



TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

SIYANE SPEAKS

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Area 1 | Division F | District 82

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.

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.

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Vice President Education

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TOASTMASTERS
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1924

Message from President

It is with immense pleasure that I convey my heartiest congratulations to the 1st edition of “Siyane Speaks” Club Newsletter of the Siyane Toastmasters Club, for the year 2022 /2023 toastmasters’ year. Which has already achieved a significant milestone in our annual calendar of the club. The primary objective of the club newsletter is to disseminate club happenings around the toastmaster fraternity along with the view of sharing the beauty of the toastmasters’ world around the world.

This year Siyane Toastmasters club has a theme of “Together We” where we all geared up to create great communicators and leaders with the support of all the members of the club through sharing and caring for each other. The focus is not only to develop communication and leadership within the club but also to support the potential effective communicators and leaders who are ready to blossom. As one of the largest clubs based on the membership base in District 82, we wish to extend our expertise and support for the development of the members’ futuristic approach.



I believe this edition of Siyane Speaks will be of topical interest to the members and non-members who are interested in toastmasters, enabling a productive discourse about the beauty of Toastmasters. As a toastmaster’s club which has already achieved 100% pathways enrollment and 8:80 award-winning club, we are always geared up to achieve the objective of creating leaders among us by providing continuous opportunities for the members of the club.

I congratulate the organizing committee for attracting a wide range of articles from multiple toastmasters within the club and outside the club to make this edition another memorable edition to keep up the tradition of designing novel experience for the readers as always.

Thank You.

TM Chandima Gayan ACB, ALB
President
Siyane Toastmasters - 2022/2023



TOGETHER WE EXCO



TM Chandima Gayan

President

We always say Teamwork makes the Dream work. At the moment, as the President of the Siyane Toastmasters Club, I am experiencing it. We are continuously moving forward to provide the best experience to the membership despite all the challenges we currently face. The results are visible clearly in all aspects, and teamwork is the secret behind success. Each club officer provides an exemplary commitment towards the club's achievements along with the support provided by the members. Having a team like this is always a blessing for a president.



TM Apsara Ranasinghe

Vice President Education

It's an honour to serve as the Vice President - Education of the Siyane Toastmasters Club since it has been a wonderful & fruitful journey for the past 06 months with multi-talented individuals working hard towards club goals and individual goals simultaneously. I want to highlight and appreciate the executive committee and club members' teamwork despite our daily challenges. We have successfully conducted different kinds of meetings with the massive support of our members. I am thrilled to work with this family because we are a family other than a club.



TM Roshini Perera

Vice President Membership

The member base is the heart of any club. Siyane Toastmasters Club is also blessed with a precious member base that takes the club to the next level yearly. As the current Vice President Membership, I am laden with the prime responsibility of maintaining the member base in all capacities. This year, unlike any time in history, this role has come with a daunting challenge in addition to the responsibility. In a time when the national economy has deteriorated, the stress it creates in society is reflected in the activities related to membership drives. However, acting by the theme of this year's executive committee - "Together We", as a club, we could successfully jump the first hurdle of membership by winning the 8-80 award for the first term of the Toastmasters year 2022/2023. At the end of the year's first half, I find myself more confident and determined to face the next six months, and it was only because of the unmatched support I received from my fellow executive officers and my friends at Siyane Toastmasters. This role taught me to predict future challenges, methodical planning to tackle them, and persuasive communication. Most of all, it taught me that some circumstances are out of our hands and the power of acceptance and letting go.



TM Sanduni Eriyagama

Vice President Public Relations

I can still remember the call from TM Chandima a few months back asking whether I am okay to be a part of the executive committee for this year. I was super excited to take part in it. Therefore, I said yes to his request. But when it comes to public relations, I am totally blank in that area. I had never done a post before, and my design knowledge was zero, but soon after being appointed as the Vice President Public Relations, I started learning about it. I have contacted several PR leads in toastmasters, watched several videos, joined some PR sessions, and I saw an improvement in myself daily. Moreover, I got a talented subcommittee to work with, and the support they have extended is countless. PR is a journey with so many checkpoints, viewpoints, beautiful sceneries, memorable recaps, and adventurous tracks, and we have to feel the maximum throughout this journey. Also, the Executive Committee and our members are the strongest backbone of our SIYANE Family because they are the special set of people who made this PR journey one of the everlasting journeys for me.



TM Ishani Mirihagalle

Secretary

Becoming an exco member for the second time is one of my best decisions. By becoming the secretary, I agreed to take the responsibility of keeping all the records of the meetings and every special occasion. It's a challenging task, actually. But with this team, nothing is impossible. This is the best team anyone can ever have. Because everyone is there for each other when it's needed. Everyone is there to help you, encourage you and take you towards success. In the word of sense, this is a great team. So I wish to have an amazing journey with them as we have had so far. And especially make more memories while taking our club to higher and higher levels.



TM Gamunu Jayasundara

Treasurer

Finance management is always challenging, especially when the country is in a crisis. I do not have any finance management background. However, with our excellent team, we were able to hold the Installation Ceremony and the Club Contests in style, giving very little burden to our membership. We look forward to having all our upcoming events in a remarkable way without depleting our funds. We thank all the sponsors and supporters for their kind contribution towards the growth of the Siyane Family. Also, I thank our team members who support raising funds for our family members' benefit.



TM Himantha Tennakoon

Sergeant-at-Arms

It is a great honour to become the Sergeant-At-Arms at Siyane Toastmasters Club for the toastmasters year 2022/2023. Being a part of this great Executive Committee is truly a noteworthy point in my Toastmasters journey. Being in the apparel industry working as a Lean enterprise executive at Noyon Lanka, I know how hard it is to plan everything for the utmost perfection. But, being on Siyane Toastmasters Club Executive Committee, it is inspiring to see how each member gets together to achieve the set goals. Let's continue the excellent work done for days to come as well. Long Live, Siyane.



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Message from Area Director

"Hi, Pubba. I need two articles from you for the upcoming newsletter."

"Two articles! I must give one to Minuwangoda also."

"Come on, Pubba! You can do it, friend. You are from Siyane. Write something and give it to me by 25th as I must finalise the articles."

It was not the end.

"Hey, Pubba....any update? Hope you are into it, please."

The above is a conversation between our beloved Vice President - Public Relations and me. Have you encountered a situation where someone has pushed you to do something? For me, there are many such incidents, especially after joining Toastmasters. Are you comfortable with such persuasions?

After I served as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Executive Committee of DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya, I thought I would have a break. I opted to stay out of the following Executive committee of DTM Nilantha Bandara. I was comfortable with my decision, and I was moving away a bit from my Toastmasters commitments. After some time, when I was on my way to my office in Avissawella, I got a call from DTM Nilantha. He was asking me to take part in the Next Exco. I tried to make some excuses, but Nilantha was not ready to give it up. He kept using all the leanings from his Toastmasters life and tried to persuade me. After about thirty minutes of discussion, he won.

That was how I joined the Exco of TM Eranga Dilhan as the Treasurer. Since then, there was no escape until I became the 11th President of the Siyane Toastmasters Club and currently hold the position of the Area Director of Area F1.



If Nilantha did not push me at that point, sometimes my Toastmaster career would have been averaged, or I would have totally quit by now.

You all would agree that there are certain occasions when we need that push from someone else to have a go. I don't think that the Toastmasters would not push you for anything wrong or to get some undue advantage. The ultimate benefit of the act would be on you.

I have seen many good-hearted Toastmasters trying to persuade others to get on with this beautiful concept. It can be to participate in a speech contest, take up a leadership role, renew your membership or try to convince you to grab another opportunity. If you recall, you will be able to come across such incidents in your Toastmasters Life.

Let's be grateful to such beautiful souls who are trying to push us for a worthy cause to take us to a different level and try to get the maximum out of it.

Thank you, madam VPPR for pushing me.

TM Pubudu Ginige
Area Director
Area F1 - 2022/2023

Message from Division Director

Life teaches us invaluable lessons but sometimes it's learned the hard way. We are passing a period where even though the learning is adverse, people gather invaluable life experience. Since 2020, we are experiencing new challenges. Challenges different from another. Thus, we get up every morning and realize, even in the hardest situations, we survive.

As I believe, for many of us, the survival was possible due to our ability to adjust to the situation and the attitude of thinking beyond the eminent storms. However, Toastmasters have another unique advantage, the unmatched camaraderie. The beauty of like-minded people coming from a variety of professions, age groups and ethnicities, who are keen on emitting so much of positive energy. In such a forum, even the least energized member will regain all his stamina to face any challenging situation. The potential for learning and growth is vast when everyone gathers in a spirit of learning and enjoyment which is exactly what the founder of our movement Dr. Ralph C. Smedley had in mind when he started this organization.

Even though, I am wearing a different hat this year, I cannot help feeling proud about my home club, Siyane is a collection of living testimonies of how Toastmasters can transform people. Siyane started exploring different avenues of growth since 2016 is the year the club became the 'Platinum Club' of District 82. Some of us who were there still recall those great memories with glittering eyes.



Since then, Siyane has become a 'case study' to many who would like to get influenced by the best.

Siyane keeps continuing the legacy with a strong presence in the fraternity. I observe and enjoy the novelty the young members are bringing into the club while serving the fraternity at every possible opportunity.

Half of the year is over, and it is the ideal time to look back, refresh and get going. It is no secret that these are trying times like never before and it is time to put all the skills and the positive attitude we have gained from Toastmasters into practice, in and out of the fraternity.

Let us stay enriched, encouraged, and embrace the opportunities that circumstances throw in our way. The learning and growth you achieve at the end of the experience is priceless and no one can take it away from you. Long Live Siyane !!

Thank you,

Ruwan Jayasooriya, DTM

Division Director

Division F, District 82 - 2022/2023

TOGETHER WE - 13TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY

One fine day our President, TM Chandima Gayan, asked me whether I would like to be the Installation Chair of the 13th installation of our club, Siyane Toastmasters. He added that I just had to deliver a welcome speech. Why should I say no if I only had to do a welcome speech? So, I said yes.

Do you really think it was only the welcome speech? Eventually, I realised that the Welcome Speech was the simplest thing to be done as an Installation Chair. Installation is one of the most glamorous events of Siyane Toastmasters, usually with a large gathering. So I knew that I had just said yes to a tremendous responsibility.

Together with our newly elected executive committee, we came up with the theme "TOGETHER WE".





We selected Nature Gardens Hotel at Yakkala to have this precious night of Siyane Toastmasters. It was a houseful event with over 70 Toastmasters and guests. Most of the senior officials of the Toastmasters fraternity in Sri Lanka joined us to witness the glamour of the function led by DTM Nisal Weerakoon- District 82 Director, DTM Mahinda Karunakara - Programme Quality Director and DTM Ganga Fernando- Club Growth Director.

DTM Zameen M Saleem was the keynote speaker who delivered an inspiring speech. The event was enriched with three entertainment items, and it was great to witness a ballroom dance on the floor. Also a team of singers entertained the crowd and not only that another team of dancers were able to hype up the Installation Ceremony with their talents.

The Awards ceremony was attractive to everyone, as always, and TM Sanduni Eriyagama was crowned as the outstanding toastmaster of the year.

Yes, I delivered the Welcome speech, but up to that moment, I could learn so much more and add a whole lot of experiences to my Toastmasters journey.

TM Gamunu Jayasundara



LET'S HEAR FROM OUR NEW MEMBERS

TM Bihanga Bogahawatte

I visited Siyane Toastmasters Club as a guest in June this year and the first thing I noticed was the lovely smiles of toastmasters. And five months later also they still have that same smile in their faces. All Siyane Toastmasters are so welcoming and they are so energetic. The enthusiasm they have for every event and to make this family outstanding is the thing I should appreciate most. This set of kind souls always encourage and motivate each other, and I have to say, Siyane Toastmasters make the best first-punch friends...Long Live Siyane!



TM Yehara Heenpalle

I found toastmasters would be the best place to fulfill my objective of being a better communicator and leader. How many clubs do you think we need to visit before deciding to join? I joined the first club I visited. The warm welcomes that I received as a guest in the very first day overwhelmed me. And that's where I decided to join Siyane Toastmasters. The way they maintain the professionalism with a friendly manner is astonishing. They have their own uniqueness with a number of talented individuals. Hence here I am stepping to a new journey of education with this amazing family.

TM Supun Sandaruwan

I recently started my journey as a toastmaster with Siyane Toastmasters Club. I'm really happy with the experience I have had so far. All the members welcomed me warmly to the club and they were really enthusiastic and humble. After joining the club, I realized this organization provides something more than I expected. This is a totally different and amazing learning experience. They all help others with their improvements and encourage newcomers to take part in club events. Siyane has rich club culture. They are well-planning, outcome-oriented, well-disciplined and smart people. So, all I need in the future with this club is to attend the club meetings regularly and participate in the events to gain benefits as a member meanwhile contribute to the club as well.



TM Aritha Vithanage

Joining Toastmasters is one of the best investments I've made in my life! My main objective of joining Toastmasters is to become an individual who can excel in both the communication path as well as the leadership path. I believe that effective communication is the key for a successful career and Toastmasters is the best way to achieve this. With a very friendly environment and with numerous number of opportunities to grab, Siyane Toastmasters has made achieving this goal simpler. Siyane Toastmasters is not "just a club", It's called "The Siyane Family!"

TM Akindu Kodithuwakku

As a young tech enthusiastic I think it is a blessing to know about Siyane Toastmasters Club. In this fast growing digital world we can't move forward if we are not ready to communicate with people around the world. It is a must to understand the essentiality of public speaking abilities. So, I am here to cut and polish my public speaking skills with Siyane family. I am really thankful to everyone who encouraged me to take this golden opportunity. As a new member I pay my fullest commitment to improve my skills and others as well.



TM Dinuaya Prabhash

I have recently joined and got membership at the Siyane Toastmasters Club because I wanted to improve my English-speaking skills, communication skills and leadership skills. Also after joining toastmasters, I have selected Presentation Mastery as my first pathway. After joining for the new member induction ceremony I realized this will be a great and valuable opportunity for me to improve my public speaking skills, communication skills and leadership skills. So I believe that toastmasters is a wonderful platform to build confidence and to improve our communication skills. Also this provides us great opportunities to learn and grown through various kind of activities.



TM Sadeepa Ranasinghe

I came to know about this Toastmasters Club recently by one of my friends. They were always talking about toastmasters and fun activities they participated in that club. So, I also wanted to go and see what is this. I googled about it and as it is about public speaking, I thought to joining it as public speaking is one of the key elements in modern corporate world. So, I wanted to improve it and I joined Toastmasters with that intention. First day I visited the club as a guest and that day was wonderful with many fun activities. So, after two months I got the membership and that's how my Toastmasters journey started. Still, I'm in the very beginning but so far journey is wonderful and I gained many knowledge and experience about public speaking, presenting etc. So, joining toastmasters is one of the best decisions I took in my life.



TM Ravindu Shehan

I work as a System engineer and always wanted to improve my public speaking skills. So, I joined Siyane Toatmasters Club. The experience so far is wonderful. The members, committee members and even exco-members eagerly participate in meetings and help the newbies. All the members are very welcoming and fun to be around. They encourage me to go in my pathway and improve my-self. The club is more like a family. And the most amazing part is I am a part of this big family now. Joining with this club is one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life.



MAGIC OF MENTORING

I have grown as a person and as a Toastmaster because of the great mentors who empathetically helped me to learn, shown things that otherwise I wouldn't see, exposed me to do things appropriately and helped me to emerge as a unique individual.

If you have had great members in your life who helped you to become the individual you are, now is the time for you to become a mentor. Many toastmasters, leaders and orators would vouch that they have had mentors in their lives who helped them to grow.

Here are five reasons why you should become a MENTOR.

1. Learn to see things differently

It is always important to broaden your horizons; your career may see you working with a wide range of people, and it is important that you are able to relate.

Mentoring gives you the chance to engage with someone younger or inexperienced than you, who may see things very differently.

In a changing world, it is essential to understand how those who have come after you, think and how they view your own generation.

2. Stop thinking about yourself (to help yourself)

Sharing your experiences may help you understand them in a different light; a moment that barely made an impact on you may in fact provide crucial insight to another person.

Sometimes you need to get out of your own head to actually understand yourself better.

3. Challenge old behaviour

We all get into bad habits, whether professionally or personally. A different point of view can help you understand why you take a certain course of action, or why you think in a certain way.

As you pass on your advice and experience, you will have a better idea of how well you are living your own life.

4. Practice being a leader

Leadership is a valuable skill in any environment, and mentoring is a key part of it. The ability to help others learn and progress will be a key skill in your career, and you will also be able to build your communication skills.

Many businesses now have their own mentoring programmes, showing that they put real value on such relationships for the parties involved. Get ahead early and demonstrate to employers that you have what it takes to lead.

5. Change someone's life

You may not think that you have much to offer at this stage of your career but engaging with someone who has had an entirely different background can be immensely rewarding for both of you.

Many young people never get as far as university, but you can help change this. Give a new generation the encouragement and support that will help them make the most of their potential.

Where can you learn the magic?

In level 2 of Toastmasters Pathways Educational Program, you must have completed the required project "Introduction to Toastmasters Mentoring". Once you complete the level 2, you can open the optional program "Mentoring" that consists of three more levels where you can methodically learn more about mentoring and experience the fulfillment of being a mentor.

Disclaimer: The writer acknowledges that the "five reasons to become a mentor" are not author's own writing but extracted from material available to Toastmasters and in the public domain.



Zameen M Saleem, DTM



Member of IESL Toastmasters Club
and Titan Advanced Toastmasters Club

UNFOLD - Unraveling Talents Beyond Boundaries

Mid Year Division Conference Division F, H, and K

As first-timers at a Division Conference, We loved the experience and the trip which led us to the Joint Mid-Year Division Conference of Divisions F, H, and K, UNFOLD. On 6th November, starting from Gampaha, we began a beautiful trip to Kandy. Nearly two hours later, while planning a surprise for our birthday boy, we reached the beautiful gardens of the University of Peradeniya. The function was held in the Auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering.

DTM Nisal Weerakoon, the Chief Guest, and the Division Directors graced the event. Not only that, but there were also former Directors, Area Directors, well-experienced DTMs, and an enthusiastic bunch of Toastmasters representing all three divisions. They had all gathered there to experience the unity, which was limited to the virtual platform for a greater period. As Siyane Toastmasters, we were glad that we held the record with the greatest number of participants for the conference, as always.

The emcees conducted the introductory ceremony, followed by an elegant dance and a very creative welcome speech delivered by the three directors of the divisions. Then arrived the talented Keynote Speaker of the occasion, Niranjana De Silva, CTM, with his address, "Unfold Your Dream". He touched the hearts of the audience deeply by giving them insight into the importance of having a dream in one's life and following it passionately. He encouraged the audience to set personal goals and a much larger dream and make them visible every day. It was filled with knowledge as well as entertainment.

Then came the contest. The Siyane flag was to be held high during the contest. Our contestant Toastmaster Ruwanthi began the Humorous Speech Contest by glueing the audience to her speech. DTM Kamburawala, one of the senior members of Siyane Toastmasters, competed on stage. However, this time he represented Minuwangoda Toastmasters. All of them performed confidently on the contest stage. TM Ruwanthi secured third place in the contest. Not only that, but Siyane Contestants also dominated the Evaluation Speech Contest. TM Chamin Athauda and TM Dilan Perera contested smartly and confidently on the contest stage, and TM Chamin Athauda won the contest championship.





Not only the enthusiasm and competition but the occasion was filled with entertainment also. During lunch, the Toastmasters got to sing along with a calypso band. We all sang and danced as if we were in one family. Further, the closing ceremony also contained entertainment items where the multi-talented Toastmasters emerged from the audience.

We at Siyane had planned a surprise birthday celebration for our birthday boy, TM Chamin Athauda, the Champion of the Evaluation Speech Contest, Division F. We had a cake, a jar of birthday wishes, balloons and a birthday-boy hat which he was loath to don on, but which he had to don on when blowing out the candles. When Chamin came to the Dining Hall, we started singing "Happy Birthday" and he was so surprised.

6th November 2022 is memorable for us: it unfolded an Unforgettable, Noteworthy and Fantastic Occasion, at a Lovely Destination. We got this opportunity as members of the amazing family, Siyane, our home club.

TM Shanika Ranasinghe



TM Hansani Senevirathne





Being a champion speaker in Toastmasters fraternity, TM Chamin Athauda is a great example, huge motivation and strong pillar in Siyane Toastmasters Club. He is a public speaker and Public Speaking Coach who has won many speech contests in Toastmasters. He is the winner of the Evaluation Speech Contest of Division F, District 82 for the year 2022 and also he has won so many places in club, area, division and district level speech contests.

Can you tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I can introduce myself as an entrepreneur and an educationist. I am a director of Noble Vision Institute, an educational institute that provides education to students who follow international curricula such as Cambridge and EDEXCEL, and an English language lecturer at the same institute.

How did you started your Toastmasters journey and who motivated you to join toastmasters?

Most individuals have joined Toastmasters since someone has motivated them to do so, but I joined Toastmasters because I wanted to find a platform in which people speak in English. I contacted various institutions in Sri Lanka but none of them had what I was looking for. Eventually, I found the contact details of Siyane Toastmasters Club on the internet. I didn't know anything about this movement. I simply contacted the then President DTM Shehara Dissanayake, attended the following week's meeting as a guest and became a member in a couple of weeks' time.

Can you tell us some of your achievements at Toastmasters?

I was able to represent Sri Lanka in the finals of the Evaluation Speech Contest at Chennai and win first place in the Evaluation Speech Contest, Division F in 2018, 2019 and 2022. Also, I became the first runner-up in International Speech Contest, Division F in the year 2019, 2020 and 2021.



Being a champion speaker, how do you feel about it and can you tell us some remarks about your contest journey as a contestant?

I got the opportunity to learn many techniques about public speaking due to contesting. I am not a person who delivers speeches at club meetings frequently and got the chance to practice speeches when getting ready for contests.

Can you tell us some tips and tricks that you follow when we talk about contesting at any type of contest?

To get a competitive edge and stand out as a unique speaker, it is significantly important to learn about modern techniques of public speaking from Toastmasters and other sources. Studying the judge's ballot sheet to get a better understanding of the way we can score in the contest is of the utmost importance.

How do these accomplishments help you in your day-to-day life or your career?

Since I am a lecturer, speaking skill plays a key role in my career. The knowledge I have gained from Toastmasters has immensely supported me to make my sessions more interactive and appealing to my students.

Finally, what kind of message can you give to our future contestants?

We should put a lot of effort to come up with a better speech and practice harder when contesting which we normally don't do for club meeting speeches. That is why I firmly believe that we can grow as a speaker faster by contesting.

TM Sanduni Eriyagama



TM Ruwanthi Perera is an asset in Siyane Toastmasters Club, a very professional, young, enthusiastic speaker and more towards she is one of the passionate speaker in our club. She won the second runner-up at the Humorous Speech Contest of Division F, District 82 in year 2022 and also she represented Siyane Toastmasters in area and division level speech contests in several years.



Can you tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I'm Ruwanthi Perera, a lecturer by profession. I am an avid reader and a person who likes to learn new things.

How did you start your Toastmasters journey, and who motivated you to join Toastmasters?

My Toastmasters journey has a very abrupt start. I have heard of Toastmasters but never mustered up the courage to visit a club, much less join one. In 2017, I was going through a very dull period in my life, where I felt stagnant and un-progressing both personally and professionally. I wanted to change my life by changing my daily experiences and the people I hang out with. That was when I decided to email the Siyane Toastmasters Club. The then-president, DTM Nilantha Bandara promptly responded to my email and invited me to visit the club on the next meeting day. Even though I promised him that I would come, I never really believed I would go there. But on that Sunday evening in September 2017, something in me propelled me to make that decision.

Can you tell us some of your achievements at Toastmasters?

In 2018, I participated in the Humorous Speech Contest and the International Speech Contest at club level and won third place in both. In 2019, I participated in the Humorous Speech Contest and went up to the division level. I won 1st place at the Division level that year. In 2020 and 2022, I won the second and third places at the Division level in the humorous Speech Contest. In the year 2018/2019, I served in the Club's executive committee as the VP Public Relations, and in that year, Siyane Toastmasters Club won the Flyer of the Month Award twice. We have also won the Award for the social media presence.

Being a champion speaker, how do you feel about it and can you tell us some remarks about your contest journey as a contestant?

I'd say that champions are almost always made. I never pictured myself up on a stage, giving a speech, much less a humorous speech to an audience. But today, when I turn around and look back at my life, I see that I have done one of the most incredible things. I would say I'm feeling proud in the most humble way if such a thing is even possible. But most of all, I'm thankful for all those wonderful people who saw it in me and who stood behind me, coaching and training me for those endless hours so that I could be on the stage and shine. So, yes, "thankful" is the word to describe how I feel about being able to go up to the division stage. My journey as a contestant has been full of learning. It really transformed me. I'd say that there is no better and sure way to come out of your shell and build confidence than participating in a contest. All those hours of training and coaching sessions I had with my mentors have improved me in leaps and bounds, and that is what I cherish the most. The learnings are my best rewards.

Can you tell us some tips and tricks that you follow when contesting at any contest?

I can give you a few tips, but there are no tricks. The tip is, actually, come up with a good solid script. This might sound like the most obvious thing, but if you thoroughly analyze your own scripts, you will realize that many of them lack the fundamentals of speech writing; structure, point and connection between stories.

So, my tip No. 1 is to invest your time in developing a good script and fine-tuning it.

Tip No. 2: practice and practice with video recording. This is a good way to perfect your delivery.

Tip No. 3: find yourself a mentor / coach.

How do these accomplishments help you in your day-to-day life or your career?

They definitely made me more confident. Confidence is one thing that is really needed in my career. Once I went on stage and made a speech which made the audience laugh at me, walking into a room of 100 students and doing a lecture seemed easy.

Finally, what kind of message can you give to our future contestants?

Contest! That's the message I can and should give. You have to make that decision to take part in a contest and then you will receive all help and guidance from the club. Siyane Toastmasters Club possesses individuals who can train you and take you all the way up to the district stage. They took me, and they will definitely take you.



TM Ravindu Mirihana



THE WINNING FORMULA



When I was returning from Singapore a couple of weeks ago, after attending one of the leading apparel and footwear industry forums in the world as an invited speaker, I started reflecting on the overwhelming journey of public speaking for the last seven years. I had no choice but to find a way to come out of embarrassment faced with the failure in a business presentation in front of a large audience at my workplace in 2015 having realized it's difficult to get a foot in the door as a professional. That's how I came across this amazing fraternity of toastmasters where leaders are made whilst unleashing the speaker within you.

I noticed four levers and one critical enabler which governed the transformation within me.

1. Unlearn and relearn

Educational programs (pathways) offered by toastmasters international have been defined in the way that you could start from where you are comfortable with and grow as you move on. However, as a member it is vital for me to ensure to unlearn what you know and re-learn while doing the projects at each level. Open mindset to accept and apply the adjusting feedback of the evaluators and other members, is paramount.

2. Due diligence

Either you play a role or deliver a speech, it's important for you to make sure that you will prepare yourselves and deliver at your best whenever you take up a role or speech.

3. Grab the opportunities

Toastmasters provide you enormous opportunities to learn and grow through required practical exposure and however, grabbing those opportunities depending on how bold you are. Fortune always favours the bold and therefore, I recommend you not to compromise any of these opportunities you may receive in the form of a leadership role, contest, speaking etc.

4. Apply beyond the fraternity

The most of us became toastmasters to find better versions of ourselves to perform our day-to-day work and grow ourselves beyond the toastmasters fraternity. Hence, no point of learning and practicing within the fraternity as long as you don't apply it for your day-to-day work.

Critical enabler:

Discipline

In order to make your levers move in the right direction, a strong foundation is paramount. That's why toastmasters have set the foundation through core values namely integrity, respect. Service and excellence with toastmasters' promise. Hence, discipline with core values and an extended ecosystem will keep your focus towards success.

Since you have made the right decision of becoming a toastmaster already, let's reflect on how well we have been aligning ourselves in the winning formula prescribed above to witness the transformation within you.

TM Eranga Dilhan



GUESTS' TESTIMONIALS

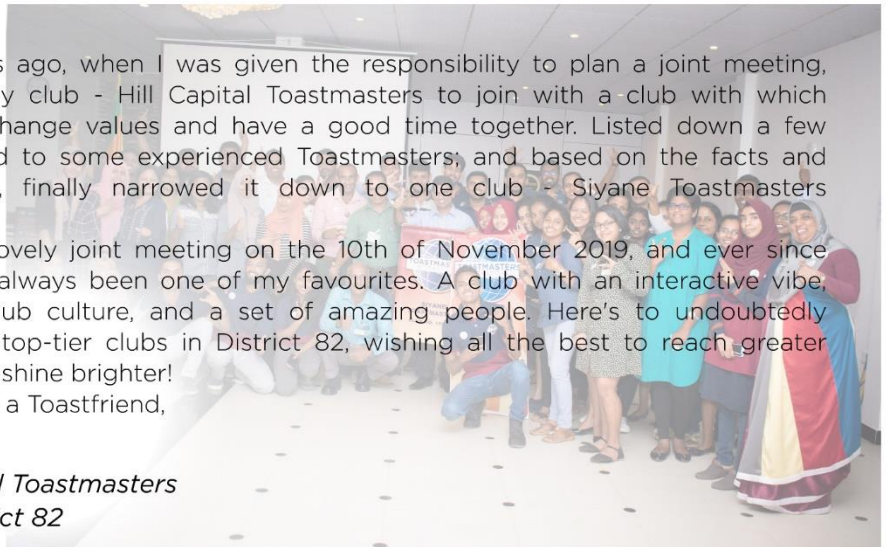


TM Amhar Raleen
Vice President Education - Hill Capital Toastmasters
Asst. Pubic Relations Manager - District 82

A few years ago, when I was given the responsibility to plan a joint meeting, I wanted my club - Hill Capital Toastmasters to join with a club with which we can exchange values and have a good time together. Listed down a few clubs; talked to some experienced Toastmasters; and based on the facts and suggestions, finally narrowed it down to one club - Siyane Toastmasters club.

We had a lovely joint meeting on the 10th of November 2019, and ever since Siyane has always been one of my favourites. A club with an interactive vibe, engaging club culture, and a set of amazing people. Here's to undoubtedly one of the top-tier clubs in District 82, wishing all the best to reach greater heights and shine brighter!

A note from a Toastfriend,



When someone asks me, "Hingston, can you recommend a Toastmasters club (a community one) outside Colombo?". I would strongly recommend the Siyane Toastmasters club.

Siyane Toastmasters club has produced speakers and leaders. This is a club that has added a lot of values to its members, to the community and to the whole Toastmasters fraternity. They take a lot of responsibility in grooming the future leaders through various speechcraft programmes. Also, they will go the extra mile in order to support other clubs. I love the variety that you bring to the members so that they will not feel bored of the same agenda. Interesting theme meetings, day outings, sports events and the list will go on and on.

I always look up to Toastmaster Chamin for his unique style in speaking and most importantly in evaluation. This year you have produced a division director who is a true servant leader that I have seen in this Toastmasters fraternity. Yes, that is DTM Ruwan Jayasuriya. Another interesting fact about this club is the great blend of experienced members and members who are grooming themselves.

I wish the executive committee and the members of Siyane Toastmasters Club best wishes!



Hingston Lovell, DTM
Past Division Director
Immediate Past President - Readers Toastmasters Club



TM Sonali Subasinghe
Assistant Area Director - F3
Member of Voice Your Dreams Toastmasters Club

Families are rare to find. Even though found, it won't last forever, yet... This family is special. Even a stranger is always welcomed warmly. It's none other than Siyane Toastmasters Club. I don't exactly remember when and where, but since 2019, I've been engaging with some of their club members, but there was this special day 29th of December 2019 where we celebrated Christmas. I was alone & then came these lovely bunch of little girls who asked me to join. That friendship & sisterhood continued this far. I joined their outdoor meeting at Pilikuththuwa temple & to the journey of Division conference.

Siyane is not just a club, it's a family for me because I was always treated so.



THE ELEGANT FACET OF COMMUNICATION: A NEW LEAP OF SIYANE TOASTMASTERS

Communication is not all about words. The most heart-touching and mesmerising communications can still happen without words. Dancing is a rich communication method that has evolved since ancient times. Among all the styles of dancing, "Ballroom dancing", which first appeared in the 16th century, is still one of the most adored, and is enjoyed socially and competitively worldwide.

Ballroom dancing is comprised of several dancing styles that include carefully crafted steps that require discipline, concentration, patience, and rigorous practice to master. Contrary to the graceful sweeping movements across the floor that are captured by the eye as "beautiful" and interpreted by the brain as "easy", it is one of the most difficult arts to master to the level at which it communicates a message. It promotes perseverance and courage. This graceful dancing style can raise a person to a whole new level socially and individually. Also, it is a fulfilling experience that can ignite a spark of self-satisfaction and self-esteem.

Being a dancer would have a tremendously positive effect on eliminating stage fright and improving stage presence. It will largely influence a person's stage movements and body language, especially stance and hand gestures. Also, confidence on stage and collaboration with the dancing partner and the team enhance the much-needed skills of a good leader.

Providing the opportunity to learn something out of the ordinary will also complement the members' learnings, and give them extra motivation and purpose to stay active within the club.

That is why the executive committee of Siyane Toastmasters decided to give that opportunity to her members *pro bono*. Siyane Toastmasters is not just another Toastmasters Club, but also an academy of multi-talented and skilful people willing to share their knowledge with others generously. That is why TM Gamunu Jayasundara, the treasurer of the Siyane Toastmasters Club, who is also a professional level Ballroom dancer for 12 years, happily agreed to wear the hat of the "dancing master" for the benefit of the members.

After the discussions and planning, we commenced the Western Dancing Classes for the Siyane Members on the 2nd of October. Since then, we have been learning and practising several dancing styles after every Toastmasters meeting right at the meeting venue for one hour. The members responded enthusiastically by participating in the classes from the first day. Some members know other dancing styles, but some are new to dancing. But these lessons benefit all alike. While learning this art, we learn so much about western dancing and ourselves. We consciously address the weaknesses which hinder a compelling stage presence. If not for any of these things, we are delighted to be a part of this programme.

This dancing programme can be considered a novel leap of the Siyane Toastmasters Club, and it has already proven its worth. It has helped keep the members closer to the club while improving their social skills and showing them a new level to reach.

After every lesson, through throbbing toes, dizziness, and breathlessness, we look forward, with determination, to a day that we stand on an international stage looking at an audience, inspiring a world with sincere words laced with elegance.



TM Roshini Perera

“READING MAKES A MAN PERFECT”: Library Book Donation of Siyane Toastmasters

According to a piece of newspaper information about a school, Helambawewa Primary School, Welioya, Mulativ in North Province of Sri Lanka, Lions Club of Aththanagalla Diamond Star had built a house in school premises to be used as teachers' quarters since there were no accommodations in the village for teachers, with adequate facilities. After that club open the teacher's quarters and asked about the other needs of the school the principal, and teachers, had requested library and exercise books for the children.



Members of the Siyane Toastmasters Club extended their helping hands to those little flowers by donating 365 library books and 90 exercise books worth LKR 65,000/-. It's an honour for me to represent the Siyane Toastmasters Club at the opening ceremony of the teachers' quarters of Helambawewa Primary school, together with the donation of books. The school's principal paid her sincere gratitude since they could start a school library with the donated books. Further, we spent our time singing songs with the children to make them happy, which was a lovely time with special songs of guides & scouts.

I pay my gratitude to the past president TM Waruni Perera and president TM Chandima Gayan, for recommending the project and to all members of the Siyane Toastmasters Club for the immense support by funding for the books allowing little flowers in Helembawewa Primary School to bloom and see the world since “Reading makes a man perfect”.

TM Apsara Ranasinghe



OVATION 2022



VOICE POWER - A BOOK REVIEW

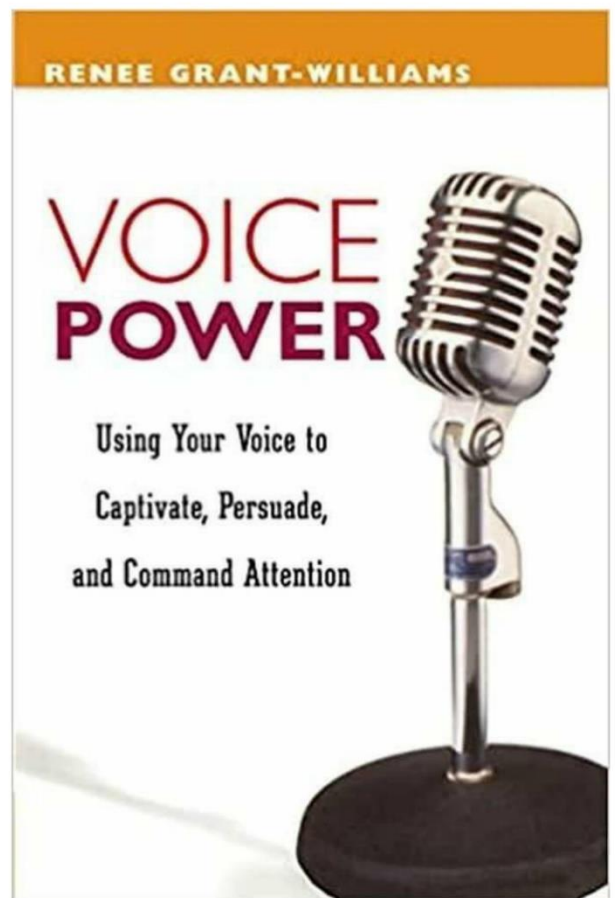
In written voice! Renée Grant Williams @myvoicecoach, the famous vocal coach has written a book of nearly 200 pages, divided into four chapters. The first chapter focuses on the techniques of sound production, as if the answer to how sound comes out and how we should breathe. Also, the second chapter focused heavily on letters, words, and sentences and how we should divide them into syllables that make their pronunciation very effective. As for the third chapter, it was more like applications on the ground, such as using voice at work, and recording voice messages. It ended with chapter four with general health information for voice care.

The first time I read the book, I did not understand it, and could not complete it, but the second time with insisting on reading it, I understood its basic idea, which revolves around the fact that the writer has special breathing channels that begin with exhalation! Yes, you start with an exhale, and it also claims that focusing on the consonants in pronunciation is better because making your voice is very effective. The rest of the chapter, it was very general information.

The author is an expert in vocals and has worked with a lot of singers, and has done a lot of rehearsals to improve the voices. What I understood was that she worked with singers more than speaker and that I was personally more interested in this.



Ammar **Madan, DTM**
Al Seef Toastmasters Club (Arabic)
District 20



The book has many applications that should have been attached to the pictures, and talking about the characters was preferable to provide information and pictures about them. As a reader, I knew very few of them.

The first chapter was distinguished in the book as a whole, and I think that the author relies a lot in her training and activity on direct training, because voice skills should be trained in private places and not on the pages of books.

Overall, I encourage reading it, especially chapters one and two.

Details about the book

Name: Voice Power: Using Your Voice to Captivate, Persuade, and Command Attention
Written by: Renée Grant-Williams
Originally published in: Year 2002
Genre: Self-help book

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

CONTESTANTS
EVALUATION SPEECH CONTEST 2022/2023
DIVISION F | DISTRICT 82 TOASTMASTERS

UNFOLD
unraveling talents beyond boundaries

Sunday, 6th November 2022
Kandy, University of Peradeniya

MID-YEAR DIVISION CONFERENCE | DIVISION F, H & KI DISTRICT 82 TOASTMASTERS

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB
Meeting No. 308

GET ON THE FLOOR

Toastmaster of The Day
TM SANDUNI ERIYAGAMA

31st JULY, 2022 | 2.30 PM ONWARDS | Via ZOOM

CONTESTANTS
HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST 2022/2023
DIVISION F | DISTRICT 82 TOASTMASTERS

UNFOLD
unraveling talents beyond boundaries

Sunday, 6th November 2022
Kandy, University of Peradeniya

MID-YEAR DIVISION CONFERENCE | DIVISION F, H & KI DISTRICT 82 TOASTMASTERS

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WE ARE ON TikTok

@siyanetmc

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TM CHAMIN ATHAUDA

Wishing you the best on your birthday and may this special day brings you endless joy & happiness!

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

LEARN FROM AN EXPERT

PREPARATION PRACTICE

CONDUCTED BY
NILANTHA BANDARA, DTM

Champion Speaker
Professional Certified Coach
Past President of Siyane Toastmasters Club - 2017/18

04th SEPTEMBER, 2022 | 2.30 PM ONWARDS | MAKRO, GAMPAHA

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS!

TM PUBUDU GINIGE
AREA DIRECTOR, AREA F1, DIVISION F
DISTRICT 82
YEAR 2022/23

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

THANK YOU

2000 FOLLOWERS

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS!

DTM RUWAN JAYASOORIYA
DIVISION DIRECTOR, DIVISION F
DISTRICT 82
YEAR 2022/23

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
AREA 1, DIVISION F,
DISTRICT 82
2022 - 2023

TM MAHEELA DHARMASIRI

Best wishes from
Siyane Toastmasters Club

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

TM RUWANTHI PERERA

"Learn to find inspiration withing yourself. There's a whole lot of it lying dormant within you while you are busy looking for it in others."

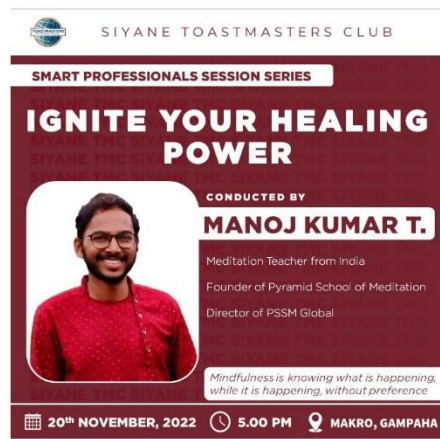
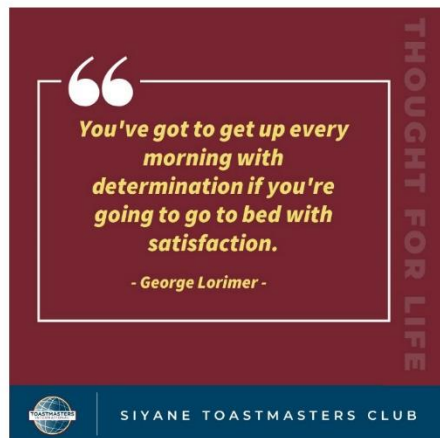
SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS

ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR - PROGRAM QUALITY
DIVISION F, DISTRICT 82
2022 - 2023

DTM SHEHARA DISSANAYAKE

Best wishes from
Siyane Toastmasters Club



UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

- December 2022 - Siyane Indoor Sports Fiesta - Season 2
- December 2022 - Christmas themed meeting
- January 2023 - Siyane Family Outing
- February 2023 - International and Tabletopics Speech Contests
- March 2023 - Division Conference
- April 2023 - Outdoor New Year Meeting and New Year celebration
- May 2023 - Ovation

