



TOASTMASTERS District 46 Newsletter

Together, Let's Transform Lives.

Toastmaster Year 2020/2021. Issue #5 Jan-Feb 2021

Welcome to the fifth edition of your District 46 Newsletter. This month, we hear from our TLI Dean, who talks about the challenges and successes of moving club officer training to an online format. In the **Member Corner**, we learn about one of District 46's most successful clubs and how they manage to keep their membership roster — and weekly agenda — always full.

For our next newsletters, **we are looking for content contributors and editors**. Do you have an idea for a story? Do you have a link that other Toastmasters should know about? [Let us know!](#)

Introductions-----from your District Director



One of my most important roles now is to promote the benefits of membership. **Tell me your “Why” for joining Toastmasters. Send a short video or a message with your photo.** The best will be posted on our website and social media. Your example will inspire others to join or make progress and reap the benefits of membership.

There are all kinds of reasons for joining. Like me, most of you just want to improve your English and overcome shyness about speaking in public. But remember that there are specialty clubs if you want to develop or improve a special skill — or just to expand your Toastmasters experience. Our bilingual clubs, for example, give you a chance to practice a foreign language, including English. There are currently Arabic, French, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish bilingual clubs. You can also practice debating, comedy, leadership skills, and

other specialties in our clubs. Check out [Find a Local Toastmasters Club](#) on the District website. Browse the clubs. Their names and descriptions will give you an idea about their focus. -[Patricia Kidwingira, DTM](#)

-----about your TLI Dean-----

Let's say hello to a fellow Toastmaster who has helped us greatly during this last year with our efforts to move meetings and training online. Philip Stathis, our TLI Dean, has been instrumental in running the training sessions and other major district events by Zoom. Some of us refer to him as our district's technology guru.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Philip decided to help our district by taking an active role in the Toastmasters Leadership Institute. He made the officer training available online, hosted it, and kept records of who registered and attended. He created a dashboard to make this data available to all district officers in real-time.

Philip considers himself a New Yorker, a city he has made his home since 2010 with his wife, who is also a Toastmaster. Philip's Toastmasters journey started in 2015 when a friend casually invited him to attend a meeting. He ended up joining [Traffic Toastmasters](#) because of its proximity to his work. He stayed on because he found it fun and also noticed it improved his listening skills.



His advice to all of us: “Going to a meeting is like going to the gym. Great workout; the only way to build speaking muscles is by constant participation.” -[Philip Stathis, DL1](#)



s to check out this month

- **Toastmaster January Magazine** is now online, and it has some great articles, including podcasts (“Is There a Podcast in Your Future?”) International President Ricard E. Peck advises in his column to try new things, especially in the virtual world, such as theme meetings and new meeting styles to counter “Zoom fatigue”. [Check it out here.](#)
- You Can Get Your DTM. What’s keeping you? See the following [checklists and guide](#):
- Program Quality Director Jan-Paul Roodbol recently had the privilege to hear the wonderful inspirational speech of a fellow Jade Toastmasters club member, Boyd Perez, who talks about why he will “behave like a Toastmaster twenty-four hours a day for the rest of my life”. [Check it out here.](#)
- Any Toastmaster who renews their membership by March 31 will automatically receive a free Pathways path! Please visit your Toastmasters profile, click the “Choose A Path” button, and follow the normal path selection process to redeem your free path: <https://www.toastmasters.org/education/free-path-faq>.

District News

Save the dates and check [District 46 Special Event Calendar](#) for details and instructions for the following:

- February 1 – 28: Club Contests
- March 1 – 31: Area Contests
- April 5 – 23: Division Contests

Find more details and resources at:

<https://toastmasters46.org/division-area-schedule/> and <https://toastmasters46.org/contest-resources/>

- Now – Apr 30: Second round area director visits
- February 8 & 12: Club Officer Training: <https://toastmasters46.org/online-officer-training-schedule/>
- February 19: Division Director monthly meeting



The event features speakers from around the world with the theme: "Toastmasters: Leadership Lab - Continue to grow".

[Click to Register Online](#)

Highlights from the half-day agenda include:

- California-based TEDx speaker and peace monger Sarah Khan will lead our keynote workshop: The Recipe for Connection
- Executive coach Kevin J. Thompson will tell us how Toastmasters leadership roles can benefit us
- A session on mentorship with global participants
- Panel discussion and breakout rooms to discuss various club and district leadership roles
- Celebration of Education Awards since July 1, 2020



Columbia University Toastmasters guarantees a fun two hours at each of its Saturday afternoon meetings while keeping a full roster of members and a full agenda on a consistent basis. This past Saturday, they welcomed 44 attendees (guests and members), conducted a workshop, and presented three speeches. The meeting was packed — with people, speeches, fun, and participation from all.

They have achieved President's Distinguished and Perfect 10 status as well as the district's prestigious Golden Gavel Award four years in a row, from 2017 to 2020.

To explain their successes, a few things shined through immediately. The VP-M started the meeting by introducing herself in the Zoom chat room to everyone, especially guests, and explaining a little bit about the club. There were plenty of welcome messages from members, too.

The 3:00 P.M. (EST) meeting time accommodates guests in a few other time zones. Last Saturday's meeting included guests in Tokyo, Mozambique, and India.

The word of the day was also given in the chat room, where attendees could easily access and learn about it throughout the meeting. In addition, to make the meeting fun, raffle prizes were awarded for the best outfit and best virtual background. This encouraged attendees to turn on their video and participate with full spirit.

Each evaluator explained the specific objectives of their assigned speech, which surely helped the audience get a sense of the speech and created a bond between evaluator and speaker. After each speech, attendees were asked to send feedback to the speaker through the chat room. A countdown clock was displayed, along with a reminder to use the tried-and-true "sandwich" method.

The meeting's usual five-minute break included a virtual karaoke session, with attendees singing a District 46-themed version of "New York, New York". They even have a Happy hour after their meetings.

They meet every Saturday from 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. Visit their website to register and for more information: [Columbia University Toastmasters Club](#). Watch for the next edition of this newsletter, which will feature an interview with Past-President Robert Dong, who will offer suggestions for succeeding and prospering as Columbia Toastmasters has.

0:31 FEEDBACK PLEASE
Please send your feedback to the speaker through a private chat

Please use the **Sandwich Method!**

- Positive
- Constructive Feedback
- Positive