



TOASTMASTERS

INTERNATIONAL

## The Voice

*District 83 Newsletter*

Toastmasters—Achieving Greatness Together  
Dedication, Determination and Desire

August 2010

**The Voice** is dedicated to inspiring Toastmasters in District 83 to achieve their goals. Let **The Voice** be *your voice* by sending in your success stories—the way that Toastmasters has helped you either personally or professionally. Everyone has a story to share and your experiences can help others find *their voice*. Please send your submissions to Joanne Callahan, your District 83 Newsletter Editor, at [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com). Photos are welcomed!

### Pictures.....We've Got Pictures!



Storytelling Club member Jason Velante, Jr coming in second for the Table Topics portion of the Division F Contest held on October 16, 2010 in Nutley. Jason is flanked by fellow members Linda Bogner and Lucy Kahn.



**l-r: Past District 46 Governors Mark LaVergne DTM, PID, Amelia Abad DTM, Fran Okeson DTM 14, long-time member of Area 13's North Shore Toastmasters club & current District 46 Governor Steve Chen DTM and current D46 Lt. Governor Marketing Raisa Serebrenik DTM who was accepted as a new member of the No Limits club.  
(photos taken by TV cameraman Anthony Valore)**

# Solix Toastmasters Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Submitted by John E. Harvey

**30+ Solix Toastmasters Members** have spent the past ten years supporting fellow members while developing their own communication skills –achieving the competent communicator and competent leader designations, which require a lot of work, is certainly something to celebrate.

Staff in Parsippany, have enjoyed the benefits of membership since they formed the Solix Toastmasters Club on January 16, 2001. Our club has seen a steady increase in membership over the years, guided by past presidents of the club starting in 2001 with Charter President, Tracey Polifka and all past and present club presidents:

- **2001-2002: Barbara Vrahnos**
- **2002-2003: Tom Schnipp**
- **2003-2004: Rick DiLollo**
- **2004-2005: Jay Niak**
- **2005-2006: Frank Jones**
- **2006-2007: Tracey Polifka**
- **2007-2008: John Harvey**
- **2008-2009: Molly Brummer**
- **2009-2010: Lisa Tubbs**
- **2010-2011: Kevin Conroy**

A couple of the past presidents shared their favorite 'quote-of-the-day,' a regular item on the agenda at every meeting. They also shared how their involvement in Toastmasters has helped them professionally.



## John E. Harvey (2007-2008)

"My favorite quote is 'Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you,' - **Oprah Winfrey**. I have been a member of Toastmasters for five years. My first leadership role was Vice President-Membership, Club President, Area Governor for two years and presently Division B Governor. I am passionate about Toastmasters. Join me and feel the power as you develop confidence in communicating and competence in leadership. Solix Toastmasters meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 11:30am in the Corporate Training Room," **says John**.



## Molly Brummer (2008-2009)

"How can I just pick one quote as a favorite? That's one thing I like about Toastmasters, you get to hear why other quotes are important to people, and it makes you think. So, one of my favorite quotes... 'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us' - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**. I love this quote; it always inspires me and it is equally appropriate for when you are trying to move past something that happened or when you are faced with a new challenge," **says Molly**. "Toastmasters have helped me tremendously at work, especially when it comes to me getting tongue tied or rambling at meetings. The table topics section has helped me formulate my thoughts into concise and solid answers to provide when asked for an opinion or thoughts during a meeting."



## Lisa Tubbs (2009-2010)

"What is my favorite quotation? 'The game of life is a game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds, and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy,' – **Florence Shinn**. This quote is a constant reminder that you only get out of life what you put into it. What your actions and words express, you will eventually attract into your life."

"Involvement in Toastmasters has helped me at work; I have personally benefited from the Table Topics section of each meeting; being able to practice supplying concise, thoughtful responses to a spur of the moment question - this is a skill everyone should develop and practice. I have been a member since 2006. The positions I've held include President and VP of Membership. I also 'filled in' as VP- Education for the second half of a term."

"Toastmasters International has put together a quality program for improving communication skills! The materials that each member receives are comprehensive, yet easy to follow. The larger goal of earning communications and leadership distinctions is broken down into smaller steps that anyone can conquer. Also, each member benefits from the tremendous support system found within the Solix club as well as clubs in the surrounding area," **says Lisa**

### Kevin Conroy (2010-2011)

“My favorite quote is ‘The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.’ – **Eleanor Roosevelt**. I have always been someone who believes that anything is possible if we just try. Most of the time, reaching for our dreams requires us to extend and challenge ourselves to do things we do not feel comfortable doing. Consistently striving to realize our dreams help us grow and make life more fulfilling.”



“My involvement in Toastmasters has increased my confidence in everything I do. Through Toastmasters, I learned that the only reason something is impossible is because we think it is. Just believing something is possible provides us with an opportunity for success because it allows our minds to solve the problem using creativity. This directly translates to the success I have been blessed to have while working here at Solix. I am in my fourth year as a Toastmaster member, and have been the Sergeant-at-Arms, VP of Education, and now President.”

“People should join Toastmasters if they are serious about continuing to learn and grow throughout their lives. Through Toastmasters, you can improve your leadership abilities as well as your communication skills in a positive and supportive environment. Those who are not members are missing out on a great opportunity to grow and meet amazing people who will support you in your desire to improve,” **says Kevin**.

**Solix Toastmasters’ 10th Anniversary Celebration will be held in March  
Please stay tuned for the details!**



#### A Message From The Editor

Dear Fellow Toastmasters:

Starting with the April issue of *The Voice*, I will be including interviews with newly chartered clubs in our District. This is an opportunity for new clubs to get the exposure they need and to hopefully help build their membership. If you are a member of a new club, welcome to District 83! I will be contacting your President and/or Vice President of Public Relations to set up a time to gather information about your club. I hope you use this opportunity to your fullest and I look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

***Area 13 Toastmasters Clubs  
Staten Island, New York  
2010 - 2011***

Contact: Area Gov. Fran Okeson DTM 14, PDG  
(46) (E) [okiedokie@si.rr.com](mailto:okiedokie@si.rr.com) or (H) 718-984-1339

(On occasion, meeting days are changed. Please call numbers above if confirmation is required)

**NEW MEMBERS MUST BE SPONSORED BY A MEMBER AND VOTED INTO THE CLUB**

**Business Leaders Toastmasters # 1033-83**

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7 - 9PM

43 Ramona Avenue (off Albee) Staten Island, NY 10312 (right side door entrance.)

*This club accepts members of the Deaf Community who use American Sign Language/ interpreters present*

BLT also meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5 - 6:30PM (*Visiting Nurse Service Office*) 1150 South Avenue Staten Island, NY 10314 (Room 302)

***SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO PREPARING FOR JOB AND ADVANCEMENT INTERVIEWS.***

**Richmond County Toastmasters # 3817-83**

Meets on the 1st & 2nd Wednesdays of each month from 7 PM - 9 PM

Staten Island University Hospital - North Site  
(Ocean Breeze) Medical Arts Pavilion

242 Mason Avenue (1st floor conference room)  
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

**North Shore Toastmasters # 6927-83**

Meets on the last two Mondays of each month from 7 PM - 9 PM

56 Bay Street, Staten Island, N.Y. 10301 ~ 6th floor conference room

(If main door is locked, please call 917-853-1520 and someone will come down to let you in.)

**Smedley's Speakers Advanced Toastmasters  
7949-83**

Meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 7PM - 9PM

Staten Island University Hospital - South site  
(Prince's Bay) Main Conference Room.

375 Seguire Avenue, S.I., N.Y. 10309 (*Most meetings are centered around themes.*)

***(THIS CLUB IS OPEN TO TOASTMASTERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE BASIC MANUAL)***

**No Limits Toastmasters, "The Club on Wheels"  
##8011-83**

This club is for the developmentally disabled and people with "special" needs.

It conducts meetings in institutions and in private homes. It has a Cable TV Show,

"Toastmasters In The Community" on Cable Channel 34 (where regular club meetings take place) and a "Speakers Bureau." (See Fran's contact information above)

This club is also open to non-disabled people who need a Saturday club.

**Staten Island - Liberty Toastmasters # 9679-83**

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 10AM - 12 Noon

Staten Island University Hospital - South site 1st Floor Conference Room or Board Room

375 Seguire Avenue, Prince's Bay, Staten Island, N.Y. 10309

**AGENDAS ARE E-MAILED TO MEMBERS BEFORE EACH CLUB MEETING.**

**THOSE MEMBERS WITHOUT E-MAIL WILL BE REMINDED WITH A PHONE CALL A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING**

**We Need Your Input!**



Do you have a photo of a recent Toastmasters event or meeting? Will your club be celebrating an important milestone? Your District wants to know!

Please send me pictures and articles for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. You don't have to be a literary genius or a professional photographer. Just a Toastmaster willing to share with the rest of us what your club already knows – and that is just how special you are!

Please send your submissions to your editor, Joanne Callahan, at [greenbriar206@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbriar206@yahoo.com)

