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District 6 Toastmasters

Serving Parts of Minnesota and Ontario

District News and Events

District 6

February/2018

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District 6 Spring Conference

May 4 - 5, 2018

Crowne Plaza -
Minneapolis West,
Plymouth, MN

I hope 2018 is off to a great start for you. With so much happening in February and March, the items below will help you stay updated.



Grow Your Club - Recruiting New Members

The February issue of the Toastmaster Magazine featured a great article on growing your club. To learn how to recruit new members, please take advantage of the ideas in [Spread the Word: Grow Your Club](#).



Talk Up Toastmasters!
Membership Contest February 1 - March 31
Add 5+ Members

Share the Love - Talk Up Toastmasters!

Share the benefits you've experienced in Toastmasters by inviting others to visit and join your club. Let others know about your club and what it has done for you. Your outreach will have a life-enhancing impact on friends and colleagues.

To recognize clubs that impact others, the Talk Up Toastmasters! contest rewards each club gaining 5 new, dual, or reinstated members with a join date between 2/1/2018-3/31/2018. Winning clubs receive a ribbon for their club banner, a 10% discount on a Toastmasters Store order, a \$25 gift certificate from District 6, and special recognition at the Spring Conference on May 5th.

How can your club win the Talk Up Toastmasters! contest? Below are 3 more strategies that can be combined:

1. **Recognize Top Inviters & Sponsors** - Want to encourage more members to invite others? At each meeting, take time to recognize members that brought guests and sponsored new members. By consistently recognizing excellence, your club will get more of it.
2. **Address a Pain Point** - To attract guests, add a presentation to every meeting that addresses a pain point that individuals and organizations have. Examples could include time management, interviewing, negotiating, delegating, and many others. Help others solve a problem and they'll love your club.
3. **Food!** - Never underestimate the power of food! When club meetings and events involve food, strong attendance is certain. Save money by organizing a potluck amongst members.

Good luck!

Continue Your Journey - April Renewals

Continue your journey of learning and personal growth in Toastmasters. Toastmasters International currently accepts renewals for the April-September period. Please help your club's Treasurer by submitting early, as the deadline for renewals is April 1st.

Are your needs and goals being met? If not, please reach out to your club leaders to discuss any concerns. Clubs exist to serve the needs of members. Communicating with your club leaders will help address issues and provide a better learning experience for you and others.



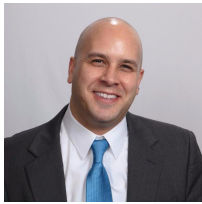
The Next World Champion of Public Speaking is in District 6!

I'm still convinced that the 2018 World Champion of Public Speaking will come from District 6. It could be you! Area speech contests start in March.

Grow and experience what speech contests offer. Please compete in your club's upcoming speech contest. Visit the [District 6 Speech Contests page](#) to learn about the International Speech and Tall Tales contests. Good luck, and I hope to see you competing at an area/division speech contest.

Thank you for all you do. Let's continue to make 2018 count. Keep growing!

Harold Osmundson, DTM
District Director, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made



Phone: 763-213-7795
Email: harold.osmundson@d6tm.org

Quality Matters

Quality Club Meetings

What is a quality club meeting? Let's look at the word "quality." According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, quality is defined as "a degree or grade of excellence or worth." How do we apply this definition to our club meetings? To keep it in simple terms, we need to ask ourselves if our club meetings encourage and ensure a high degree of excellence or worth. Do club members feel they are receiving something of value in exchange for their efforts made and time spent? Are guests motivated by a demonstration of excellence and worth that inspires them to want to participate and make the commitment to join your club?

These are questions we should ask ourselves at the end of every meeting. If our meetings are falling short, how can we improve them? If you had the chance to hear International President Balraj Arunasalam, DTM when he visited the Fall Conference, you would have heard him say that a quality meeting has prepared speeches, engaging table topics, effective evaluations, and an educational aspect. At the conclusion of your next meeting, by using these criteria, ask yourself honestly; was this a *quality* meeting? Am I glad I spent the time attending? Did I learn something today I can use to help better myself and others? If I was a guest, would I want to return? Is the club providing what others are looking for? If not, why, and what can we do to change it?

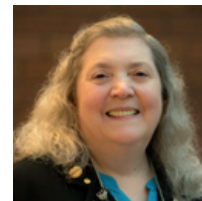
I like to think of these as "mini Moments of Truth" - a simple and effective way to keep myself centered in assisting the club to continue planning and producing quality meetings. It's my hope your club is conducting quality meetings and that you and your fellow members gladly come back to each meeting with a degree of enthusiasm and anticipation. A quality meeting can't help but produce a quality outcome. Please keep the need for quality in mind as you continue to develop your club, especially during this time of membership building.

Club Officer Training - Round 2 of Club Officer Training is almost over! Please connect with your Area Director for dates and times for officer training. You can also find options at <http://www.d6tm.org/officertaining/>.



Ben Smith, DTM
Program Quality Director - North,
District 6

Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made
Phone: 612-770-8590
Email: ben.smith@d6tm.org



Jean Pearson, DTM
Program Quality Director - South,
District 6

Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made
Phone: 507-259-2381
Email: jean.pearson@d6tm.org

Member Recognition

Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Award

The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award is the highest honor in the Toastmasters education program. This award requires at least 45 speeches, 6 months of club leadership, 1 year of district leadership, club building, mentoring, and

other activities. Achieving this award reflects commitment and excellence in communication and leadership.

Congratulations to our newest Distinguished Toastmaster Award recipient:

- Renee Anderle of Best Sight Speakers (#2188233)
- Kirby Johnson of Metropolitan Club (#1696)
- Susan Rajbhandari of Word Masters Club (#2848)

Educational Awards 2017-2018

The reports below show the educational achievements by District 6 members in the 2017-2018 program year. Congratulations to each member!

[All Education Awards Submitted](#)

[Triple Crown \(3 or more educational in the same program year\)](#)



Connect, Share, and Learn

Join District 6's Facebook groups

[District 6 Facebook Group](#)

Club Office-specific groups: [Pres](#), [VPE](#), [VPM](#), [VPPR](#), [Sec](#), [Treas](#), [SAA](#)

Club Growth

The Virtual Club Coach program will benefit clubs looking for additional expertise.

We've found many clubs in District 6 looking for coaches but have been unable to get a coach due to lack of availability. At the same time, we have many club coaches looking for a central place to connect.

To address this gap, the Virtual Club Coach program connects interested clubs and coaches to form a central team.

How does it work?

Any interested club or Toastmaster can call into a Zoom meeting either by phone or internet to connect to a online collaboration session.

Who administers the program?

District 6 Club Growth Directors: Ravi Rai & Dave Gibson

Who is it for?

Ideally clubs with 12 or fewer members, but open to any club that's interested.

How often?

Every month, 2nd Monday from 6:30-7:30 pm CST. More sessions will be added in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th, 6:30-7:30 pm CST.

Contact Ravi or Dave for more information



Dave Gibson, DTM
Club Growth Director - North, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders are Made
Phone: 763-318-1043



Ravi Rai, DTM
Club Growth Director - South, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders are Made

Youth Leadership Program

Let's send congratulations up to Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada! Storytellers club number 3944592 conducted two (2!) very successful Youth Leadership Programs at Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute. They had two completely different groups of kids of different academic and skill levels.

Here's the report from Thunder Bay:

"The first group of eight students were, initially, very hesitant and shy but by the end of the programme, all had taken on significant meeting roles, had participated in Table Topics and delivered formal, prepared speeches. It was most pleasing to observe how they all had progressed and gained confidence over the course of the sessions.

The second group, older and more accomplished academically, were nearly twenty in number. Their confidence, self-assurance and abilities were, at times, even daunting to the three of us conducting the programme!

Even the most bashful and shy students were eloquent, well organized and fully prepared for their projects.

Once again, for Storytellers, It is a privilege to be able to work with our future leaders and the learning experience is a two way street; we, the three facilitators, learned much from the students ourselves, their perspectives and hopes and dreams for their futures.

The club is preparing, and looking forward to coordinating, more Youth Leadership projects before the end of the Toastmaster year."

Help me echo the kudos to the Storytellers (3944592) of Thunder Bay and the officers who coordinated these two YLPs!

Way to go: Robin Sutherland - Club President, Anna Chief - VP PR, Brian Spare - Storytellers VP Membership, and David Goldsworthy - VP Education!

Let's follow their example and continue to work to shape the next generation of leaders!

If you'd like to get a sample size taste of a Youth Leadership Program, contact me for dates and times of a YLP that is currently running that you could help out with for a session or as much as you'd like. Or, if you know a school or other organization that would be interested in offering a Toastmasters' Youth Leadership Program, please send me an email and we can work together!!!

Speak Well and Be Well!



Ray Young III, ACS, ALB
Youth Leadership Chair 2017-2018, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made
Phone: 612-986-3628
Email: raymondmyoung3@gmail.com

Club Success Story

Do you want to grow your club? Do you know how or where to start?

Despite our intentions, sometimes we don't know where to start when trying to grow our club. Sometimes the challenges seem too great.

Thankfully, Theo Black, DTM, PID and Suzanne Ryan wrote an excellent article outlining how to grow a club. It starts by focusing on a quality experience. This approach will work for your club too!

[Click here to read more!](#)



Theo Black, DTM, PID
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders are Made



Suzanne Ryan,
District Director - D, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders are Made

Featured Resources for Clubs

Flexible Club Programming - Do members in your club often serve in multiple meeting roles? If so, there's a better way. Theo Black, DTM, PID wrote a fantastic guide for planning meetings based on your club's membership level. Please read the [Flexible Club Programming guide](#) to make your meetings more enjoyable.

A Roadmap for Club Growth - This awesome article from the Toastmaster magazine shows how a club tripled in size within 90 days. Follow [A Roadmap for Club Growth](#) and your club can do the same.

Measuring What Matters - Want to understand the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) and why its goals are important for your club? The [Measuring What Matters article](#) provides an excellent perspective on the program and how it leads to a sustainable club and a quality experience.

When Bad Things Happen to Good Clubs - Every club encounters challenges, and many challenges are common across clubs. [When Bad Things Happen to Good Clubs](#) covers several challenges clubs have and how to overcome them.

Toastmasters, Harold Osmundson, DTM, District Director, Minneapolis, MN 55427

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