



District 6 Toastmasters

Where Leaders Are Made



Key Dates

June - August 31
[Club Officer Training](#)
 (scroll down for training dates!)

August 12-15
[International Convention](#)
 (proxies needed)

August
 Collect Club Dues

September 1-30
 Submit Club Dues

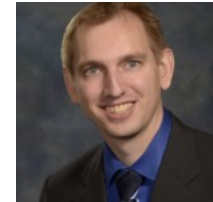
October 1
 Club Dues Submission Deadline

October 16-17
[Fall Conference](#)
 Sugar Lake Lodge
 Cohasset, MN

From the Desk of the District Director!

Fellow Toastmasters,

We are now roughly 30 days into the new year, and much is happening across the district.



Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) was a hit! Everyone appeared to have a great time, and Lance Miller's presentations were educational and inspirational.

The Toastmasters International website now shows the clubs with the new alignment of division letters and area numbers. There are a couple of clubs not properly aligned on the TI website, and we are working through that with headquarters.

We are starting the new year with 283 clubs. The goal is for all clubs to have a net gain of 5 or more members for this year! The district's goal is to have a net gain of 9 new clubs with a stretch goal of 23 new clubs. Below is our district's performance dashboard.



With the enhanced training, our goal is to put clubs in a position to build, have quality meetings, and in turn have guests become members!

Is your club committing to be Distinguished or better this year?

Don't forget to sign up for the [Fall Conference](#)! I guarantee it will be an experience you won't want to miss. Be prepared for food, speech contests, food, roasts, food, interactive team-building sessions, food, the lake, golfing, and did I mention food? Come join in the experience and celebrate it with Toastmasters friends! For only \$115 dollars for the entire



Lance Miller

Lance Miller was a hit at TLI! Keep reading to learn Lance's key tips.



[TLI pictures on Flickr](#)

Welcome to speech contest season!

Download the [Humorous Speech Contest Kit](#) (free).

[Speech Contest Tutorials](#)

conference (not counting hotel), you can't beat the price! Join us at Sugar Lake Lodge. Here is the link for more information: www.d6tm.org/fallconference.



Toastmasters billboards continue to show up around various neighborhoods. We are also looking at other ways within local communities to bring guests to your clubs. Without a doubt, the best way to get a guest to attend your club is simply to ask them to come.



Larry Marik, DTM
District Director, District 6 (2015-2016)
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made
www.toastmasters.org
www.d6tm.org
(District 6: Serving parts of Minnesota and Ontario)

Program Quality Counts!

Toastmasters Leadership Institute Recap
344 Toastmasters attended the TLI, with 356 club officer roles trained.

Partial listing of awards for 2014-2015:

- Toastmaster of the Year: Bernardine Krupka
- Division Governor of the Year: Gary Kivi
- Area Governor of the Year: David Rasmussen
- Alex P. Smekta (PDG): Dru Jorgensen
- Don Murray (Service): Shirley Daniel
- Lou Novak (New Clubs): Anne Groetsch
- Lorin Pollman (Speechcraft): Roller Toasters
- Keith Hardy (Youth Leadership): Storytellers Club





Didn't Get Your Triple Crown Pin?

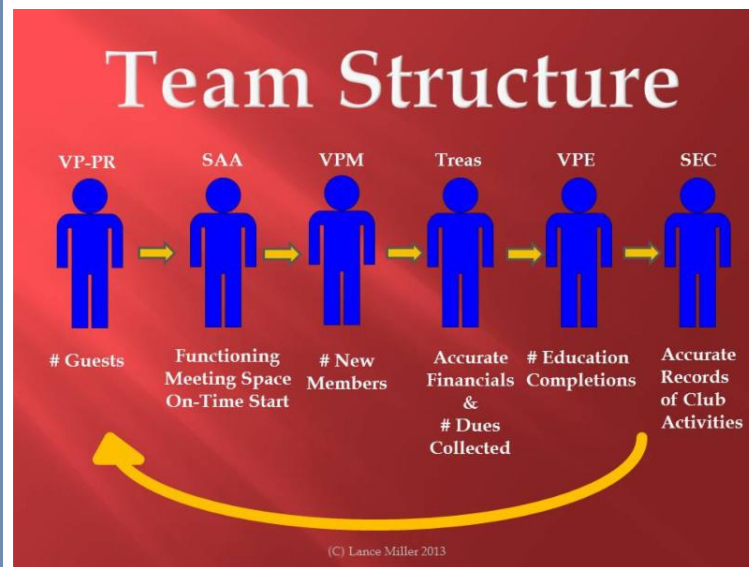
If you didn't receive your Triple Crown Pin for achieving three or more educational awards in the last Toastmasters year, please [email Program Quality Director Diane Windingland](#) with your mailing address and she will arrange to get you your pin (they are on back order at Toastmasters International).



FREE Resources from Lance Miller

Our TLI keynote speaker, Lance Miller, has a few free resources on his website, including his [Speaking Tips Card](#) and [Building a Championship Club Card](#). Lance also has [additional resources](#) for sale on his [website](#).

[Impromptu Interview at TLI with Lance Miller](#) (video, 4:46)



The above slide shows outcome-based officer role responsibilities (slide from Lance Miller's "Leadership for a Championship Club" presentation). The slide shows the primary outcomes each of the club officers are accountable for (not including the club president, whose main responsibility is helping the officers and members "win" in accomplishing their goals).

Club Quality Challenge: MOT by 12/31/15

Improve your club's quality through this FREE self-evaluation tool: [Moments of Truth](#) from the *Successful Club Series*. It is a free digital download available on the Toastmasters International website (scroll down). Note:



the member conducting this program will satisfy half of the Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) requirement to conduct two presentations from the *Better Speaker Series* and/or the *Successful Club Series*.

Personal Quality Challenge: Triple Crown with HPL

Quality begins with you. You can be your own personal quality change agent and achieve the Triple Crown Award by completing three educational awards by June 30, 2016. At the TLI, I suggested one way of achieving this goal: 1) complete a communication award, 2) complete a leadership award, and 3) complete a High Performance Leadership (HPL) project.

The HPL program offers instruction and practice in such vital leadership skills and activities as developing a mission and vision, goal setting and planning, identifying values, and building a team. Completing an HPL also fulfills a requirement for the Advanced Leader Silver (ALS) Award. Contact HPL Chair Michael Browne (toastmastermichaelbrowne@gmail.com) to obtain a free HPL packet.

Club Officers: Your Own Facebook Groups!

Give and receive advice, resources, and more! Join a D6 Facebook discussion group for your specific club office (or, join one to offer advice, even if you don't currently hold the office).



[Club VPE Facebook Group](#)

[Club VPM Facebook Group](#)

[Club VPPR Facebook Group](#)

[Club Secretary Facebook Group](#)

[Club Treasurer Facebook Group](#)

[Club SAA Facebook Group](#)

Please contact [Program Quality Director Diane Windingland](#) if you would like to volunteer as an admin of one of these Facebook Groups.

District 6 also has a [general Facebook Group](#) with about 360 members.

Club Officers: How to Conduct Club Business Online

Adding members, paying dues, updating information, and so on are things that club officers can do online at the Toastmasters International website. Go to Club Central (under the drop-down menu under Leadership Central). Watch this "how to" [video](#) (4 minutes).

Fall Speech Contest: Humorous

There will be only one speech contest this fall, the Humorous Speech Contest (5-7 min).

Download the [Humorous Speech Contest Kit](#) (free). Use these [Speech Contest Tutorials](#) teaching fundamental principles to help you understand roles and judging.

Commonly asked speech contest question: *What does the rulebook mean when it says a speech must be "substantially original"?*

Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any quoted, paraphrased, or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.

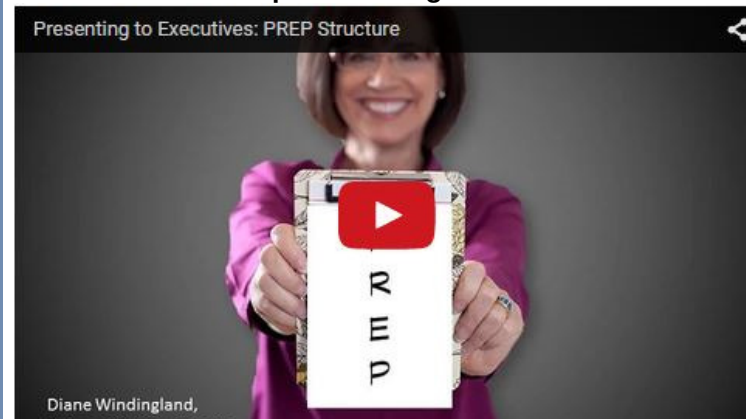
More [Speech Contest FAQs](#).

Area and Division Directors--Post your Speech Contest on the District 6 website using the [Calendar Event Submission Form](#)

Needed: New EGG Bag

Can you do a simple sewing project? Our [Elusive Gilded Gavel](#) bag is looking a bit travel worn. The current bag is 27" x 13" (gavel is 10 inches wide, and the head and shaft together is 20 inches long). Contact [Program Quality Director Diane Windingland](#) if you can make a new EGG bag.

Two-Minute Video Tip: Presenting to Executives



[Click for video](#)

Diane Windingland, DTM

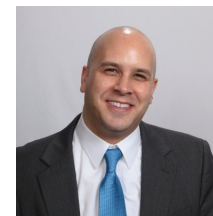
Program Quality Director, District 6, 2015-2016

toastmasterdiane@aol.com

612-306-4214

Club & Membership Growth

Thanks for making July's TLI so memorable! It was fantastic to see so many attend and receive value from Lance Miller's presentations and our officer training sessions.



Takeaways from Lance Miller's Presentations

- Lance did an incredible job presenting how to build a strong club and promote it. Below are some key takeaways:
- "Get Good Before You Get Big" - Clubs grow (or "get big") only after they "get good" and run a quality program. Membership growth is a result of club quality. The first step is to be a quality club that members and guests want to be a part of (see the best practices on page 10 in the [Moments of Truth](#)). The journey toward growth begins by serving existing members.
- Share Your Vision with Guests - If your club is rebuilding, share your vision with both members and guests. When guests see the club's vision and aspirations, they will want to be part of it.

- Speechcraft - [Speechcraft](#) is a gem that adds value for members, the club, and the community. Lance's club holds three Speechcrafts a year. Plan for a Speechcraft this year.
- Special Events - Special events/meetings are a great way to promote your club, add members, and add value for existing members. Have special meeting formats, celebrations (with speaking opportunities), and/or invite guest speakers. Everyone wins.

Handouts from TLI

If you weren't able to attend TLI, below are links to the two handouts I provided:

- [Handling Low-Attendance Meetings](#): When attendance drops in the summer and at other times, it's helpful to have a strategy for those meetings. This gem from David McCallister can help.
- [Membership Retention & Building Ideas](#): Some ideas for keeping your club's members and adding new members. These are great discussion starters.

New Club Announcement

Congratulations to our newest club, Talking BS - Bluestem Toastmasters (#4731138), which chartered July 6 in Eden Prairie! Welcome to Toastmasters and District 6!

Smedley Award Membership Contest - Invite Others, Change Lives, and Win for Your Club

Over 90 years ago, Dr. Ralph Smedley invited a small group to meet at a YMCA in Santa Ana, California. That was the beginning of Toastmasters. Dr. Smedley's personal invitations started a program that impacted countless people. You can have the same impact today by helping your club win the Smedley Award.



If your club adds five new, reinstated, or dual members between August 1 and September 30, it will achieve the Smedley Award and receive three valuable prizes:

1. A \$100 gift certificate from the TI Store.
2. A "Smedley Award" ribbon to proudly display on your club's banner.
3. A special discount code for 10% off the next club order (expires six months from issue).

Note: Applications and payments for members with a join date between August 1 and September 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than September 30. Transfer and charter members do not count toward "Smedley Award" credit. Winning clubs will be revealed online at Toastmasters International within a few weeks of the submission deadline.

Start this year with a victory by sharing Toastmasters and making a difference to those around you.

Winning the Smedley Award: Add 5 New Members in 2 Months

The Smedley Award is certainly within your club's reach. Your club can add five new members in just one meeting. One strategy is to plan a special meeting that's attractive to both existing members and guests:

1. Invite a guest speaker, or ask members to present on a topic that appeals to both members and guests. If feasible, plan to provide food and refreshments. Good food always helps!
2. Ask each member to personally invite friends, coworkers, and others.
3. To make it even more fun and engaging, have a friendly contest between members on who brings the most guests and sponsors the most new members.
4. Finally, and above all, make this event enjoyable and valuable for everyone in the room.

Let's Keep in Touch!

If there's anything I can do for you or your club, if you'd like to assist other members or clubs, or if you have an idea for improvement, please get in touch with me at hosmundson@gmail.com.

Keep growing!

Harold Osmundson, DTM

Club Growth Director, District 6, 2015-2016

District 6, Toastmasters International

Where Leaders Are Made

hosmundson@gmail.com

Public Relations

Remember to [register for the Fall Conference](#) being held October 16 and 17 at Sugar Lake Lodge in Cohasset, MN (near Grand Rapids).



Public relations is a year-round activity. Our current PR Contest is for guest packets. The deadline is August 31.

Mail your guest packets to:

Ravi Rai
P.O. Box 241321
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Trained officers can lead your club to success! Officer Training Round 1 ends on August 31. There are [many training sessions](#) still available. See you there!

Thank you,
Ravi

Ravi Rai, DTM

Public Relations Manager

District 6 Toastmasters

Speechcraft

I, _____, of _____ Toastmasters Club, located in _____, commit to offering a Speechcraft, starting the month of _____, which I understand offers club leadership opportunities and often leads to new club members.

Thirty Toastmasters signed this pledge at the TLI and received Speechcraft kits. Ten more Speechcraft kits are awaiting distribution to those who sign the pledge. Kits may also be ordered from TI for \$20.



Judy Twisk, Speechcraft Coordinator, third from left, with three graduates of a 2015 Speechcraft at Kemp's.

Judy Twisk works at Kemp's, a company too small to host a Toastmasters club. Would she host Speechcraft again? Click [here](#) for her answer.

Some Speechcrafts are hosted outside of clubs (like at Kemp's). These require outside Toastmasters volunteers. Other clubs that find Speechcraft daunting may also request help from Toastmasters volunteers. Would you like to help with a Speechcraft outside your club? Please contact David Rasmussen, D6 Speechcraft chair, tm.david.rasmussen@gmail.com. David also requests your Speechcraft stories, hopes to fill a poster with your graduation photos, and has ten more kits to give away.

Congratulations to the 22 clubs who received ribbons at the TLI for hosting Speechcraft in 2014-2015. Speechcraft led to new members. Members of clubs hosting Speechcraft achieved leadership awards, such as the Competent Leader and Advanced Leader Bronze.

District 6 Mentor of the Month

Congratulations to Donna Lile, our first District 6 Mentor of the Month! Donna was nominated by Caroline Lyngstad. Here's what Caroline has to say:

With a warm welcome from Donna (who was then VP of Membership), I walked through the doors to my first Toastmasters meeting in early 2013. The energy and positivity that I felt stuck with me, compelling me to join this organization. When asked if I had any preferences for a mentor, I chose Donna, whose warmth and sincerity drew me out of my shell of shyness. Our TicTalkers Toastmasters Club refers to Donna as "The Mother of All TicTalkers" for many reasons, including her ability to nurture, care, support, and lead. Whenever I have concerns like "Does this speech offer insight, personality, and heart? How do I inject more of my uniqueness into my presentation?" Donna finds a way to bring out the best in me. I credit Donna - and her rousing cheers of "You can do it! I believe in you!" - for propelling me to success in the club, area, division, and district International Speech Contest and on to the semifinals of the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2014. Donna Lile inspires and guides me in Toastmasters and in life.



Caroline Lyngstad and Donna Lile at TLI on July 25.

To nominate your mentor as District 6 Mentor of the Month, send your nomination (200 words or less) and a photo of you and your mentor to Sharon Rollefson at rollefsldw@msn.com.

High Performance Leadership

Leaders are often called to action to help others through their personal growth points. More often than not, it is the leader using informal authority (that is, the absence of a formal title) and taking the responsibility to set aside time to meet and listen to others, to build a relationship, and to provide essential feedback that serves as the catalyst for the learning opportunity. As illustrated below in our spotlight, your calling to mentor and support others can be an ideal High Performance Leadership (HPL) project!



Spotlight on Excellent Leadership: Brian Walsh, ACB, ALB

In July and August of 2014, Brian Walsh embarked upon a unique HPL project: his goal was to create a realistic and useful experience for 30 undergraduate students at the closing of a Speechcraft program presented by Roller Toasters for the Minneapolis Urban Scholars program. His leadership project was anything but simple: mock job interviews. First, he recruited interview panelists among human resources and other staff at the City of Minneapolis. Next, in consultation with his HPL guidance committee, he created a mock job posting and interview questions. Finally, he scheduled and coordinated interviews for 30 young people! The students received incredibly valuable feedback from experienced professionals following each mock interview, framed as a high-pressure and extemporaneous public speaking opportunity (the skill built from Table Topics).

Brian learned that juggling people and personalities takes much more discipline and attention than simply slotting names into times. Upon reflection, he recommended to other Toastmasters the experience of an HPL project that requires managing the participation *and expectations* of a relatively large group of people. The quality of each mock interview and the valuable practice that it awarded its participants ultimately determined the success of Brian's HPL project.

I recommend choosing a High Performance Leadership project that attracts active participation but requires its leader - that is, YOU - to interact and communicate with as many people as possible. In his "sharing the results" speech (the conclusion to the HPL project), Brian noted that it was this additional practice in communication with the people on his team that defined him as a leader.

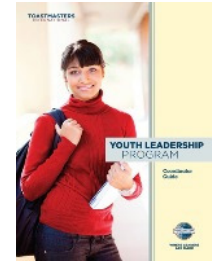
We extend a hearty congratulations to Brian for earning the Excellence in Leadership Award!

In Service,

Michael K. Browne
District 6 HPL Chair 2015-2016

Youth Leadership Program

The 2015-2016 Youth Leadership kickoff happened at TLI on Saturday, July 25. I hope many of you were able to take home a brochure on the program. A couple of Toastmasters also picked up kits to conduct a Youth Leadership workshop in the coming year. Remember, the complete kit includes everything a club or Toastmaster needs for a workshop. If you would like a kit, please contact me.



As the chair for Youth Leadership, my goal is to have strong and vigorous Youth Leadership workshops in District 6. Imagine how many Toastmasters and clubs could be eligible for the Keith Hardy Youth Leadership Award in 2016.

Have you set your Toastmasters goals for the coming year? Perhaps it's completing your Advanced Communicator Gold award by the end of the Toastmasters year, June 30, 2016? Facilitating a Youth Leadership Program can fulfill one of the requirements for this award. Is your Toastmasters Club looking for ways to be part of the community? Then Youth Leadership is one of the programs offered by Toastmasters that emphasizes we are part of the community.

With the school year starting soon, there could be opportunities at the local schools to work with the youth. Or reach out to the local scout troops or Junior Achievement in your area to offer to host this program at their site. Here's an excellent opportunity to help our youth gain the communication and leadership skills to help them in the coming year.

In the coming months, I'll be creating a contact list of Toastmasters who would like to do a Youth Leadership workshop but need a site. Then when requests come to me, I'll send out an email asking for volunteers. If you would like to be part of this list, please email me. Also, if your club is conducting a Youth Leadership workshop in the coming months, please remember to email me the information. If possible, I would like to come to the final session to see the youth demonstrate what they have learned.

In service,

Mary Adams, DTM

Phone: 612.521.0649 (home) or 612.703.8625 (cell)

email: adams_mary_j@yahoo.com

District 6 Youth Leadership Chair 2015-2016

Attention Club Presidents and Secretaries: Proxies

[Click here for a "how-to-assign-proxy" video.](#)

A few weeks ago, you should have received an email from Toastmasters International for assigning club proxies for voting at the annual business meeting at the Toastmasters International Convention. The email contained login information and a proxy number unique to your club. You

need to specify how the club will cast its votes. Three options are available:

1. The club is sending a delegate to the annual business meeting.
2. The club is designating its current District Director as its proxy holder.
3. The club is designating another active Toastmaster as its proxy holder.

If you didn't receive the email, please request a duplicate copy from proxyinfo@toastmasters.org (include the current club president's or secretary's name and email address and your club number).

[More Proxy FAQ](#)

If you have questions, contact Keith Hardy, DTM, 2015-2016 District 6 Credentials/Proxy Chair at keithandre63@gmail.com.