



NEWSLETTER

FIRST STREET SPEAKERS

ISSUE 2: 04/2019

CLUB INFO

FIRST STREET SPEAKERS

Club #854912, District 101
3850 N 1st Street
San Jose, CA 95134

EVERY THURSDAY

12:00 PM—1:00 PM

Follow us on Facebook at First
Street Speakers Toastmasters
www.facebook.com/fsstm

OFFICERS

President: Joseph Kim
VP Education: Toluwa Odemuyiwa
VP Membership: Victoria McQuarrie
VP Public Relations: Nancy Lucid
Secretary: Jane Shinn
Treasurer: Alyson King
Sergeant at Arms: Shinjae Yoo

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Smedley Award
5 new members by September

The Magnificent 7
All 7 club officers trained in first and
second training period of the year

Early Achiever Award
5 points earned toward Distinguished
status before October 31st

New Member Award
5 more new members before end of term

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

Alyson King—ACB, ALB
Joseph Kim—EC2
Maria Zaitchenko—VC1
Michelle Oblena—LD1
Nancy Lucid—IP1
Shinjae Yoo—PM2
Toluwa Odemuyiwa—DL3
Victoria McQuarrie—DL1

FEATURES

FIRST STREET SPEAKERS SWEEPS THE D1 AREA CONTEST!



Area Evaluation contest winner, Alyson (left), and International Speech contest winner, Victoria (right)

First Street Speakers played a big part in the success of the recent D1 Area Contest which showcased International and Evaluation contestants from 5 clubs. Every club sent an Evaluation contestant and 4 clubs were represented in the International contest.

Our own Joseph Kim, Contest Chair, worked closely with our Area Director, Shoba Rao, to make everything come together smoothly. He helped coordinate all aspects of the event including publicity, registration, functionary role assignments, food, and logistics. Our own Toluwa Odemuyiwa took the Chief Judge role for both contests and ensured that everyone understood all the rules, that the judges were qualified and briefed, and that the ballots were properly counted. Shinjae Yoo filled the vital timer role. It was good to see his supportive face so close to the speaking area.

Both first place awards went to our First Street Speakers contestants! Victoria McQuarrie won the International event with her speech, "Jury Duty" - a funny yet unifying topic that left the audience hopeful and smiling. Alyson King won the Evaluation event with her thoughtful and personal comments. Her Toastmasters experience gave her an edge in standing out among the contestants. Both will go on to the Division D Contest on April 18th to represent us at the next level competition. Please mark your calendars now so you can be there to cheer them on!

ASKED AND ANSWERED: WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE AREA CONTEST?

JOSEPH

It was stressful for me to be the contest chair so it was a bit of a blur until later. I'm still very proud of the results; the contest ran smoothly and as I predicted, our club did very well. It was the first time for me to volunteer for a big role outside the club and it has helped me to realize the need for teamwork and overall was great to work with so many enthusiastic Toastmasters outside our club.

It was a great experience! It was my first as Chief Judge, and it went by smoothly. Besides seeing our own club sweep up all the awards, the best thing was interacting with folks from other clubs and seeing that TM comradery spirit outside our weekly club setting.

TOLUWA

ALYSON

I was a competitor in the evaluation contest, not my first time in this category. I was gratified to see some progress in my evaluation skill set. I got additional feedback on my evaluation from the test speaker, our District Director, Vaibhav Singh, and fellow First Street Speakers. All of this is helping me to improve. Vaibhav reminded me to summarize my feedback at the closing which is one of the speech judging criteria in the contest. I've always felt a challenge to balance my feedback so that it is encouraging more than offering improvement points and I will likely continue to struggle with that somewhat. But taking it to a competitive level helps me hone the skill of empathy which makes me a better listener and evaluator.

It was my first contest and it gave me a chance to see how differently people from other clubs speak, their different styles and ways of doing things. Outside club exposure gives you a view of different approaches.

SHINJAE

VICTORIA

This was my first time competing in the International Speech Contest at the Area Level. I enjoyed being challenged by giving my speech in a new setting, with a new audience, and new competitors! I was inspired by the other speeches I heard and appreciated the experience to step out of the comfort zone of my own club and take my speech to the next level.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by Joseph Kim

It's been a fantastic first quarter of the year and I just want to say how proud I am for the club members' active participation in making First Street Speakers the amazing club it is today. Never in my short time at this club would I have imagined that we'd be this close to achieving the President's Distinguished Club status. Every member has done their part in taking roles in meetings and signing up to deliver speeches every week. Shin-jae, our Sergeant at Arms, has never failed to arrive 30 minutes before the every meeting, setting up the podium, name tags, and food. Vineet, one of our newest member, has captivated me with his contest speech, demonstrating his natural speaking skills. Toluwa, our VP of Education, has put in countless hours to encourage members to sign up for roles and complete their Pathway levels; she is one of the biggest reasons why we have 8 Distinguished Club Program points to date. These members are only a few examples of many individuals who work hard to make this one of the most outstanding clubs in our division.

Although it's been a bumpy ride with lower-than-usual attendance in the first few months of the year, the high level of energy and laughter has never wavered. There is no doubt about our club's growth, with two of our members winning both area-level contests and being so close to the highest recognition status in the Toastmasters program. No words can describe how thankful I am for every member of First Street Speakers and for the exciting journey you've all given me so far.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Contest

Division D Evaluation and International Speech Contest is on April 18th at 5:45-9:15PM. It will be held at Palo Alto Networks. Please come and cheer on Victoria and Alyson!

Club Dues Renewal

Our membership renewal drive was a big success! Fourteen of 18 members are renewed on time for next term. This is one of the highest retention rates in the club's history! Thanks everyone for making this happen!

District 101 Annual Conference

May 18-19, 2019 @ Biltmore Hotel

We have District 101 credits to help pay for member admission to this event. Please let Alyson King know if you plan to attend so that she can reserve your spot with the club's credits. Register now for the Early Bird rate!

Alyson is the Hospitality Chair for the conference. She would love to have you on her team! You will help direct participants to their events and cover the registration tables. Please let her know if you want to help.