

“Leadership is a Choice not a Position” - Stephen Covey

We start our Toastmasters journey primarily to improve communication skills and the creativity of the 100 year empowerment programme is that many of us soon have to make a choice to support our club and sometimes in a formal capacity as a Club Officer. We have more unofficial leaders in Toastmasters than positions and it is important to continue to recognise the effort of all our leaders.

Over 6 years ago, my Toastmasters journey was lucky enough to begin at a low member club as there were no other clubs close to me. Bold and immediate action was necessary, I took on my first Club Officer role as VP Membership because to run quality club meetings and for the club to be sustainable we needed more members. This is where a lot of our clubs are after the October renewals were processed.

The benefits and transferable skills of being a Club VP Membership include learning to promote, your club which can be applied to businesses or other interests; developing the skills to communicate and engage with prospective members which can be applied in many aspects of outside Toastmasters, leading a committee and working as a senior member of the club with opportunities to learn / practice how to manage meetings according to the Robert rules of parliamentary procedures.

Toastmasters is where leaders are made however you need to take the first step to identify a need your Club, Area or District has and make a choice to initiate the action necessary to effect change. While the opportunity to take an official club leadership role may be limited in our large member clubs, I had the opportunity to learn and also serve as Treasurer, Sargent at Arms and Club President in preparation for my District Leadership roles. The benefits included learning budgeting and managing funds as Treasurer; Logistics and stock management as Sargent at Arms as well as preparing a business plan, articulating a club vision and managing change as I was an Area Director then Club President at the start of the Covid pandemic.

The greater the challenge the greater the opportunity to grow and develop our effective communication and leadership skills, the currently challenge is not the same as that presented by the pandemic however every low member club presents opportunities for members to develop by starting a new membership campaign, District officers develop by engaging clubs to provide effective support by providing training, resources and inspiration.

We currently have 24 active clubs that could benefit from our experienced members as club coaches and I would like to encourage experienced members to register to be a coach by clicking on the following link <https://d91toastmasters.org.uk/members/leadership/projects/>

Toastmasters presents us with a unique opportunity to join a club where we can develop by studying, practicing and teaching.

“Those who know, do. Those who understand teach” - Aristotle

What next:

Inviting guests to your Division contests is a unique opportunity for membership growth.

Sponsor a new club as Toastmasters celebrates 100 years and District 91 celebrates 10 years in 2024 as part of your DTM journey by clicking <https://www.toastmasters.org/start-a-club>

Look out for the D91 Club Growth Webinar on the District calendar or email club.growth.team@d91toastmasters.org.uk to support or share your club growth ideas.

Thanks to Division Directors - Erika Oteri & Sean Dean, IPDD Rupa Datta, TM - Benjamin Adegunle & Greg Smith and PDD D94 - Patrick Oluyide for supporting our successful demo meeting at Linklaters. Thanks to Frances Hodgkins for being a wonderful host and congratulations on your icebreaker speech.

Mo Dawodu
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