

BLUFF CITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT THOMAS SHELLEY

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Well Bluff City Toastmasters, here we are. It's time that we accept the fact that our world has changed, and life as we knew it in 2019 is no longer an option for us. I will encourage us to take command of our future, thriving to make ourselves better representatives in our community. Ask yourself why you chose to attend Toastmaster's meeting in the first place. I'm guessing that you wanted to challenge yourself and grow as a public speaker and as a leader. Memphis area's own Justin Timberlake has said "You're not meant to do what is easy. You're meant to Challenge Yourself." We are here to encourage each other to be positive, so let's all try something new to expand our boundaries. Take on a role that is new to you. Give a speech that helps you down the pathway you have decided to follow, or invite a friend to join us. Let's also remember folks who may have faded away from the group over the past few months to reengage them as well. What ever that looks like for you, CHALLENGE YOURSELF!!!!



BLUFF CITY TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020-2021

President	Thomas Shelley
VP Education	Lea Carr
VP Membership	Emma Crystal
VP Public Relations	Erica May
Treasurer	Tammie Polk
Secretary	Jackie Houser
Sergeant at Arms	David Nguyen

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Sheron Davenport

Dr. Sheron Davenport comes to Memphis by way of Jackson, TN. She is a three time graduate of the University of Memphis where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Science in Counseling and Doctorate of Education in Higher Education.

Prior to her current position of Assistant Director, Sheron worked as a Retention Specialist for Student Success Programs and as a Hearing Officer/Office Coordinator for Student Conduct at The University of Memphis.

Her passion for helping people directed her to a position where she could be more proactive in steering students toward graduation. Sheron recognized that as she continues in her profession she will be placed in front of various crowds. To strengthen her communication and public speaking skills, she joined Toastmasters.

She is currently on level 1 of the Dynamic Leadership path and when not on a zoom meeting she enjoys spending time playing soccer with her son, painting nails with her two daughters, and binge watching ESPN's 30 for 30 with her husband.



about our club

Bluff City Toastmasters is a diverse and energetic group of speakers (both novice and seasoned).

We welcome all guests and existing Toastmasters to join us weekly to learn, develop, and expand your communication/ leadership skills.

**We are a
President's
Distinguished
Club**

Bluff City Toastmasters

<https://zoom.us/j/564116212>

Every Monday at 11:30am CST



- ✓ Open to All Toastmasters & Guests
- ✓ Hear Wonderful Speeches
- ✓ See How Toastmasters Can Help You
- ✓ Award Winning Toastmaster Club
- ✓ Discover a Whole New Community of Friends & Resources



www.bluffcitytoastmasters.com

#bluffcitytoastmasters



CONDUCTING BETTER EVALUATIONS

BY ERICA MAY

Erica May is the current public relations VP of bluff city toastmasters, the previous education VP and the editor in chief of Bluff City News

Many of us joined Toastmasters to make good on a promise to ourselves. Personally, I strive to put forth my best effort in all of my endeavors. Toastmasters is a personal and professional development organization. There are lessons I have learned at Toastmasters that help me both at work and at home. For instance, if I need to criticize or give constructive feedback to my husband, I make sure to start the conversation with something positive.

As Toastmasters, we improve by receiving feedback, but **we also improve by delivering feedback.** Naturally, we are concerned with improving our communication skills so that we can more effectively deliver our messages. However, we should also be concerned with becoming competent evaluators so that we can assist our fellow members on their journey. The feedback given should encourage the speaker as well as give them tools to improve on their public speaking journey.

Here are three tips to help you deliver better evaluations:

- **Listen** – One core competency in providing an evaluation is careful listening. An evaluator must be tuned in and focused to pull out and notate the best and not so good segments of the presentation.
- **Prepare** - Take time and look over the evaluation form. Note and make mention of the objectives. Be sure to mention the speaker's path, the level and the project. Have pen and paper ready to jot down notes as the person is presenting.
- **Observe, Analyze and Pick Apart.** Be sure to note positive moments and the areas that need improvement. One thing that I always make mention of is preparation. The speaker is supposed to be delivering a prepared speech. Did they get the evaluation form to me in time? Did the Toastmaster have an introduction? Did the introduction create a smooth segway into the speech?

While the speaker is speaking, I take note of the delivery. Does the speech appear to be rehearsed or off the cuff? Do the speaker have interesting content? How do they transition from one point to another? Did the speech have a strong opening and close? I also observe how the audience is reacting to the speech. Are they tuned in, interacting, laughing? Or are they bored? Is the speaker able to hold the audience's attention?

Always end on a positive note and issue a challenge. If the speaker was horrible, don't list everything they did wrong. Give three areas for improvement and allow them to focus on those. If the speaker was accomplished and killed it, still offer a challenge. After all, the room for improvement is the biggest room in the world----- so I've been told. - EM

MEMBER INFORMATION



Lea Carr

Relationship Manager, Private Banking
Paragon Bank

WHERE WE WORK

LEA CARR , PARAGON BANK

Lea works exclusively with high net worth clients, business owners, community leading professionals, and small businesses to help meet their financial goals and future potential. Lea values the importance of building meaningful relationships with her clients. Whether you need a loan personally or for your business, a mortgage, depository services, cash management services, or a banker that can help you prepare for the future & take care of your current banking needs, Lea can take care of it for you. Her priority is making her clients happy, providing expertise on their unique current financial situation, and delivering the highest level of service possible.



Lea giving a presentation during our virtual Monday meetings. Lea is well versed in Toastmasters leadership. She currently serves at the Education VP at Bluff City after previously serving at the Public Relations VP for two years. She has also served as Area Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



\$\$ DUES

*It's that time of year again. Please see treasurer Tammie Polk to renew your membership. **Toastmasters membership is \$130 per year.***

That's less than \$11 per month. Continue your commitment to improving your communication skills.

MEMBERSHIP

*Help us continue to grow and remain President's Distinguished. Share our organization with your contacts. **We are gearing up for a membership drive.** There will be prizes for the member that invites the most guests. More details to come soon.*



WE'RE GOING TO JAMAICA

We'll not in person --just yet. Stay tuned for information on our Caribbean takeover. We are going to visit our friends in Jamaica and Barbados via Zoom. Stay tuned as we work out the details. They have come to our meetings and added value. We need to reciprocate.

