? Whose diction wasn't always clear? How much would my performance distract from the play?

Since this would be the last musical I realized I had no choice. I went to her office, my knees knocking, and requested that I play one of the supporting characters in *Grease*. To my surprise and relief, she said yes. I finally had a larger part in a musical!

No longer was I on the sidelines. I had a major solo—the song *Those Magic Changes*. And boy, was I nervous! On opening night, when it was time for my song, butterflies threatened to pour out of my stomach onto the floor. But, I sang. And the crowd went wild. Oh, what a feeling!

In all of my performances in *Grease*, I received acclaim from the student body, teachers,

and parents. At the end, I realized that I had crossed a threshold. If I asked for something, I wouldn't always be rejected. If I could screw up the courage to put myself out there, people might take me seriously and give me the opportunity to prove myself. And, even if the answer was no, it wasn't the end of the world. I knew, and had shown, what I was capable of.

I grew a lot from that whole experience. I learned to muster up my courage and to speak up when I was afraid I would be ignored or rejected. I learned that, while my voice may be different from others, I have things to say—and some people are interested in listening. I learned that, what I assumed was simply about me and my challenges, could be a beacon for others who are also different—a moment of insight that could encourage others to find their own voices.

David Freedman joined Toastmasters in 2013, and is a member of Babble-on and Moser Community.







WALLMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Toastmasters for High Achievers

6:35 - 7:45 am

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Any Friday**

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**During social distancing, we are meeting
online. Contact us for the
Zoom link to join the meeting.**

Soft Skills and Other Esoteric Philosophies

Sudhir Gautam, DL4



Picture this. It's the year 2030. Most vehicles are self-driven, fast food restaurants are fully automated, most homes have some type of robot, and your packages are delivered by drones. Space flight is common and accessible, and some of us already have a device implanted inside our brains that can mitigate some of the effects of age-related cognitive decline. Nobody knows how exactly Artificial Intelligence will play out. We do know for sure that we're eventually headed towards a future in which anything that can be done by machines will be done by machines faster, better and cheaper than humans could ever do it.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking right now? During the pandemic I cook, clean, bake, garden, shop, do laundry, pay bills, write letters to my Senator and Congressman, and finish a telemedicine call. I look at my watch and it's still 10 in the morning. If robots took over all these jobs what the hell will I do with my time?

This is where things get exciting. Personally,

I'd spend more time being creative, helping others, and working on my physical and mental well-being—the tasks that a machine cannot take over. These will become the Soft Skills of the future, and this new column will talk about some of them and how we can acquire and build them.

If you're reading this, you're most likely a Toastmaster—so congratulations, you're already working on quite a few of these soft skills. Communication, Collaboration, and Leadership are some of them, and they are formally taught via the Pathways programs. In this column, we will expand upon these and talk about several other skills like Empathy, Emotional Intelligence, Cognitive Flexibility, Problem Solving, Storytelling, Persuasion, Creativity, and more.

It's a well-known fact that there is a certain new-age stereotype around some of these skills. Certain images might come to mind as soon as they're mentioned. A quiet, dark room with a

shrine, candles and incense burning, thoughts floating around in your brain about the real meaning of “recommended exchange \$10” in the Meetup invite, and how your potluck dish always ends up being the most expensive.

Trust me. Over the years I have learned quite a bit about Empathy and the tools you can use to build it—without losing my wood chopping skills. Come November, I will still wax my handlebar moustache like a real man and raise money for a great cause. Some of these stereotypes can be attributed to a lack of education when it comes to the benefits of acquiring these skills. If we said that building Cognitive Flexibility could actually mitigate some of the effects of cognitive decline in old age and help you become a better manager at work, I think we would be doing a much better job of evoking interest in learning them.

We are lucky to be living in a time in which there’s cutting edge research and tools available

to systematically acquire and develop these skills. I’m a technology professional, and have been studying these skills for quite a while. I have given several talks on them as well. I’m looking forward to not only sharing that knowledge but also honing these skills further.

This will be a monthly column backed by some mechanism to share and present ideas and report progress. Together, we will try to equip ourselves with some important skills of the future and have some fun along the way. Please feel free to contact me if you’re interested in upcoming talks or would like to collaborate.

Sudhir Gautam is a technologist, TEDxSpeaker, Standup Comedian and a Hospice Volunteer. He joined Jefferson State Toastmasters in 2018 and is currently serving as club President. You can reach him at yawsudgautgc@gmail.com or through the club website jeffersonstate.toastmastersclubs.org.



Brian Dodd, DTM

Paying It Forward

Michelle Alba-Lim, DTM - Club Coach Coordinator

In this issue, we are launching COACH CONVERSATIONS. Each month, we will feature interviews with one (or more) successful club coaches. For August, our featured coach is Brian Dodd. Brian is a 3x Distinguished Toastmaster who has successfully coached clubs in District 7, District 21, and District U (undistricted).

Brian, tell me about your Toastmasters experience.

I've been a Toastmaster for over 15 years. I started when I asked my doctor how to speak more assertively, and he said "Join Toastmasters." Since then, I've been with over a dozen clubs. I'm currently with six clubs, and working to charter two more.

Why do you like being a club coach?

I didn't like being a club coach at the onset. I read the requirements, and compared to being a club sponsor or a club mentor, I thought it was hit or miss. Helping a club that I was familiar with gave me the opportunity to experience club coaching first hand. And I discovered that I loved being a coach.

What qualities help you to be a great coach?

I learned my coaching style from my grandfather, who taught me that you don't



pick up the tools and do the work yourself. You coach others how to use the tools to get the job done. In addition, my analytical background in accounting and computer software development are an asset. For me, the greatest quality is listening effectively. And of course, being optimistic is a great help.

What's in it for you?

When I joined Toastmasters, I was 65 years old. I saw an opportunity for me to pay forward the people who had helped me throughout my life. Coaching helps me leverage my experience and skills to help others.

What has been your greatest challenge as a club coach?

The greatest challenge to a coach is getting the club to buy into themselves. Most clubs don't think that they have what it takes to become a successful club.

What has been your greatest joy as a club coach?

Back in 2017, I visited a club that was definitely in trouble. Buddies was one of the first 100% Online Clubs so I became the first coach to a 100% online club. They only had five paid members when I started the coaching process. I had to find out from Toastmasters International how to

become a coach for an undistricted club. With my guidance, the President emailed clubcoach@toastmasters.org. I was appointed as club coach in February 2018 and continued working with the Executive Team to strengthen membership. By late March, we had eight members. Fifteen months later, we had 34 young, vibrant members from all over the world!

What advice would you offer to new or prospective coaches?

Be optimistic, persistent, and focused. Work with the team and make them believe in themselves. I highly recommend anyone to serve as a club coach.

Come visit Yaquina Toastmasters, and discover your path to becoming a more experienced leader and speaker.

JOIN US AT 8 AM TUESDAY ON ZOOM! EMAIL US FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO ATTEND AT YBTOASTMASTERS@GMAIL.COM.



Yaquina Toastmasters

Empowering individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

See You at the Convention!

Michelle Alba-Lim, DTM

Did you know that this year you can attend the Toastmasters International Convention without spending a single dollar, from the comfort of your home, and in your favorite sleepwear? Yes, you can!

For the first (and perhaps the only) time in history, the Toastmasters International (TI) Convention will be held ONLINE. [Check it out here](#). This first ever, online TI convention will feature the same thrilling highlights that convention regulars have come to know and love. Watch TI President Deepak Menon talk about it [by clicking here](#).

Like conventions in previous years, this year's convention will have Opening Ceremonies, Golden Gavel, Hall of Fame, World Championship of Public Speaking, Education Sessions, Accredited Speaker Program, and the Annual Business Meeting. Unlike previous conventions, all these will take place online. For obvious reasons, there will be no President's Dinner and Dance this year. And sadly, we will not see the familiar blue and red vests of Helping Hands Volunteers. However, Past International President Ted Corcoran's well-loved Sing-along will be held twice during convention week (Monday, August 24 to Saturday, August 29). For details, [check out the agenda by clicking here](#)/

Another first is the virtual Town Hall where you can become familiar with the proposals

to be deliberated and voted on during the Annual Business Meeting. [Click here to watch TI CEO](#) Dan Rex, Immediate Past TI President Lark Doley, TI President Deepak Menon, President-Elect Richard Peck, First VP Matt Kinsey, and Second VP Margaret Page discuss proposals and answer questions.

Being an online Toastmaster who has missed only one TI Convention since 2006, I'd like to offer the following suggestions to make the most of this unique online experience:

1. To receive instructions on how to attend the convention, be sure to register before the 24th [by clicking here](#)
2. Note that the schedule is stated in GMT. [For local time, click here](#). Nothing can be more frustrating than missing an awaited event (e.g., the World Championship of Public Speaking) because you had the wrong time.
3. Go over the schedule beforehand, determine your MUST-ATTEND sessions, and set reminder alerts. With our busy



lives, it's easy to miss the time.

4. Be sure to log in 10-15 minutes before the scheduled time.
5. If possible, arrange to have a backup device in case you experience a technical glitch on your primary device. A noise-blocking headset would be a nice touch.
6. If the opportunity arises, be ready to interact with convention speakers and fellow participants. Your convention experience will be so much richer and deeper.
7. Plan to have fun, fellowship, and fulfillment!

For questions about online connections, contact toastmaster.michelle@gmail.com

25¢ A DAY

Toastmasters Membership Investment



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MENTORS

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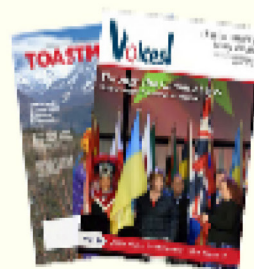
Communication Skills Building

Leadership Opportunities

Visibility & Recognition

Advanced Soft Skills Training

Magazines



Social Media



**CONFIDENCE
COMMUNICATION
LEADERSHIP
ALL FOR 25¢ A DAY**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club Name	Last Name	First Name
Tualatin Valley Toastmasters Club	Ajay	Oyinkanola
MIME Speaks	Atagbuzia	Chukwudiebube
Portland Club	Bauman	Mayuko
The Dalles Toastmasters Club	Brunson	Gary
Unified Toastmasters Club	Buckley	Misty
NoonTime Club	Burles	Sherry
Noon Talkers	Byrd	Carrie
Arlington Toastmasters Club	Davis	Miles
Liberty Talkers	Duley	Cynthia
PMI Portland Toastmasters	Elazan	Sara
Feedbackers Toastmasters Club	Fonseca	Anthony
Clackamas Stepping Stones Tm Club	Gerzowski	Elizabeth
Pearl District Toastmasters Club	Green-Horner	Sagan
Professionally Speaking	Gutman	Mark
NoonTime Club	Hunts	Gregory
M A C Toastmasters Club	Kimball	Todd
Downtown Public Speakers Club	Kreitlow	Charlotte
Feedbackers Toastmasters Club	LaChance	Sheila
Portlandia Club	Le	Van
West Beaverton Club	Lemense	Todd
Pearl District Toastmasters Club	Lott	Scott
New Horizons Toastmasters Club	McIntosh	Marianne
Yaquina Toastmasters	Mojica	Cynthia
New Beginnings Toastmasters	Montes	Bernadette
Speakeasy Toastmasters	Mullapudi	Pavan Siddartha
Yaquina Toastmasters	Nelson	Diane
Salmon Speakers	Nguyen	Linda
Sporty Speakers	Ninh	Hai
Testmasters	Ouchi	Karla
Yaquina Toastmasters	Quennessen	Victoria
Toast Of Tualatin, Lam Research	Rahimzadeh	Hamidreza
Walker Talkers Toastmasters Club	Rodriguez	Jaime

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club Name	Last Name	First Name
Toastmasters For Speaking Professionals	Rosenberg Brown	Sarah
Waffle Toasters	Ryu	Jin
Encouraging Words Club	Shinjo	Ricky
Newberg Toastmasters Club	Sliger	Nancy
Sporty Speakers	Tso-Wheeler	Jason
Sunrise Toastmasters Club #1492	Walsh	Michael
3 Stripe Adidas	White	Chad
Arlington Toastmasters Club	Williams	Orlando
Toastmasters For Speaking Professionals	Wilson	Linda
Fortunate 500 Club	Young	Cathy
Roseburg Speakers and Storytellers	ZAFIRI	ALICE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO AUGUST CLUBS

The following clubs are celebrating their charter anniversary this month. Congratulations to all!

CHARTER DATE	YEARS	CLUB	CITY
8/8/2014	6	Clackamas County	Oregon City
8/14/2014	6	Clack-Orators	Oregon City
8/31/2018	2	Make Better Toasts Everyday	Clackamas
8/1/1993	27	Silicon Forest	Beaverton

HONORING EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

AWARD	DATE	MEMBER	CLUB NAME
MS1	7/3/2020	Adams, Becky	Vancouver Toastmasters Club
MS5	7/17/2020	Al-Wadud, AbdurRashid	Capital Toastmasters Club
IP5	7/24/2020	Baker, Jennifer L.	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
PM1	7/1/2020	Beck, Kate Diane	Tmstrs For Speaking Prof
PI1	7/16/2020	Berezhinskiy, Andrey Leonidas	Essayons Club
EH3	7/13/2020	Bergman, Erik	WE Toasted Toastmasters
EH4	7/1/2020	Bird, Summer Thomas	Toasting Excellence Club
DL2	7/4/2020	Busenbark, Lisa	Portlandia Club
DL5	7/21/2020	Caloca, Paul	Mentors Of Focus Club
PM2	7/20/2020	Carstense, Julie	Unified Toastmasters Club
MS5	7/13/2020	Corbin, Tamsen Miller	WE Toasted Toastmasters
DL1	7/16/2020	Crispin, Quint D	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
EC5	7/6/2020	Crockett, David B.	Toastmasters of Redmond
MS3	7/29/2020	Cuallo-Amador, Jose de Jesus	Speakeasy Toastmasters
IP2	7/16/2020	Domogalla, Cyrene A	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
IP1	7/16/2020	Domogalla, Cyrene A	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
DL3	7/29/2020	Douglass, Matthew	PMI Portland Toastmasters
DL2	7/29/2020	Douglass, Matthew	PMI Portland Toastmasters
PM3	7/29/2020	Dugan, Judy	Communicators Plus
IP1	7/16/2020	Duncan, Brian	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
DL1	7/2/2020	Fanning, Paul C.	Feedbackers Toastmasters Club
DTM	7/2/2020	Fanning, Paul C.	Feedbackers Toastmasters Club
VC1	7/21/2020	Flood, Daniel Joseph	Unified Toastmasters Club
IP2	7/1/2020	Francis Hoste, Victor Alexander	Portlandia Club
PM1	7/14/2020	Fredrickson, Cheri D.	Wallmasters International Club
VC1	7/20/2020	Galantine, Ralph A.	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
TC1	7/1/2020	Gillespie, Susan R	PMI Portland Toastmasters
PM2	7/20/2020	Greenland, William	Sunrise Toastmasters Club #1492
TC1	7/8/2020	Harmon, Phyllis A.	Feedbackers Toastmasters Club
PM1	7/2/2020	Hawkins, Greg	Professionally Speaking
EH1	7/31/2020	Hernandez, William Daniel	West Beaverton Club
MS1	7/16/2020	Howell, Nathan A.	Sunrise Toastmasters Club #1492

HONORING EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

AWARD	DATE	MEMBER	CLUB NAME
IP2	7/16/2020	Johnson, Janis M.	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
IP1	7/16/2020	Johnson, Janis M.	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
PM1	7/16/2020	Joiner, Michelle	NuScale Toasters
EC2	7/3/2020	Kaatz, Kevin Duane	Vancouver Toastmasters Club
EC1	7/3/2020	Kaatz, Kevin Duane	Vancouver Toastmasters Club
DL2	7/14/2020	Kellermann, Charley	Civil Tongues Club
PM1	7/29/2020	Landers, Elisa Ann	Tower Toastmasters
PM3	7/13/2020	Lee, Maria R.	Evergreen Club
PM2	7/13/2020	Lee, Maria R.	Evergreen Club
VC3	7/21/2020	Lindquist, Leanna	Tell Me A Story
VC2	7/1/2020	Lindquist, Leanna	Marylhurst Toastmasters
DL2	7/20/2020	Lindquist, Michael David	Tell Me A Story
EC4	7/2/2020	Loeb, Suzanne L.	Encouraging Words Club
EH2	7/29/2020	Malinowski, Lindsay	Top DOTs
DL1	7/29/2020	Mandel, Daniel	Tower Toastmasters
MS1	7/14/2020	martin, Bianca Elena	Wallmasters International Club
TC5	7/29/2020	Mathis, Steve Nathaniel	Professionally Speaking
EH1	7/17/2020	Matthews, Mary Andrea	Portlandia Club
IP2	7/1/2020	Matulac, Paul Emmett	Washington Street Club
TC2	7/16/2020	Meyer, Caleb Antocha	Essayons Club
IP4	7/1/2020	Michael, John	Marylhurst Toastmasters
PM2	7/16/2020	Motoyoshi, Yukiko	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
PM1	7/16/2020	Motoyoshi, Yukiko	Walker Talkers Toastmasters
IP3	7/20/2020	Munro, Karen L.	At The River's Edge Club
IP2	7/29/2020	Naik, Nupur S.	Talk-In-Tel
DL3	7/20/2020	Ng, Ean H.	MIME Speaks
TC4	7/16/2020	Obritschkewitsch, Kristine Jean	Sunrise Toastmasters Club #1492
PM1	7/16/2020	Ovcharenko, Sergey Aleksandrovich	Essayons Club
IP1	7/16/2020	Overcash, Amanda	Sunrise Toastmasters Club #1492
IP3	7/6/2020	Palla, Vineel Kiran	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
IP2	7/6/2020	Palla, Vineel Kiran	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
PM1	7/30/2020	Patankar, Supriya V	Tualatin Valley Toastmasters Club
EH2	7/29/2020	Redgrave, Cheri A.	Communicators Plus

HONORING EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

AWARD	DATE	MEMBER	CLUB NAME
PM2	7/20/2020	Rethnasamy, Kumar	Marylhurst Toastmasters
IP3	7/6/2020	Ruffin, Lakeitha	Blue Ox Club
EH3	7/13/2020	Rutledge, James T.	Lebanon Toastmasters
SR2	7/2/2020	Schellenberg, Lyle W.	Bootstrappers Club
SR1	7/2/2020	Schellenberg, Lyle W.	Bootstrappers Club
PM1	7/29/2020	Schluter, robert carl	Communicators Plus
IP3	7/15/2020	Seeber, Leela Angelina	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
IP5	7/1/2020	Semenchalam, Rakesh	PMI Portland Toastmasters
PM2	7/29/2020	Sies, Julie	WE Toasted Toastmasters
PM2	7/1/2020	Smith, Graham A.	Marylhurst Toastmasters
PM1	7/1/2020	Smith, Graham A.	Marylhurst Toastmasters
EC1	7/8/2020	Springer, Carl C.	Dallas Toastmasters
PI2	7/21/2020	Standeven, Ernest J.	Toast of Corvallis Toastmasters
EH2	7/19/2020	Stricker, Michael	Speakers With Spirit Club
DTM	7/30/2020	Strickland, Scott R.	Babble-On Toastmasters Club
ALS	7/30/2020	Strickland, Scott R.	Babble-On Toastmasters Club
PM4	7/14/2020	Stringer, Angela	Toast of Corvallis Toastmasters
LD1	7/7/2020	Stringer, Angela	Lebanon Toastmasters
PM3	7/6/2020	Swanson, Chris W.	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
PM2	7/4/2020	Swanson, Chris W.	Lake Oswego Toastmasters Club
MS4	7/1/2020	Takamura, Ted J.	Marylhurst Toastmasters
PM3	7/30/2020	Teagarden, Blair R.	Tualatin Valley Toastmasters Club
PM2	7/30/2020	Teagarden, Blair R.	Tualatin Valley Toastmasters Club
PM1	7/30/2020	Teagarden, Blair R.	Tualatin Valley Toastmasters Club
VC3	7/3/2020	Thomas, Jennifer Ann	Bootstrappers Club
TC1	7/29/2020	Van Rijn, Alex	Tower Toastmasters
PI1	7/16/2020	Vidal, Jaime	Yammertime
EC3	7/31/2020	Walker, Marvin Lynn	Newberg Toastmasters Club
SR2	7/14/2020	Wallace, Bryan L.	Mentors Of Focus Club
EH3	7/13/2020	Wantz, James	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
VC4	7/13/2020	Wantz, James	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
SR4	7/13/2020	Wantz, James	New Horizons Toastmasters Club
TC1	7/13/2020	Windom, Lisa	Toastmasters of Redmond

HONORING EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

AWARD	DATE	MEMBER	CLUB NAME
IP2	7/1/2020	Witters, Cheryl Marie	Top DOTs
VC1	7/2/2020	Wolfe, Norman	Vancouver Toastmasters Club
EH1	7/16/2020	Yamasaki, Kenji James	Essayons Club
IP2	7/29/2020	Yang, Charissa Lois	Yammertime
MS2	7/29/2020	Zsoldos-Dollens, Ildiko	Tower Toastmasters

TRIPLE CROWN AWARD PINS

MEMBER	COUNT	AWARD
Harmon, Phyllis A.	3	TC2 , EC5 , TC1
Hubb, Cyndi	3	EH1 , EH2 , EH3
Schellenberg, Lyle W.	3	SR3 , SR1 , SR2
Teagarden, Blair R.	3	PM1 , PM2 , PM3
Wantz, James	3	SR4 , VC4 , EH3



B. Lee Coyne, ATMS



Dave Bones, ACG, ALB, DL1



David Freedman, ACG, ALB



Eldred Brown, DTM



Emilie Taylor, DTM



Erik Bergman, DTM



Harvey Schowe, DTM



James Wantz, DTM



Joe Anthony, DTM



Ken Coomes, DTM



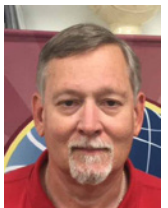
Leanna Lindquist, DTM



Lorri Andersen, DTM



Michelle Alba-Lim, DTM



Paul Fanning, DTM



Phyllis Harmon, DTM



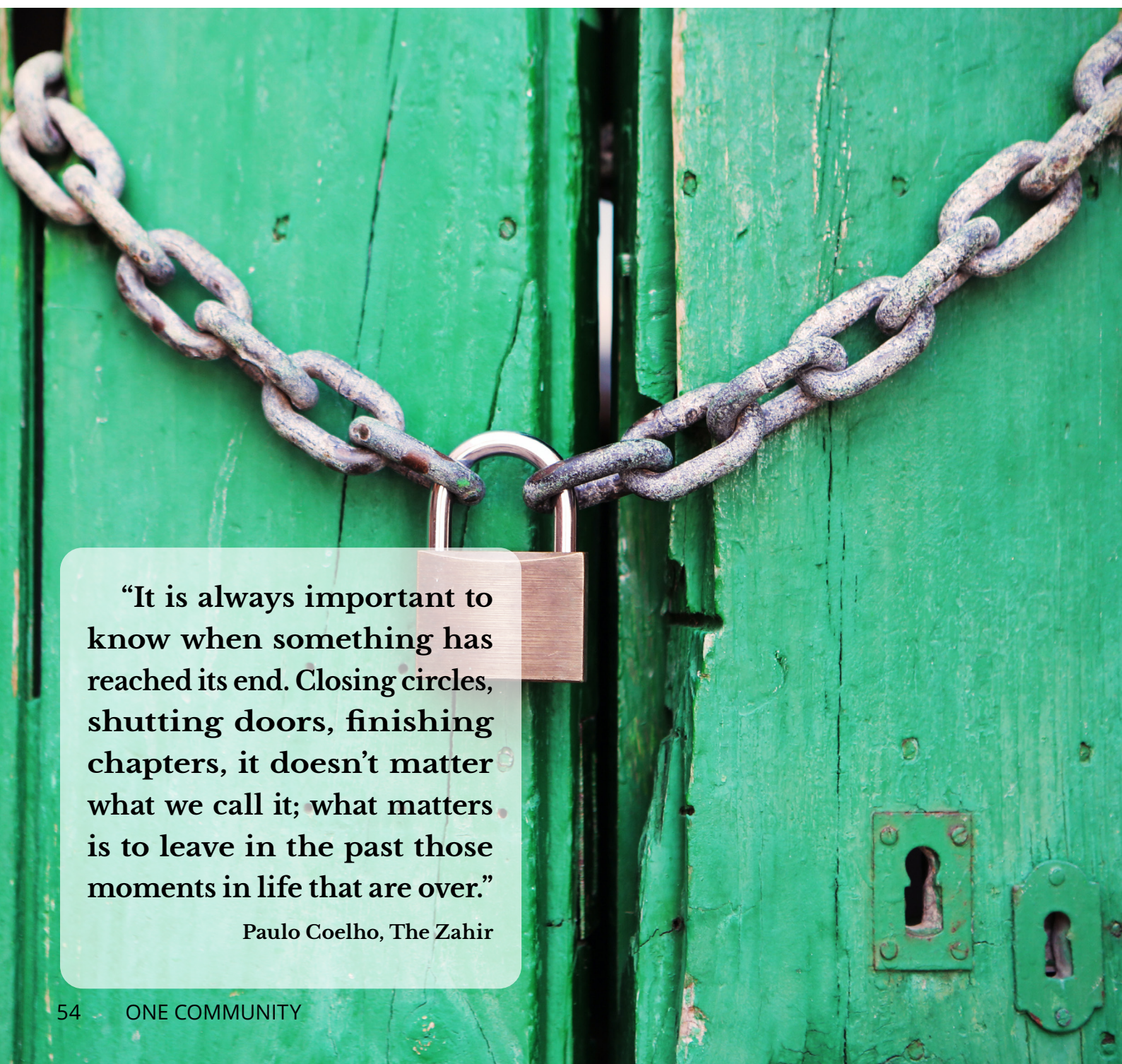
PJ Kleffner, DTM



Sudhir Gautam, DL4



Todd Lemense, MS3

A close-up photograph of a green-painted wooden door. A thick, dark metal chain is wrapped around the door and secured with a large, brass-colored padlock. The door shows signs of wear, with some paint chipped off and visible wood grain. In the lower right corner, there are two small, rectangular metal plates with keyholes.

“It is always important to know when something has reached its end. Closing circles, shutting doors, finishing chapters, it doesn’t matter what we call it; what matters is to leave in the past those moments in life that are over.”

Paulo Coelho, *The Zahir*

The Art of Story



Gateway Toastmasters
Eugene, Oregon
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Roseburg Speakers & Storytellers
Roseburg, Oregon
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Storymasters
Westside - Portland, Oregon
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Tell Me a Story Toastmasters
Eastside - Portland, Oregon
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^{The} Daily News

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