



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District News And Events

District 13

February 2016



Toastmasters International District 13 Training

Our District mission is to “build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence”. One of the ways our District contributes to achieving excellence is the training provided throughout the year. Twice each year “Toastmasters Leadership Institute” is offered for club officers and any members who are interested in developing their skills.



Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is for everyone!

There are many reasons to attend TLI! If you are a new officer, TLI provides training for each club officer role at the start of the term. You will be given the tools and techniques necessary to get your club off and running to an amazing start! Mid-year, you are able to take your experiences from the first half of your term and build upon those skills. Some recent TLI workshops included membership building, membership retention, developing a mentor program and conducting Moments of Truth. The workshops help to provide the building blocks of being a successful and vibrant club.



If you are an experienced officer, one of the biggest advantages of TLI is sharing your experiences with others. Toastmasters is a organization that enables one to become a better communicator and leader. Experienced Toastmasters are the shining stars of how Toastmasters helps! If you see a brand new officer and you've previously held that role, share what you learned. Each club and group of officers can probably come up with periods in which membership, education and training have been a struggle, but the amazing thing about each of our District 13 Toastmasters is out of every struggle, there is triumph.



For those that do not currently hold a club officer role, never fear...there is something at TLI for you too! Like both new and experienced officers, you have the opportunity to network with some amazing people! District 13 is made up of members from as far north as Erie, parts of Ohio, West Virginia along with the western portion of Pennsylvania. You will meet people within your same career path, you will meet people retired from your current profession, and you will meet people who have experience in careers that you may even thought about pursuing and wanted to learn more about. TLI is more than just a standard training. As Joe Arnold shared about his recent TLI make up training, “The officers were shocked to see just how much they personally gained by attending training and being a club officer. They clearly saw how they could take the information back to their clubs.”

TLI is a life changing experience where you will meet the people and gain the skills you need to be successful in whatever you want to accomplish.

District 13 Trio Training

If you've attended a TLI in the past, you probably saw members of your District 13 Trio busy running around. One moment the Trio members are conducting award ceremonies; next they are overseeing registration and greeting members; take your eyes off of them for a minute and you find them making sure everything is in place for training rooms before breakout sessions. You may wonder how the Trio can possibly have time to sit still for training sessions; the answer is they often can't. However, as you may have already discovered, in the course of ninety years of Toastmasters, a plan (and resource) has been developed for just about everything and preparing our District Trio to serve its members is no exception. Toastmasters International provides specialized training for the Trio members in each District.

District Training has enhanced the life of District Director Josue Batista

Mid-Year training in Orlando, Florida, was bitter-sweet for me. That training session was the sixth one I attended since I was elected district leader for District 13; and, it was the last one as part of my year as District Director. Toastmasters International believes in education and training at all levels. Club leaders have club officer training, such as TLIs and make-up sessions. Training of Area and Division Directors is a requirement from TI WHQ. The district trio is not exempt. Twice per year training is provided to district leaders: first at the site of the Toastmasters International Convention; and, mid-year training in January.

Over the years, District Leaders' training has been extremely valuable and has enriched my life tremendously. It is not just the learning, but friendships and relationships that I suspect will last a life time. There is no better place to be during those two days of training: District leaders, from over 90 districts, all over the world, representing more than 135 countries, all aiming for excellence and success.

My first ever District Leaders training was August 2013 in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was my first ever TI convention and it was awesome. All the excitement and fun! So many good memories and friendships started at that event. Following Cincinnati, I attended trainings January 2014 in Salt Lake City, Utah; August 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; January 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts; August 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada; and January 2016 in Orlando, Florida. The training I've received surpasses all executive training I ever attended.

Planning, preparing, and delivering this kind of training all over the world is no small task. The TI WHQ staff spends significant amount of time and resources putting these events together for the benefit of the districts. That training helps us deliver the Toastmasters promise and realize the district mission: We start new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. The people are what really make a difference during these training sessions. They are always asking our feedback to make the training and events continuously improve. Personally, I am very much appreciative of all the resources and time TI invests in our training; I will never take that for granted.

At the district level, I believe we value the training we provide at the club officer level. Every club officer who makes the effort to attend club officer training is taking his or her jobs seriously. Attending training is as much about the club as it is about the individual club officer attending the session. It is about attitude, commitment, long-term vision, and leadership. If your "why" is clear, club officer training is something you look forward to. Club officer training is not about expecting perfection from the trainers, organizers, volunteers, and district leaders. Instead, it is about growing, stretching, collaborating, leading, inspiring, and motivating each other as we make way through our personal Toastmasters journey.

As we make way into the second half of our 2015-2016 TI year, I feel confident that our first priority as district leaders is to realize and fulfill the district's mission. That is our compass, our true north. I would like for all of us to reflect on the importance of training and how our own leadership growth depends on it.

Be purposeful. Be timely. Be courageous. Be a Leader! -Josué

Behind the scenes at District Training with Dr Hollis Batista, Program Quality Director

Dr Hollis Batista, District 13 Program Quality Director, attended her first training as a Trio member. The experience was so incredible; she wanted to share with you her experience at District Officer training through an interview we conducted.

Hollis, was this the first training you attended? This was my first year as a Trio member participating in the Mid-Year training in Orlando Florida. I have accompanied my husband, Mr. Josué R. Batista, District 13's District Director, at several Mid-Year Training venues such as Salt Lake City, Utah and Boston, Massachusetts. On those trips I was not part of the trio but felt very welcomed and engaged in many conversations with the participants.

Winter finally arrived in Pittsburgh. I hope you got to travel to some place warm. The Mid-Year training event was hosted at the B Resort located in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The event was over a two-day period Friday, January 15th and Saturday January 16th.

Wow. I bet there was a lot to accomplish in just two days! What types of training sessions did you have? Dan Rex, the Chief Executive officer, did a wonderful introduction of his staff that attended from our headquarters in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. Dan then did an excellent job in presenting keeping an Open Mind and Unique and Shared Traits

After several exercises we were able to:

- Identify mid-year training staff and fellow district leaders
- Recognize the value of different perspectives by learning from others

The morning continued with Session 2, Communication and Conflict where I learned about the **DESC** model and how it is formed by four easy-to-remember steps (Describe, Express, Specify and Consequences).

1. Describe the actions or behavior that you see as taking place;
2. Express why that behavior is an issue?
3. Specify the resulting actions or change of behavior you would like to effect;
4. Clarify the consequences for failing to change behavior or meet demands.

Session 3 was about our District Success Plan. We were able to: Assess our progress, toward achieving our district goals through evaluation and assessments of the DSP; Strategy brainstorming; Suggestions to adjust the strategies that lead to success.

That was certainly a full agenda! That was only the morning session! Following lunch, we continued with Session 4 Role Breakouts, which meant we got to sit with other Trio members that shared the same role. I found out that no matter where your district is located, we have many of the same shared traits. Many districts within regions 7 and 8 are starting new clubs, growing membership and getting more officers to attend TLI training, a common thread throughout the regions. I thought it was interesting to find a few districts doing TLI training within their Divisions instead of one large officers training. It was also interesting that a few Districts got corporations to sponsor their Conferences, which literally brought their cost to near zero. The discussions centered on both the positive and negatives from these ideas.

Session 5 was about the election process and was very interesting. There was much discussion about establishing the correct order of steps in the election process and where to locate answers to questions about the election process. We used the Elections Toolkit, Protocol 9.0 and the Toastmasters International Website. We completed an Election Trivia exercised with order of operations, descriptions and definitions.

So much idea sharing must have been great. Just like at our officer TLI, members benefit from hearing the experiences of others. What sessions were on Day 2?

Session 7 was all about Managing District finances and we really learned about

- The appropriate resources on the Toastmaster's website for a given financial situation
- How to evaluate your District's current financial situation based on the district budget
- How to revise the district finance plan as needed to meet district goals.

I really liked the scenarios on how we were actually taken to the documents on the TI website to find answers and the correct forms to answer specific problems. This session explained: what the document is; where it was located; why it is important

Session 8 Organizational Updates helped us to identify the three goals of the 2015 Strategic Plan (Club excellence, Member Achievement, Awareness, Engagement and Participation); identify our district's role in accomplishing the 2015 Strategic Plan; and develop a plan to keep the core values at the center of district operations.

Sessions 9 and 10 involved sharing our accomplishments and recognizing our peers as our valuable resources as well as a recap of all the Training.

It must have been very exciting to be in a room interacting with so many individuals that share the same passion as the Toastmasters in our District do. I really learned many valuable ideas, lessons and found myself stretching and growing throughout the two day sessions. I was energized to continue my journey in Toastmasters.

In our TLIs we rely on members to provide the instruction and trainings. In addition to Dan Rex, who were your leaders for the sessions and what regions attended training with you? This year's training included Regions 7 and 8. District 13 is in Region 7 and our Regional Advisor is Al Tuten, DTM. The Regional Advisor for region 8 is Subbi Mathur, DTM and her tagline is "Nine for Nine, region 8 is a Golden Mine!" Both regional advisors presented sessions along with our International Directors. Region 7 International Directors ,Russell Drake, DTM and Dennis Wooldridge, DTM, International Director for region 8.

After attending TLI, club officers and members are energized and anxious to go back to their clubs and share the information they received. How would you summarize your experience at Training? I believe that Toastmaster is not just diverse geographically, but diverse in ideas, members, clubs, regions and districts. Toastmasters truly does embrace the world through a global lens, especially in communication and leadership!

