



District 6 Toastmasters

Where Leaders Are Made



Key Dates

2/1 - 3/31

Talk Up
Toastmasters
Membership-Building
Contest

2/29

End of Second
Round Club Officer
Training

2/1 - 3/31

Collect Club Dues

4/1

Deadline for Club
Dues

4/29-30

Spring Convention

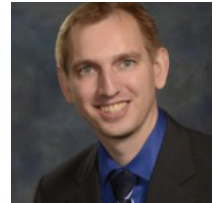
[2nd Half Key Dates
PDF](#)

From the Desk of the District Director!

Toastmasters Promise

As Toastmasters, we promise to:

- Attend club meetings regularly
- Base all speeches on projects out of the Toastmasters manuals
- Fulfill meeting assignments
- Bring guests to club meetings
- Adhere to the guidelines and rules to the Toastmasters education and recognition programs
- Maintain honest and highly ethical standards during conduct of all Toastmasters activities.



Are you committed to the Toastmasters promise? The full verbiage of the Toastmasters promise can be found here: www.toastmasters.org/About/Toastmasters-Promise

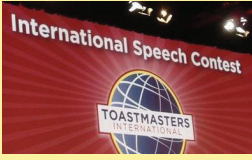
District Leaders at Mid-Year Training

Distinguished Toastmasters Larry Marik (District Director), Diane Windingland (Program Quality Director), and Harold Osmundson (Club Growth Director) recently attended the district leader mid-year training. Our training covered 2015-2016 objectives, district finances, district elections, leadership transitions, and a number of other great topics.



District Membership and Club Status

We are just past the halfway mark for this Toastmasters year. The district executive committee, chairs, and you the members have been working hard to help other members,



Speech Contests

International Speech Contest Materials:
Click [HERE](#) for a digital file

Table Topics Speech Contest Materials:
Click [HERE](#) for a digital file

clubs, areas, divisions, and the district to be successful.

Here is where we are at compared with previous years (as of February 1 for each year):

Category	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
50% membership payment base	5,477	5,560	5,494
Total year to date membership payments	5,439	5,420	5,518
Paid Clubs (at start of the year)	290	289	287
Paid Clubs 8 members or more (YTD)	272	276	278
# clubs under 8 members	16	12	12
# clubs not renewed or suspended	7	12	7

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!

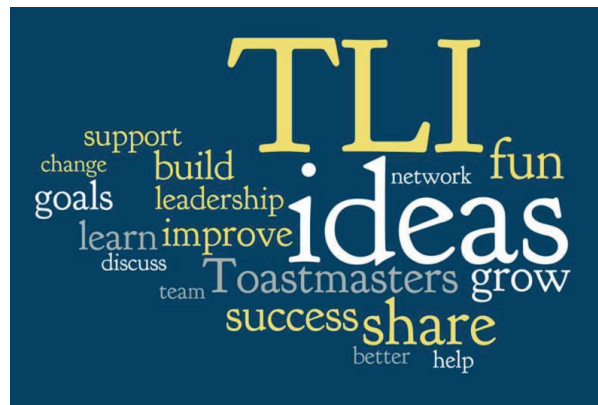
TlIs and Club Officer Training

[TLI information page](#)

[Club Officer Training page](#)



Note: 4 or more club officers must be trained both rounds of training to get credit for goal 9 in the Distinguished Club Program.



Call for Leaders

We need members to rise up and lead! Don't wait to be asked! Please see the Call for Leaders (District 6 Nominations) page ([here](#)) on the District 6 website.

Elected roles (the deadline to submit forms is March 10): District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Directors.

All other roles are appointed (Area Directors, Logistic Managers aka sergeant-at-arms, Public Relations Manager, and all of our many chairs such as TLI, Conferences, Youth Leadership, and more). Contact [Diane Windingland](#) if interested in an appointed position.

Will Your Club Be an Outstanding Early Achiever?

Your club can earn up to \$20 in Toastmasters International gift certificates and be recognized as an Outstanding Early Achiever! [Read More](#)



Speech Contests: Table Topics and International

International Speech Contest Materials: Click [HERE](#) for a digital file

Table Topics Speech Contest Materials: Click [HERE](#) for a digital file



New DTM Achiever

Congratulations to Helen Grothe for receiving a Distinguished Toastmaster award! Helen has already achieved an astounding 16 educational awards so far this Toastmasters year (as of 1/14/16)!

Moments of Truth Incentive Recipients

Thirty-eight clubs submitted Moments of Truth summaries and action plans to make their clubs the best ever and to receive the incentive of a lectern banner or a \$25 gift certificate. See the complete list [here](#).

A sampling of action plans:

"Guests should always be invited to join." -- Mankato Toastmasters

"For first timers: Have a mentor, veteran or have a role buddy sit with them when they are taking on roles for the first time. This will help them know how to carry out their responsibilities and not feel intimidated." -- Westerly Winds Toastmasters

"Our plan is to provide a Welcome Packet that contains a membership application, a Toastmaster magazine, the Ice Breaker speech, our club roster, schedule, and program agenda." -- Pine Island Toastmasters

"We'll have a few CC manuals to have on hand for those who wish jumpstart their communication path." -- Speakers Under Pressure

"Our Club President will request that one of our officers present the Mentor Program to the club, which is a leadership component and part of the Successful Club Series." -- Hennepin County Toastmasters

"Share the DCP status with members once a month . . . track the progress of each member committed to earning an award." -- River Park Toastmasters

"We have committed to *always* have club contests in the future." -- TechMasters

"We will be implementing having an agenda prepared, calling/emailing members to confirm roles, creating name tents, and obtaining a guest book." -- Toastmasters Humorous Club



"Follow through with club's plan to conduct Speechcraft in spring." -- Tuesdays with Toastmasters



Join D6 Facebook Groups

[All-member District 6 Facebook Group](#)

Club Office-specific groups:

[President](#)

[VPE](#)

[VPM](#)

[VPPR](#)

[Secretary](#)

[Treasurer](#)

[SAA](#)

Diane Windingland, DTM

Program Quality Director, District 6, 2015-2016

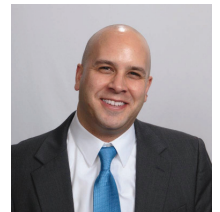
toastmasterdiane@aol.com

612-306-4214

Club & Membership Growth

It's Time to Talk Up Toastmasters!

It's the perfect time for your club to grow membership and earn valuable prizes by winning Toastmasters International's "Talk Up Toastmasters!" membership building contest. Learn more by visiting [Talk Up Toastmasters!](#)



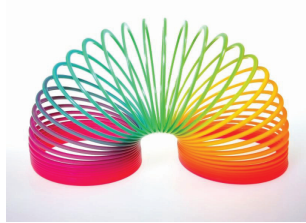
Talk Up Toastmasters!

Membership Contest February 1 – March 31

Add 5+ Members

Grow Your Club with Open Houses

With the Talk Up Toastmasters! contest underway, this is an ideal time for your club to hold an open house and attract more guests. To run the best open house, and to gain many new members, consider the ideas in the [Open Houses](#) document. If you have any questions about open houses, or if you need assistance, please get in touch with your Area Director or myself.



Have Excellent Meetings with Flexible Club Programming

In January, Theo Black, DTM, PID, presented to our district team on having great meetings no matter how many members attend. It was an excellent presentation on a challenge each club has at some point. Your club can have excellent meetings by following Theo's guidance in his [Flexible Club Programming](#) document. Please take advantage of this well-written guide. Many thanks to Theo for his service and contributions.

Help Find Opportunities for New Toastmasters Clubs

The Toastmasters program will help any individual become a more confident communicator and effective leader. Help us find new opportunities to serve and benefit new audiences. If your employer, community, place of worship, or another organization you're associated with doesn't have a Toastmasters club yet, consider starting one to benefit those individuals. The leadership experience is invaluable, and in return, you'll get credit toward your Advanced Leader Silver (ALS) award by serving as a club sponsor. The [How to Start a Club](#) page outlines the process. Additionally, if you have a specific opportunity for a new club, please get in touch with me so our team can make the process as simple as possible.



If there's anything I can do for you or your club, please contact 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



Renaissance

District 6 Toastmasters Spring Convention April 29-30, 2016

Save the Date!

On April 29 and 30, District 6 Toastmasters will gather together for fun, education, recognition, and more fun at the 2016 District 6 Spring Convention. The location is the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

More information coming soon!

Volunteers are needed to help us organize and plan the event. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity, please contact either Mary Swanson or Jane Zugschwert.

Thanks!

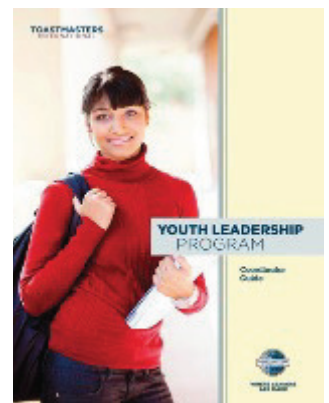
Mary Swanson swansonmej@gmail.com or 507-649-1879

Jane Zugschwert toastmasterjanez@gmail.com or 651-269-9170

Youth Leadership Program

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is an excellent way of helping our youth to gain the skills they need to be able to talk in front of their peers. Some of our youth are quiet and reserved, but after being part of YLP they will open up and overcome some of their fears and anxiety. Kind of sounds like many of us when we first joined Toastmasters.

I'm also getting requests from parents who wish to have their child to be part of YLP, but I don't have clubs to match them up with. Is your club looking for ways to be involved in the community? If so, call me or email me. I do have some materials available for any club who wishes to do YLP. If your club needs (or needs more) YLP materials, send me an email, and I'll be happy to mail the educational materials to the club coordinator.



A shout out to Rochester Chamber Toastmasters: they recently informed me that the club is now working on its third YLP with the Alternative Learning Center in Rochester Public Schools. The Storytellers club in Thunder Bay is working with the high schools in various communities in Northwestern Ontario to bring the YLP to their schools. Way to go!

We are now more than halfway through the Toastmasters year. Will your club be the one to earn the Keith Hardy Youth Leadership Award in June 2016?

In service,

Mary Adams, DTM

District 6 Youth Leadership Chair 2015-2016

Phone: 612.521.0649 (home) or 612.703.8625 (cell)

email: adams_mary_j@yahoo.com

Speechcraft

Fourteen clubs (at least) have scheduled Speechcraft sessions in 2015-2016. Congratulations!

What works and what doesn't? I am hearing some great success stories. More on that next month. I would enjoy visiting your club to learn your results.

Are you a club with 16 to 18 members still planning a final membership push? If so, I have only four D6 Speechcraft kits remaining, but your club would likely be a good target.

Please call to update the status of your club. Next month, I want to give proper credit with minimal omissions. If I gave you a Speechcraft kit but have not heard from your club, you may get a call from me to ask how I can help.

Also, please send graduation photos!

David Rasmussen

tm.david.rasmussen@gmail.com

651-674-3164

Reformation Committee News

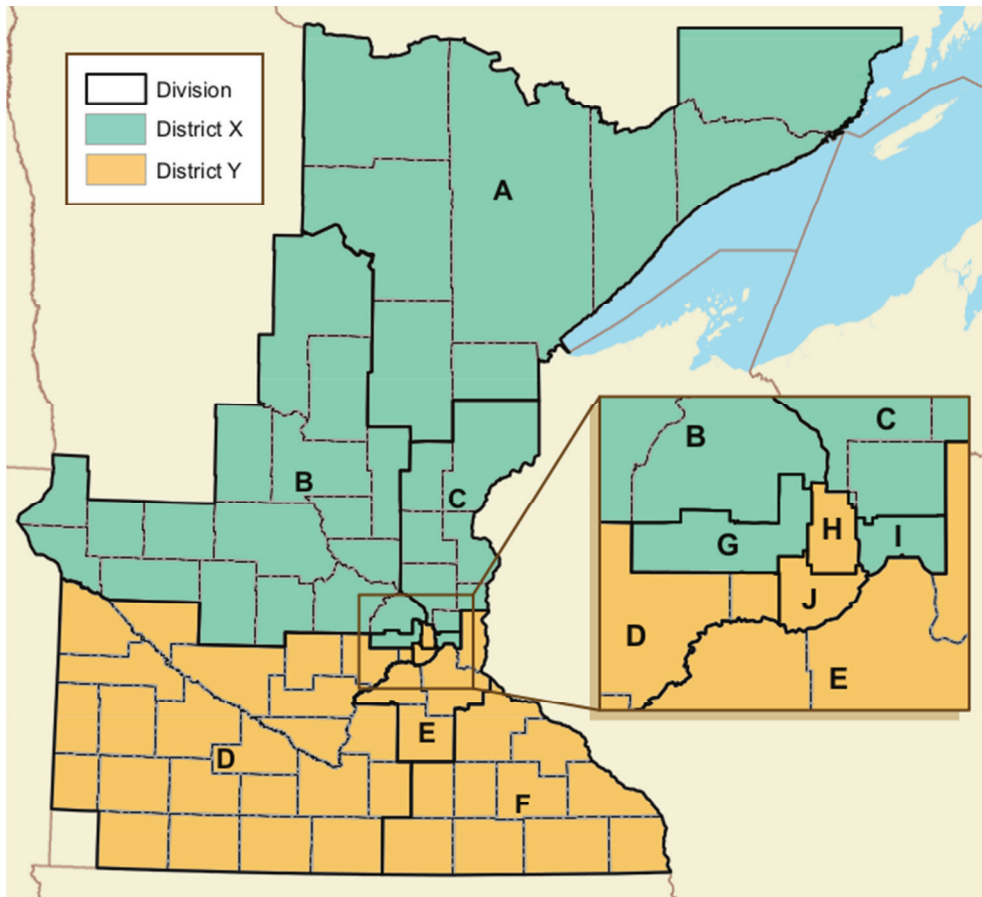
What Is Reformation?

Merriam Webster's definition of reformation: *the act or process of improving something by removing or correcting faults, problems, etc.* Toastmasters International uses this terminology when reforming or consolidating Districts.

The Toastmasters International Board reviews the status of districts with more than 240 clubs to determine if reformation is in the **best interests of Toastmasters International and the clubs** (Policies and Protocol 7.4). During the Spring 2015 Business Meeting the District Council approved formation of a Reformation Committee.

Research Results

Investigation and interviews conducted by the Reformation Committee revealed two major reasons to reform: time commitment expectations of district executive leaders and distance challenges are a hindrance in attracting members to district executive leadership roles. Benefits expected from the proposed reform are reduced workloads for the district executive leadership team, reduced travel and travel costs, and most importantly each leadership team would focus on fewer clubs and members so they can provide greater attention to quality and greater support to their members. The proposed reform attempts to evenly split District 6 into District X (north) and District Y (south), each containing five divisions and an average of 30 areas. No additional boundary changes are required, because the realignment approved at the Spring 2015 Business Meeting contained clearly defined geographical boundaries. Thorough financial analysis has been completed to ensure the sustainability of both districts.



What Does Reform Mean to Me and My Club?

Your club will continue to be in the same Division and Area, unless your club has moved since June 30, 2015. In that case, the Realignment Committee will assign the club to the appropriate area. Your club members will continue to work the Toastmasters International education program and participate in club officer training and area/division speech contests.

What's Next?

- Information will be shared at each Division Speech Contest. Also, a plenary session will be held at the Spring Convention.
- The Reformation Committee will be presenting this proposal for ratification, by the District Council, on April 30, 2016. Upon approval, this proposal will be presented to the TI Board of Directors during their February 2017 meeting.
- At the Spring 2017 Business Meeting, we would elect two Program Quality Directors

- and two Club Growth Directors, one for each future district.
- We anticipate both districts will begin operating independently on July 1, 2018.

Reform Committee Members

Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDG - Chair
 Clinton Hunt, DTM, IPDG
 George Kane, DTM
 Heather Hegi, Cartographer
 Jon Chalmers, DTM
 Mary Swanson, DTM, PDG
 Sharon Rollefson, DTM, PDG

District Reform email: www.d6tm.org/contact/ - select "Reformation Chair"

Second Call for D6 Nominations

District 6 will hold elections for the 2016-2017 Toastmasters Year at the Spring Convention business meeting on April 30, 2016. If you are looking for leadership opportunities and challenges that will take you to the next level, not only in Toastmasters but also in your professional development, consider serving as a district leader. You may nominate yourself or another member who meets the qualifications, and you may nominate candidates for more than one position. The positions up for election are District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Directors for the 10 divisions: A/International, B/Northern, C/Frontier, D/Prairie, E/Rivers, F/Southern, G/Western, H/Metro, I/Eastern, and J/Central.

For a complete description of each elected position, please visit the following links (www.d6tm.org/call-for-nominations, [District Nominations Schedule](#), [District Leader Qualifications and Responsibilities](#), [Candidate Application](#), [District Leader Nominating Form](#), and [Officer Agreement and Release](#)). The deadline for completing all interviews nominations is March 12, 2016. Please complete and send all of the required forms (*please use the forms at www.d6tm.org*) to Clinton Hunt, 2015-2016 Nomination Committee Chair (toastmaster.chj@hotmail.com).

We have one more scheduled date for interviews, as shown below.

Date	Time	Location
March 12, 2016 (Sat.)	9:15 AM - 2:15 PM	DEC Meeting & Officer Training Supervalu Store Support Center, 11840 Valley View Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344
TBD	TBD	TBD

Please call or email me with any questions that you might have. The committee is looking forward to receiving your nomination for a district officer position for the coming year.

Regards,

Clinton Hunt, Jr., Ph.D., DTM
 Immediate Past District 6 Governor
Toastmasters International
 Where Leaders Are Made
 W: 651 795 5846 C: 651-247-7020

Mentor of the Month

Congratulations to Francene Niemiec of Free Speakers on being named Mentor of the Month! Francene was nominated by Gary Leask. Here's Gary's story:

Where do I start? Francene's encouragement, support, and belief in me has played a major role in my Toastmasters journey. She encouraged me to take on the role of Club President in 2013 when I was hesitant to do so. I am so grateful for that because 2013/2014 turned out to be such a fun and rewarding year for me. I learned so much about myself and Toastmasters. Francene played a major role in me taking on Area Governor in 2014/2015 - again through her constant support, encouragement, and belief. She cares enough that she wants her many mentees to succeed, and is always available to answer questions. Francene will never take the credit for her many mentoring achievements. In response to any thanks sent her way, she always responds with a "You had it in you all the time. I just pointed it out to you." Three years after officially becoming my mentor, Francene continues to play an active role in my growth. Thanks to Francene, I have DTM in my sights. Three years ago, I would not have believed that to be possible. Due to Francene's encouragement and support, I now know it is.

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.



Francene Niemiec and her mentee Gary Leask.
