



# District 6 May 2019

# Spring Conference Special Edition



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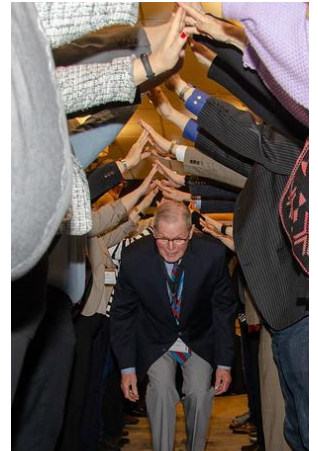
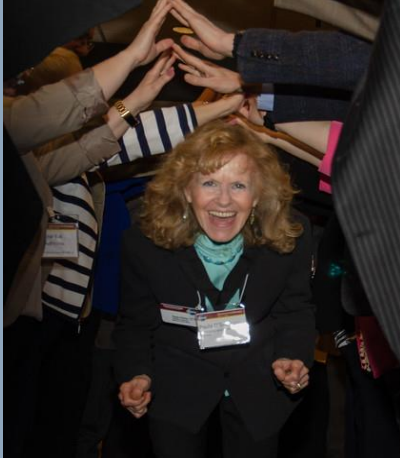
### Do you have an article to share?

Email Ravi Rai to be included in the next edition of the District 6 Newsletter.

Submissions must be received no later than the last Monday of the month.

##### Ravi Rai

Program Quality Director  
[Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org](mailto:Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org)





**Jean Pearson DTM**  
District Director, District 6  
Toastmasters International  
*Where Leaders Are Made*  
507-259-2381  
[Jean.Pearson@d6tm.org](mailto:Jean.Pearson@d6tm.org)

## Greetings!

Membership building is an on-going process for most Toastmasters clubs. It's not unusual for members to experience challenges and opportunities which, at times, makes attending club meetings difficult, if not impossible. That's why clubs should always be looking for new members and inviting guests to attend their meetings. "Beat the Clock" is a membership-building program being conducted by Toastmasters International that is currently running from May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

If your club achieves 5 new, dual, or reinstated members during this time frame, you will receive a special "Beat the Clock" ribbon from Toastmasters International to proudly display on your club's banner. What a great way to start your final push for your club's end-of-the-year goals! For additional information on this program, please go to this link: <https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/club-officer-tools/membership-building/membership-building-programs-for-clubs>

## Pathways

Is everyone in your club using Pathways? We need to make sure our current members feel comfortable with Pathways and are prepared to embrace this new and exciting program. New members only have access to Pathways, and it's important that veteran club members provide the assistance, coaching, and mentoring they require to help them to succeed in this program. Do you have questions about a process in Pathways? Look on the D6tm.org for information under [Pathways Guides](#). As always, please feel free to contact me at [jean.pearson@d6tm.org](mailto:jean.pearson@d6tm.org) with any questions you may have.

## Officer Training

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, club officer training for the 2019/2020 Toastmaster year will begin. Watch for the training event schedule for June through August and be the best officer you can be by receiving training.

## Conference Update!

I hope you were able to attend the conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success. Two of the stars were Kari Barlas, Conference Chair, and Randy Haukom-Brandt, Registration Chair. Earl Roethke took first place in the Evaluation contest, and Kenny Ray Morgan took first place in the International contest.

There are so many clubs achieving success and experiencing growth and membership satisfaction, and I thank you all for your hard work and tireless efforts. I'm looking forward to all clubs finishing strong this year and meeting the goals and needs of their membership to assist in their advancement and help them flourish both personally and professionally. Please remember that the district team is here to serve the member's needs and assist in any way possible to help you achieve excellence! If I can help you reach your goal in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

***Together, let's finish this phenomenal Toastmaster year strong!***





## Business Meeting

The business meeting was conducted at the conference and chaired by District Director Jean Pearson. Harold Osmundson served as the parliamentarian. The following were elected for 2019-20 toastmaster year:

Ravi Rai: District Director

Susan Rajbhandari: Program Quality Director

Deb Luu: Club Growth Director

Amit Maheshwari: Division M Director

Tara Bolanda: Division C Director

Don Rollefson: Division D Director

Linda Dorn: Division E Director

Elsa Esquivel-Soto: Division F Director

## Other District Roles

Kari Barlas: Public Relations Manager

Brian Hinton: Finance Manager

Jamie Ogborn: Administration Manager

*The realignment proposal was passed. A new division M was created from Division A & B. Clubs were realigned with areas based on their new location.*



## Pres Vasilev at D6 conference



We had an awesome annual conference on May 3 & 4 at Crown Plaza Aire in Bloomington, MN.

Pres Vasilev, 2013 World Champion of Public speaking was the featured guest at the conference. The district team worked with him to schedule his visit and worked on other logistics to cover his travel & stay. Pres Vasilev entertained, educated and inspired the conference attendees with 3 sessions during the conference.

In his first session on Friday titled "Uncover the glory of your story", Pres shared the 7 storytelling tips of making a speech effective. He gave his speech titled "Hope" that took won him a spot in the finals of World Championship of Public Speaking. The audience analyzed the speech based on the seven secrets of storytelling. We also learned how to make a speech effective.

On Saturday, Pres gave a keynote titled "Journey to World Champion of Public Speaking" In this session Pres wowed the audience by sharing his experience of preparing for the International Speech competition that took him all the way to finals. A tough journey that was fully dependent on the message, preparations, feedback and perseverance. His speeches were presented to the audience so that they can experience what was important when preparing an important speech.

Pres's third presentation was a workshop titled "Secrets of compelling storytelling". In this workshop, the audience crafted stories, discussed the techniques of improving them and revisited the earlier versions to improve them. We also heard his winning speech "Changed by a tire." We analyzed the compelling nature of the storytelling of this speech. Pres shared what portions were refined based on feedback that was received at Toastmasters clubs all over his district.

Pres is an awesome presenter and those of us who use storytelling to enhance our speeches surely learned a lot from him. We hope to have another opportunity to have Pres visit District 6 in future. Here is a link to his winning speech.

Pres Vasilev: Winning speech "Changed by a tire"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8L68Ev8VPQ>



**Ravi Rai**  
**Program Quality Director**  
District 6  
Phone: [612-501-4517](tel:612-501-4517)  
Email: [ravi.rai@d6tm.org](mailto:ravi.rai@d6tm.org)

Dear Friends,

I hope you have been having a good amount of fun this Toastmasters year. I for sure have enjoyed working with most of you with whom I've had the opportunity to work with. I am grateful to all of our [club sponsors](#), [club mentors](#) and [club coaches](#) who have volunteered this year in ensuring our clubs and members are strong.

So far, we have had five clubs officially charter. [Congratulations and welcome to the District 6 Toastmasters family](#) to the following clubs:

1. Nurse Masters in Rochester
2. SPH Toastmasters in Minneapolis
3. Nina Hale Speakers in Minneapolis
4. BI Worldwide Toastmasters in Edina
5. Willis Towers Watson in Bloomington

Toastmasters for me has been a supportive environment to learn and grow and I hope it has been the same for you as well. Together, we are able to be a better version of ourselves with all that we get ourselves engaged in, within Toastmasters. Relationships are built - where we get to know others; leading to learning and growing in a positive manner. I request you to keep it going. Remember the reason you are in Toastmaster is to better yourself and others around you. Keep investing and you will reap the return. Share with others what you have gained from Toastmasters and help the ones in need.



**Susan Rajbhandari**  
Club Growth Director  
District 6  
Phone: 704-327-8726  
Email: [susan.rajbhandari@d6tm.org](mailto:susan.rajbhandari@d6tm.org)

## Call for Area Director Role

Are you looking for a way to expand your skills beyond the club? Consider serving as an Area Director. We have several opportunities for Area Director. Serving as an area director fulfills the requirement for earning your DTM through the old or the new system. You also get to be part of District Executive Committee. Please contact Ravi Rai at [Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org](mailto:Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org) to know more about serving as Area Director.



## Eden Prairie Resident is Quarter-Finalist in World's Largest Speech Contest

*Kenny Ray Morgan rose above a pool of 150 Toastmaster participants*

**St. Paul, MN, May 16, 2019** – Kenny Ray Morgan of Eden Prairie, MN outshined more than 6 local participants to win the district-level competition of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest

representing southern Minnesota. Morgan has now qualified to advance to the quarter-final rounds of the contest.

Each district winner competes at the regional level. The winner is judged based on the video of the contest recorded at the District level. Fourteen winners from regions around the world advanced to the semifinal round after a six month process of elimination through club, area, district and regional speech competitions. The five-seven minute speeches were judged on content, organization, gestures and style.

Morgan has made it to the finals (top 10) in 2011 and 2013. He is owner/founder of Morgan's Custom Clothiers in Eden Prairie, MN. Kenny Ray has been a dedicated Toastmaster member for the past 13 years.





## Don Rollefson *My Journey to DTM*

My journey to Distinguished Toastmaster began on July 1, 2005, nearly 14 years ago. I had no idea what Toastmasters would do for me, but Sharon, my wife, had joined a club in 2004, and said that she thought it would be good for me. I began at Blues Communications Plus Club at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Eagan. I met a lot of friendly people, and I had fun speaking and interacting with everyone. I had no goal or intention of becoming a DTM, I still didn't grasp the Competent Communicator award, and why I should strive for that level. I went on and on, I joined another club, now my home club, which is Word Masters Toastmasters Club. I kept getting awards and giving speeches, and found out that I was making a lot of friends, and learning that there was a whole lot more to Toastmasters than the club meetings. My wife Sharon became a "Trio" member in 2011, and I began attending events at the Division, District and even International levels. One day Sharon and I were looking at my awards and the different division and district roles I had filled, and I realized I was only a few projects away from getting my DTM. At that time I thought why not, with Pathways taking over the educational paths, and only a little over a year before I would lose the credits I had, I went for it. On March 28, 2019 I was awarded my Distinguished Toastmaster Award by Toastmasters International. I am very proud to be a DTM, and I am looking forward to beginning my new path in the Pathways program titled "Motivational Strategies".

## District 6 Speech Contests

May 3 & 4 saw two excellent contests.

Agatha Ampaire was our guest speaker at the **District 6 Evaluation contest**. She lives in Brookings, SD and was gracious to spend an evening here in Minneapolis before her graduation on Saturday May 4. Agatha's speech was titled "Look within". Her speech was evaluated by 6 contestants: Lisa Jenks, Peggy Scholberg, Earl Roethke, Nevin Nolder, Vicki Henderson and Sandra Burrowes. Earl Roethke placed first in this contest. Sandra Burrowes took the second place. Peggy Scholberg placed third

In the **international contest**, there were five outstanding contestants. Here are the contestants with their titles:

Matt Svendsen: Save One Life, Save the World.

Kenny Ray Morgan: Granny's Shake & Step Wisdom

Keith Hardy: Mirror Mirror on The Wall

Richelle Schmitz: Learning to Swim

Earl Roethke: The Voice

The winner of the international speech contest was Kenny Ray Morgan. Richelle Schmitz took second place. Earl Roethke came in third.

## Train the Trainer

Do you want to take your Toastmasters skills to the next level? If so consider being a certified trainer. Attend one of the train the trainer sessions to be eligible to coordinate and conduct club officer training.

Any active member in District 6 who has a passion for Toastmasters leadership can attend train the trainer session. We will cover items such as - how to conduct training, main topics to cover, additional topics to cover, training format, reporting and facilitating.

Sessions will be listed at [d6tm.org](http://d6tm.org) calendar.