



District 6 Toastmasters

Where Leaders Are Made



Key Dates

2/1 - 3/31

Talk Up Toastmasters Membership-Building Contest

2/1 - 3/31

Collect Club Dues

2/23

Spring Convention Registration Is Open

4/1

Deadline for Club Dues

4/24

Spring Convention Registration Closes

4/29-30

Spring Convention

[2nd Half Key Dates PDF](#)



From the Desk of the District Director!

100 Day Plan

The end of this Toastmasters year is less than 100 days away. Does your club have a plan to finish strong?



April Toastmasters Dues - It's Time to Renew

It's time to renew our commitment to personal growth by renewing our membership for the April - September period. Payments are due to Toastmasters International by April 1. Help your club's Treasurer by submitting your payment as early as possible.

Clubs must renew at least 8 members. If your club will have difficulty meeting this requirement, please contact me so our team can assist. We want your club to be strong and successful.

Spring Convention Business Meeting

Saturday morning, April 30, will be our District-wide Business Meeting. We have some very important topics to vote on: 2016-2017 Leadership Team, Realignment of Clubs into an Area, Reformation of our District, approving the District budget and many other items. As a Club President or VP Education, we need you to be there. If you can't make the meeting, please send a delegate (or proxy) from your club in your place. If a delegate is attending on your behalf, a District Business Meeting proxy form must be completed and presented at the Spring Convention in order for that delegate to vote. Proxy forms are available on the District 6 website under the Spring Convention page.

I hope to see you all at the Spring Convention!

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)

Speech Contests

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

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



Save the Date!

District 6 Toastmasters *Renew Your Passion* for Toastmasters!

- Attend the 2016-2017 leadership candidates' forum (Friday)
- Find out the latest news on District 6 Reformation (Saturday) and what that means to you!
- Don't miss our Business Meeting (Saturday), where you will vote on the 2016-2017 leadership team, Reformation, and Realignment.
- Come see your fellow Toastmasters compete in the Table Topics Contest (Friday) and International Speech Contest (Saturday).
- Learn more about the Revitalized Educational Program from Toastmasters International (Saturday).
- See your fellow Toastmasters recognized at Saturday's educational awards luncheon.
- Attend one or more of Saturday's educational sessions being offered by your fellow District 6 Toastmasters.

Don't miss out on Friday Fun Night! You are welcome to come in costume as princes and princesses, jesters, peasants, bishops, knights, kings and queens, lords and ladies, dukes and duchesses, magicians, musketeers, and all other medieval folks!

District 6 Spring Convention 2016
Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
1330 Industrial Blvd N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55413
www.ramadaplazampls.com
612-392-1307

Please Note

Online registrations will be taken through April 24, 2016. *"Full registrations" will not be accepted after April 26, 2016.* Please plan accordingly.

Call for Presenters

Are you passionate about a topic and want to share it with your peers? We are in need of

a few more presenters at the 2016 Spring Convention. Please visit www.d6tm.org for more information and to complete a Call for Presenters Form to submit your topic for consideration.

See you at District 6 Spring Convention!

Mary Swanson, Co-Chair, swansonmej@gmail.com or 507-649-1879
Jane Zugschwert, Co-Chair, toastmasterjanez@gmail.com or 651-269-9170

Renaissance Merriment at the Spring Convention

Lords and Ladies of District 6! Do you have a gift from the Renaissance period to share for our Renaissance Merriment Evening, Friday April 29?

We are looking for performers (singers, storytellers, musicians, magicians, jugglers, etc.) to make the evening merry.



If you would like to participate, please contact Steve Bujarski, Friday Fun Night Chair, at 612-207-3703 or sbujarski@carlson.com.

The Reformation Process

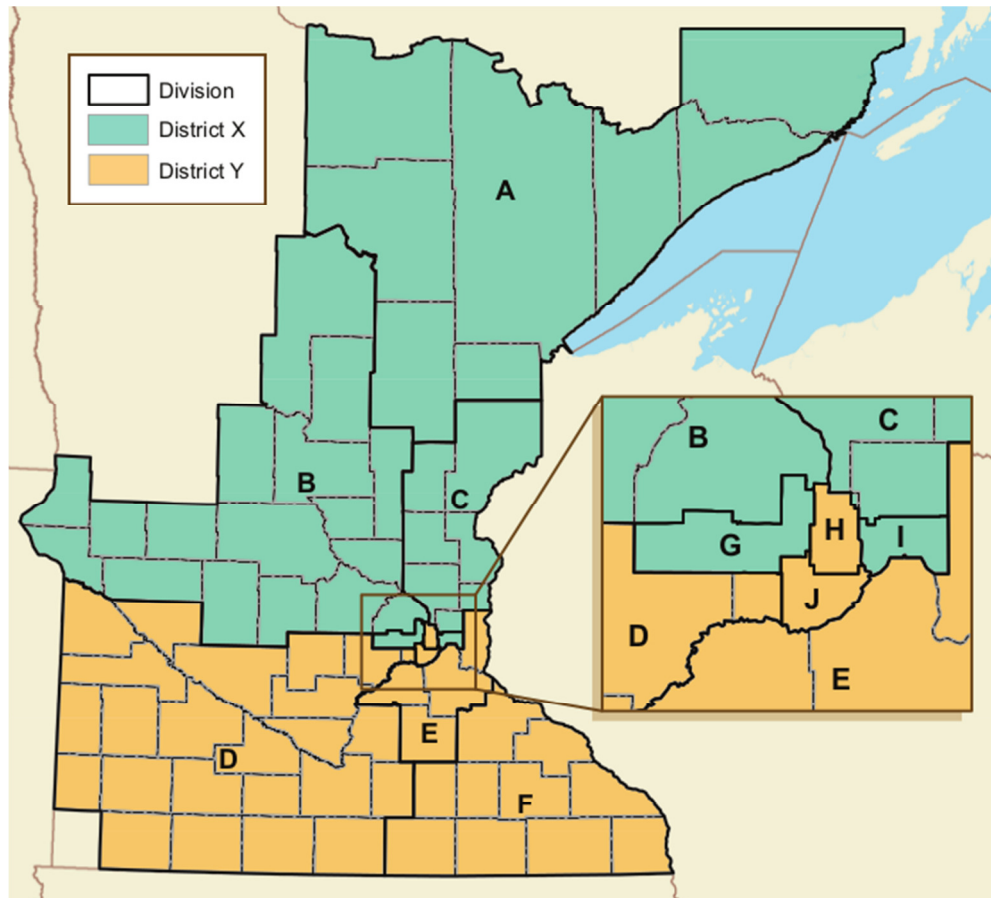
What Is Reformation?

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. The effect has been membership strength remaining flat, anemic club growth, general members feeling disengaged from district leadership, low participation by district members in TLIs, conventions (2-3% attendance), and division speech contests (with the major attendance being by club officers), and finally change management. 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.

For more information, see www.d6tm.org/reformation.

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"

Program Quality Counts!

Did Your Training Get Recorded?

Please check the [club officer training page](#) to verify that your training was recorded (go to the "Current" link to the Club Officer Training Report). If your training is not recorded, contact Program Quality Director [Diane Windingland](#) with your name, club, and office.



Mobile App for Club Meetings

The first official Toastmasters mobile app (for smart phone and/or tablet) is available.

Features include:

- Instant access to your club roster
- Built-in Ah-Counter that counts filler words
- Grammarian function that keeps track of the Word of the Day
- An easy-to-use timer
- A History section to track your progress

[Preview and download the app here.](#)



Call for Leaders - Appointed Positions

We need members to rise up and lead! Don't wait to be asked!

- If you are interested in being an Area Director, please see the [Area Director Application](#).
- If you are interested in being a District Chair or any other leadership role please see the [District Chair / Leadership Role Application](#).

Some specific needs:

- Area Directors
- Fall, Spring, and TLI Co-chairs
- District Directory Chair
- DEC Food Coordinator
- Web Co-editor
- Several Club Growth, Retention, and Extension Roles

Contact [Diane Windingland](#) if interested in an appointed position.

Don't Leave Money on the Table

"Don't leave money on the table" is an idiom that means you are missing out and not getting as much as you could in a business deal or salary negotiation - or, in District 6, if your club misses out on earning an Outstanding Early Achievement Award. Your club can earn up to \$20 in Toastmasters International gift certificates and be recognized as an Outstanding Early Achiever! But hurry, you only have until April 15! [Read More](#)





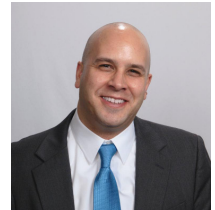
New DTM Achiever
Vicki Chelf, TNT Toastmasters

Diane Windingland, DTM
Program Quality Director, District 6, 2015-2016
toastmasterdiane@aol.com
612-306-4214

Club & Membership Growth

The Final Act - How Will Your Story Complete for 2015-2016?

March marks the last third of the 2015-2016 Toastmasters program year. Comparing the year to a story, this is the third and final act, revealing the story's climax and resolution. Regardless of the past, you can still decide how this story completes for you and your club.



Each year brings challenges. Perhaps you're being challenged to complete education projects, to grow your club's membership, or to lead a team. Although challenges can be daunting and frustrating at times, they can also be the mentors that sharpen us.

Whatever the challenge is, we can decide our response to it:

1. Avoid it, or give up. Unfortunately, this option doesn't provide any growth, and it won't prepare us for future challenges.
2. Embrace it. We can decide to become the leader needed to overcome the challenge. Regardless of outcome, this option guarantees growth, and it prepares us for future challenges.

Choose option #2. Toastmasters provides us with a rare, risk-free opportunity to grow. Therefore, embrace the challenges, allow yourself to grow, and be the hero of your story. Take a moment to write the ending for this year's story, and then make it happen. You can do it!

Keep Talking Up Toastmasters!

There's still 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 the [Talk Up Toastmasters! page](#).

Provide Communication and Leadership Opportunities

Let's help others develop confidence. If your employer, community, place of worship, or other association doesn't have a Toastmasters club yet, then start one to benefit those individuals. If you have an opportunity for a new club, please contact me so others can also become confident communicators and leaders.

If there's anything I can do for you, 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

High Performance Leadership - The Time Is Now

Have you finished your High Performance Leadership (HPL) project yet? The time to do one is now - and world peace may hang in the balance.

If you have already received your HPL packet, District 6 is counting on you. We have been encouraging the body of District 6 members to complete the leadership growth tool called HPL projects for the Toastmasters year 2015-2016. It is not too late to get these done. The spring contests present a great opportunity to complete an HPL and to help bring a great contest experience to your club, area, or division.

Many HPL packets have been delivered to members who committed to bring an HPL to completion during 2015-2016. A number of packets are still available if you are interested in making that commitment and have time to go through the process. This can be done in as short as 6 weeks - including the kick-off meetings and first club speech, followed by planning, organizing, and completing the planned project, and finally giving a second club speech detailing the process, your successful completion, and any lessons you learned. This way everybody in the club gets to grow some in leadership through your efforts.

I am currently on two advisory teams and am preparing one of my own HPL efforts at this writing. You can do this. If you are planning to move forward through the various levels of the communication and leadership tracks offered by Toastmasters, having an HPL completed will be very handy when you are seeking the Advanced Leader Silver. There is a bit of time and effort to the HPL completion. The win for you is not only the things you learn (in doing the HPL) about yourself and your leadership style, you will also have guidance that may introduce you to different ways that projects can be done. Leaders are good communicators, so you will learn how to present proposals and report on the completion of a project. These are life tools that you will use for the rest of your days - not only in Toastmasters but in everything you do.

An additional bonus to think about if you are seeking the coveted Triple Crown award is that an HPL and any other two educational awards meets the requirements for that award.

Your district is interested in building leadership skills broadly across our membership, and we have taken a positive and supportive role in seeing an increase in completed HPLs in this year, the first of many. Already there are plans for a year-over-year increase next year relative to completed HPL projects. With the winners being every member who completes an HPL, every club, area, division, and district that has members who complete the HPL projects also wins with greater leaders and "future creators" who are actively changing the direction of their lives and making the lives of those they touch better as well.

If you committed to doing one - now is the time to drive that to completion. If you are interested in doing an HPL, I am not saying it will lead to world peace, but the world will be a better place and there is a definitive shortage of good leaders today. Here is your chance to start down the road of leadership while building some good skills and training into your skill set.

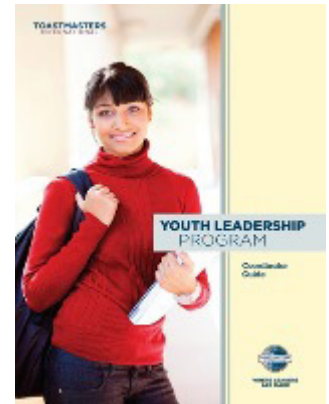
Steve Compton

District 6 HPL Chair

Youth Leadership Program

It's has been quiet in the Youth Leadership world, with some requests from parents inquiring about having their child be part of YLP. Hopefully, in the near future, I could match them up with a club. In other news, there are a couple of Toastmasters working on getting the YLP in a public school.

However, the most exciting news for YLP was the article in the March 2016 *Toastmaster* magazine. According to the article, the kids who take part in YLP gain confidence, along with developing leadership and public speaking skills. We as adult Toastmasters know the benefits of belonging to a Toastmasters club. Now we need to help our youth to develop these skills while they are still in school. Just think about how this can benefit our youths.



If you are working on or starting YLP and need some materials, please send me an email, and I'll be happy to mail the educational materials to the club coordinator.

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

Congratulations to the following clubs who have let me know that they have completed or are currently offering Speechcraft sessions:

- Dan Patch, Richfield
- Daybreakers, Rogers
- Eloquent Engineers, Minnetonka
- Forest Lake Toastmasters
- King of Clubs, Roseville (twice)
- Nanabijou, Thunder Bay
- River Park, Saint Paul (twice)
- Sunrisers, Robbinsdale
- Techmasters, Edina
- VAMC, Minneapolis
- IHS Automotive, Edina

I am hearing that Speechcraft helps toward leadership awards, helps clubs gain new members, and helps toward retention of members. I would love to hear your story. Please send graduation photos!

David Rasmussen

tm.david.rasmussen@gmail.com

651-674-3164

Mentor of the Month

Congratulations to our Mentor of the Month, Ron Kausak of Dakota Speakers Club. Ron was nominated by Craig Rosenblum:

Ron has been the club mentor for Dakota Speakers Club #7119 in Apple Valley for many years. He has been focused on making sure all people are welcome and learn how to master the basics of the lectern. When almost my entire club officers disappeared, he has been one of my mainstays of why our club is still here. He is always there at every meeting early to meet with anyone who wants any help or support or practice time. He has a great dry but witty sense of humor, which has made enduring the hard times of our struggling club much easier. Simply, in other words, without his enduring support and experienced help, there would be no Dakota Speakers Club #7119 for the last couple of years. When I have had no one to help or advise me, he was there. He was incredibly knowledgeable and experienced, and he helped me to continue our club's growth towards an eventual someday optimistic future. Thank you.

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 atrollefsldw@msn.com.



Craig Rosenblum (left) and Ron Kausak (right).
