



## Club Officers

President:

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VP Education:

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VP Membership:

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VP Public Relations:

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Treasurer:

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Secretary:

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Sergeant-at-Arms:

**Samit Dutta**

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## SOS Toastmasters Club –

### Home for our personal and professional growth!

*Yen-Ru Pan, CC, CL, ALB*

One day during the holiday season, I shopped at the Carlsbad shopping mall. I saw a lady in a wheelchair trying hard to move forward. Perhaps people were too busy shopping to notice the lady in need. I approached her and realized that there was a water bottle stuck in the wheel. She said she was so frustrated that she did not know what impeded her wheelchair. Even if she knew what the problem was, she would not have been able to remove the bottle on her own. The moment when she said thank you to me, somehow some thoughts clicked - both the lady and I share the same frustration.

As an international scholar, I find it difficult to blend into the culture system, using a new language and reasoning new value systems. I am not fully “functional” as if I were in my home country using my native language. I am “disabled” in some ways. I am “deaf” when I am not able to understand a joke. I am “mute” when I am not able to find a right word/phrase to express my thoughts or feeling. Frustration builds up to the utmost when some people laugh at my “disabilities”. However, some laugh with me and help me improve towards more “functional” status along the way.

I am so thankful that I found the SOS Toastmasters Club (actually Kathy Sterling from the club found me). This club helps “remove the water bottle” that impairs my speaking abilities. In this club, we laugh with one another, but we never laugh AT anyone. Everyone offers constructive suggestions to improve speaking and leadership skills. I am also grateful that the club helped me finish the Competent Communicator (CC), Competent Leadership (CL), and Advanced Leadership Bronze (ALB) Awards in two years. **Thank you everyone for speaking the truth (telling me in what areas to improve) with love (with accepting laughter).** I learned a lot from everyone of you. Special thanks to Kathy Spencer and Kathy Sterling, our dear founding and long-time members. Both are great role models – they are always willing to walk extra miles to maintain the right value systems/attitudes within the club and nourish the welcoming atmosphere.

If you are a member and you feel the same way, please share it with us. You can share it at our weekly meeting or through our monthly newsletters. We have to keep it going by encouraging one another. If you are a member and you do not think this club does much for you, please start doing something for the club. For example, you can arrive early to help arrange the room. Things will change as you initiate the positive feedback loop. If you are not a member yet, please consider joining this club. Set up and achieve your personal goals within this club. You will be really thankful as I am now. **This club is the laboratory to experiment with our speaking and leadership skills. This club is our home for personal and professional growth.**

### Congratulations Yen-Ru for earning Advanced Leadership Bronze (ALB) Award!

You can also earn this pin by finishing the CL manual, being an officer for at least 6 months, and conducting two programs from *The Successful Club* and/or *The Leadership Excellence Series*.



Welcome to two new members in 2012 – Quan & Shelby!

## Congratulations to our new officers for January-June 2012!

President:  
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VP Education:  
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**Vika Dubrovskaya**

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Sergeant-at-Arms:  
**Samit Dutta**

Thank you for rising to the leadership challenge, guiding our club through the next 6 months. Thank you to our past officers for their exemplary leadership, making our SOS club THE BEST CLUB EVER!

## Mark Your Calendar on Jan. 21, 2012!

**A FREE Event to Enhance Your Personal & Professional Growth!**



### Leaders Are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communicators

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012 - 8:00AM TO 3:00PM**

**12855 BLACK MOUNTAIN RD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92129**

### **LAUNCH YOUR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS THIS YEAR**

Whether you are in sales, science, management, entrepreneur or coaching a little league team; being able to inspire and motivate your audience with an effective message that will allow you to reach your personal and professional goals. Start your 2012 new year with D5 Toastmasters Leadership Institute!

### **DON'T MISS OUR KEY NOTE SPEAKER**

Distinguished Speakers include Accredited Speaker **Sheryl Roush** inspiring speech with regards to the 21st century, becoming a great leader and communicator and why social media is the key to growth.

### **2012 TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

They say that public speaking is one of the greatest fears people have. This may be the case, but by being a member of Toastmasters, you will learn **to take control of your speaking 'butterflies'** and make them 'fly in formation'. At this impactful event hosted by District 5 Toastmasters of San Diego, you will learn valuable skills such as:

- Crafting an Effective Presentation
- Mastering Table Topics
- The Benefits of Competing in Contests
- Impactful Leadership and Mentoring
- Becoming a Distinguished Toastmaster
- Increasing Membership
- Club Officer Essentials & Training

### **BECOME A BETTER TOASTMASTER IN 2012**

Want to improve your communication skills in 2012? Need to present to your club, company or client but still don't have the confidence to do so? If you want to become a better Speaker, Leader, and Toastmaster this year, then you must attend the District 5 Toastmasters Leadership Institute.

Please visit the website to register: [www.2012sandiegoTLI.eventbrite.com](http://www.2012sandiegoTLI.eventbrite.com)

To know more about SOS Toastmasters Club, please contact officers or visit our website:

<http://sostoastmasters.wordpress.com/>