

# VOLUME 14

## ISSUE 2

APRIL 2022



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but Winner at my Heart

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Servant Leadership  
in Toastmasters

# SIYANE SPEAKS



*Since*  
**1924**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB  
Area 2 Division F

# ABOUT THE CLUB

## ABOUT SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Siyan 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 .

## DISTRICT 82 MISSION

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

## 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.

## TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL ENVISIONED FUTURE

To be first choice provider of dynamic high-value experimental communication and leadership skills development.

### 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 (<https://goo.gl/maps/XY5pKFwky7e9pRxq6>)

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 Weerasuriya

### Sergeant -At-Arms

TM Ishani Mirihagalla

### Immediate Past President

TM Pubudu Ginige

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TM Isuru Ehelepola

TM Sulakshi Mudannayake

## EDITORIAL TEAM

TM Waruni Perera

TM Roshini Perera

DTM Shehara Dissanayake

TM Sanduni Eriyagama

TM Chandima Gayan

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

*Since*  
**1924**

# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ...

## **I was Transformed**

In his book "Think & Grow Rich", Napoleon Hill says that whatever a man's mind can conceive and believe, he can achieve". So, the mind is power. I realized Toastmasters is a platform where people understand the mind power, which fuels the transformation process. The process starts with being focused or practicing mindfulness on mistakes and weaknesses. To make mistakes or understand our weaknesses, we need to put ourselves in experiments. That's why some say Toastmasters is a learning laboratory. Toastmasters help us distinctly identify our strengths and weaknesses by actively participating in activities. Finding solutions would be easy once we understood our need for improvement. The ultimate result of this will be building confidence. Thus, confidence is the foundation of this transformation.

I used to be an introvert who turned completely dumb in front of strangers sometime back (I still struggle to be the first to initiate a conversation). I was a prisoner in my comfort zone. Negativity had invaded all my body parts, including the mind. But four years after joining Toastmasters, the same person holds the apex leadership position of a leading club in Sri Lanka. Toastmasters was my guiding light to find the way out of that prison and negativity.

## **People first attitude**

I was never a democrat but an autocrat. I was rule-based, never people-based. But Toastmasters taught me the importance of being a human-based leader. 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 member for 5 consecutive years, especially during my year of the presidency, I realized the behavioral change within me. It is a huge satisfaction beholding members' progress, and I enjoy seeing the happiness in others' eyes after an opportunity was given.

## **Rear mirror view**

We found that the second half of the Toastmaster year 2021/2022 was so exciting as there were a couple of significant milestones. For the first time in Siyane history, we were featured in the official magazine of Toastmasters International as a recognition for the efforts we made back in July 2021 when we were able to support the community by donating essential items to the Intermediate Care Center for Covid 19 in Seeduwa. The Blood Donation campaign that we organized on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February reached a massive success to prove the Siyane Leadership in a changing world. The speechcraft program conducted for the academics of the University of Sabaragamuwa achieved its target outcome with high acclaim. We celebrated the 300th meeting with platinum panoramic sparkles in a scenic spot filled with sea breezes, sand, and sunset at the Jetwing Sea Hotel, Negombo. The launch of Siyane Coaching Boot Camp phase two in line with the International Speech Contest while obtaining support from speech coaches who conquered the international stage was a good move. Our prime focus was to uplift members' skills by planning and delivering a dynamic educational experience that creates the best learning environment where our members get equal opportunities.

## **Siyane Synergy**

It was evident that the interaction of Siyane members in producing greater combined effects always led to triumph. All accomplishments that we reached throughout the year were outcomes of Siyane Synergy, which stimulates authenticity, commitment, and excellence wrapped with passion and compassion. That's the secret behind the Siyane Legacy. Long Live Siyane!

**TM Waruni Perera**  
President  
Siyane Toastmasters Club





# Installation of Club Officers 2021/22

## THE ACE EXCO



### TM Waruni Perera

#### President

Siyane once again marked the President's Distinguished club status by achieving 10 DCP points with a current membership base of 67. Enrolling 27 new members during the Toastmaster year 2021/2022 was a significant accomplishment and a fine proof of high standards that we maintain in the club. We ensured 100% pathways adoption backed by 31 pathways level completions among 25 members. 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.



### TM Chandima Gayan

#### Vice President Education

We as a team, are always keen on maintaining the quality of the meeting by applying high standards. As a club, we try our level best to provide the members with expert knowledge through the support of both internal and external specialized resources. The special sessions we conducted during the contest period along with the Siyane coaching Boot camp were an ideal example of that. The contribution of the Siyane Talent academy is pivotal in this scenario. During the meetings, we always provide opportunities for both experienced and budding toastmasters equally as we always work upon the "together we grow" ideology. Even we had to limit ourselves with the online meetings for a longer time period due to the pandemic, we were able to conduct all the meetings on a theme, educational sessions, CSR activities, Joint meetings with local and international clubs and especially sending our members to other clubs as speakers and role players to provide novel experience as the members.



### TM Apsara Ranasinghe

#### Vice President Membership

It has been a wonderful experience working as the Vice President Membership of Executive Committee of Siyane Toastmasters Club. It helped me to improve my confidence and gave me an amazing experience on facing uncontrollable challenges. It's my pleasure to enjoy the achievement of 8/80 award for both the renewal cycles which were truly amazing since first cycle was during the Covid-19 pandemic and second cycle was during a foreign currency crisis in the country. I highly appreciate the support received from EXCO team and dear members of Siyane. My special gratitude is offered to our Madam President TM Waruni Perera for the leadership towards above achievement.





### **TM Isuru Ehelepola**

**Vice President Public Relations**

I fondly remember when I got the news last year that I will be the next VPPR of the club. The past year has been a year full of achievements for Siyane Toastmasters Club. For the first time in the history of Siyane we were featured in the Toastmasters International Magazine as a recognition for donating essential medical equipment to an Intermediate Care Center for Covid 19 at Seeduwa, Sri Lanka. Furthermore, for the first time in the history of Siyane we were recognized as one of the top 10 newsletters in the district. All these achievements were made possible by a set of motivated individuals who were always ready to provide their maximum support: the PR Team and the Executive Committee of Siyane and it was this amazing synergy that helped us to ACE it.



### **TM Shanika Ranasinghe**

**Secretary**

An only child, the pet of the family, imaginative, creative, and loves writing stories and little poems. This little pet loves learning different cultures, religions, and languages. She also loves travelling. She loves Great Britain, Germany, Russia and South Korea, and loves watching Korean TV series. As an EXCO member for 2021/2022, I learnt to be more methodical, and learnt to balance my office work with Toastmasters, despite the rather stressful and busy schedule. I also got a chance to write creative little lyrics for each meeting, which I loved doing. The support extended by the rest of the EXCO members has been amazing, and I loved the experience gained. Shanika Ranasinghe Secretary EXCO 2021/2022



### **TM Janaka Weerasuriya**

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer has a watchdog role over all aspects of financial management, working closely with members of club and EXCO to safeguard the club's finances, I performed this task prudently. Professionally I work as the Global QHES Manager at Jiffy Products International. Being the treasure in the Executive Committee was a challenging task especially during an economic crisis. As a team, we were able to overcome all financial problems especially renewing members and recruiting new members on time in full. That was an amazing experience I gained in my Toastmaster's journey



### **TM Ishani Mirihagalla**

**Sergeant-At-Arms**

Hi there, I'm Ishani Mirihagalla. Proud to say that I'm the first lady SAA of Siyane. Currently working as the global L&D administrator at Rizing. If someone asked me what is the best thing that happened to me in 2021, there are few. Being selected for the exco is one of them. Because I'm so lucky to work under the great leadership of our beloved madam president and this energetic, encouraging and jovial bunch of 6 members. For each difficult task I completed, these super six were with me. Standing behind me, encouraging me, being a giant strength. So far we could ACE all the tasks together. Just two months more to finish this year. And super Happy we have already conquered this year. For coming years also let's continue the legacy of Siyane. Long live SIYANE!

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TM Sanduni Eriyagama

# BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH , BUT WINNER AT MY HEART

It was the dawn of the most awaited event in my undergraduate calendar. Pathology open day. Students were required to do a presentation on an unusual presentation of a disease together with the diagnosis, treatment, and its outcome to an audience comprising of the vice-chancellor, the dean, the academic staff, and the students. To secure the gold medal for their presentation was the crowing glory any undergraduate could secure. I had put so much effort behind this presentation, burning midnight oil to research, had numerous drawn-out discussions with my clinical teachers, practiced the presentation in front of the mirror countless times, and was ready to present. I imagined the gold medal glistening on my chest and thundering applause when I was on the podium when I received it. The pathology professor would comment on each presentation, and I expected a glowing tribute. After my presentation, I went and sat in the audience. "You talked to the thin air, no eye contact with the audience. You appeared as if you had by hearted the script, with no spontaneity at all. There is a place called Toastmasters; if you want to be a better public speaker, that is the place to go. " The professor's words didn't register in my mind. I had already zoned off after the first several words of his harsh criticism delivered in front of the audience. Even up to date, I cannot recall who won the gold medal that day; of course, it was not me. Now I consider that moment I felt so small and insignificant as one of the brightest moments in my life.

I became a Toastmaster because of that rather unkind delivered thought and the truthful evaluation of my public speaking and presentation skills. Today I have a lot to learn, but I have gained a lot through toastmasters.

I am a proud member of three Toastmasters clubs. My home club is Siyane Toastmasters Club. I was fortunate enough to be the Champion of the Table Topics Contest of Siyane Toastmasters Club for the year 2022.

I became the first runner-up in the Evaluation contest of Siyane Toastmasters Club for the year 2021. I am the proud president of Wednesday7 Toastmasters club, a fully online club that boasts of members from the USA, the country that gave birth to toastmasters.

I am part of the Exco of an advanced Toastmasters club. I am the Charter Treasurer of Titans Advanced Toastmasters Club. My friends and family feel that I am more friendly and expressive and a better communicator now in my personal life. I told myself that I was an introvert earlier, but now I think I am an ambivert. I was privileged to hold several leadership positions in the Department of Health of Sri Lanka. I was a Deputy Regional Director of Health Services and a Medical Superintendent of a secondary-level healthcare institution in the country. I was fortunate to interact with the highest level of leaders in health care from Sri Lanka and abroad. One of my greatest achievements was securing a US \$1 million grant from a funding agency for the country during the COVID-19 pandemic and the team from the Health Ministry. All this because of Toastmasters.

My Toastmaster's journey was never a smooth sailing. The first Toastmasters club I approached could not accept me because they had too many members. But I didn't give up; I am happy that I selected one of the best Toastmasters clubs, Siyane to commence my Toastmaster's journey.

Still, I get butterflies when asked to speak impromptu despite winning first place in the impromptu speaking contest. But despite no gold medal glistening on my chest, I feel I now am a winner.

So be it with you.



**TM Lakmalie Jayaweera**



# 300 NOT OUT



## Celebrating the tricentennial meeting besides the sea

The beauty and joy of a journey do not lie in its destination but in the journey itself. As we go further from the starting point, the higher the success is and the fonder the memories are. Experiencing this truth, the Siyane Toastmasters Club celebrated her victorious 300th Meeting on the 20th of March 2022 besides the breathtaking view of the ocean adding yet another fond addition to her album of memories. The meeting took place at Jetwing Sea Beach Hotel, Negombo with the participation of 30+ members, and several of the past presidents of the club. This was their first onsite meeting after almost 2 years of virtual meetings due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Siyane Toastmasters Club was chartered in 2010 and ever since had been a leading active club in the fraternity. She has gifted several public speaking champions and exemplary leaders to society. The 300th meeting was full of energy as always and provided a great platform to reflect back upon the members' fondest memories, or Magic Moments with Siyane Toastmasters Club. The meeting was complete with several inspirational speeches and a funfilled impromptu speaking season. The two and half hour meeting was followed by entertainment segments which included a sing-along, a dance battle, and a photoshoot

organized by the 300th meeting Organizing committee. The members and past presidents added their heartiest congratulations and best wishes for their home club in a video released to celebrate the tricentennial



**TM Roshini Perera**







## NEW MEMBERS' CORNER



### TM Dinith Hathurusinghe

When I was in school, I took part in many activities and I used to be much more confident in front of audiences. But during the last 2 years due to the Covid-19 pandemic I didn't get the opportunity to take part in such activities. During those 2 years education was online, and we were supposed to stare at computer screens for long hours without any physical interaction with the teacher and the students. Along with that I realized day by day that I was losing my confidence and stage fear was beginning to grow within me. So, I constantly got the urge to take part in something that can provide me a platform to enhance my depreciating confidence. It was right after my A/Ls, and my English teacher, Toastmaster Chamin Athauda suggested that I join the toastmasters club. That is how I joined this family of Siyane Toastmasters.

### TM Saman Kaluaarachchi

First and foremost, I would like to thank this Toastmasters club. I am sharing what I experienced on my first day when I visited the club. I panicked thinking "what's going on here?", because I was in a totally English oriented forum after 16 years! On that first day I got an idea about how the club operated. However, I couldn't give a speech in the table round. Frankly, I selected Toastmasters because the time was convenient, and I couldn't find any task orientated programme that suited me. My future plan with Toastmasters is to build up my much-needed communication skills so that I could express my idea without any hesitation and develop myself towards a better career. Therefore, I believe this will be the best opportunity to turn over a new leaf in my path.



### TM Gihan Samarakoon

Developing communication skills can help many aspects of our lives from our professional careers to social gatherings, to our family life. Good verbal communication is an essential skill to deliver information quickly and accurately as a good communicator. In my point of view, the Toastmasters club is one of the best places to improve our verbal communication skills in Sri Lanka.



### TM Hevindu Thilakasena

When I was about 10-11 years old, I heard about a club called Toastmasters from my father's friend. I was curious to know about this club. I understood Toastmasters enhances and develops our leadership, public speaking, and other very important skills for our future. I always had a dream to travel all around the world and motivate large crowds all around the world. I believe that Toastmasters will be a great home for my dream.



### TM Kasuni Randeniya

On my very first physical Toastmasters meeting I was a little nervous. I had participated in two virtual meetings as a guest, but this was totally different. The nervousness did not last long, because there were really cool people around me. Everybody was with a smile and showed respect to each other. Finally, I can say I've found the right place to my thoughts at Siyane.



### TM Praveen Kumarasinghe

After my graduation, I was looking forward to joining a Toastmasters club to improve my public speaking skills and presentation skills. During the search I came across several options and I selected Siyane for the sole reason that the meetings were held in my hometown & I could easily join them without much effort. But once I started dealing with the amazing and passionate individuals from the club, I truly understood what Toastmasters really stand for. Throughout my very short stay in the club the members and leadership team has been more than helpful and very understanding. Finally, I'm so glad I decided to join Toastmasters & more than glad that I chose Siyane Toastmasters to do so. Looking forward to wander in the wonderland with these amazing people from Siyane.



### TM Sithumi Mudannayake

Toastmasters is a wonderful family to join with. As a new member, I was warmly welcomed to the club and all the seniors have been so supportive. I chose toastmasters because I wanted to improve my public speaking skills and I am hoping to develop it in the future.





# A GAME CHANGER OR A LIFE CHANGER ?

*"A good coach can change a game; a great coach can change a life." – John Wooden*

In Toastmasters we all are benefited to have a mentor as soon as we are recruited as a Toastmaster. Some may say it is good to have a mentor but what about speech coaches? The main difference between a mentor and a coach is, a mentor is a person who shares their knowledge, skills and expertise to help another to develop and grow. But a coach is some who provides guidance to a client on their goals and helps them to reach their full potential. Different clubs might have different practices but let me tell you the 5 benefits I got from having speech coaches to shape up myself as a champion speaker.

- **Personal attention** – In most Toastmasters clubs, mentors have two, three or more mentees and due to many other personal commitments, it is a tough job to give personal attention to each and every mentee. But when you have a speech coach this problem is solved. Even during my contest seasons one club that I always reach to is Siyane Toastmasters Club for their valuable feedback. They could give me personal attention and grasp the areas where I could improve.
- **Improves individual performance** – As mentors sometimes it is unfair to focus on just one individual and highlight that person particularly. But when you have a coach, you can increase your client's performance and give valuable evaluations as you are not bound by that person. You can give your genuine point of view for the individuals without any biasness.
- **Establish and act towards achieving goals** – As mentors also we expect certain targets from our mentees but in coaching we can be much more précised on the goals that the individual needs to fulfill. During contest seasons, we all want to get more advanced feedback from coaches. In my scenario it helped me to make my concept more logical and appropriate. In this way a coach can directly focus on the goal and try to elevate the particular individual.
- **Deeper level of learning** – When you have a coach, they give you more knowledge and everything that they know to improve yourself. We can learn more about ourselves, can improve particular areas of what we need to further improve as good speakers. On the other hand, coaching takes learning to a level beyond remembering and understanding. The individual can take the skills presented by their coach and apply them in new situations.
- **Build personal awareness** – A coach can help the coachee to identify the blind spots, the areas where an individual should focus more. It could be in terms of the delivery of speeches, content or any other aspect. This way, not only for one particular goal but it will help the overall speaking journey of the individual.

The above mentioned 5 benefits helped me to elevate myself from a good speaker to a champion speaker. The Siyane Toastmasters Club and the well-experienced coaches were very helpful in spotting out the loopholes in my delivery as well as content, to shape myself and uplift me as a better speaker.

My dear friends, as mentioned above by John Wooden, even in your Toastmasters Journey, if you find the correct coaches for you, you will definitely ace your life because they are not only your contest game changers but will also help you in what ever you do. The coaches I met are my life changers.

**TM Yasasmi Gamage**  
CIPM Toastmasters Club  
Division C – Area 03



# SPEECHCRAFT PROGRAM AT SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY



Grand Finale and Awards Ceremony - Speechcraft Programme  
Department of Economics and Statistics, SUSL



Grand Finale and Awards Ceremony - Speechcraft Programme  
Department of Economics and Statistics, SUSL



SIYANE SPEAKS

One evening in last September, our immediate past president Pubudu called me. “Hi, Gamunu. Would you like to be the coordinator for a Speech Craft programme”. Usually, I don’t say no to any new responsibility as I believe in myself, and I know I can do it. Without thinking much, I said yes. Actually, I thought it was a 3 hr programme and needed to attend as a coordinator for it. The next morning I received a PDF file that contained 39 pages - the Speechcraft coordinator’s Manual. Then another document containing 38 pages which was the Speechcraft workbook. I glanced at both and understood that it needed a lot of commitment. It was too late to say no as I had already consented.

It was an amazing target group of 16, ranging from professors to assistant lecturers. Considering the calibre of the participants, we developed a pool of resource persons, including DTM Balraj and TM Niranjan De Silva.

A programme of 10 weeks was conducted smoothly but with a lot of commitment and patience. Listening to everyone was important. From one side, a set of volunteers. On the other side, participants who seek justice for their payment. So, I, too, had to play many roles to manage the programme quality.

After 10 weeks, in a cool climate with a warm welcome, the certificate awarding ceremony was held at the University of Sabaragamuwa. Our team consisted of Roshini, Waruni, Pubudu, and the keynote speaker DTM Z. M. Saleem. The Speechcrafters’ feedbacks were amazing, and I learned that what we did as a team was fabulous.

The message we got from the keynote speaker was, “Toastmasters have no time to get ready but have to be ready.”

Finally, to my understanding, coordinating such a programme improves our management skills of people of different calibre and time. Also, we will learn the importance of patience and being ready for any situation.

I thank the team who assisted in concluding the programme very successfully.



TM Gamunu Jayasundara



# GIVE BLOOD... SAVE A LIFE...

“Change” is a great blessing that brings in “new opportunities” and “Leadership” is a privilege to “make this changing world a better place”. Siyane Toastmasters act with due care to support their community around. Organizing a blood donation drive was a fine example of Siyane Leadership in a Change world. It was held on the 16th of February 2022 at Saama Viharaya Gampaha. The donation campaign was a wonderful success with a massive turnout of selfless individuals who did not hesitate to donate their own blood to help save another’s life. Special thanks goes to TM Nilanthi Pathirana who was instrumental in coordinating with the blood bank officials from the General Hospital Negombo and all the other Toastmasters who worked relentlessly to make this event a success.





# MY LUCKY PLACE

Toastmastering is a journey where you can find an extremely different version of yourself. It happened to me too. In a broader sense, I became a different person because of Siyane Toastmasters. Before joining Toastmasters, I was not as confident as now I am. I was scared and reluctant to speak in front of a crowd in English.

But because of this wonderful organization, I found my hidden talents. Mainly because of the contests. It has been almost 3 years since I joined Siyane. I started contesting in the club's humorous speech contest from my first year. But at that time, I felt that I couldn't do humorous speeches. There is not any humor in me. As I predicted, I couldn't do my best. Then it came to the second year of my toastmaster's journey. I completed two levels of my pathway and was qualified to compete in the International Speech Contest. That was my second time contesting. I was lucky enough to be the second runner-up of the club by competing with such great speakers. This was when I started to find that I could also make an impact.

So, I decided to do a humorous speech for the club contest for the second time, though I don't have any humor in me. That was the time we initiated our coaching boot camp. There I got two personal coaches. That was the best opportunity I got from my club. Under those two coaches, I practiced my speech. They gave me so much advice, great guidance, and continuous encouragement. I also felt I was more confident than last year to face the club contest. As I competed, I could become the first runner-up of my club and got qualified for the Area Contest. I was over the moon. Because for me, getting selected from our club is like winning the district. Our club contests are that competitive.

Then comes to the practice sessions, I practiced harder than I did for the club. I even had overnight practice sessions. As a result, I could win the Area for humorous speeches. Then for the division, we practiced even harder. That was my very first time in a Division Contest. But I couldn't make it. Anyway, I was so happy that I performed my level best.

Just a month back, I performed on the division stage for the second time at the international speech contest. I was so confident than ever. But this time also I couldn't win the division. But somehow, I'll bring the glory to my club one day.

Comparing the first contest I competed with the second time, there's a huge difference. All thanks go to my Siyane coaching Bootcamp. It changed my path. I never thought I could do humorous speeches. But my coaches proved that there's a hidden talent in me. This is not a born talent. They made me the person I am today. I'm so grateful for each and everyone who supported me.

I don't have enough words to express how proud and lucky I am to be a member of Siyane.

This is the place I found my passion.

This is the place I discovered who really, I am.

This is the place I always wanted to be.

As I always say, SIYANE is my LUCKY place.

TM Ishani Mirihagalla



# GUESTS TESTIMONIALS



**DTM Hingston Lovell**  
**Program Quality Chair - District 82**  
**President - Readers Toastmasters Club**

I see Siyane as a great platform to develop communication and leadership skills. I am forever grateful to Siyane for providing me with great opportunities to conduct educational sessions and I have improved myself immensely. One of those amazing qualities I admire about Siyane is the importance you have given to your members. #MembersFirst I wish Siyane all the very best.



**TM M. K. P. Rifka**  
**President - Matale Toastmasters Club**

Siyane TMC is without a doubt one of my favorite clubs to visit for Toastmasters meetings, mainly because of the friendly vibe of the club. I think the best way I could put it out is that when I'm at their meetings I feel the so much energy, warmth and enthusiasm credits to all the amazing members. This year was special for my home club, We had the honor and privilege of having a joint meeting with Siyane and I must say that 2022 Valentine's Day will never be forgotten. The themed meeting was full of smiles and as expected it turned out to be a memorable evening for all of us. From the ever charming President TM Waruni to every single member of the Club they all just put up their best selves! I am super glad to wish Siyane Toastmasters club for its outstanding performance throughout the years and wishing the best for the years ahead!



**TM Ravindu Amendra**  
**Panadura Toastmasters Club**

Siyane Toastmasters Club has always been one of the most integral clubs when it comes my journey to become a better speaker to move hearts of the audience. Whenever I reach out to this amazing club, each every member was always there for me to give their genuine generous feedback for me. This scintillating club is an epitome of the value "service". I wish all the very best for Siyane Toastmasters Club to nail your each and every goal to empower each and every member to raise their bars



# OVATION 2021





# “ IF YOU ARE DOING A SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY, THE TITLES WILL COME BEHIND ”

There are two main types of leaders we meet in our day to day life. They are traditional leaders and servant leaders. Traditional leaders see leadership as a rank to obtain while servant leaders see leadership as an opportunity to serve others.

In searching for what is servant leadership really means we found a true servant leader from Siyane Toastmasters Club. He is a civil engineer by profession, a charter member of Siyane TMC and was the gavel club coordinator of Sri Lanka during 2016/2017. He is none other than Distinguished Toastmaster Punsirimewan Kamburawala.



**DTM Punsirimewan Kamburawala**

**First of all, Sir, can you tell us a little about yourself and your background?**

I was born in a village called Meepawala in Galle district. My father worked as a clerk in a rubber estate in Mathugama. From kindergarten to O/Ls I studied at Ananda Sastralaya Matugama and later I entered to Richmond College Galle to do my A/Ls. However, I was not able to complete my A/Ls and I joined to Hardy Senior Technical Institute to follow national diploma in Technology (Civil Engineering) in 2019.

**Looking back, are there any indications from your childhood that foreshadowed you becoming a leader?**

During my school time, when I was in grade 7, I joined school Boy Scouts Troup. My Scout Master was Mr. D. A. Weerakone. I think he made me a leader. I became the scouting troop leader and held many leadership positions such as House Captain & Head Prefect.

**In those days TMs was new to SL. There were only few clubs. How did you got to know about TMs and what is your first club?**

First TMs club has been started in SL in 1984. I heard about TMs in 2006 when IIESL formed a TMS club. I am a member of IIESL. I had the necessity to become an effective communicator. So I participated for TMs meetings from the inception and obtained the membership in 2007. After one year I was appointed as sergeants at arms position. And step by step I became secretary, vice president education and the president of IIESL TMC.

**Can you tell us the positions you hold in TMs?**

After holding the position of club president, I was requested to take up the area governor post in our area. I took the position and became the president distinguish area. After that I served as a division treasurer, assistant division governor marketing, division governor of division E.

**You are one of the charter members of Siyane. We would like to know how this wonderful club began**

In 2010 Mark Brown (the world champion of public speaking 1995) visited Sri Lanka to do a session. In that session DTM Sudash Liyanage introduced me to Ruwan Perera.

He wanted both of us to form a club in Gampaha. The club we formed was named as Siyane Toastmasters Club.

**Can you tell us about your Mentors?**

My first mentor was Dr. Bin Anver Azar. He was a safety engineer. He had a good command of English. Therefore, I like him very much. Always he was available for me. Senior TM Lankathilaka and TM Santha Senarathna, TM W. D. Fonseka also helped me to develop.

**How many mentees have you trained?**

I have trained so many mentees in my life. I mentored some of the members from far away clubs. In addition, if I found any member in TMs that I should correct him I have helped those people without any hesitation.

**A term we often hear in TMs is “servant leadership”. What does this mean and what makes this different from leadership in other aspects?**

We are doing a social service indirectly. In TMs what we mean is change ourselves and change the world. If anyone follows TMs program properly adhering to the TMs promises and co-values, he or she will become a great person with great values. We are doing this service without expecting anything in return. This is the beauty in Toastmasters.



**Do you think titles, positions are necessary to become a servant leader? Can anyone become a servant leader?**

Not really. We should not go behind titles. If you are doing a service to the fraternity, society the titles will come behind. We should not work expecting those titles.

Il was asked to take up the Division Governor role in three times. In two occasions I said I'm not ready for that, I must gain experience and do it. That's why I became served as Division Treasurer and Assistant Division Governor Marketing and got the experience. That's why It is the reason I could perform well in all my leaderships.

**You have served over 15 years in the fraternity. You have provided your leadership in various aspects. Not only in TMs we see you are popular among Gavelier's also. You must have sacrifice lot of time and effort to do these things. What can we gain from being a servant leader? Is it worth?**

TM promises are there to develop ourselves, attend club meetings, prepare for assignments, be ready to accept the club officer position etc. Those are for our development. While developing ourselves we are helping others also. New member should involve actively in all club activities, it may be a speech contest or club meeting or a training program. If you get involved in these activities definitely it will make you a proper communicator and a proper leader. You will be benefited.

In the beginning we are learning from others. After that we have to teach others. You will gain an invaluable experience, satisfaction & confidence by being a servant leader.

**Finally, could you give a piece of advice to our TMs who are willing to be servant leaders in future like you?**

I recommend for all the new members to actively involve in all club activities, area and division activities. Hold a club officer, district officer position because it will help you to complete your educational path and definitely pave your way to become a better leader and a communicator.

**TM Vishmi**  
Wickramarachchi





# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS





# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

## New Member Induction



## Awurudu Celebrations



## Upcoming Club Activities

May 2022 - Ice Breaker Marathon

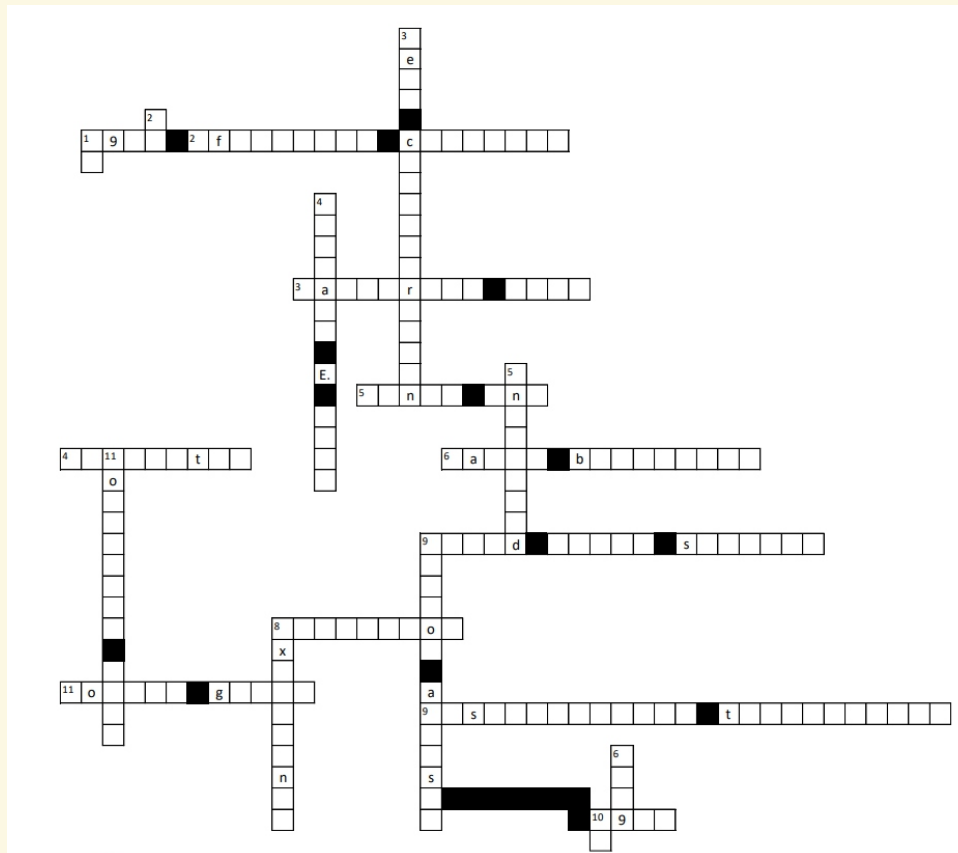
Annual General Meeting

May 2022 - Siyane Family Outing

June 2022 - Presidents Forum

June 2022 - Ovation

## LET'S TEST YOUR TOASTMASTERS KNOWLEDGE



### Across

1. The year toastmasters international started
2. Which path helps you to build your skills as a positive communicator
3. Who is the current international president of toastmasters
4. Who is the person who note any overused words during meetings
5. Where was the first world's headquarters of toastmasters
6. Who is the first female member in toastmasters
7. Which is the session developed by the toastmasters in Sri Lanka
8. Who provides verbal and written feedback to meeting speakers
9. What is the highest credential awarded in toastmasters educational program
10. When the Ralph C. Smedley memorial fund was established
11. What is the award presented to an individual distinguished in the field of communication and leadership

## Down

1. The number of specialized learning paths to choose
2. Number of regions in toastmasters international
3. Which path helps you to build your skills as a collaborative leader
4. Who is the immediate past international president
5. Where is the current world headquarters of toastmasters international
6. In which year unique strategic alliance has formed between toastmasters international and rotary international?
7. Who is the person that support district leaders in fulfilling the district mission to build new clubs and support to clubs
8. One of the core values in toastmasters
10. What is the region district 82 belongs to



**TM Sanduni Eriyagama**



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