

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [GIE](#)

[Home](#) » [Features](#)

[Toastmasters International...](#)

Going strong for 85 years

Cherisse Moe

Published: 21 Oct 2009

Today, local, regional and international members of Toastmasters International will collectively raise their glasses to commemorate the association's 85th anniversary. In existence since 1924, the non-profit organisation has been educating the masses on the art of public speaking and leadership for decades and prides itself on assisting millions in achieving a higher level of success in both the personal and professional realms. With more than 250,000 members in 12,000 clubs in 106 countries, Toastmasters International is moving at an accelerated pace to chart its way forward in an era where anything goes.

On Saturday, the Dynamic Speakers, a local club under the Toastmasters International umbrella, will host a joint meeting with four other locally-based clubs, including Winners and Talk Su, at the Plaza de Montrose, Chaguanas, to provide much needed training in oral communication and leadership. Robert De Silva, a long-standing member, former president of the organisation and a member of Toastmasters International for the past 23 years, says the meeting is free of charge and open to the general public.



Tag Cloud

[Akile Simon](#) [Business Columnist](#) [Cricket](#) [Crime](#)
[Entertainment](#) [Football](#) [Francis Joseph](#) [General](#)
[Letters](#) [Life](#) [Other](#) [Sports](#) [Politics](#) [Radhica Sookraj](#)
[more](#)

“It will showcase a snapshot of what Toastmasters can do for you. Just like there are inter-general transfers of negative approaches to life, there can also be inter-general transfers of positive approaches to life.”

Fighting crime with communication

With some of the most gruesome acts now being committed by baby-faced criminals in T&T, De Silva says honing good communication skills can play a major role in combating the nation’s growing crime scourge. “It’s critical to the development of T&T, particularly in light of the many criminal activities being perpetrated on a daily basis,” he contends. “If people are able to communicate properly, they won’t have to reach to physical violence. The ability to think critically is extremely handy in defusing the conflict that comes with a lot of the killings taking place.” President of the organisation Michael Noel agrees. He notes that oral communication skills are sadly lacking among many of the nation’s youth. “These are important qualities to have. Toastmasters teaches you a way of life.”

Going beyond the call...

Dynamic Speakers also reaches the future generation through its the Youth Leadership Programme, which teaches students valuable lessons in communication, co-ordination and leadership. The programme has so far targeted Mucurapo Secondary, Bishop Anstey High and the Maple Leaf International Schools. “The programme ran for ten sessions and all the students had aspirations of becoming accountants, doctors and lawyers,” says Noel. “I’ve been in touch with some of them and they said that the programme changed their lives for the better.” Vice-president of public relations and member of the Dynamic Speakers, Florence De Silva sums it up, “It’s important to build the skills of our young people. Reaching out to them is very essential.”

• More info on the Dynamic Speakers meeting and Toastmasters International visit: www.toastmasters.org or call Kathleen at 290-1057/473-7793.



Robert De Silva, former president, Dynamic Speakers, his daughter former vice-president of public relations, Dynamic Speakers, Florence De Silva and current president of the organisation Michael Noel, (sitting), believe it's important to have good oral communication and leadership skills.

Photo: Shirley Bahadur

Article Tools



Login or register to post comments  Email  Print