

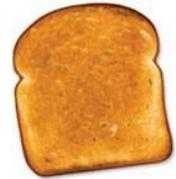


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Club Growth Director (2022-23) | District 41 | Region 13

The Toast of the Town

The word 'Toast' means different things to different people. For some, it is what makes a piece of boring bread edible, provided you add copious amounts of jam / jelly / butter / cheese to it. To some, it is what you raise at your best friend's wedding, or at a celebrity luncheon or dinner to honor that special accomplishment, or to commemorate that momentous celebration. For yet others, it's what they hope they don't end up becoming in an important business meet, public appearance, or summer vacation. However, for millions of people across the world, 'Toast' is simply a way to master the greatest fear in this world - the terrifying fear of public speaking.



Once Terrified, Now Terrific!

Since the first Club began, more than 4 million people around the world have benefited from membership in Toastmasters. Through member clubs, people can improve their communication and leadership skills, and find the courage to change. Today Toastmasters is a world leader and now has more than 352,000 members around the globe. But how did it all begin? Strange as it may sound now, it all began via a basement brainstorm!

A Historical Basement Brainstorm

When people hear the word 'basement' they're more likely to picture mold and spiders than the birthplace of a global communication and leadership training organization. But a basement in a YMCA in Santa Ana, California, is exactly where, in 1924, Ralph C. Smedley held the first meeting of what would eventually become Toastmasters International.

Smedley began working as director of education for a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) after he graduated from college. He observed that many of the young patrons needed 'training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings' and Smedley wanted to help them. He decided the training format would be like a social club. During the early 1900s the word 'toastmaster' referred to a person who proposed the toasts and introduced the speakers at a banquet.



Home of the first Toastmasters club: The YMCA in Santa Ana, CA

Smedley named his group 'The Toastmasters Club' because he thought it suggested a pleasant, social atmosphere appealing to young men. When Smedley started the Toastmasters group at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, members practiced speaking skills in a supportive, informal atmosphere. The seedling club blossomed.

With over 16,800 clubs and more than 358,000 members in 143 countries, Ralph Smedley's 'basement brainstorm' continues to thrive in the 21st century. A typical Toastmaster meeting, however, continues to remain a learn-by-doing workshop in which participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a friendly atmosphere. A typical group has 20 to 40 members who meet weekly, biweekly, or monthly. The average meeting lasts 60 to 90 minutes.

A Typical Toastmaster Meeting

There is no instructor in a Toastmasters meeting. Instead, members evaluate one another's presentations. This friendly feedback process is a key part of the program's success. Meeting participants also give impromptu talks on assigned topics, conduct meetings, and develop skills related to timekeeping, grammar, and parliamentary procedure.

In the process, members get to improve their public speaking skills, build leadership skills, maximize their potential, enjoy unlimited personal growth, work on their networking in a small and supportive environment, practice writing speeches and presenting in a group setting, gain a competitive advantage in the workplace, and build self-confidence and self-awareness. Members do these while participating in the Pathways program.

Pathways offers new revitalized education that builds upon the core competencies of Toastmasters by offering education content that helps one learn and put to practice skills that address real world scenarios. Pathways offers more than 300 competencies across 59 projects across 5 Core Competencies – Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Strategic Leadership, Management, Confidence. The specialized learning paths allow one to tailor their experience to fit one’s needs as well as pace and are as follows:

11 Specialized Learning Paths

After taking an online assessment, you will be guided to the ideal path, based on your current goals. There are at least 14 projects in each path.

Dynamic Leadership

Effective Coaching

Engaging Humor

Innovative Planning

Leadership Development

Motivational Strategies

Persuasive Influence

Presentation Mastery

Strategic Relationships

Team Collaboration

Visionary Communication

Want to hear what members are saying? See back for testimonials.
www.toastmasters.org/Pathways

All this content is available online allowing one to learn anytime, anywhere, be it from a computer, tablet or phone through basecamp.

Toastmaster Contests

Every year Toastmasters International holds four contests to help its members see where they stand and to compete against each other. Contests start at the Club level. Winners from each Club then compete at the Area Level (usually a group of Clubs in a city or state), before moving onto the Division Level (a group of Areas – usually a group of states) before moving to the finals at the District levels (usually held at a country level, sometimes it could be a few countries together as well).

While winners of the Humorous Speech Contest, Speech Evaluation Contest, and Table Topics Contest can compete till the District, for its fourth Contest - International Speech, winners move onto the World Championship Levels. While the semi-final is at the Region Level (usually continental level), the finals see the best of the world compete for the ultimate honor 'World Champion of Public Speaking'.

Toastmaster - The Subcontinent Connect

The growth of Toastmasters in the sub-continent has seen a tremendous spurt over the last few years. We now have several Districts in the region (we belong to Region 13) with a strong South East Asian connect with countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, etc. Some of the Districts are as detailed below:

REGION 13

DISTRICT 41 DISTRICT 97P	DISTRICT 51 DISTRICT 98 DISTRICT 124	DISTRICT 80 DISTRICT 102 DISTRICT 125	DISTRICT 82 DISTRICT 120 DISTRICT 126	DISTRICT 92 DISTRICT 121
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District 41 currently has over 150 Clubs across top organizations as well as educational institutions including, but not restricted to the following:

- **Corporates:** TCS, IBM, Infosys, Cognizant, WIPRO, HCL, Birlasoft, NIIT, Ultratech, Pitney Bowes, Barclays, PwC, McKinsey Knowledge Centre, Boston Consulting Group, Siemens, Bank of America, American Express, Royal Bank of Scotland, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Blackrock, Fluor Daniel, Mindtech, Larson & Toubro (L&T), Bechtel, WNS, AIG, Cairn India, Metlife, IHS Markit, Carrier, Orange, Bankdata, Expedia, RMS, Xceedence, Axtria, Nagarro, Interra IT, Tata Steel, Jayashree Textiles, Cadence, Global Payments, Nokia, NIIT, Vedanta, Reliance (Nepal), Prabhu Bank (Nepal), Yeti Airlines (Nepal), AGNI, Standard Chartered Bank, LAXMI Bank, Sanima Bank, Prabhu Bank, Jawalakhel Group of Industries (JGI), etc.
- **Colleges / Universities:** ICFAI Delhi, IIM Kashipur, BITS Pilani, MDI Gurugram, XIMB Bhubaneshwar, Chitkara University, University of Engineering and Management (UEM), National Institute of Foreign Trade (NIFT), Sri Sri University, ICFAI Business School, Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Shiv Nadar University, Sri Sri University Great Lakes University, Delhi Technical University, Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Kathmandu University School of Management (KU-SOM), ACE institute of Management, Kathmandu College of Management (KCM), Reliance, etc.

Toastmaster Members

In Toastmaster learn-by-doing approach, we don't lecture Toastmaster members about leadership skills; we give the members responsibilities and mentoring to help. Then, they are asked to lead. The result? People from all walks of life invariably increase their self-confidence, become a better speaker, a better listener, a better presenter, a better pursuer, a better leader, and a much more effective communicator.

More than 4.5 million people have discovered the benefits of this proven learning formula. What are you waiting for? Visit www.toastmasters.org today to find out more!

The following is a list of some actors, authors, athletes, scientists, politicians, astronauts, CEOs, and beauty pageant winners amongst others, who credited their success to Toastmasters:

Albert: Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1971-77

Tim Allen: Actor, star of television series, 'Home Improvement'

Everett Alvarez: American POW during the Vietnam War

William Bennett: Former Premier of British Columbia, Canada

James Brady: Two-term press secretary for U.S. President Ronald Reagan; author of the Brady Bill

Nancy Brinker: Founder of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary

Joe Conley: Actor, former cast member of television show *The Waltons*

Ceylone Boothe-Grooms: A Toastmaster from Middletown, New Jersey, won the title of Mrs. New Jersey in 2009.

Peter Coors: Chairman of Coors Brewing Company

Ben Couch: Late former Member of Parliament, New Zealand

Philip Crosby: Quality expert and leader of the quality movement

Carl Dixon: Rock Musician, former lead singer for The Guess Who

Mark Eaton: Former ALL Star Center for the NBA's Utah Jazz

Robert Emory: Founder, Emory Worldwide Courier Service

Debbie Fields Rose: Founder, Mrs. Fields Cookies

Anita Perez Ferguson: Former President, U.S. National Women's Political Caucus

Steve Fraser: National Director of Sports Marketing Systems for Domino's Pizza, Inc.

Napoleon Hill: Best-selling author of 'Think and Grow Rich;' presidential advisor

Robert Nesen: Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy, 1970-71

Rachael Rees: Miss World 2009, New South Wales, Australia

Todd Newton: TV host (E!, USA, Travel Channel, Game Show Network), life coach and speaker

Leonard Nimoy: Actor, star of television series 'Star Trek'

Paul Orefice: Former President and CEO of Dow Chemical, Midland, Michigan

Cavett Robert: Late founder of the National Speakers Association; author

Pat Roberts: U.S. Senator, Republican from Kansas

Brittany Hoff: 2004 Miss Lewis County, Washington, and 2006 Miss Nampa, Idaho

John Young: Former U.S. astronaut

Thanks and Regards,

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