



The Founder

www.foundersdistrict.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

SEPTEMBER 2017



Daniel Midson-Short SHINES
at International Speech Contest

Founder's District
Leader-Messages

Toastmaster of the
YEAR

High Performance
Leadership

DANIEL MIDSON-
SHORT
REPRESENTS!!!

News from the
Divisions

End of Year
Celebration

...and MORE!

**Founder's District:
The Birthplace of Toastmasters**



How Toastmasters Prepared Me!

Marie Hulett, DTM
Editor in Chief of *The Founder*

A few years ago, I made the decision to go back to school and get my doctoral degree. It was a challenge, to say the least; but in July, I finished the last of my courses and am now strictly working on my dissertation study.

One of the steps in this process is defending one's research. I had to defend the first three chapters of my dissertation, also known as my proposal, on August 29. Needless to say, I was more nervous about giving this presentation than I have ever been giving any kind of a speech, as my success (or failure) would determine if I would be able to move on and complete my research.

I spoke for about a half hour, after which I had to answer questions from my dissertation committee. When they were satisfied that they had all the information they needed, they sent me (and the audience) out of the lecture room while they deliberated for what seemed like an eternity.

Finally, the door to the room opened and my committee chair invited us all back in.

With a smile, she announced that my proposal was approved and that I could move on with my study! I cannot begin to tell you how excited and happy I was.

Had it not been for Toastmasters, I honestly believe I would not have fared as well in my proposal defense. The skills I have grown and the tools I now have for making effective presentations are products of being a Toastmaster and I am so grateful for that.

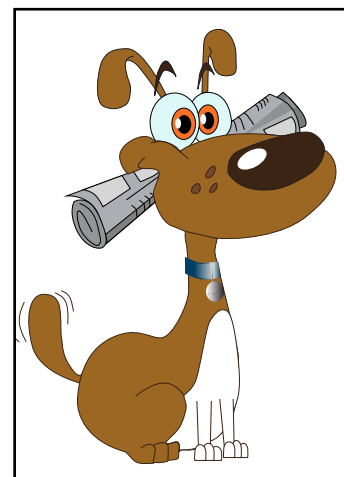
In March, I will be back in the hotseat - this is when I plan to make my final defense. I am sure I will be nervous again, but I know my Toastmaster experience will get me through.



FIND FOUNDER & WIN!

From our last issue, Diane Brown from Unimasters found our mascot, "Founder" (pictured to the right) hiding on Page 25 in a group photo and Page 29 in group photo. She scored a \$25 Toastmaster Store Gift Certificate! Founder is hiding again in this issue and the first person who correctly identifies BOTH of his hiding spots will also win a \$25 Toastmaster Store Gift Certificate.

Email me at mhulett@coastline.edu with your answer!





WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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District Trio, (Daniel Cossack, DTM, Lori Shapiro, DTM, Dr. Diana Dee, DTM), attending the District Leadership Training and International Convention in Vancouver, BC. with incoming International President, Balraj Arunasalam, DTM

Founder's District Mission

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

www.foundersdistrict.org

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for solicitation and distribution of non-Toastmasters materials or information.

Toastmasters Int'l Mission

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

www.toastmasters.org

**CREATE
YOURSELF!**



Daniel Cossack, DTM

District Director

Create Yourself!

When I joined my first Toastmasters club in 2005, the club officers asked if I would like to be the club's treasurer within the first two months of my membership. I said yes because it sounded like something important and it felt good to be trusted with an important position. They handed me the checkbook and then I thought this was crazy. They barely know me and they just gave me access to the club's bank account. I didn't know anything about being a treasurer. I'm not even very good at balancing my own checking account. I wasn't sure they made a good decision letting me manage their money.

I'm a software engineer and I know a little something about developing web sites. My club's web site was a laughable one page that broke every rule in the book of web site good practices. I offered to help with the web site and to my surprise they gave me the keys to their web site as well. Here I was a lot more comfortable because I was in my wheelhouse. I quickly turned that web site into a beautiful wordpress site and even wrote some custom modules to manage our meeting agendas, track members' progress, and provided a convenient option to pay club dues.

I quickly progressed from my club web site to the district web site which was in much need of an overhaul. Over the years I have involved myself in various areas of technology building an infrastructure to benefit our district processes thanks to the kindness and trust of our past district governors and directors who allowed me the freedom to express myself in the best way I know how. During this time I was also improving my communication skills and building my leadership skills that complimented my technical skills.

The best way to learn is to have fun while you are learning. Ralph Smedley said, "We learn best in moments of enjoyment." Toastmasters offers you unlimited ways you can participate and contribute to the community in ways you find most interesting while you are practicing your speech and leadership projects.

The district tagline this year is "Create Yourself." I believe every individual has unique talents and gifts to be shared with others, and Toastmasters is a perfect opportunity to nourish those talents. I am grateful that my leaders before me allowed me to express myself in my own way and build on my talents that I can use to help others. I encourage you to express your own talent and create yourself to be a positive influence on everyone around you. Imagination and innovation can change the world.



Dan "innovating" at recent Founder's TV production.



**Diana
Dee, DTM,
Program
Quality
Director
Learning Lab**

Imagine a place where you can hang out with fellow Toastmasters, wear casual clothes, and LEARN a LOT about Toastmasters.

That place is **LEARNING LAB**.

You can suggest a session that you want to see.
You can reserve a room for an ACG presentation up to 3 hours long.

Upcoming dates, with one-hour sessions at 1, 2, and 3 pm:

- September 10
- October 1
- November 5 (“fall back” time)
- December 10

Location:

Mesa Verde United Methodist Church
1701 Baker Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



Topics include a session for people who have just joined Toastmasters and want to know more about it. Other topics:

- Pathways Preview
- How to build a club website using FreeToastHost
- How to hold an effective Open House
- Navigating web sites toastmasters.org and my.foundersdistrict.org

See the Founders District calendar at foundersdistrict.org/calendar. A double click on the event will show the link to the Eventbrite registration, as soon as registration opens.



**Lori Shapiro,
DTM**

**Club Growth
Director**

Fellow Founder's District members and clubs: We are several months into our Toastmaster's year (July 1st – June 30th). This is an exciting time as all clubs have had the slate wiped clean of last year's Distinguish Club Points, and should now be working on getting dues paid during September.

We have a lot of clubs who became Distinguished last year – and that means they focused not only on their education and training awards, but growing their membership to maintain Charter Strength (20 or more members). You may ask – why is 20 so important? Well, Toastmasters International keeps a lot of statics on clubs and members. On average, all clubs will lose 40% of their members every year.

That is why we focus on BUILDING clubs up to 20 members – and encouraging frequent Open Houses (you should plan on having one every 3-4 months). Add Open Houses on to your club calendar – and assign members to organize them.

Now through September, Toastmasters is offering membership growth incentives through the Smedley Award – add five members and earn a ribbon for your club banner, and 10% off the Toastmasters store.

But wait, there's more – go to:

<http://foundersdistrict.org/incentives> and learn about the MANY club and member incentives offered this year to help with Club Growth – adding members, adopting a club

that needs help growing, help bring a NEW CLUB LEAD that becomes a chartered club, being a successful Mentor or Club Coach, and offering a Youth Leadership program sponsored by your club.

****MUST READ THIS!!!****

And, if you are the **FIRST** person to read this column and email me by October 31, 2017, I will send you a coveted conference pin from the Vancouver Toastmasters International Convention. Contact me at cgd@foundersdistrict.org

I wish you all success this year. Grow your club and help us Grow NEW clubs. But Wait There's more..

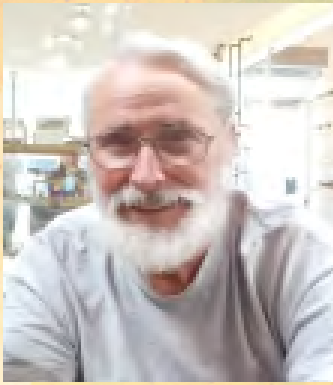
How are your clubs doing towards the Smedley Award?

This year we are trying something new! Instead of receiving TI Gift Certificates (which often go unused or get lost), when a club or a member earns an award, we will send them a list of items to select from. We will order the requested gifts and present them at the November and April business meetings, or the Area Director will deliver the gifts to the clubs after those meetings.

So far, our clubs have added 72 new members this month, which is a great start. Let's keep that momentum going. A few clubs have already achieved the Smedley Award with 5 or more members, including Ingram Microphones and Surf City Speak N Lead. A few clubs are within 1 member of achieving this award including Nihon Kohden Toastmasters, Moss Adams LLP, and English as a Second Language Toastmasters Club #1.

Make sure all clubs are aware of the incentives this year. To learn more about the incentive programs, visit:

<http://foundersdistrict.org/incentives>.



Chris Gregory, DTM

Public Relations Manager

The Public Relations Chairs

Putting together the Chairs for the Public Relations Team was more of a challenge than we had anticipated. The “Great Divide” of the Districts saw a lot of our talent go to District 100, especially the “CalTech” influence. And our Speakers Bureau has a new Chair.

It took a couple of weeks to corral it all in but the first thing we realized was that we didn’t need traditional classroom meetings. Being that we’re all somewhat “techie,” we did everything remotely and it worked like a charm.

Chris Rabago, webmaster, Mike O’Neil, Social Media Chair, Lee Lance, Mail Data Chair, Daniel Cossack, District Director, and I were all on a conference call and did we ever cover a lot! The plan has been put in motion, now we will focus on the engine and get it rolling.

Lionnel Yamentou, unfortunately, wasn’t able to make the meeting. However, he is hard at work interacting with Chris Rabago to make sure we sync.

The Theme for the Year

There were a couple of clubs that mentioned that they had anniversaries last year that weren’t covered which they felt could/should have been. Also there are member anniversaries such as wedding or membership anniversaries. This year we have added two people who are looking for “Talent” or “anniversaries” and will let the

Division Directors know and either the Media or FDTV to see if we can take it forward. Our goal or theme for the years is to “Make History not Lose History”. David Moore will be looking for anniversaries and Christine Brady is on the look for talent.

The Awards Night

August 9, 2017 was our 2016-2017 Awards Night, and in historic fashion, we had a great turnout. It was one last chance for us to share bread over the table with our now District 100 folks who have left us under the guidance of District 100 District Director Karen Lucas, DTM, plus her entourage, most of whom we know as close friends. In addition, there were a whole list of dignitaries including Roberta Perry, DTM, PID and our very own Ede Ferrari-D’Angelo, DTM, PID. It was great fun. The night was topped off by a wonderful powerpoint presentation that our very own District Director, Daniel Cossack, DTM produced which featured photos and videos of the last 10 years in Founder’s District. Amazing! Thank you Dan – Incredible memories.

Personal Note

Avis French will kill me for telling you, but I care about her. She has been ailing and has been laid up in medical facilities for approximately a month. Avis brings a lot to the District as the “sole” workaholic who coordinates all the requests of judges from the District to outside venues. It is a time consuming task and Avis has said more than once that this may be the final year she’s up to it. It is an incredible opportunity for someone to become that liaison between Founders’ District and the community. Please let me know if you are interested. I can be reached at lchrisgregory@teampic.com



High Achievers: The Rivalry Within

by Chris Gregory, DTM

Within Founder's District, there has been a healthy rivalry for many years. It really came to light when Norm Stein called a few nights ago to taunt me. "Hello Chris," he said. "I just wanted to remind you that Achievers (Club 9331) has finished another year as President's Distinguished and I might remind you, your club, Helmsmen, are one year behind! We celebrated our 18th consecutive year as President's Distinguished and Helmsmen, I am sad to say, only their 17th"

Unfortunately, I had to concede that this was indeed an incredible accomplishment. I sent messages of congratulations to both the 2016-2017 Presidents on their amazing success:

Dave Clark (President 2016-17 9331 Achievers), 18th President's Distinguished award. (Achievers will celebrate their 25th anniversary on April 1, 2018.)

Cherie Schenck (President 2016-17 770 Helmsmen) 17th President's Distinguished award. (Helmsmen will celebrate their 55th anniversary on December 1, 2017.)

Being that Norm Stein is the last chartered member of Achievers, he has every right to wave the banner and cheer on the troops. This year he has been with the club an incredible 24 years. (But I haven't had to listen to him that long!)

Congratulations Norm Stein and the Achievers who have consistently excelled in excellence and persistence with integrity and commitment.



Dancing her Way to Toastmaster of the Year

by **Steve Itzkowitz,**
CC, CL

When I walked into the Founder's District Awards Banquet at the Garden Grove Community Center back on August 9, I could smell it in the air.

It was Stonefire Grill and barbecue sauce. All joking aside, something special was happening at the 2016-17 Founder's District Awards Banquet.

The master of ceremonies for the event just happened to be Toastmaster of the Year. In a funny moment, Founder's District Director, Dan Cossack, had to grab the microphone away from the master of ceremonies so she didn't have to announce herself as Toastmaster of the Year.

It was Linda Robinson.

That said, it was no laughing matter as to why Linda was selected as the 2016-17 Founder's District Toastmaster of the Year.

Within Toastmasters, she was integral in the development of two new clubs within Founder's District including Wine on Wednesday and Toastmasters of Laguna Beach.

She chaired prior Founder's District conferences for both the fall and the spring. She was the club treasurer trainer at LACE South and

North last winter as well as the club treasurer trainer at LACE South last spring.

It doesn't stop there, though.

Outside of Toastmasters, she has been very active in fundraising efforts for an organization known as DanCE, Dancing for Cognitive Enhancement. DanCE has been conducting a study that involved 469 people over a period of 21 years partaking in various cognitive-enhancing activities including reading, writing, dancing, swimming, bowling, walking and tennis. It was determined that by a wide margin, the people who danced often had a significantly lower chance of experiencing Alzheimer's Disease than the other 10 activities that were evaluated as part of the study.

That was a big reason why during last spring's district conference, a portion of the program was dedicated to ballroom dancing. That would ensure Linda's mark would be left all over the conference.

At the end of the day, Linda richly deserves to be Toastmaster of the year because of her active and versatile volunteerism within and outside of Toastmasters.





From Rubber Chickens to Yodeling Pickles!

Re-energizing a club

by Mike Sato, CC

The *Ziggurat 425 Toastmasters Club* started the 2016 Toastmaster Year with flying rubber chickens, yodeling pickles and plastic robots. New Club Secretary (and incoming Area Director, Mike Sato) was responsible for this circus because getting the club to laugh again was the vital first step before the club could accomplish anything else. Back then, *Ziggurat 425* was a struggling club with a small membership and even smaller attendance.

This article is about what should happen in the first crucial weeks after taking up the challenge to revive a club.

Identify the problem(s) both by using your own judgement and with others who have a stake in the club's success. This is harder than it sounds because it's already a well-traveled road by the time you are involved. Bring a fresh perspective by first getting rid of pre-conceived notions. Throw out the rulebook during assessment; it's been tried before and didn't work. Bring energy, and be aware club officers may be wary of solutions this assessment suggests because they will have already

exhausted their drive and initiative.

Begin immediately. Bring action as soon as possible. Even if it's less than optimal, it is better than nothing. Do not wait for others to tell you what to do or what needs to be done. If they knew, it would have been done long ago. And flying rubber chickens are not that expensive.

Finally, **Instill hope** into the club. This may sound like a daunting task, but not impossible. Try enlisting other clubs in your area. Have their members come in to give speeches, take roles, visit and participate in Table Topics. This is what happened at *Ziggurat 425*. Other clubs within Division G sent members, showing that they cared about the health and well-being of their sister club. You will be amazed at the energy that can be gained by knowing that you are not in this alone.

These are things you must do even before beginning the hard task of rebuilding a club. Credit for the success of this club's rebuild plan belongs entirely to its dedicated members: Asma Latif, Leilani Famatigan, Tanya Mansell, and especially Club President Cathy Tipton.

And their reward? *Ziggurat 425 Toastmasters* was the first club in Area G3 to reach Distinguished Club status! Better yet, they finished the year as a Presidents Distinguished Club within a Presidents Distinguished Area in a Presidents Distinguished Division!



Cliff Shimuzu: The Reluctant Leader

*by Diane
Brown, DTM*

UniMasters, Club 9661 in Area G-3, recently celebrated charter member Cliff Shimizu and his

accomplishments as Division G director for 2016-2017. Club mentor and charter member Avis French, who has known Cliff since before they helped start UniMasters in 1998, delivered a touching tribute in which she referred to Cliff as The Reluctant Leader. Please enjoy the words Avis put together to honor Cliff:

- It was obvious that Cliff was different from some of his peers in Unisys who joined UniMasters. He had a quirky sense of humor, demonstrated as he reluctantly participated in Table Topics. As he went through speeches in the Communications manual, even his serious presentations had an undertone of humor.
- He dove headlong into the Leadership manual when the CL track was initiated, taking on leadership roles at meetings and volunteering, reluctantly, to serve as a club officer. He did so well as President the first time that he served time and time again.
- As a reluctant contestant, he began competing in speech contests, because he wanted to ensure that the club was



represented at area events. He did so well in contests of all kinds that he became noticed by the District officers as a Leader in the making.

- Cliff became a reluctant candidate for Area director at the behest of the District, something he never thought he would do. He was a fantastic Area director, helping clubs, club officers, and club members to grow in competence with his coaching and mentoring. He also counseled other area directors on how to spread their wings.
- He did well as an Area Director, truly enjoying the act of servant leadership. This inspired him to agree to be a candidate for Division director. Again, he brought into play all his insights into helping club and division leaders to grow.
- We saw another side of Cliff when Lady Ann (Cliff's wife and former UniMasters member) joined UniMasters:
There is a good partnership with his spouse in all TI endeavors. The two of them are such good partners that I liken them to Fred and Wilma Springer in Founders District. I predict that some time Cliff and Ann will also have an award named after them.
- Whatever task that Cliff takes on in TI, it is always to improve, whether that be UniMasters, the Area, the Division, or even the District.

Just between us, Cliff was touched and surprised by the acknowledgment. If you look closely, you might be able to see a tear in Cliff's eye.



Our Shining Stars

by Ann Shimizu, DTM

Founders District culminated an outstanding 2016-2017 year with an Awards Dinner on August 9th. With the help of the “trio of five”, as they were referred to that night, many accomplishments were recognized and accolades given.

As a member of Division G, a Presidents Distinguished division, I was extremely proud of all the awards we received. These included everything from Toastmaster of the Year, all the way to the Club level, and even individual member awards! Division G's members worked very hard to support the District's mission statement, “We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence”.

The following people were recognized from Division G:

- Toastmaster of the Year – Linda Robinson, DTM
- Division Director of the Year – Cliff Shimizu, ACS, CL
- Area Director of the Year – Mike

Sato, CC

- Presidents Distinguished Area – Mike Sato, CC
- Select Distinguished Areas – Ken Spears, ACS, CL & Stefan Blasig, ACS, ALB
- Distinguished Area – David Hosmer, ACB, ALB
- For Exemplifying Toastmaster Values – Josephine Lee
- 10 out of 10 DCP goals – Possibilities Unlimited, Rancho Speechmasters, Schneider Electric (Lake Forest), Tongue Tamers
- DTM – Ann Shimizu, DTM
- Triple Crown – David Hosmer, ACB, ALB; Michael Ostgaard, ACB, ALB; Ann Shimizu, DTM

There were also other awards given that included many of the events that our members contributed to this year. In this division, we have members who are willing to jump in to help others, at the Club, Area, Division, and even District level. Some of these members have gone on to District leadership in the 2017-2018 year, and many are continuing to support Division G with their service to our members. We know that Division G is filled with stars that will continue to shine!

Congratulations to all!



News from Division D *by David Shostak, DTM*

Division D Council

Division D has put together an extremely powerful Division Council Team. The

Division D Council members are made up of highly experience and spectacular personnel with top-notch credentials. To name the people on the council are; Norm and Frannie Stein, New Clubs, Michael Varma, Media Relations, Mary Berg, Contests and Protocol, Susan De La Portolla expert on Education, Martha Celestino, Administration and professional writer and editor, Linda Jordon professional webmaster and Bill Nissim on marketing. David Shostak, Division D Director has 40 years of professional business experience as a Certified Senior Project Manager and twenty-three years in Toastmasters.

There are five area directors, that serve as a vital role in Division D. They are very proactive in going to visit their clubs. They are becoming close to their clubs and members and are starting to understand strengths and where each club can use help for improvement.

Vision and Mission for Division D

Vision: Envisions our club members to possess the highest level of skills. Division D enables, encourages and supports its members to take on leadership roles, mentor, coach and teach leadership principles, as a result empowering its members to accomplish and surpass their personal goals.

Mission: We are a high performance leadership division whose primary focus is on achieving and sharing excellence in everything we do as Toastmasters.

Tag Line: SPEAK, LISTEN, LEAD, ACHIEVE

Accomplishments in July:

1. 100% of Division D clubs have accomplished reporting their newly elected officers into TI.
2. 100% of the clubs have received the Division Success Plan and submitted to District Officers
3. 70% officers trained and will hit 85% soon
4. 8 new members in July
5. Ingram Micro club has 5 new members.
6. Area Directors have visited many clubs in July
7. The Division Director has visited 25% of his 20 clubs in the first month
8. Division D has a strong new club lead. Demonstration Meeting will be held on September 16
9. Division D starting its own website and newsletter
10. Division Success Plan was submitted to District one month early



Founder's District

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<http://www.foundersdistrict.tv/>



Division C Update

By Asad Ali

Division C got a great start. One of our clubs, “Achievers Toastmasters Club,” already has completed five DCP goals! Kudos to the President of Achievers Toastmasters Club,

Jeff Lee, for achieving an important milestone for the success of the Club, Area, Division and Founders District.

We started with four area directors, and during our first Division C Council meeting, we found our 5th Area Director. Kudos to Jessica Wertel, ACB, ALB, for accepting Area C-5 Director role for 2017-18 period.

Division C started with 22 base clubs and we just have accepted one more club, “See Our Voices,” from District 1. It had been with District 1 for a while, but just after realignment, requested to be moved to Founders District. The club is in Huntington Beach. This club is a specialty club related to the hearing impaired. Right now, they have low membership (8 members). Thanks to Lori Shapiro for providing officers’ make-up training to the officers of this club. If anyone wants to join this club, please let me know.

Letters

Coaching a Club to Success

I’m the president of the Kingston Toastmasters Club. We are a closed corporate club. As with many others before us, we experienced very low membership in our second year of existence. Between the lack of interest and people leaving the company, some of our meetings had as few as five people. If that wasn’t bad enough, we also lost two officers as well. This left three of us

to run the club for the second half of the year. Fortunately, we had been assigned a coach at the beginning of the 2016/17 year. I’m certain if it weren’t for the support and assistance of our club coach I would have thrown in the towel.

Our coach walked me through organizing a membership drive in November, which resulted in three new members. Then, in the spring she provided the motivation and hands-on assistance to setup a booth at an outdoor company event. This was an advertising success. We were able to reach out to many more employees than ever before. We immediately followed up with an open house meeting. This event resulted in seven new members signed, which qualified our club for Distinguished status. Aside from the help getting new members signed, our coach was always there at meetings to help us with procedures and assistance on how the roles are done. When asked for help with evaluations, she organized an evaluation workshop for our club members.

I can think of many other areas in which we benefitted from having a coach. I feel the most important factor in our success was having someone that refused to give up on us. As the club president it benefitted me to have a non-member to openly discuss our challenges. I feel if I had those conversations with one of my own members I would risk discouraging another person to loose faith in the success of the club. I highly recommend any club struggling with getting new members, keeping officers, or clubs that are so new it is literally the blind leading the blind, that you take advantage of getting a club coach to help.

-Chris Bodda, President, Kingston Toastmasters



Mike Sato Leaves No Stone Unturned as Founder's District Area Director of the Year

by Mike O'Neil, CC, CL

Founders District is very pleased to announce that Mike Sato, Area G3 Director, is the Founder's

District 2016-17 Area Director of the Year.

"Mike's dedication and commitment went above and beyond what I have seen from other area directors. He visited his clubs several times throughout each 6 month period," said nominator and Division G Director, Cliff Shimizu. "He delivered trophies to our area and division contest winners and worked diligently to ensure the success of each club."

Sato addressed challenges in his area with dedication and commitment. Three of his four clubs faced relocation of their meeting sites in the past year and Mike was directly responsible for arranging a new meeting location for one of those clubs.

Despite the challenges, Mike's area is currently distinguished. Two of his clubs have the DCP points to be distinguished and only need a few more members to be at charter strength.

Faced with a particularly struggling club in his Area, Ziggurat 425, Mike joined the club as a member, even though this would preclude him from receiving credit as a club coach. The club had 8 members before Sato joined and now has 15 members and became a Select Distinguished club.

According to Shimizu, "Mike was committed to helping the club and made them commit to rebuilding their club. He worked with the club and the members worked hard as a result. He pulled in the support of the division and nearby clubs to boost the attendance and speakers at the

club. Members of the club were helping at the Fall Contest as functionaries and by the Spring Contest, the club was sending contestants".

"The turnaround," said Shimizu "has been nothing short of remarkable."

Mike not only led the turnaround of the club, he recorded his efforts in the form of a case study which he voluntarily wrote up.

Mike is now involved in the process of chartering the Ware Malcomb club. This prospective club needs only three more applications to charter. The club has already started conducting their own meetings, beginning on June 2nd, 2017.

In addition to his tireless work with his clubs, Division Director Cliff Shimizu noted several occasions where Mike assisted his Division. "Mike also jumped in as the Division G Chief Judge when past district governor, Colette Gardner, was no longer able to attend due to her medical condition. He also aided Division F as their area contest chief judge, and helped guide Jean Tanquary as a brand new chief judge for the division contests", Shimizu said.

At the end of the day, Mike left no stone unturned as he helped build a new club within his area while assisting his established clubs in achieving excellence.

Founders District congratulates Area G3 Director, Mike Sato, for his outstanding work with his area and for his inspiring leadership by example.





High Performance Leadership by Diane Brown, DTM

Jodi Rifkin, member of UniMasters Club 9661 in Area G-3 completed her High Performance Leadership Project at the end of July 2017.

Originally, Jodi wanted to create a Speakers Exchange Program for Area G. If it succeeded she was going to present the results to the District. When she first got started with her HPL she learned there was a District Speakers Exchange Program but it was inactive for several years. Jodi revised her project to promote the District Speaker Exchange program. She began with her own Area G-3. The purpose of the District Speakers Exchange is to provide additional prepared speaking opportunities for members while filling speaking slots at clubs that have opportunities or speaker cancellations as well as to provide test speakers for future evaluation contests.

Jodi learned three valuable lessons about leadership while completing her HPL.

Lesson 1-Perseverance - Not everyone is going to agree with you or agree to help you. These are encounters that can be discouraging. Instead focus on what you are accomplishing not the resistance you encounter.

Lesson 2-Enthusiasm - People are more interested in participating when you present your idea in an enthusiastic way. It becomes contagious. If you're excited others will be too.

Lesson 3-Procrastinating - Surprisingly procrastinating can have benefits. Take a 4-8 week break if needed and come back with a fresh new perspective. Make sure the break doesn't last too long.

Currently Jodi is working with the District Director. She is acting as Co-Chair of the District Speakers Exchange. Area G-3 had a test run of the Speakers Exchange and had great support. Coincidentally in July 2017, Division F launched a Speakers Exchange for all Areas in Division F. Jodi plans to continue to promote the District Speakers Exchange by visiting each Division in Founders District and spreading the word. She is looking for Co-chairs in all Founders District Divisions. Her email is viptopics@gmail.com.

The District Speakers Exchange Program will help clubs achieve Distinguished Club Status by allowing members to complete more speeches and thus move more quickly through the Toastmaster Program. She hopes Toastmasters members will step outside their comfort zone and try to speak in front of various Toastmaster audiences in different meeting locations. It's a win win for clubs and members. Are you ready to step outside your Toastmaster Comfort Zone? Please email Jodi if you'd like to participate in promoting the program. Her email is viptopics@gmail.com.



Jodi Rifkin (left) and Diana Ewing, VPE, celebrating Jodi's achievement



District Director Award

by Siri Payakapan, DTM, PhD

This is a success story of a leader among us who joined Toastmasters in 2003 to overcome her public speaking fear. After

serving in various roles at club and division levels, she has taken on District Finance Manager this past year. It has taught her new heights of time management and organization and let her know just how well she could multi-task.

Founder's District is one of a few districts worldwide having division accounts. 2016-2017 was an extraordinary year. Our Finance Manager was responsible for 13 accounts: District Reserve Account, bank account, PayPal account and 10 division accounts.



This position requires a strong knowledge and familiarity with the Toastmasters International finance and the willingness to spending tedious hours, keeping track of monthly reports and all the supportive documentation. In addition to monthly meetings with the trio, and reimburse expenses to many leaders at district events, she attended many extra meetings for additional budget decisions and signatures. That's not all, she has to produce monthly and quarterly reports reflecting the district's financial status, and ensure that expenditures remain within the approved budget. She fulfilled all those with

great patience and grace. She was a delight to work with.

For exceeding the role and responsibilities, CC, CL Debi Morales was awarded the District Director Award.



Daniel Midson-Short and the International Speech Contest

by Chris Gregory, DTM

Daniel Midson-Short, a member of the Coastmasters Toastmasters club in Dana Point, took the 2nd place

trophy at the World Champion of Public Speaking Competition Semi-Finals held at the 2017 Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver, Canada on August 26, 2017.

Daniel competed with 101 other District Toastmaster winners from around the world who advanced to the 2017 semifinal round after a six-month process of elimination through club, area, division and district speech competitions. Their five- to seven-minute speeches were judged on content, organization, delivery and style.

Daniel is a professional speaker and workshop trainer based in Orange County, California. He joined Toastmasters 5 years ago to become a better speaker and share his message with a wider community.

We congratulate our Champion Daniel Midson-Short whose gracious and humble mannerisms said:

"Having the chance to compete at such a high level is a thrill. To stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's best is a reward in itself. I am grateful for the support and belief of my club and the entire District that have been behind me all the way."

A true Champion in every way!

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest began in 1938 and is the world's largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 142 countries. It culminates with the popular World Championship of Public Speaking held annually at the organization's International Convention.

We congratulate Daniel Midson-Short for once again making Founder's District extremely proud.

For more information about the 2017 International Convention, please visit the following website:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/events/2017-International-Convention>.



Daniel with fellow competitors in Vancouver, Canada



Photos From End of Year Celebration (Credit: Harry Yan)