



### Over the Hump

By Ken Richardson, DTM

**P**ahrump, Nevada is affectionately referred to as being, “over the hump.” It sits just 62 miles west of Las Vegas over the “hump” of the Spring Mountain Range on Highway 160. The often mispronounced name comes from the Southern Paiute term meaning “water rock” in recognition of the abundant artesian wells that were once found throughout the Valley. From humble beginnings the town has grown to become a thriving city of over 37,000 people, including the determined and resilient members of the Pahrump Toastmasters Club, #1970.

The club was founded on January 1, 1983. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Pahrump Valley Senior Center, 1370 W. Basin Avenue. Like all clubs, the Pahrump club struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic with few opportunities to get together. Prior to the pandemic, club members were frequent participants in Area, Division, and District contests. Club President Pam Raneri, DTM, PDD keeps the club on track and running smoothly. It is well worth the trip to visit the club and take in the sights and attractions of the town. For even more adventure, consider a side trip to Death Valley National Park. It’s a short drive from

Pahrump. For more information, visit the club’s website, <https://1970.toastmastersclubs.org/>.



Club President Pam Raneri, DTM, PDD discusses club business. (Below) Pahrump Toastmasters listen intently.



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### *Wake Up With Toastmasters*

Monday through Friday, 6:00 am

[FaceBook.com/TMD115CGD](https://www.facebook.com/TMD115CGD)

Contact Ken Richardson at

[d115cgd@gmail.com](mailto:d115cgd@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a guest on the show.

Due to November holidays, **Educational Enrichment Night and Game Night** have been moved up one week earlier than usual.

Register in advance for this meeting at-

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpcOCoriguGdlxmh4iK65WMUWmCoRaltGi>

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 6:00 - 8:00pm.

Enrichment Night - come to this evening to take your choice of great virtual classes

### **6:00 - 7:00pm**

*New Member Orientation* presented by TBD - meet other new members as you learn about Toastmasters, meeting roles, and what to expect your first year

*The Secret Sauce* - a panel discussion led by Dana Wall Oakley DTM. Members from our larger clubs

will discuss the secret to bringing guests to the meeting and converting them into members.

*The Power of Words* presented by Anita DellaCroce DTM. Learn how your choice of language and vocal variety can enhance your message.

*Zoom Videos* by Jennifer Smith PRM - Learn to upload and use Zoom Videos to promote your club.

### **7:00 - 8:00 pm**

*Introduction to Pathways* presented by TBD - designed for new members to learn about Pathways

*Best Practices* – A discussion led by Sherrie Parker DTM PDD to gather and share best practices.

*Evaluate to Motivate* by Gene Dunford, DTM. Learn how to use and give evaluations to motivate and improve future presentations.

*YouTube* by Jennifer Smith PRM. Learn more about YouTube and how to use it to benefit your club.

Saturday, November 20, 2021 6:00-8:00 pm

**Game Night** - Come to see friends and make friends. Bring your non-Toastmaster friends when you come to this virtual event to laugh, play games, and have fun.

Register in advance for Game Night at-

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcocuurzotGNP2K\\_gPRj-T90QWZpbMO0sP](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcocuurzotGNP2K_gPRj-T90QWZpbMO0sP)

## LAMBDA Linguists Welcomes Samantha Smith, 2021 Toastmasters International Semi-Finalist!

By Carol Wayman, President: LAMBDA  
Linguists Toastmasters

On Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Samantha Smith will share her contest-winning speech "Last Call" with District 115 members. She will join the Lambda Linguists Toastmasters Club at 6 pm PT on Zoom.

Texas resident Smith's inspiring and powerful speech won rave reviews from many Toastmasters worldwide and sparked a conversation about how Toastmasters can be more welcoming and inclusive

to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and others. Since giving her semi-final speech, Samantha has been invited to numerous clubs across the country to share her speech and discuss the impact it has had on her and on others.

For inclusive clubs like LAMBDA Linguists, hearing an unabashedly lesbian story with a strong message for acceptance on the world stage was thrilling. Unfortunately, some LGBTQ members live in countries that have criminalized the LGBTQ community; violence and discrimination remain constant threats.



In our country, some have experienced discrimination at TM clubs. For example, mentioning their same-sex partner or spouse, was deemed offensive even as other club members openly talked about their opposite-gender spouses. Some LGBTQ members were told that gay content was not permitted, or would be debated instead of the content or message of a speech. At an online meeting, I heard anti-transgender table topic questions. In some cases, members were warned not to mention they were LGBT or include LGBT content in contests; TM does not have a policy prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people.

For assertively-inclusive groups like LAMBDA Linguists and other LGBT-inclusive clubs around the world, we welcome speeches and participation from everyone. It's a place where people can develop their messages and leadership skills with all kinds of people, LGBTQ and not. These relationships can help us get to know each other better and build a better club and community.

LAMBDA Linguists was founded as a resource for the LGBT Business Association of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Some of our members are LGBTQ and other are not. We operate like any other TM club, holding our meetings on the first and third

Mondays of the month. We are currently meeting on line but hope to start back in person or hybrid when the pandemic has abated.

LAMBDA Linguists is a vibrant and productive TM club where LGBTQ people can express their views and share stories of their lives without restraint.

For example, in September, we heard from Elizabeth Carswell, one of the founders of the LGBTQA group for our nation's Intelligence Community. Elizabeth shared five leadership lessons for making change within a large agency. While her examples were specific to the LGBTQ community, the leadership lessons applied broadly. And, if you ever wondered what it would be like to be married to an intelligence professional, the opening speech which introduced Elizabeth gave you some clues.

To attend the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, or another Lambda Linguists meeting, or watch the special meeting with Elizabeth Carswell, visit our website at <https://lambdalinguists.toastmastersclubs.org/>

**SPOILER ALERT:** Smith's speech uses her experience as a police officer, wife and mother to urge an end to bigotry and discrimination against LGBT folks.

## **Say "YES!"**

By District 115 Club Retention Chair,  
Sherrie Parker, DTM, PDD

**Accept the "One Month – One Action" Challenge!** I will share three effective club habits that are proven to help clubs thrive. Start a new action for at least a month and add a new "Best Practice" every month for a year. Remember one small step in the right direction still moves you to your destination!

**N**ovember is an excellent time to reflect on your club's status and to take advantage of "festive" opportunities! How is your club growing membership? Are you satisfied with the quality of your meetings? Are you on track to reach your goals? Here are three Best Practices to help your club say "YES!" to each question:

1. To attract guests and keep members enthusiastic, **plan special events and themed meetings.**

Storytellers Toastmasters schedules a workshop which focuses on storytelling skills every month. Most recently, WCPS Ed Tate presented “The Story Finder” and Sinjini Sengupta shared “Storytelling: The New Language of Leadership.” Educationally Speaking has offered fun and creative contests each month like their “Chopped” Table Topics Contest. Many clubs hosted Halloween themed meetings and even “Spooky Tall Tales” and costume contests. What a terrific way for members to have fun and involve your guests! I urge you to take advantage of this holiday season and create club parties and themed events too! Share the info about your event beginning at least 2 weeks before the meeting with friends, family, coworkers, Meetup and social media. Remember to post on the D115 Facebook page and promote your event on “Wake Up with Toastmasters.”

2. Is your club taking advantage of the **features on FreeToastHost** that consistently support a prepared and productive meeting? When speakers enter their path and project



information on the agenda, their evaluator can access and download the evaluation resource directly from the agenda. Speakers may also enter their speech title and introduction. The Toastmaster may print them directly from the agenda on your

FTH website too. Members can sign themselves up early for roles and your club can make valuable resources available to members in “Member Downloads.”

3. It should not be a surprise that the best way to help your club reach its goals is to use the **Distinguished Club Program!** Coupled with the Club Success Plan (which is based on the DCP) this is a powerful tool to measure how effectively you serve your members. Rather than focusing on achieving the 10

DCP goal, focus on your members reaching their goals. When you do, the club automatically achieves goals. Help members advance in Pathways and your club fulfills goals 1 to 6. Invite guests and show them high-energy, high-quality meetings and your membership will grow (DCP goals 7 and 8.) Support officers who take care of club business, like attending officer trainings and submitting reports on time, to complete goals 9 and 10!

If your club is already saying “YES” to the questions, congratulations! Please share what is working with me and other clubs at the November 6<sup>th</sup> Enrichment Night. I especially want to hear about your creative special events and themed meetings. Please let me know what else you think we can include in “Best Practices.” If you can’t answer “YES” yet, I hope this article provides a new “Best Practice” for your club. You are only “One Month – One Action” away from a more powerful, productive club!

## Hybrid Open House

Colorado River Toastmasters Club

The Colorado River Toastmasters Club recently held a hybrid open house.



Club President Sandra Talmadge said, “My heart is

still warmed by the experience! We have not gotten any new members yet, but we did have a guest come with Gunnar to the next meeting. We had 25 in attendance. My biggest take away, besides taking the initiative to bridge a collaboration with Rotary, was the importance of teamwork. That came out at the meeting itself, and is a point I would make as facilitating the fun of the experience. With teamwork there can be shared responsibility that allows a lighter load and makes room for joy and fun!”



Members and guests of the Colorado River Toastmasters Club celebrate their successful open house.

## Got Zoom?

Jennifer Smith, PRM

What are you doing with your Zoom recordings? Are you deleting them when your zoom recordings are full? Why not post your recorded meetings on YouTube?

YouTube has features for editing. Once you have the link you can share it to your social media and also upload to your website. If you have any questions, you can always reach out to Jennifer Smith, D115 PRM at ToastmastersD115 [prm@gmail.com](mailto:prm@gmail.com).



[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

## New Level 1

Adapted from the Article by Stephanie Darling  
(TI News, November, 2021)

Pathways is a very robust educational program with enough variety to keep members engaged. What’s more, the team at Toastmasters International is constantly looking to improve its value. Most recently, a new version of Level 1 was created, based on input from our members.

The new Level 1 includes the following projects:

- Ice Breaker
- Writing a Speech With Purpose
- Introduction to Vocal Variety & Body Language
- Evaluation & Feedback

The Ice Breaker is the same as it’s always been: the first speech in every path where the speaker introduces him/herself to the club.

Writing a Speech With Purpose focuses on how to select a speech topic, define its purpose, and produce a well-written and organized speech.

Introduction to Vocal Variety and Body Language teaches you how to use vocal variety and body gestures to enhance your presentations, making them more polished and memorable to the audience.

Evaluation and Feedback teaches you how to receive and give valuable feedback to learn and grow on your Toastmasters journey. The project includes two speeches and requires you to serve as a speech evaluator.

The Researching and Presenting project is now an elective in Level 3 for anyone starting a new path after October 27.

The new changes were effective for new paths as of October 27, 2021. Members who are already beyond Level 1 do not need to repeat it.

**Communications**, the D115 Newsletter is published monthly. Please send articles, photos, comments and suggestions to CGD Ken Richardson at [D115CGD@gmail.com](mailto:D115CGD@gmail.com) or call 702.523.3023.