



# TOASTMASTERS District 46 Newsletter

**Together, Let's Transform Lives.**

**Toastmaster Year 2020/2021. Issue #6 March 2021**

Welcome to the sixth edition of your District 46 Newsletter. This month, we hear from our Chief Judge, who talks about the rewards of serving as a contest judge. In the **Member Corner**, we hear some practical advice about keeping full agendas and rosters from one of District 46's most successful clubs.

## **Introductions-----from your District Director**



We all have lost loved ones to Covid-19 in the last year. We have acknowledged and offered sympathy privately. Now, we invite our members to share memories of those lost to Covid-19. We plan a special acknowledgement ceremony at the end of our Toastmasters year this June. We think it is important to remember these lives, dear to our members and their families, who were taken too soon because of this virus.

We have all worked so closely over the last year (and years before then), so we feel as a family. We feel the loss collectively. Many lifelong friendships have been formed on top of our working relationships, so our grief is real.

Write to us about your loved ones (about 100 words) and include a picture if you feel that is appropriate. We will put together a presentation during one of our final meetings to honor and remember them. Remember to stay safe. We have successfully transitioned to remote meetings and are proud that we have conducted hybrid meetings in accordance with highest safety standards. [Patricia Kidwingira, DTM](#)

## **-----from your Chief Judge**

As District 46's Chief Judge, Debra Jones, DTM, encourages her fellow Toastmasters to volunteer as judges during this contest season with a simple message: You will help others and grow in your own competence by stepping out of your comfort zone. If you feel reluctant, challenge yourself by saying, "It's now or never."

The Chief Judge's role is demanding, but she is grateful for the opportunities to see different sides of the District and interact with so many members. Duties include counseling and helping to prepare contests at the club, area, and division levels, as well as conducting training sessions.

The work of a contest judge is rewarding, she says, but you will sooner or later face two unexpected challenges: judging all excellent speeches or those not hitting the mark of the judging criteria. In the first case, she advises you to look for the speech that grabs you — that pulls at your heartstrings — and has a universal message. In the second case, don't focus on the negative, but understand that the speaker may not have performed as well during that contest. However, they are making a huge effort (and stepping far out of their comfort zone). Admire them for that and recognize that they are nervous. Then, decide on the clearest, most easily understood message.



Debra is also deeply involved in her [United We Stand Toastmasters Club & Youth Leadership Program #9938](#), where she currently serves as President. Along with her twin sister and club Secretary/Treasurer, Dianne, and the other members of the club, they run a successful youth outreach program in Westchester schools and the White Plains Youth Bureau. In our next issue, we explore how they are encouraging middle and high school students to become confident public speakers.

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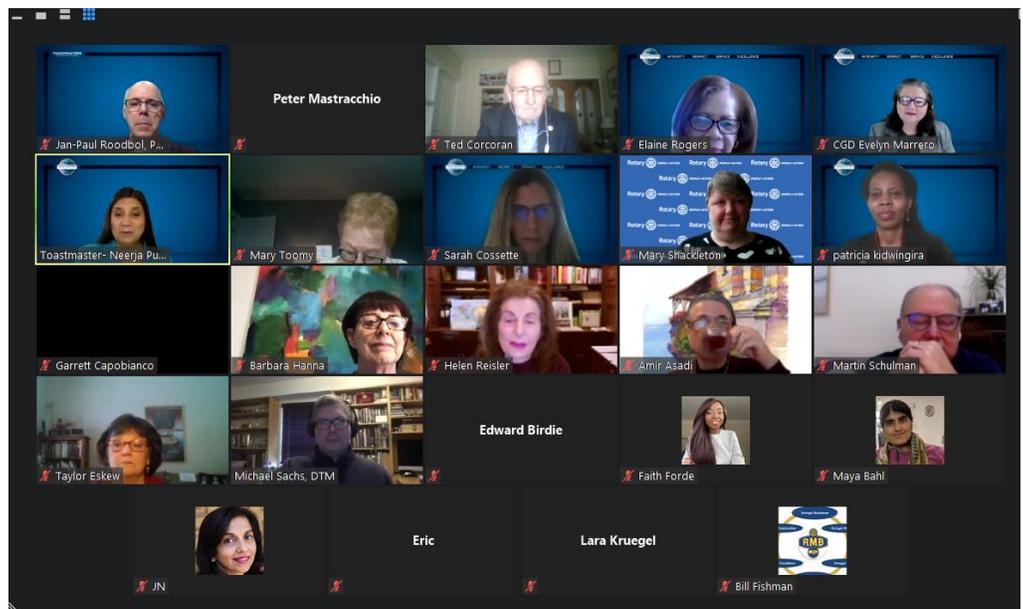
## s to check out this month

- **Toastmaster February Magazine** is now online, and it has some great articles, including actionable tactics on how to make your listeners laugh (“The Formula for Funny”). Self-described humor expert John Cadley attempts to explain (humorously) why people laugh (“You Think That’s Funny?”). [Check it out here.](#)
- If you missed the January 30 Leadership Summit, you can watch it in its entirety here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VnhbqnFz5I>.
- All things online: Check out a wealth of information and resources for conducting online meetings: <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/news%20and%20announcements/online%20meetings>.
- The popular and always helpful Secret Sauce series continues. Check out the Contest Training session from January 25: <http://bit.ly/2LZ5xZS> (Access Passcode: 3LJYd!14).

## District News

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

- Club Contests: February 1-28, Area Contests: March 1-31, Division Contests: April 5-23: <https://toastmasters46.org/division-area-schedule/>.
- The fees for chartering a new club (and member initiation fees) have been waived through June 30, saving any new club \$125 and \$25 per member: <https://toastmasters46.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-2021-fee-waiver.pdf>.
- District 46 will shortly charter its newest and most unique club, Goodwill, a joint Toastmasters and Rotary effort. This club is perfect for anyone interested in the values and principles of Toastmasters and Rotary International and where they intersect — communication and service. Past District Director Nerja Purang served as Toastmaster for the 90-minute demonstration Zoom meeting that included more than 20 guests. Rotary District 7230 Governor Mary Shackleton delivered her Icebreaker speech, “Power of Partnerships”, describing past experiences as a Toastmaster. District 46 Toastmaster Michael Sachs spoke about “Life as a Toastmaster and Rotarian”. Their evaluators were the very experienced Ted Corcoran, Past Toastmasters International President (joining from Ireland) and District 46’s Immediate Past District Director, Elaine Rogers. CGD Evelyn Marrero conducted a spirited Table Topics session.



Contact PQD Jan-Paul Roodbol to join or for more information: [janpaul.roodbol.tm@gmail.com](mailto:janpaul.roodbol.tm@gmail.com) (267) 334-8916 (m).



Last month, we visited a meeting of Columbia University Toastmasters, curious about their successes. This month, we continue from [that article](#) with an interview of Past-President Robert Dong, who will offer suggestions for succeeding and prospering as Columbia Toastmasters has. In January 2020, Robert spoke with Fox 5's Ernie Anastos about Toastmasters and the importance of public speaking. For us, he went into greater detail about how his club achieved its successes and how any club can replicate them.

#### **Does your convenient meeting time attract members and visitors?**

Yes, however we have to credit our members who do a great job bringing their friends in. Our leadership team also really puts in a great effort to bring in guests and convert them to members. We also consistently have members who work on Toastmasters Pathways leadership projects where they host special club events that bring in guests and add to the quality of our meetings.

#### **Any secrets to maintaining a full roster?**

We make sure we run a high-quality program that ensures everyone sees the true benefits of Toastmasters. Guests frequently comment that they were quite impressed by the club's level of organization and structure. Even though Toastmasters dues are a small fraction of what it would cost to take a class at Columbia University, we still show them that this is a well-organized high-quality program that will help them build world-class public speaking skills. We start our meetings on-time and communicate with participants throughout the week to ensure that everything is well-prepared for a quality meeting that doesn't waste anyone's time.

#### **Any secrets to maintaining a full agenda every week?**

Some of our most active members set a great example showing that consistent participation is the norm in our club. We also have larger than average attendance at our meetings. This allows speakers to get great feedback from a wide variety of people. Our members know our club provides them with great value every time they participate. We also host special events that help build camaraderie between members and make members want to come back for more.

#### **Were there any challenging times during your tenures (like low membership) and how did you handle them?**

Every club starts from somewhere. The club had to work to build membership in its first year or two. At the beginning, even though most of our members weren't very experienced, they had dedication and really put in the effort to build the club over the years.

#### **Was your transition to online meetings smooth?**

Yes. Most of our members are tech-savvy and had no issues using the Zoom platform. We were able to switch to online meetings immediately without even skipping a meeting. We held 52 meetings in 2020. We did have one incident with Zoombombers, but that was taken care of quickly.

Watch Robert's Fox 5 interview:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2816254268463659>

