



INTEL INNOVATORS NEWSLETTER

Club News And Events

Club # 00586504

Intel Innovators

April 2017

OFFICERS

President: Bryan Cover
VP of Education: Severin Foreman
VP of Membership: Ravi Golani
VP of PR: Amulya Yashaswini Vishwanath
Secretary: Stanley NG
Treasurer: Anjani White
Sgt at Arms: Greg Roberts

Upcoming Dates

**4/26/17 – Division C Contests,
PayPal Town Hall**

New Members

We are happy to announce the following new members to our club. New members bring new ideas and new interests and it is always exciting to get to know them. Please help me welcome them when you see them.

Sameena Meer
Latha Reddy Muske
Anuhya Nagireddy
Aviv Weinstein

Why TM?

This month, the officers were asked to share their answers to the prompt, "Why TM?". (Why you joined? Why you keep coming back? What motivates you? Etc) No length requirements and totally free form. We're happy to share with you their thoughts on this subject through the next couple newsletters. Be sure to see the back of this page for this month's. If you'd like to share your thoughts, please send them to Bryan Cover.



Member of the Month

Hima Naini

Our member of the month for March is Hima Naini. Hima is a regular at most of our meetings and we see her name regularly on the schedule. Not only does she volunteer weekly for different roles, but she has also given her first prepared speech this past month and completed her Icebreaker. Hima's willingness to support the club and always help out make the club better every week. We can't wait to hear her next speech.

Hima is currently working in Product Engineering as a Serdes Validation Engineer and is a recent graduate of San Jose State University. Congrats to Hima!

A special honorable mention to Sergio for participating week after week this year.



What You May Have Missed in March

March seemed to be the month of Icebreakers. Not only did we have our Member of the Month give hers, but we also got to learn a bit about Srivatsa. (And don't worry if you don't know how to pronounce his name. Every toastmaster can suggest a couple of apps on your phone to help you). Severin also gave us a humorous speech in which he entitled, Manhattan Icebreaker, recanting an infamous trip to the Big Apple. We also were fortunate enough to have a guest speaker this month practicing her speech for the contests. She had an entertaining story reminding us all to "take care of our garden".

We had some lively table topics sessions in March as well. Severin kicked things off with a discussion for International Women's Day. We also talked about a few of our favorite things, vacations, and pi. I would also like to point out how good the jokes have been lately. Credit to Kristi, Jaquelyn, and Vinod and an extra special delivery by John. Hope to see you throughout the month of April!

Join us! Meetings Every Tuesday @ 12:00 PM

Why TM?

Greg Roberts

I joined TM to improve my “stage presence”. This is helpful for sales situations where I need to deliver technical information but keep it interesting and engaging. I have learned how to make better use of body language and the area available in the front of the room. I have found that practice I get with Table topics to be the most valuable. The experience I have gained with unprepared responses to questions has been quite valuable.

Severin Foreman

My journey to Toastmasters was pretty much inevitable. I had colleagues whose presentation skills I admired who were part of Toastmasters, and they recommended it. But that wasn't enough by itself. Then an executive enrolled me in a public speaking class, and the class instructor recommend it. The instructor recommendation was enough to get me to sign up at the Toastmasters booth at our company health fair. But I was planning on skipping. Then one of the members saw me in the hallway and said how excited he was that I signed up, and I knew I couldn't avoid it any longer. I wanted opportunities to work on my public speaking skills, and I knew Toastmasters would be an effective way to get that practice, but it was hard to make the time. Perhaps I was reluctant to start because I know that when I start something, I want to give it 100%, and I wasn't sure I could find room in my schedule for a significant time commitment.

I keep coming back for a lot of reasons. First, I see Toastmasters as a commitment to my own skills development, and it's a commitment that has had many benefits, both tangible and intangible. I get the public speaking practice that I hoped to get when I joined. Even if I am not giving a speech, I can practice my speaking skills by participating in Table Topics or by taking a meeting role. The people in the club see me as an advanced speaker already, but I can tell you that my skills have improved greatly through the repeated practice I get. I have also found that giving prepared speeches has gotten easier over time. In addition to speaking skills, I have also sharpened my critical thinking and feedback skills by serving as a speech evaluator, grammarian, general evaluator, or just by being an active listener. I also am growing my leadership skills by serving as Toastmaster and as a club officer. (Volunteer clubs always need people to serve, and I'm always wanting to pay back the club for the benefits I get.)

Another reason I keep coming back is that as a Toastmasters member, I get to help people with their public speaking skills and leadership skills. I enjoy watching people grow to meet their goals and their potential. In just the one year I've been at Toastmasters, I've seen people make significant improvements in skills and confidence. It's very rewarding to play a role in the development of others.

I've also gotten some real employment benefits from being in Toastmasters. My boss knows that I am a member and club officer, so I get “points” for working to improve my skills (and as such, my value to Intel). And I get even more points for helping others develop, which is one hallmark of a good leader. I can't say that I'm making \$X more per year because of my efforts, but during evaluation time, I know that my Toastmasters work is seen as part of the extra effort I give to job. And on a related note, it's also a great networking opportunity. Our club has members from many different departments, and I get to know people throughout the company I never would have met otherwise. Who knows when that connection might come in handy? (Disclaimer: I do not believe in networking for the sake of networking. I do believe in “natural networking,” which occurs when you work alongside others with shared goals.)

And lastly, but not least(ly), the meetings are a lot of fun. Every week we smile and laugh and joke and learn as we support each other to become better speakers. I can take a risk and try something without worrying about the consequences. I get a lot of encouragement and praise for my efforts. My fellow club members have given me valuable feedback that has helped me to improve my skills and helped me to gain the confidence to take on more public speaking challenges.