Message from the District Governor

I cannot believe that we are already in the midst of the Fall Contest Season. It seems like yesterday that it was July 1st and the new Toastmasters year was beginning.

We had a successful summer officer training season, with many of our officers being trained. I enjoyed attending the District sponsored TLIs and talking to all the officers who attended. The fall contests are underway and before you know it, it will be time for the Fall Conference.

In July, we had the opportunity to host Ed Tate and Darren LaCroix for a special education session at Villanova University. Over 70 members of District 38 attended, including District 38’s International Speech Contest winner, Aaron Beverly, who was able to receive some pointers from two world champs! I believe everyone who attended learned a lot about speech writing that evening.

We have another special event coming in October. 2012 World Champion of Public Speaking, Ryan Avery will be doing a session on “How to Become a Speaker” on October 2nd at Villanova. Not only is this a great event for seasoned Toastmasters, it’s also a great opportunity to bring guests who may be thinking of joining Toastmasters.

We have a lot of exciting things planned for District 38 this year, keep checking the District website.

Thank you for all each of you do for Toastmasters. Toastmasters and You – Priceless!

Paula

In Memoriam

Alfred Dean
Beloved husband of Area 11A Governor Linda Dean of Harrisburg, passed away Wednesday, September 4, 2013, succumbing to stomach cancer. He provided constant support to his wife Linda in her Area Governor duties, was an outstanding Toastmaster and a former member of the Susquehanna Advanced Club, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms of the District. We join with family and friends and fellow Toastmasters that have experienced the joy this wonderful man brought to us, in our sorrow of his passing.

Marthine Blythe
It is with great sadness that we must advise you of the passing of a wonderful person and dear friend, Marthine Blythe. Marthine was the past President, and served in various roles of the Speechweavers Toastmaster Club. Marthine was also the Area C2 Governor in 2011-2012. She will be truly be missed! She was a magnificent person who touched many lives in a very special way.

Sympathy acknowledgments may be sent to the Blythe Family at 4459 N. Uber Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140
**Message from the LGET**

Fellow Toastmasters, I was delighted to meet many of you, and to be reacquainted with others as we proceeded through the Summer Club Officer Training season. You shared many great ideas and generated several best practices which I will work to document and publish for all to experience. The conclusion of the training season was just one of our milestones. We are now in the throes of the Area Speech Contests and we are moving towards the District level contests which will be held during the Fall Conference on November 2nd at the Radisson Harrisburg Hotel in Camp Hill, PA.

Did you know during our Summer Club Officer training season approximately 550 officers attended and participated in the District sponsored TLI (Toastmasters Leadership Institute) and the Division-sponsored make-up training? District 38 even had the privilege to host multiple fellow Toastmasters from District 83 (Northern New Jersey) and a fellow Toastmaster from District 18 (Delaware). Dedication and commitment was evident with one of District 38 Toastmasters who attended an officers’ training in District 31 while visiting the Boston area during the summer. At least 30 Toastmasters were able to exhibit their passion and proficiency by presenting at either a TLI or make-up training session. Where will your journey take you? If you are interested in speaking opportunities at training and/or conferences, please let me know. If you are interested in stepping outside of your club and pursuing a leadership position, please let me know. If you have a HPL (High Performance Leadership) you need to do, please let me know. Best wishes for your best Toastmaster year, yet!

*Cynthia*

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**The District 38 Traveling Gavel Award encourages Clubs to visit each other.**

Clubs can steal the award by arranging with a Club currently holding the Award to visit with a Speaker, an Evaluator, and a Topics Master. The visiting Club and host Club cross evaluate.

See article Page 4

**New Clubs 2013-2014**

- Dun & Bradstreet - Center Valley,, #3349865, Area E18
- SAP Toastmasters @ NSQ, #3356109, Area B7
- High Voltage Toasters, #3365583, Area E26

**Save the Dates**

See the District Calendar on the web for Details

- **October 2, 2013**, Ryan Avery - How to Make It a Great Speech
- **November 1-2, 2013** - Fall Conference
- **November 30, 2013** - Area Governor Report deadline
- **November 30, 2013** - Deadline for December Newsletter submissions
- **May 16-17, 2014** Spring Conference
- **Second Sundays** - Division and Area Governor calls with Trio
- **Second Mondays** - M.A.P. calls

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**Message from the LGM**

**Fly Paper**

OK, so we know that members come and go. Too bad because it’s sad to see a friend and club mate go away, much as we want them to stick around. Can clubs enhance the Toastmasters experience so members will make renewal a priority? Well, here’s a thought.

While our district 38 club meetings are great, have we fallen into the ‘sameness trap.’ I need my fix of 2 to 3 speeches, 5 topics questions, evals, ah counter, grammarian, and general evaluation, and I get my fix often. But for many members, after a few months a Toastmasters meeting can be been there done that.

One key to membership retention is meeting variety.

The monthly Marketing and PR call on October 14 at 7:00 PM will focus on "Novel Meetings to Boost Membership," and features Fran Okeson, DTM16, PDG, the queen of meeting variety. To join the call dial 605-475-4825 access code 709497#.

Cont’d Pg. 4
Where will you be from November 1 to 2, 2013? Of all the places to be, I hope you will join me on those dates at the District 38 Fall Conference! I have had the honor to visit hundreds of district conferences during my years as a Toastmaster. Why do I keep attending? For these reasons:

You meet amazing people! Toastmasters are talented and dynamic individuals! You will make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, and learn much from your peers.

You witness the best speakers and leaders! From speech contests to education sessions to district council meetings, you will learn how to be a better communicator and leader simply by observing the best in action.

You will have a universe of opportunity! What better way to learn, grow and have fun than to attend a district conference? You will be inspired and enthused by quality people and engaging experiences. Your universe will never be the same!

I am grateful to be one of your speakers at the conference. I can’t wait to share with you the secrets of successful leaders that I have learned from serving in Toastmasters, politics and business—and some valuable universal lessons learned in the stars...

Please join me at the District 38 Fall Conference! See you there!

Gary Schmidt
Toastmasters International President 2009-2010

Click here to register for the Conference

Date: Friday, November 1st & Saturday, November 2nd

Location: Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA

Keynote Speaker: Gary Schmidt, DTM, PIP

Registration Costs:
• Full Package – Early Bird: $119.00
• Full Package: $139.00
• Friday Only: $50.00
• Saturday Only: $99.00
• Contest Only: $25.00
• First Timers Full Package: $99.00

Registration Method:
Online via EventBrite.com
Paper & Check via Mail

Dates of Importance:
Early Bird Ends: October 1, 2013
Advertising & Program Content Due: October 17, 2013 / Payments due October 11, 2013

Conference Notes:
Hosted by Division A
Conference Co-Chairs: Lois Cole & Linda Dean
Attendee Giveaway – T-shirts
Learn from Ryan Avery, the youngest World Champion of Public Speaking in history, how to maximize your potential by improving your speaking skills.

A year ago Ryan had no clue how to write, create, and deliver a speech or presentation that kept his business associates and audiences engaged. With the 2004 World Champion, Randy Harvey, as his mentor and his coach/wife-Chelsea, Ryan found the formula that works. If he can do it, so can you!

Ryan will teach you his formula for how to make it a great speech and presentation and how you too can keep your audience hooked on your every word.

He will provide you with key secrets and strategies that are necessary to write, create and deliver speeches that engage, inspire and get your audience to take action. You will walk away with:

- How to speak with confidence
- How to write and deliver winning speeches and presentations
- How to be humorous on stage

By attending this interactive workshop you will learn communication techniques guaranteed to help you advance in your career. The District is offering this event for FREE to the first 150 people registered. The event is currently at capacity but you can sign up now for the wait list.

Dr. Smedley said we learn best during moments of enjoyment. Have fun.

Jim
Toastmasters Video Brand Contest

Since the refresh brand was rolled out in 2011, clubs have made great efforts to transition to the updated brand, and we are almost there in achieving our goals. For many clubs, it is simply a matter of not having the funds to purchase branded materials. For those clubs, help is on the way! If your club needs help branding, enter the Toastmasters monthly brand video contest to win a branded banner, a lectern or marketing materials for your club.

Contest Dates
The Toastmasters Video Brand Contest began on August 1, 2013, and runs through January 31, 2014.

Winning Clubs
Each month the top 10 club videos will be put into a drawing. One club will be selected to win a branded banner, a lectern or marketing materials. The winning club will be announced the first week of each month.

To Enter the Contest
Send a 30-45 second video of your club’s members showing their excitement for the Toastmasters brand. To compete, send a link of your club’s video to brand@Toastmasters.org. http://www.Toastmasters.org/brandportal

News From Around the District

District Governor Wins Excellence Award

At this year’s International Conference, District Governor Paula Tomko received the Excellence in Education & Training award for her 2012-2013 year as LGET. Congratulations Paula!

Pictured is Paula accepting the award from International President John Lau.

Debbie Brennen is a Distinguished Toastmaster

Delaware County Toastmaster Club 3204 is proud to announce that Debbie Brennan, our current President, achieved the Distinguished Toastmasters level with her presentation at our club meeting on Wednesday, Aug 7.

With the elevation of Debbie to the DTM status, our club has now doubled the number of its membership with this distinguished achievement. Debbie joins Michele Guerin, shown in the photo presenting the award to Deb, as a Distinguished Toastmaster.

Congratulations Debbie!
by Krieg, VP-Public Relations

From Treasury Toastmasters

We are proud to announce some wonderful accomplishments for our club, Treasury Toastmasters #930192. Already into our term of new leadership, we are happy to note that Ainsley Reynolds, ALB, CC is not only our VP of Education but also the Area Governor. Hats off to him for stepping up and showing true Toastmaster Leadership! Additionally, our newly elected President Crystal Feliciano has already achieved her Competent Leader Award upon completing what will be her first year with Treasury Toastmasters. Congratulations.

Our members are each stepping up to the plate and showing a true spirit of enthusiasm as we work towards completing our club goals and aspiring to go higher, both as a club and as individuals. On September 10th, we will have our club’s Humorous Speech/Table Topics contest and we already have contestants lined up to participate with the hopes of going to the Area contest which will be held on September 18th. We wish Jeff Grossman, Caya Ash and new member, Hannah Marshall the very best as they prepare for our upcoming competition. Also, many thanks to Contest Chair, Selina Boakai and Organizer, Jaipreet Chawla for helping to make the event happen.

*Crystal M. Feliciano

The power of vision

Walt Disney died six years before the opening of Walt Disney World in Florida. At the opening ceremonies, two Disney executives were sitting together. One said, "Too bad Walt couldn't have been here to see this."
The other responded, "You’re wrong. Walt did see this, that is why it's here."
District 38 Hosts World Champions

It isn't very often that you see two World Champions of Public Speaking sharing their wisdom on the same stage together. If you do, you normally travel a significant distance away and spend a lot of money to hear what they have to say. That's why a lot of District 38 members took advantage of a rare opportunity.

There they were, together in the front of the room, two of the biggest names in speaker coaching. Thanks to District 38 leadership, the evening with Ed Tate and Darren LaCroix was free for the taking. "Own the Stage" was a great educational experience for any speaker wanting to hone their skills. The "Must haves" and "Must avoids" were extremely valuable and they were just the beginning.

Besides the copious notes that grew, almost exponentially, in front of everyone attending, there was even some one on one coaching. And by "coaching" we're talking about some hard core learning at a fast pace. Karen Jones, Ash Bargrave and Janet Muscavage can attest to this. Although none of the three got much time with Darren and Ed, there was no question that they were being coached.

Aaron Beverly, District 38 International Speech Contest winner, got some prime time with the Champs too. Aaron said, "Their feedback was helpful. Being former champions, it was very fortunate that I was able to meet them. I thank Paula Tomko for going out of her way and inviting me to the event."

Darren and Ed fed off each other and provided a very entertaining, as well as educational, evening.

Tom Maboney, DTM - D38 PRO

An Interview with the District Champ

Aaron Beverly, District 38 winner of the International contest, has been a member of sNAAAP Dragons Toastmasters, Club #1304762 since May of 2009.

The District Newsletter recently interviewed Aaron by email.

<D38> You're listed as living in Claymont, DE. I know it's only a stone's throw from the Pennsylvania line but how did District 38 get lucky enough to have you join a club in Philadelphia rather than a District 18 Club?

<AB> I was actually a member of Panorama Toastmasters in Philadelphia a couple years before moving to Delaware. And the location of the train that comes into Philadelphia strangely enough made it easier for me to get to a club in Philadelphia than it did in Delaware. I later wished to expedite my Toastmasters learning curve by joining another club in Philadelphia which was the club I competed under, sNAAAP Dragons Toastmasters. My Philadelphia clubs just felt like home and since it wasn't terribly inconvenient to go to them I just stayed in Philadelphia.

<D38> What was the title and central theme of your District 38 speech?

<AB> The title of the speech was called "Consequences" and the theme behind it was that the encouragement we give to others can have long lasting consequences on their lives.

<D38> How many times did you give your speech before the District contest?

<AB> Oh wow...I honestly lost count of the amount of times I performed that speech. I gave it over Skype with my mentor many times over and over again. I gave the speech to family members. I gave it in my clubs and of course all through the earlier contests. Just to take a guess I would say I gave that speech at least a couple dozen times.

<D38> How many clubs heard your speech before the District contest?

<AB> Now Individuals clubs, I only did the speech in front of three. It was a
Meet the Trenton Gavel Club

Several members of our District are making an important impact at the Trenton Rescue Mission Gavel Club. Toastmasters Gavel Clubs help their members acquire presentation and leadership skills. Merck West Point Toastmasters Corbett Klein and Lue Drummond chartered the Trenton Rescue Mission Gavel Club in March 2012. Eric Minch, another Merck Toastmaster, as well as Past Distinguished District Governor and Princeton Toastmaster Elliot Dennis, have served as facilitators with the group.

The Trenton Gavel Club meets each Friday morning from 11:00 am to Noon. The location is the Conference Room at 98 Carroll Street, Trenton, NJ 08609, phone number is (609) 695-1436. The objective of the Trenton Rescue Mission Gavel Club is to help residents of the Rescue Mission gain self confidence, leadership, and speaking skills as they reintegrate into society. Working with this Club provides an opportunity for experienced Toastmasters to deliver prepared and impromptu speeches, give feedback on presentations, and provide positive reinforcement to the Gavel Club Members.

Eddie Donohue, Jack Newman, and Alan Bookman are regular participants. Other District 38 Toastmasters volunteers include Sheila Erespe, Angie Hee, Fleurette King, Leonie Infantry, and Herbert Rheinstrom. Presentations and critiques by experienced Toastmasters help Gavel Club members advance their speaking abilities. Most recently, the Merck West Point Toastmasters Executive Board along with President Martha Vollmer made sure the members of this Club have Competent Communicator Manuals.

Toastmasters are an inspiration to the members of the Trenton Rescue Mission Gavel Club and help their development into resilient advocates who strengthen our communities. Merck Toastmasters (Eric Minch and Fleurette King) are shown at left with Past District 38 Governor and Princeton Toastmaster Elliot Dennis.

There are many ways you can assist the Trenton Rescue Mission Gavel Club Members. If you are interested in speaking, evaluating, and/or providing resources (financial, manuals, magazines), please contact Lue WSDrummond@gmail.com or P. O. Box 275, Cheltenham, PA 19012. Your efforts will help these Club Members become better speakers, leaders, and citizens. As a District 38 Toastmaster, you can make a positive difference at the Trenton Gavel Club!

Youth Leadership in Princeton, NJ

Do you remember when you first joined Toastmasters and for the most part, prayed that no one would call upon you to speak? Were you the person sitting in the corner trying to calm your nerves and latch on to your bravery? How different our lives would have been had we begun speaking at the age of seven! That's what Youth Leadership is all about.

The TMI Youth Leadership Program focuses on the development of leadership and communication skills in a Toastmasters club setting that is very similar to our adult clubs. District 38 can boast the largest Youth Leadership Program in the world. The program is held annually using the facilities at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. The program includes 200 children participants ages 7 to 17 and there is a waiting list of over 75. Every available meeting room at ETS is used for the program.

Managing such a program is a fine-tuned team that coordinates logistics, facilities, registration, mentors, and mentor training.

Approximately 40 mentors participate and to continue the program new mentors are always needed. If you would like to give young people the opportunity to learn, grow and speak without fear, please volunteer to participate.

Contact Jean Shipos at youthToastmasters@gmail.com. The next program starts in January 2014. Mentors will be trained in December 2013 at ETS.
Talking Feds, Club #587755
10th Year Celebration!

What an Exciting Week and Successful Celebration for this club!

The celebration began with a membership drive on August 12, 2013; a luncheon for the old officers to new officers on August 13; followed by another membership drive held August 14, 2013.

To help the employees learn the techniques of an effective speaker and the processes required to organize and prepare speeches, Talking Feds held an Oral Presentation Workshop on August 14. During the workshop participants were videotaped while delivering their presentation and received constructive feedback from their peers and the facilitator of the workshop.

On August 15, 2013, Talking Feds held a Toastmasters Club Speaker Series – Lunch & Learn. The event included two fantastic speakers; Aaron Beverly, this year’s Division C International Speech Contest Winner, and George M. Philip, long veteran of Princeton Toastmasters Club. The room was packed with members, guests, Division C governor, and the Area 1C Governor. The speeches were uplifting and humorous, and captured the enthusiasm of all participants during this lunch and learn event!

As a result of the successful celebration two people showed strong interest in joining the club and completed a membership application. The next regular meeting held by Talking Feds again generated a packed house of members and guests, and several first-time speeches were given.

Congratulations to the President, other officers, and members for a well-planned and well executed 10th Year Celebration! I am certainly proud of their accomplishments!

Roxanne A. Bey, TM - Division C Governor

Getting to Know Indy Square
Ed Baldwin

Submitted by Bonnie Turner-Lomax, VP of Public Relations

The Independence Square Toastmasters Club has been going strong for 34 years. Hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency we are an open community club with a diverse membership. Our members bring their own unique backgrounds and experiences to each club meeting. I’d like to use this opportunity to introduce one of our members who help give “Indy Square” its distinct flavor.

For the past three years, Edward “Ed” Baldwin has worked as a Scientist/Engineer in the EPA Philadelphia Office, and has been a Toastmaster for just as long. “As soon as I found out there was a Toastmasters Club in our building, I joined,” says Ed. “Not because I was confident and eager to lead, but because I wasn’t. I believe that when we face our weaknesses, we turn them into strengths.”

Ed has been an active club member from the very beginning, earning his Competent Communicator during his first year, serving as Club President during his second year, and reaching out beyond the club, volunteering for district-sponsored speech contests. He is currently the club’s Vice President of Membership. Ed has a wealth of experience which he readily shares at club meetings through his speeches. He especially favors Table Topics and likes to use that venue to share some of his stories.

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Congratulations to the President, other officers, and members for a well-planned and well executed 10th Year Celebration! I am certainly proud of their accomplishments!

Roxanne A. Bey, TM - Division C Governor

In addition to his work at EPA, Ed has been a factory worker, research scientist, test scorer, indoor landscaper, camera store manager, UPS truck loader, EKG reader, and rock musician to name a few. He’s a writer, currently working on an ambitious first novel that he hopes to finish by the start of the New Year.

Ed was working on a mid-life career change to teaching when the EPA called, and he subsequently joined Toastmasters. “My experience earning a teaching certificate showed me that I had to improve my public speaking if I was going to lead a class. Toastmasters gave me opportunities to improve. Whether I end up teaching, or shilling my novel, or working here at the EPA, I know I’m building a brighter future.”

Come meet Ed and the rest of the club every second and fourth Wednesday, at NOON at the U.S. EPA Regional Office at 1650 Arch Street in Philadelphia. Since Ed is our VP of Membership, contact him to visit our club, at 215-814-3386, or

Baldwin.ed@epa.gov
Susquehanna Icebreakers, Club 9945 located in Summerdale, PA, is pleased and proud to recognize our latest member to rise through the ranks of the Toastmasters organization.

Alicia Kanth first joined Toastmasters over two years ago along with her husband, Ray Kanth (CC, CL). She holds a Masters of Public Administration, and currently works in planning and zoning for a local municipality in the Greater Harrisburg, PA area.

Why join Toastmasters? Alicia says, “In my work, I had often been called upon to give presentations to groups of fellow employees and the public. I reached a point where I felt comfortable doing so; however, I was still very dependent on using notes for my talks.

“My educational experience with Toastmasters has allowed me to speak confidently with no crutches at all – those were replaced with the discipline required to practice my forthcoming speeches, and to know my material well.

“Toastmasters has also helped me to vastly improve my extemporaneous speaking and conversational skills. Also, the feedback I get from fellow Icebreakers is a great way to “fine tune” all of those skills” She notes that “Toastmasters has also provided me with yet another creative outlet.”

Alicia says that her proudest moments as a Toastmaster so far have been obtaining her CC; serving as a Mentor for new members; and supporting husband Ray in his efforts in the International Speech Contest last year.

Along the way, Alicia has also refined her leadership techniques by serving as Sergeant-at-Arms and as VP Public Relations for her home club. She also belongs to the Susquehanna Advanced Toastmasters, and now she's taken on a larger role as Area A 28 Governor.

When asked what advice she would give to her fellow Toastmasters who wish to serve in District and Area leadership positions, Alicia says, “It’s all about networking. Attend conferences, meet people, make yourself visible. Learn as much as you can about the organizational structure and how it operates. In short ... just ask – make your interest known. There may be positions going unfilled, simply because no one has inquired about filling them!”

The bonus in all of this networking is really one of the foundational purposes of Toastmasters: to meet, communicate with, and learn from new people. Alicia says that one of the greatest joys in her experience with TM has been making new friends and being part of an inherently supportive environment.

Alicia Kanth lives in the Harrisburg, PA metropolitan area. When she's not working or serving her fellow Toastmasters, she enjoys gardening, volunteering, writing, and music.

By: Michael L. Pierich, TM, VPPR Susquehanna Icebreakers #9945
Finding Siemens...

I began my journey to successful public speaking when I joined a Toastmaster club in December 2011.

I have done many things in my life successfully; yet, public speaking is not one of them. Being an attorney did not make me immune to the fear of public speaking either. Before Toastmasters, when I went in front of a large group, I felt a thousand restless butterflies swarming inside me. It made me quite uncomfortable to speak when this happened. I wanted to cut short my speech and run away. I had to force myself to stay up front. I wondered whether there is a group that can help me with that. I was totally unaware of Toastmasters. I wondered how so many people talk so effectively and wanted to know their secret. I wanted to start the first step towards effective public speaking; yet, I was in the dark, unaware of what was in existence to support me. I started looking for...

Supportive, Interactive, Elite, group of Members Enthusiastically Navigating towards Successful Public Speaking. In other words, I was looking for SIEMENS.

I first heard about Toastmasters through a friend. I found a club close to where I live in Downingtown, PA. Ironically, the club was named “Siemens Toastmasters.” It was a club founded by employees of Siemens: A German based multinational technology company. I decided to find out whether they were the true SIEMENS I was looking for.

The club consists of more than fifty elite members who come from all walks of life. They were very supportive of newcomers as well as veterans when they give speeches, table topics, and evaluations. Even if you think you have been given the worst speech in your life, these members smile, nod their heads approvingly, applause vigorously and make you feel like a star. They make positive comments which help you to improve your mistakes. This culturally rich group shared many adventures, humorous speeches, warm family stories, their love for travel and food and much more. They were willing to step in for others when needed. More importantly, they are all navigating towards successful public speaking. In fact, many members are competent communicators while others are walking alongside them to achieve the same success.

At my first meeting as a visitor of the Siemens club, I was warmly welcomed. The apprehension I had for how I would be received in an already existing club had disappeared. Yet butterflies did not leave me alone. At my first speaking encounter, I had to break a fortune cookie and talk about its fortune. I was only able to say one sentence because I went totally blank. Butterflies won and I gave in to the thought to run away and sat down. Yet, a veteran club member reminded me that it could only go upward from that. That stuck in my mind. Then, I made a conscious decision to participate in anything I can and make the best out of this club. During my first year, I participated in many different roles which helped me control the butterflies. In the meantime, the club assigned a mentor for me. Janet is a soft spoken passionate lady whose style I liked very much. With her help, I prepared for my first speech “the Icebreaker”. I practiced and practiced more.

When the time for ice breaker arrived, I felt the butterfly effect. I looked around and saw my mentor nodding her head approvingly. That gave me the boost I needed. As I started to speak, the butterflies slowly disappeared. When I finished my speech, I saw all the smiling faces. I have survived. Positive notes and comments poured in. In the end, I was awarded the “best speaker” for the day. It was a sweet surprise. I felt that not only I found the true SIEMENS I was looking for, but also I was navigating with them hand in hand towards the success of public speaking.

So far, I have finished five best speaker speeches and did a model speech for the club evaluation contest which helped me to grow personally. I feel that not only I found the true SIEMENS I was looking for, but also I was navigating with them hand in hand towards the success of public speaking.

By Disna Weerasinghe
Siemens TM Club District 38 er@gmail.com.

Division D Officer’s Training

Our Division D Officer’s Training held on Monday, August 19th, 2013 was a small group although mighty! Boardwalk Toastmasters Club hosted the meet from 6:00PM-9:00PM at the Atlantic County Recycling Center in Egg Harbor Township, NJ where they normally have their Toastmasters meetings.

We had a wonderful educational program with pizza, watermelon, and assorted fruit for dinner.

A great time was had by all in attendance.
ETS Toastmasters #5087 hosted their annual “Professional Speakers Day” on June 18th on the ETS Princeton, NJ campus. This is an annual professional development event provided by the Princeton club as a service to ETS employees and guests corporate-wide to develop speaking and leadership skills. The opening keynote address was presented by ETS President Kurt Landgraf, titled, “Lessons Learned in Years of Leadership.” The theme for this year’s event was “Everyone a Leader.” Remote telecommunications access was provided for the ETS San Antonio Texas office.

Three educational sessions presented by experienced ETS Strategic Workforce Solutions (SWS) staff were held during the day-long event. A joint Toastmasters meeting with both the New Jersey ETS Toastmasters Club and the San Antonio Toastmasters of the Universe Club # 0717018 occurred during the lunch hour. As one attendee commented, “Everything was thoughtful and relevant.”

Professional Speakers Day was advertised as “… a wonderful opportunity for you to expand your leadership skills and learn to apply those skills to your present position, as well as move you along your career path.” Overall, 23 ETS Toastmasters participated in the event and an additional 29 non-members were in attendance making it an effective marketing tool as well as an educational event. It was organized by ETS Toastmaster Dawn King, VP Education.

For additional information on organizing such an event, please contact Marianne Ferrara, VP PR at mkferrara@ets.org.

little difficult making the logistics work with my location and work schedule to speak at too many other clubs.

<Ab> How much did Darren and Ed help you get ready at the “Own the Stage” event?

<Ab> They did a lot of meditation and a lot of calming music. The anxiety you feel sometimes in the contest process can be overwhelming. And the back to back meetings and rehearsals before the semis doesn’t help you either. So it is valuable to calm your mind and nerves (if only a little) by focusing on other things. Looking back perhaps I did that a little to much, which I will get to later on.

<Ab> How did you do at the International competition?

<Ab> Regretfully, I did not place in the semifinal contest. Once the final speaker was finished I knew I would not go on to the finals. And this is what I was alluding to before. I think that I was so focused on not being nervous, that I lost focus on what was more important, giving an energetic message. I could have come out with more energy and sustained that energy which may have changed everything. To any future contestants, it is vital to keep the energy of your speech and sustain it at every level especially on the semifinals stage. Because the spotlights are literally on and they are blindingly bright (also literally) so you better come out with proverbial “guns-a-blazing.”

<Ab> How did you do at the International competition?

<Ab> It is true what they say. The international contest is the fastest way to improve your speaking skills. You realize that you have something that you didn't even know was there. I implore everyone to compete even if you only compete at the club level. I kid you not, it isn't easy, but it will make you a better speaker guaranteed.

Tom Mahoney, DTM - D38 PRO