



# SIYANE SPEAKS



Volume 14 | Issue 1 | December 2021

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB  
Area 2 Division F

# ABOUT THE CLUB

## ABOUT SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Siyane Toastmasters Club is affiliated to Toastmasters International. The club was chartered on 27th September 2010. Club number is 1553096 and it belongs to Area 2 of Division F in District 82.

## TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL MISSION

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders .

## CLUB MISSION

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

### For more information :

siyane.toastmasters.club@gmail.com

Article Submission: [isuruehelepola01@gmail.com](mailto:isuruehelepola01@gmail.com)

TM Isuru Ehelepola - 0716085384

TM Waruni Perera - 0777899752

Meeting Location - ESOF Metro Campus

We meet every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm

## 2021/2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

TM Waruni Perera

### Vice President Education

TM Chandima Gayan

### Vice President Membership

TM Apsara Ranasinghe

### Vice President Public Relations

TM Isuru Ehelepola

### Secretary

TM Shanika Ranasinghe

### Treasurer

TM Janaka Weerasooriya

### Sergeant -At-Arms

TM Ishani Mirihagalla

### Immediate Past President

TM Pubudu Ginige

## CHIEF EDITORS

TM Isuru Ehelepola

TM Sulakshi Mudannayake

## EDITORIAL TEAM

TM Waruni Perera

TM Roshini Perera

DTM Shehara Dissanayake

TM Chamin Athauda

TM Shanika Ranasinghe

## Upcoming Club Activities

02/01/2022 - MOT

16/01/2022 - Education presentation on Mentoring

30/01/2022 - Presentation on How to Deliver a Winning Speech

06/01/2022- Presentation on How to Deliver a Memorable Table Topic Speech

20/01/2022 - Joint Meeting 26th Feb 2022 - Club Contest

# MESSAGE FROM DIVISION DIRECTOR ...

**W**e have just reached to the halfway mark of another exciting Toastmasters year in the calendar with great achievements despite many challenges.

When we started the journey this year, we committed ourselves to make all our clubs in the Division F are distinguished with the focus on quality of whatever we do through following club mission of providing positive and supportive learning experience for all our members to be empowered to improve their communication and leadership skills resulting greater self confidence.

Siyane TMC being the club of the highest membership base in the Division F, is a benchmark in the fraternity in terms of aligning with the club mission and many members in the division are benefitted to receive the excellent support of the club.

Moreover, it's exciting to see how members are nurtured in the club through structured approach which reflects effective mentoring program and planning for each individual . As a result of this effort, many members have achieved educational goals in this year and taking up many roles at club, area, division and district levels accordingly.

While nurturing a membership over 65, it is wonderful to witness enrolling of the highest number of new members in last membership drive and I'm confident that all new members will reap the maximum benefits from what toastmasters offer.

Apart from all these highlights, it's my duty to recognize the fact that club has built so many leaders for the fraternity and they have been serving many going beyond the club while contributing the achieve the district mission.

While appreciating outstanding leadership of Waruni and rest of the executive committee members of the club, I would like to invite all the new members of Siyane to reflect yourselves on below and move forward.

1. Live with core values of Toastmasters (integrity, respect, service and excellence) always
2. Attend club meetings and activities regularly
3. Grabbing the opportunities given by the club and progress your educational goals
4. Take up the beyond club opportunities and support many in the fraternity at the best of your ability
5. Apply your learnings in toastmasters into your career and personal life
6. Enjoy every moment I wish you all the best Siyane TMC and let's continue the legacy we have made.



**TM Eranga Dilhan**  
Division Director, Division F  
District 82, Toastmasters International

# MESSAGE FROM AREA DIRECTOR ...

**B**enjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of United States of America, published an almanac in 1738, which advised the readers that “If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write something worth reading or do something worth writing”. I am humbled and honoured to add my felicitations to the 14th volume of the newsletter of Siyane Toastmasters Club, a club which has accomplished much worth writing.

Since 2010, the club has proven that living by the Toastmasters core values, integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the member, and respect for the individual, not only improves you but allows you to empower others to achieve full potential of their lives. Siyane Toastmasters club being a stalwart in the fraternity has experienced growth and expansion only due to the committed and courageous membership, each Toastmaster committing to excellence and contributing to the growth of another. As Area F2, we are glad that the club is one of us and we are grateful as an area for the unending help that is extended by the club.

Being the trailblazer in any domain has its own price to pay. The Executive Committee 2021/22, headed by TM Waruni Perera, has understood this more than anyone and has proven the commitment and courage of the team in navigating unprecedented uncertain times as these. The wonderful and admirable fact is that the leadership of Siyane has not allowed all achievements of the club to overshadow the members in need. Kudos to a team which always go above and beyond the standard to create value to the membership!

Finally, a request to the wonderful Toastmasters of Siyane, continue to be the mark of excellence you already are. Though this high calling would not be achieved while having a cup of tea on a recliner, I am sure that the leadership would guide you and show you the path for greatness. When you feel like giving up, when you feel the sweat and tears you shed has achieved nothing, just remember so many Toastmasters across the fraternity, young and old, from many walks of life, showing their gratitude for making them live their full potential, by a bunch that made a way when all odds were against them.

Congratulations on the 14th Volume of the newsletter!

**TM Uditha Fernando**  
Area Director | Area 2 | Division F  
District 82, Toastmasters International





# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ...

It is said that "Toastmasters is a place where leaders are trained to lead with a people-first attitude. Because it is ultimately about people and as a result, the kind gesture of putting other people's interests before ours plays a vital role".

I didn't understand the real meaning behind this concept in the early stages of my Toastmaster journey. But after being elected as an executive committee member for five consecutive years, I started to realize its essence and experienced a behavioral change within me.

I silently observed how prudent Siyane Toastmasters was in training its budding leaders to lead their fellow Toastmasters with a "people-first" attitude. They followed the footsteps of selfless, exemplary leaders within the club whose life had been devoted to cutting and polishing the rough and uncut gems within the club and the fraternity.

This whole concept of a "people first" attitude inspired me to lay the foundation for a meaningful Theme for the new Toastmaster Year 2021/2022. Our focus during the new executive committee year is mainly on LEADERSHIP as a service. That means stepping up to uplift members' skills by planning and delivering a dynamic educational experience that creates the best learning environment where our members get equal opportunities.

On an elaborative note, as the Team Leader of the EXCO, I want my team to be Authentic in delivering their service. Let us showcase our genuineness in serving others with the right attitude of "People first." Let's develop an emotional bond with our service called Commitment in service. Whatever the task we undertake, let us showcase our leadership's outstanding nature, Excellence in Service. In combination, Authenticity, Commitment, and Excellence in Service - ACE it.

I wholeheartedly pay my sincere gratitude to the great leadership rendered by the club's past presidents, including those who were instrumental in forming this wonderful family, Siyane Toastmasters. It's a privilege and a rare opportunity to serve my club in the capacity of the 12th President and lead a skillful team of EXCO members for the tenure of 2021/2022.

We started the Toastmasters year successfully completing a project by donating LKR 350,000/= worth of medical equipment to Intermediate Care Center for Covid19 in Seeduwa. Toastmasters and their family friends funded the project. The launch of Siyane Coaching Boot Camp targeting Siyane future champions was an immense success. Intending to build a second layer of evaluators, we changed the composition of speech evaluators by providing 60% of opportunities to new members and 40% to seasoned members. Introduction of a new role to the list of role players in an educational session - Evaluation and Feedback Provider was an experiment. We got the support of eminent Toastmasters in the fraternity, including a public speaking world champion, Toastmaster Dhananjaya Hettiarachchi, in conducting educational sessions.

The plan for the next six months is to provide more opportunities for our members to improve their language proficiency and to get more chances to go beyond the club to take up more leadership roles. I sincerely expect your support to carry out the plan successfully.

Dear friends, our wish is your progress. Together we can do this.

Let's ACE it. Long live Siyane!

TM Waruni Perera  
President  
Siyane Toastmasters Club



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**Recent Highlights**

# ACE IT - 2021 INSTALLATION CEREMONY

TM Chandima Gayan



Installation ceremony is one of the most anticipated events for the any toastmasters club. Even we are living in a challenging period, Siyane Toastmasters Club was able to conduct the Installation Ceremony in a grand scale.

The 12th installation ceremony of the Siyane Toastmasters Club was held on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Wet Water Resorts, Gampaha. The theme of the installation ceremony was "ACE IT," which is the tagline of the executive committee of 2021/2022. The chief guest of the event was Distinguished Toastmaster Sriyanthie Salgado - District Director - District 82, and the participation of Distinguished Toastmaster Sudash Liyanage - Regional Advisor - Region 13 and Distinguished Toastmaster Nisal Weerakone - Club Quality Director - District 82 graced the occasion.

Toastmaster Chandima Gayan who was the Installation Chair welcomed the guests officially and through a creative act the theme of the installation was revealed by the Emcees. Toastmaster Pubudu Ginige, the immediate past president of Siyane Toastmasters Club, delivered the speech of the outgoing president, and he recognized his executive committee who served during the year 2020/2021. Mr. Chaminda Kumarasiri a renowned industry personality, delivered the keynote speech for the event. It was a rich and insightful keynote speech, which was highly appreciated by the audience.

Afterwards, the most highlighted segment of the event was conducted, and it is the Installation of New Officers for the year 2021/22. The installation officer was Toastmaster Uditha Fernando - Area Director - Area F2. After the installing of club officers, the 12th president of Siyane Toastmasters Club, Toastmaster Waruni Perera delivered the acceptance speech proudly.

The outgoing executive committee had organized a special felicitation for Toastmaster Pubudu Ginige and the special video played during the felicitation was a remarkable one. The newly joined Siyane members, along with the sponsors of them, were recognized afterwards.

At the installation ceremony, the members who have completed levels in pathways were awarded with the pathway's completion certificates. Members of the Siyane Talent Academy, as well as long-standing members who have completed ten years of membership, were also recognized for their unwavering dedication and commitment as Siyane Members.

The most awaited segment of the awards ceremony was the Siyane Club Awards. The best attendance award was won by Toastmaster Ishani Mirihagalla for the 2nd consecutive time, and Toastmaster Ruwanthi Perera won the best speaker award. Toastmaster Ishani Mirihagalla won the Most Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year award.

The Installation Ceremony was colourful with the entertainment items performed by the Siyane members. Several district officials and executive officers from other clubs attended the ceremony to make the event more graceful.





# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS



TM Shanika Ranasinghe

AUG  
1<sup>st</sup>



## TM Ravindu Amendra – Game of Humour

On 1st of August 2021, TM Ravindu Amendra visited Siyane to help members ace humorous speeches.

The eleven tricks he shared, namely, incognito roles, using the “build, build, pause, punch” theory, using language masterfully, being aware of what’s happening around, playing with the flame but never touching the flame, using relatable humour, using twists, using self-depreciation humour, exaggeration, understanding the audience, and acting with gestures and facial expressions made the session educative and informative.

AUG  
29<sup>th</sup>



## TM Shamen Sameera – Evaluate to Motivate

On 29th of August 2021, TM Shamen Sameera visited Siyane to help members ace speech evaluations.

He emphasised that evaluations shape the future of a member, and hence they have to be structured and motivational. The opening should be positive, built on top of the speech; the analysis should have a perfect balance between positives and recommendations, be honest, gentle, suggestive, and to demonstrate; and the summation should be precise, easy-to-remember, crisp, clear, and positive. It was a highly educative session.

SEP  
19<sup>th</sup>

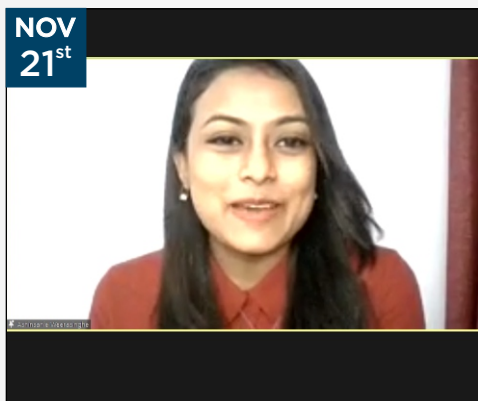


## DTM Suganthi Periasamy – Visionary Leader

On 19th September 2021, DTM Suganthi Periasamy visited Siyane for a special educational session on becoming a visionary leader.

Starting from what a vision is, creating a vision statement, its characteristics, and communicating a vision to pros and cons of a visionary leader, she described in detail how to become a visionary leader. It was quite an eye-opening, informative and educative session.

NOV  
21<sup>st</sup>



## TM Ashinsanie Weerasinghe – Know Your Audience

On 21st November 2021, TM Ashinsanie Weerasinghe visited Siyane for an educational session on understanding your audience.

She emphasized the necessity of understanding the audience before getting ready for a speech, and highlighted the importance of a speaker’s attire. She further pointed out the fact that we should consider socio-economic factors like education level, religion and culture when delivering speeches while sharing her experiences at Ovation 2019 at India.



# WHAT'S YOUR NICHE?

DTM Nilantha Bandara



“At your birth a seed is planted. That seed is your uniqueness. It wants to grow, transform itself, and flower to its full potential. It has a natural, assertive energy to it.

Your life's Task is to bring that seed to flower, to express your uniqueness through your work.” - Page: 26, “Mastery” by Robert Greene.

When I was glancing through the chapters, I found the above metaphor resonates with me with the exploration of “Niche” through mastery.

As per the book, there were three main processes to attain mastery and those are:

- (1) Reconnect with your ‘Primary curiosity’
- (2) Value “learning” above everything else
- (3) Discover your “Niche”

When I was recalling my memories, I found that I was fascinated with mingling with my friends by entertaining them. I still remember singing competitions in the backyard just after school. The fellow friends enjoyed my show and sometimes bullied me as well. Other than that, I was so curious about the thinking patterns of humans, whether the afterlife exists or whether “Ghosts” are real. These are some of the manifestations that I recalled while reading this book and those puzzles and interests were within me when I was a child.

Afterwards, due to the pressure from family members, I selected ‘mathematics stream’ to proceed in Advanced Level and barely passed the examination to enter University of Kelaniya. Upon graduating, I wanted to find the best career for me and worked hard to fulfil my ambitions. At that time, the curiosity to explore the psychology of the mind or perform as a speaker were almost erased from my mind and I continued to find a better career for my life. At the age of 27, I discovered that I have training abilities and emerged as a trainer, a speaker, a mentor/consultant and finally an NLP practitioner that enabled me to discover how the brain and thinking patterns work.

At the age of 40, all these aspects seemed to be useless and I wanted to find ‘Who I am’, ‘What’s the purpose of my life?’ and ‘Why do I exist on this planet?’. This is the time I reconnected with ‘Transformative Coaching’ while it’s becoming my Quest of the life!

It’s a glimpse of my life and would like to reflect on the process laid in the book of “Mastery”. It’s obvious that my ‘Primary Curiosity’ was to find the answers for the questions related to thinking patterns in the human brain as well as to be an entertainer to the audience. Due to the social and cultural pressure, my focus had changed to another. Unfortunately, I selected a career that was not resonating with the instincts laid to my childish thoughts. However, it seemed that I somehow managed to get back on track with what I love to do and wanted to explore more into different avenues. Another realization was neglecting the value of learning because I wanted to learn things based on the monetary benefits that had wiped out some of the opportunities.

The book challenged me emotionally, where I realized that I could have selected a career which I had the curiosity for, so the exploration would be easy to find my quest. If there had not been any social pressure to move to this arena, then things would have changed. I’m still trying to find a career path which can cultivate the habit of my passion. Although reading the book gave me great courage to follow the process and attain mastery because it clearly said, ‘Age doesn’t matter – You can attain mastery and find your own niche’. The sensation was so real when I was listening to the book and its concept changed my thinking and this would definitely be a morale booster for me.

Have you ever wondered that you’re lost yet there is something to hold on to with your instincts? Spend time to understand and learn without thinking of the monetary benefits that you’re getting out of them. Someday “Dots” will connect, and you’ll be able to discover your Niche.

# A DAWN OF A NEW JOURNEY

TM Nimashi Pathirana



Since childhood I have been observing how people act and react to the decisions they take in life or the circumstances they face in life. Being a silent observer, I used to read the actions, expressions of the people around me wherever I went. These taught me that we, as individuals, are far more different from one another when dealing with certain situations in life. The reason for me to think that one's views are different to another is because of for the most part, our decisions are on the same wavelength which make our actions compatible with one another.

On the other hand, I could also recognize how people grab opportunities in life to succeed in their careers. For me, however, I neither had any longing to take risks and face obstacles nor seize opportunities. With the passage of time, I perceived that nothing changes if I remain the way I am right now. So, the need to incorporate some colour was of paramount importance. The inception of stepping out of the shell which I regarded as my comfort zone, made me visualize the 3C's in life; Choice, Chance and Change. It further illustrates that 'You must make the choice to take the chance if you want anything in life to change.'

Even though I have engaged in extracurricular activities, the biggest shortcoming I had in my life is timidity. There were times when I felt disturbed when I had to deliver something in front of an audience or a gathering. Even the opportunities which came to me said 'adieu' since I was a reserved person. Given that, it was my mother who always insisted that I join Toastmasters when one of my good friends Ishani Mirihagalle invited me to make the move on several occasions. Once Tony Robbins said, "Stop being afraid of what could go wrong, and start being excited of what would go right." After testing the waters, on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, I obtained the membership of the Siyane Toastmasters Club. To overcome my shyness, to hone my skills and to improve myself were the reasons that pushed me to knock on the door of Toastmasters.

As soon as the new members were inducted to Siyane Toastmasters Club, we were given several roles to portray. As Shakespeare correctly mentioned "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players'." Although acting is not new to us anymore, the issue I had was how to perform in front of an unknown audience. I soon played my first role as the Ah counter in an outside club. Words couldn't describe the nervousness I experienced on that day. Nevertheless, the drive that I gained from my first act kept me going with much confidence. The most memorable moment in my life so far is the 12<sup>th</sup> Installation Ceremony of Siyane Toastmasters Club where I performed as one of the emcees. It was truly a great opportunity given by our beloved senior members to the newbies to exert our wings with conviction. Further, it helped me thaw the long-frozen ice of timidity that had developed in me. Therefore, I could feel an immense contentment and it also induced me to step out of my shell.

Within a short stretch of time, I could comprehend the core values of Toastmasters; integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the members and respect for the individuals in the Siyane Toastmasters fraternity. He who pursues the wordings in the Toastmasters bible, will be guided in the name of Toastmasters. It is evident that leaders are not born, they are made and this itself signifies the slogan of Toastmasters - "Where leaders are made". I do feel blessed and grateful for the constant support and encouragement I have been receiving since the outset of my Toastmasters journey not only by my mentor but also from the other loving souls of Siyane Toastmasters Club. Having sixty plus members in Siyane Toastmasters Club per se highlights the unison amongst its members and this extends their arms much more to enlighten others. It's THE SECRET!

LONG LIVE SIYANE!

# MEETINGS, MEMORIES & MILESTONES

TM Sanduni Eriyagama



**T**oastmasters is a place I was aware of from my young age because of one special person. He is the one who encouraged me to join Toastmasters and today I'm here because of him. He is none other than Distinguished Toastmaster Sudash Liyanage.

**Year 2017** - I attended Siyane Toastmasters club meetings in year 2017 again because of a few people. But I couldn't speak any other words than "Hi" and "Bye" since I was not confident enough to do so. I managed those few days with some "Hi" and "Bye" and I tried my level best to stay home without continuing the journey.

**Year 2020** - After three years of time I wanted to join Toastmasters because I found something in there. It was a theme meeting, happened in the virtual platform and I liked to be there sitting in front of a laptop and listening to other's speeches.

**Year 2021** - It was the year which a long journey began with a small step. I had a chat with TM Shanika, TM Chandima and TM Pubudu and they assisted me with everything I should do to become a Toastmaster. Let's take a look at special days in my 2021 Toastmasters Calendar.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March** - I became a Toastmaster and started the journey.

**25<sup>th</sup> April** - I got my loving, caring and sharing mentor TM Shanika Ranasinghe. She is the person who always stands behind me whenever I need a help.

**10<sup>th</sup> May** - It was another important day for me because I was able to have a chat with one of my role models and fortunately, he became the coach for each and every speech of mine. Because of him I'm here today with lots of improvements compared to myself in year 2017.

**20<sup>th</sup> June** - It was the day I delivered my first speech as a Toastmaster. My speech was evaluated by DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya and he encouraged me to deliver more speeches in future. As one of my coaches TM Chamin always mentioned, "Practice, practice, practice," I practiced my Ice Breaker speech more than 20 times and I was the best speaker on that day. It gave me a little hope at the very beginning that I have improved a little than before.

**21<sup>st</sup> August** - I was able to become a member of Public Relations team of the club. Handling social media is one of the main duties of mine.

**26<sup>th</sup> September** - It marks another special day in my calendar, Humorous Speech Club Contest, 2021. I was able to compete in the club level for the very first time and that time period was a little hard for me and it taught me how to manage different tasks at the same time. Hats off to the wonderful coaches that I got. Without the support of TM Chamin and DTM Kaburawala it would have been a dream for me. They stayed awake until midnight some days without saying 'no' whenever I requested a practice session with them.

**28<sup>th</sup> November** - It was our Installation Day which all of us were waiting for. From the morning to afternoon, we did the final preparations and that night was glorious because of the effort the members put. It was the day I was officially inducted and I was presented with different certificates and I met most of the Toastmasters physically. Time flew and the installation ceremony also came to the end. It was a day to remember with lots of love and happiness.

**My loving Siyane Toastmasters family members, you are the strength of mine, you are the shadow of mine, you are the mentors of mine. As it is said Toastmasters is all about 'Friends helping Friends' and you all have proved it many times. There are many people who became close friends in my life and became an inspiration. They taught many life lessons that became wonderful guides too. A single word from them can make a huge impact on our lives. Toastmasters is a place where I found lots of true humans and Siyane Toastmasters Club is the place where I learnt a lot which helped me to bring my life to the next level.**

## NEW MEMBERS' CORNER



### TM Himantha Tennakoon

Joining Toastmasters is one of the best decisions I've made this year. In terms of speech development and leadership development, Toastmasters have influenced me at the early stage of my new journey. The Club, in fact, is a family, bonding in every aspect of educational, and friendly relationships. I see Toastmasters as a never-ending journey of personal and team development.



### TM Dinesh Jayawardana

Joining Toastmasters was a turning point in my life. As a trainer by profession, I do not hesitate when speaking in front of the public. The only barrier is language and the delivery of speech in English. On the second meeting as a guest, I pushed myself to do a Table Topic. I was concerned with my Ah Count because it hit 26 within only two minutes. I identified my initial weakness and worked on that. After three months, when I did my Ice Breaker speech, it was zero. How thrilled I was! So, today, I am extremely happy about my decision to join Toastmasters, to a wonderful family which stands home away from home: "Siyane Toastmasters".



### TM Dilanka Bandara

"I've been on this Toastmasters journey for around 6 months. I've met so many inspiring and kind hearted individuals who value growth and support each other. It is an inviting atmosphere for anyone who wants to improve their English and leadership skills. I'm very excited to learn more and grow with this fraternity"



### TM Dilan Widumal

Starting the new year, you may imagine me as a jittery guy who is eager to learn more about life. I was forced to miss out on some opportunities because of my inability to effectively communicate my ideas. By joining Siyane Toastmasters, I decided to give up my habit of being a bit nervous. You may be shocked to learn that it only took a few weeks for me to notice a significant improvement in my abilities. Because I was a newcomer at the club, no one treated us any differently. Now, I feel like I have a second family, surrounded by beautiful people who work tirelessly to improve the club and the community at large.



### TM Yasora Liyanage

I'm Yasora Liyanage and I'm a happy newbie of Siyane toastmasters club. I joined Toastmasters in September 2021. Since the day I joined as a guest to my first Toastmasters meeting, I felt how encouraging the meeting atmosphere is. I did my Ice Breaker speech after a few weeks, and the support given by my mentor and the other members was amazing. I learned a lot even though it was my first speech, and I am looking forward to pursuing my Toastmasters journey with the beautiful souls that I have met in Siyane.



### TM Mukulanjalee Gunarathne

In the waiting period of my university admission, I was curious about the public speaking concept, and I wanted tangible experience of it. When I searched for any organizations, courses or communities related to it, my father introduced me to the Siyane Toastmasters Club. Then I became a member of the Siyane family in September, 2021. In the beginning, my only desire was to improve my public speaking skills, but after the experience in the Pathways orientation program, I realized I have a long way to go.



### TM Malmi Ranasinghe

I joined Siyane Toastmasters Club this September as a new member. I played the Grammarian's role in the first Club meeting I participated in. Was super nervous but managed to give my best shot thanks to my mentor. Then I got an amazing opportunity; that was to perform as an Emcee in the 12th Installation Ceremony of Siyane Toastmasters Club. Honestly, I feel so privileged to be a part of this big family, filled with so many humble souls. Hoping to have a great journey with my fellow Toastmasters in the future.



# THE CLUELESS JOURNEY

TM Yesen Kandalama



**S**ome people say life is a journey that no one knows what the end looks like. Some people say to let life flow itself, and you will find the truth one day. You know what? I agree on those things, but what if I tell you life is just like a "Christopher Nolan's" movie that no one has reviewed yet. It is a mixture of victories, disappointments, love, and fantasy. And finally, all the conspiracies are there. In your life, sometimes you are clueless because you don't have proper answers to your life. One year back, I was in the same situation. I asked many people, including my closest friends, about following dreams. Is it effective? Should I follow my dreams? Is it reasonable to follow my dreams?. I found nothing but disappointment because no one directly answered my question. But I still remember my dad telling me to follow my dreams and never look back. Even though I was a kid at that time, I started to believe it. So, I began to follow my dreams and hunt them like a hunter that has never lost his target.

Because of that, I started to learn Web Development in the most famous campus in Gampaha. I studied at the Esoft campus of Gampaha as a final year student. I did my best in my classes, but something was missing. I later realized that I had a dream to be a public speaker ever since I was a kid. When I was a kid, I still remember watching Tonny Robbins' Speeches on DVDs. After realizing that I love speaking more than anything in my life, I started to take speaking opportunities as much as possible. But, I failed because nobody listened to me. My friends began to laugh at me because I couldn't earn money from public speaking. But I didn't lose my hope.

One evening after my classes, and my friend took me to a meeting. There I saw people cheering and listening to one another's speeches. I was clueless about what that was. I was curious. I asked my friend about it and he said that it was a Toastmasters meeting. It looked pretty interesting. I was amazed that there are organizations like that just for the public speakers to share their thoughts. It was a huge opportunity to start my journey as a public speaker.

The very next day, I found the number of the Siyane Toastmasters club, and I called them saying that I needed to join them. I still remember the first meeting I joined. The club was full of fun-loving, lovely, and enthusiastic people. They welcomed me to their family, the family of Siyane, and I am still grateful. I would say that they adopted me. I met people who changed my life upside down to chase my dream of being a Public speaker. They unlock the fear and of public speaking forever. They are the ones who taught me that if I need to be a good speaker, act like one and never give up.

I wish more people could understand the actual value of Toastmasters is communication and encouragement. They will help you regardless of your differences. The only thing you need is enough courage to continue what you love to do. Don't think twice if you ever dream of being a Toastmaster because Toastmasters is not just like any other organization. It will help you understand who you are and give you more courage to continue your journey.

I started my Public speaking journey as a clueless person, but today, I have a purpose to following my journey. I have hope; I have courage because of the Toastmasters. Thank you for reading this. Sometimes life is clueless, but when you find the right palace to fit in, you will find the correct way, just like I did. So, I will end this mess by asking one question from you, what would you do if you were clueless in your life journey?

# SIYANE FUTURE CHAMPS BOOT CAMP

TM Roshini Perera



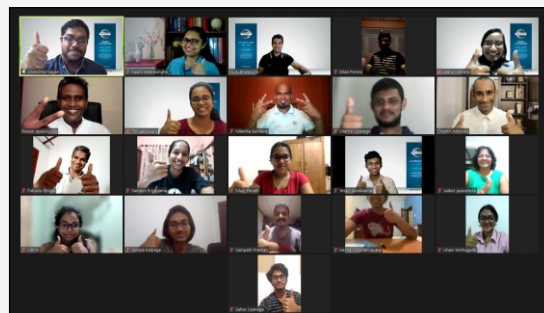
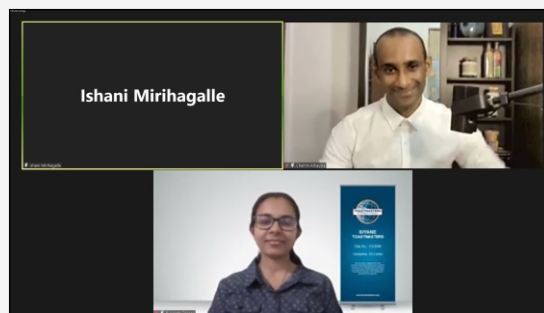
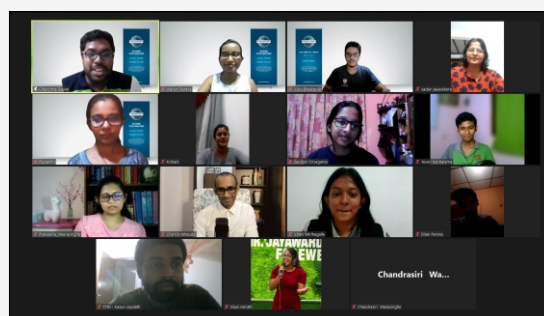
Coaching with a personalized touch is one of the greatest gifts a club can offer its members. This became true for Siyane Toastmasters club members when the current executive committee decided to initiate the "Siyane Future Champs" boot camp. The VP Education subcommittee with the guidance and advice of the Siyane President and VPEducation laid the foundation for this project. The project was launched on the 6th of September 2021 and TM Roshini Perera and TM Ishani Mirihagalle were appointed as the coordinators of the project. An open invitation was given to all the Siyane members giving priority to those intended to take part in the upcoming Humorous speech contest. The response was encouraging and many Siyane members joined the programme to reap the maximum benefit of being a Toastmaster.

These members were fortunate enough to get guidance from the stalwarts of the Siyane Toastmasters club who has conquered the stage and the fraternity alike. Among them were DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya, DTM Nilantha Bandara, TM Chamin Athauda, and TM Ruwanthi Perera. Through several weeks they shared their experience, knowledge, and living example with the budding speakers of the Siyane Toastmasters club.

That was not all the beloved mother club had to offer her members. At the end of the scheduled educational sessions, each member who wished to take part in the upcoming humorous speech contest was given two personal coaches to train them for the contest. For these coaching sessions, DTM Wanasinghe, DTM Kamburawala, DTM Shehara, and TM Eranga, TM Waruni, and TM Pubudu gave their maximum support in addition to the others who also worked as resource persons. The script, delivery, body language, and all the other aspects were supervised and polished during these personalized sessions.

The first step of the project was successfully concluded with the Humorous speech contest 2021/2022. The benefits of the boot camp were such that two of the members from Siyane Toastmasters performed on the Division stage for the first time in their toastmasters' lives.

The project is to be continued serving and guiding the Siyane Toastmasters members helping them to reach the pinnacle of public speaking, inspiring and entertaining so many lives.



# “EVERY EXPERIENCE MAKES YOU GROW”

TM Sithmi Ambegoda



**B**ack in 2017, a shy, not very sociable girl wearing spectacles with a very poor sense of fashion came to one of the educational meetings of Siyane Toastmasters club, without any idea what toastmasters is. She was surprised to see how people of different ages, in different professions doing fabulous speeches in front of everyone. At first eventhough, it was difficult for her to get used to all strange terms like ah counter, table topic, round robin, the way how confident speakers were, made her love speaking: something that she never thought she could. But the way how the members appreciated and encouraged her made her believe in herself. She was eagerly waiting to be a member and to start her public speaking journey. That shy little girl is none other than the one who is writing this. Toastmasters were able to mould me into a completely different person.

I can remember the first time I went to a division conference. After watching all the contestants and their speeches I had only one dream: to compete on the division stage with all giants of the fraternity making Siyane proud. And fortunately this year I was able to make my dream a reality, thanks to the tremendous effort of the amazing coaches of Siyane Talent Academy.

When I walk back to my school time, I have never done speeches at school. I never thought that I could be a speaker. But everything I believed about myself, changed the moment I came to Toastmasters. Winning the 2nd runners up at the humorous speech club contest was one of the happiest days in my life that made me believe in myself that I can be a speaker. I have contested in several contests. But this year's humorous speech contest was a very significant experience I had. It was fully virtual. It became even more special with the coaching camp organized by the EXCO in collaboration with Siyane Talent Academy. It was absolutely the biggest reason, which made my dream come true. The coaches started the educational sessions before the club contest. From the script writing to the delivery, they guided us to make our speeches perfect. Winning the club contest and getting a chance to represent the club at the area with my ever loving friend, Ishani was again a significant incident in my life. For both area and contest and division contest, we had lots mentoring sessions with our amazing coaches. Their commitment was truly unbelievable. At midnight and early mornings, they were there to help us to make our speeches better. It was absolutely a tiring process. But since September until the end of the division contest, I have learnt loads of new things from our precious coaches. Things I can never learn just by doing a speech at a regular educational meeting. And whenever I was feeling low and giving up, they were there to encourage me to keep going.

The division contest was on an early morning. Despite it being an early morning on a Sunday, most of our club members were there to encourage and support us. That's the beauty of the Siyane Toastmasters club. Even though it was on a virtual set up, it meant a lot to us. At the very first moment when I got to know when either of us were not placed and could not bring glory to the club, it was a hard blow. That made me guilty because of the tremendous support and commitment I got from our coaches. But on the other hand it made me understand one thing that our coaches always used to tell. "Winning is a byproduct of contesting, but the learning is immense". For the last couple of months what I have learnt through contesting is immense. I, myself could see my improvement from club level to division. That experience helped me to grow in to a better speaker. I'm really pleased that I accepted this challenge without rejecting it.

I was never a very talented, born speaker. Siyane is the place where the speaker in me was born. They made me believe in me. I'm not a great decision maker but choosing to become a Toastmaster is the greatest decision I've ever made.

Most often we are our worst enemy, who stops us from doing what we love, because of the fear of failing. But mistakes and failures are the best teachers in the whole world. Winning in your first attempt is great but it will not give an opportunity for you to grow, but failures do. The things I've learnt from this fabulous experience cannot be taken back; they will always be with me, making me believe more about myself.

Journey of a thousand miles starts with one small step. I know I have a long way to go in this public speaking journey. But I'm determined to make one step at a time to reach my target of becoming a better speaker. And I will always try my best to make my second family proud because they deserve it.

As said in my favorite quote, I will win, not immediately, but definitely.



# A Helping Hand

## Covid Donation

Covid is merciless and it is not age, gender, or racial bias. Treats everyone equally. During mid July of 2021, number of infections and deaths had risen significantly in Sri Lanka. Hospitals were running out of capacity while demand for oxygen was also on the rise.

Considering the fact, we Siyane Toastmasters initiated and led the project of donating essential medical equipment to Intermediate Care Center for Covid 19 at Seeduwa. Toastmasters, their family members, and friends contributed to fund the project. We considered this kind of a project as a need of the hour considering the Covid 19 pandemic in the country.

The project cost was LKR 341,915.00. We were able to fund the following essential equipment. Two Pulse Oximeters, Three Wheelchairs, 3000 Qty of Surgical Masks, 200 Qty of KN95 Masks, 3 Qty of Rechargeable Torches.

These items were handed over to the Health Officers on 24th July 2021. We were delighted after listening to the thanking notes of the Doctors as the above items were in their priority list.



## Spirit of Christmas

Christmas is known as the season of joy, of gift-giving, and of families united. It is most fun for little children, because they receive the love from their parents and their relatives during this time. However, there are some kids in this world who are devoid of parental love. Some have been rejected while some have lost them at a young age. So, this in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, we, Siyane Toastmasters, thought of bringing a spark to a few such innocent lives. Accordingly, goods worth Rs 22,500 /= was donated to the Siyane Childrens' Home for girls, where 25 girls are being taken care of. Many Toastmasters contributed generously, and we were able to provide the girls with day-to-day essentials, some snacks and cake. Although we were unable to gift the girls individually due to COVID restrictions, the matrons were happy to accept them and appreciated the gesture. At the end of the day, we, Siyane Toastmasters felt the true joy of giving, for we were able to bring a smile on these little girls' faces, this year.





# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

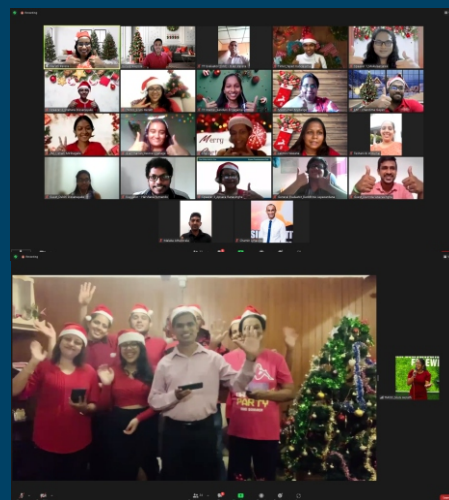
## TOASTMASTERS



### Speech Contest

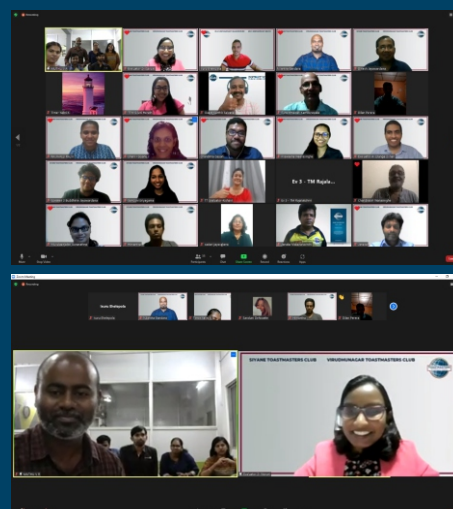


### Christmas Meeting



### Joint Meetings

#### Virudhunagar Toastmasters Club



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