



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District 6 News and Events

District 6 Newsletter

November 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Messages from District Leadership
- Aspire to Lead experience
- District Leadership Elections
- Advanced or Specialty Clubs
- Story Telling Event
- New Location = Huge Win

UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

Nov 1 – Feb 29

Officer Training

Dec 7 Holiday Potluck

Feb 22 TLI

March

Area Speech contests

April

Division Contests

May 9

Annual Conference & Contests

Message from District 6 Director

Dear District 6 Toastmasters:

With the onset of holiday season, I have already started seeing families making plans for the holidays. A neighbor claimed that this is the time of the year to make your family feel special, so go the extra mile in making them feel special.

I had to think about our District 6 Toastmaster family. I wondered what I can do to make a fellow Toastmaster feel special. Honestly, there is not one way to make someone feel special. For me, if I understand the short and long term plans of a fellow Toastmaster, I can provide a plan for the next three months, six months and then a year. To go the extra mile, I would consider checking at regular intervals on the experience.

So I would like to urge you to find your own magic that you can perform for a fellow Toastmaster and go the extra mile. Listen to your fellow Toastmaster and make a genuine effort to see things from their perspective. Once you understand their needs, you will be able to chart out a plan. It will also compel you to stretch your own efforts to know more about the Toastmasters program.

Hope you have a rewarding experience in going the extra mile. We are all in it together. Wishing you a great holiday season ahead.



Ravi Rai

District Director, District 6
Phone: 612-501-4517
Email: Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org

Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Dear Friends:

Thank you for continuing on your journey in bettering your communication skills and leadership skills. For those of you who have been submitting the completion of your projects and levels, thank you. For those of you who are waiting for a nudge to submit your completed projects and levels, here it is - Nudge... nudge! Get it done already. You got this. :)

As of the report made available by our World Headquarters on 25th of October, our District has earned a total of 317 education awards this Toastmasters year. We have earned a total of 17 Triple Crowns. Triple Crown is a recognition a Toastmaster earns if they complete and submit 3 or more education award in the same Toastmasters year. The recipients are awarded a wonderful bling-bling crown during our Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) award ceremonies, so make sure you earn one of those and attend the future TLIs. Our upcoming TLI is on the 22nd of February 2020. Follow our D6 events calendar page for more information and watch out for more communication from our TLI Co-Chair Chau Banh.

For our members who are so close to earning your Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) award through our traditional education program or any of the awards such as Advanced Leader Silver (ALS) in the traditional program - please note that our World Headquarters does not intend on creating a grace period after June 30, 2020 to

submit those awards. Our World Headquarters has shared that members who wish to apply club coach and/or district officer service for the 2019-2020 program year toward a traditional ALS/DTM award can do so by submitting a completed award application form to World Headquarters via email (educationprogram@toastmasters.org) or fax (303-799-7753). Members are advised to fill out both the ALS and DTM sections and simply put "Pending" for the ALS date received. Members are welcome to submit the application any time during the last week of June 2020; please ensure that it is submitted no later than 11:59:59 PM MT on June 30, 2020. Once the program year has concluded and it has been confirmed that the member completed the necessary requirements, the award(s) will be processed.

Remember, Toastmasters is following Pathways program and will have it going moving forward so if you haven't already started your journey in Pathways, I highly request you to do so. This is how we are able to learn the skill sets that we have joined the organization for. Once again, thank you for all that you are doing to improve your own life by attending the club meetings to practice what you've learnt and share the positive experience to all who you are able to make an impact on.

See you at the next one,



Susan Rajbhandari, DTM
Program Quality Director, District 6
Phone: 704-327-8726
Email: Susan.Rajbhandari@d6tm.org

Message from the District 6 Program Club Growth Director

Happy November Fellow Toastmasters:

Please welcome Ergo Toasters to District 6. Ergo Toasters is a corporate club at Ergotron in Eagan. Special thanks to Katya Glozman for having a vision to start a new club with help from District 6. Charter paperwork was turned in to Toastmasters International over a week ago and they are currently processing.

We have a couple of other potential clubs in the pipeline and many leads. A Random Talk Down Wall Street, located Downtown Minneapolis, needs two more members to charter. Lakeland Pros is currently at 13 members and building. If you are interested in serving as a mentor for Lakeland Pros please let me know.

I am always looking for new club leads. Please reach out to your friends, coworkers or family members to see if they know of any opportunities for a new club in District 6. I would love to have

more members experience the benefits of Toastmasters.

There are still clubs that need a club coach/virtual club coach. It is important that both the club agrees that it needs and accepts a club coach as well as the potential coach agreeing to serve that club. Serving as a club coach or virtual club coach satisfies leadership requirements for a DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) in both the Legacy program and Pathways. Please contact Laura Bathke, Club Coach Chair, at lsbathke@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a club coach or virtual club coach.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in your Toastmaster journey.

Respectfully,



Deborah Luu, DTM
Club Growth Director, District 6
Toastmasters International
Where Leaders Are Made
Phone: 952-270-9571

What is a Virtual Club Coach?

A Virtual Club coach is a club coach that provides help through internet, phone calls and webinars. This coach is very similar to the traditional club coach and is eligible for credits when the club achieves a distinguished status. The club may broadcast its meeting and the club coach can attend the meeting virtually through a 2 way video. While attending the meetings are not mandatory, it is recommended.

Who can be a virtual club coach for a District 6 club?

Any active Toastmaster can be a Virtual Club Coach for a club in District 6. The coach is not required to be a member in District 6. Any club with membership strength of 12 or less can request for a virtual club coach. The club President & the virtual club coach must both give their agreement in writing (email) to the Club Growth Director before the Virtual Club Coach appointment can be made. Please note that Virtual Club Coach is a D6 term for Club Coach. If you live in Rochester and you wish to coach a club in Minneapolis but cannot attend meetings in person on a regular basis, then Virtual Club Coach is a way to go.

How does the District 6 leadership support Virtual Club Coach?

D6 has a club coach chair, Laura Bathke. She is an excellent resource and very dedicated Toastmaster with wealth of information. The core leadership in D6 is also vested in helping all the clubs. So do not hesitate to contact Laura, Deb (CGD), Susan (PQD), or Ravi (District Director).

Message from the District 6 Administration Manager

Hello Fellow Toastmasters:

How to get the most out of Officer training:

On November 1st our 2nd round of officer training will commence. These trainings provide a little bit for everyone, but there are some best practices that you can use to get the most out of your training.

For new officers these training sessions can be overwhelming as there is a lot to learn. We do recap the officer roles the 2nd time around to reinforce what you learned during the 1st round and the questions and experiences you've had during the first half of the year. These trainings provide a unique opportunity for new officers to learn from their peers, and experienced officers to bring up questions, challenges and best practices that they have seen. This leads me to tip number 1: Participate. It's very important that this is a discussion as opposed to a lecture as every officer will have different needs and can bring different ideas forward for the group. This is where you really find the value.

We also take time to discuss the Distinguished Club Program, it is very important for any organization to track progress throughout the year and evaluate the value that it provides to its stakeholders. Toastmasters is no different. Toastmasters International has provided us with the Distinguished Club Program which is a set of goals that are leading indicators of a successful club. And the Moments of Truth which is a format to allow members to provide officers feedback.

This is a good starting point for clubs to evaluate the value their members are receiving and show prospects an indicator of success. It is very easy to feel like these indicators are not reflective of your club members' needs which leads me to tip number 2: Keep an open mind. I am part of an advanced club called Saturday Morning Live! We focus on advanced speeches which could easily lead us to think that our members find no value in the competent communicator, competent leader, and level 1 in Pathways. We have found the contrary to be true. Going back to the basics periodically has been an important part of our ongoing development and the quality of our speeches. I urge you to think about why these items are in the program and how they can help your members.

Last, but not least we cover additional items that are commonly requested by our members. Often times we will have discussions around evaluations, membership building, and Pathways. In order to make sure that your Area Director knows what topics would be most helpful for you and your club follow tip number 3: Provide feedback. When your Area Director visits your club give them feedback on what further education and/or discussion would be helpful for you and your fellow club officers. If you have already met with them consider sending them an email.

For the last tip: Host a training at your club, I want you to think about how we can get as many officers trained as possible. In order to make that happen we rely on clubs to host training sessions. Please consider talking with your club about hosting an officer training. This provides multiple benefits to your club including, but not limited to experience in setting up an event, exposure of non-officers to the officer roles, ability for your club officers to meet at a time and location that is convenient for them, and bringing new visitors into your club.

I highly recommend you attend an officer training near you. We have the opportunity to start in November this year which gives us more flexibility to address issues or concerns that clubs are having earlier in the Toastmasters year and potentially get some training done before snow can get in the way.



Jamie Ogborn
Administration Manager,
District 6
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People are more willing to follow a leader who knows where he is going.

– Ralph Smedley, Founder of Toastmasters

Aspire to Lead



Nikki Bentley - ACB, ALB

Westerly Winds Toastmasters
Club (#8582)

There are almost 750 impressive men and women in the giant ballroom of the Earle Brown Heritage Center. I just watched Keynote Speaker Carey Lohrenz – the first female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy – give her amazingly inspiring speech after experiencing massive technical difficulties with her microphone. I'm nervous and shaky and my speech is not memorized. I've written and rewritten it so many times based on the plethora of feedback I had received these past few weeks and now I am absolutely scared to death that my microphone is not going to work either. I've been debating about whether or not to "hide" behind the podium, somewhat doubting my ability to actually pull off this speech. I hear the emcee introduce me and start making my way to the stage. The lights are bright. The mic is hot. All eyes are on me...

In September 2019, I was asked to give a 5-minute "inspirational burst" speech on a time that I demonstrated intentional leadership at the [Aspire to Lead](#) Conference sponsored by my employer, Thomson Reuters. This would be the largest audience I had ever spoken in front of and would be filled to the brim with powerful, influential powerhouses looking to me to provide *inspiration*. The speech-writing process was daunting as I struggled to come up with an example that I found "worthy" enough. After much debate, I decided to talk about my passion for fishing and my dedication to serving on several Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) citizen advisory committees. I wasn't entirely convinced this subject was going to have any traction, but after some much-appreciated feedback and overwhelmingly-positive support from my Toastmasters mentor - Starlett Drader - and fellow Westerly Winds Toastmasters Club members, I felt more confident than ever. I underwent a series of practice sessions with different audiences to gain as many perspectives as possible, but I found that my constant revision process had made it difficult to memorize. It took me a long time to tell myself that this was not a Toastmasters speech contest and that memorization was not a requirement, but I did feel the pressure to perform to that level.

When the day of the conference came and my time to speak neared, my Toastmasters family rallied behind me and gave me the pep talks I needed to feel confident and ready to tackle the world! Even though I was still nervous when my name was called and I stepped behind the podium with my notes, I knew that my goal for the day was to inspire the audience with my story. Luckily, my microphone worked without issue, I delivered my speech without flubbing, and the audience appeared to enjoy my words of inspiration.

Speaking at the Aspire to Lead Conference was a tremendous opportunity to practice my speechcraft, steel my nerves in front of a much larger audience, and to praise and appreciate the amazing Toastmasters who supported and cheered me on all the way to the podium. I hope to continue working through my Pathways program to improve my speaking skills so that when the next speaking opportunity comes around, I will be the leader and speaker that I have always envisioned becoming. Until next time!

District Leadership Elections

Starting this year, Toastmasters International has made it mandatory for all candidates to appear before a District Leadership Committee (DLC) before running for a District leadership office. In other words, every toastmaster candidate is required to contact DLC if they are planning to run for the following offices:

- District Director
- Program Quality director
- Club Growth Director
- Division Director

A common question that is asked is: Can I run from the floor at the business meeting. The answer is if DLC has reviewed your candidacy then yes you can run from the floor. Every DLC nominated candidate is eligible to run for the offices above.

Should I contact DLC if I am tentative at this point?

I would recommend that you contact DLC. All communication with DLC is confidential. This way you are set.

When will the information on DLC be available? Our website will be updated once DLC is all set. The website will also have information on paperwork to be filled.

For now, if you have any questions about future district leadership, please contact Ravi Rai, District Director



Whooo...? YOU!
Save the Date!

District 6 celebrates
all the Holidays

POTLUCK
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 7
5:00—9:00 pm

Discovery Room
Lebanon Hills Regional Park
860 Cliff Rd
Eagan, MN 55123

Advanced and Specialty Clubs

Have you heard of advanced or specialty clubs in District 6?

There are quite a few clubs that are marked as Specialty or Advanced clubs. You can find a full listing at the following link: <http://www.d6tm.org/specialtyclubs/>

Humor specialty:

- Humor Mill
- Humor Us

Leadership specialty:

- Crest
- Southern Minnesota Mentors
- Voice of Leadership

Storytelling specialty:

- Taleweavers

Advanced presentations:

- Sales and Marketing Executives
- Nighttime talkers

Story Telling Event



Everyone likes a good story. This time of year, we think about sitting around a fire and telling stories for fun and for learning.

About 25 people gathered for a special Story Telling Event hosted by Northfield Community Toastmasters Club on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

Seven speakers presented stories in a contest format to determine the "Best Story Teller" of the evening. The contest was open to Toastmaster members from the area.

Members from Big Apple Toastmasters, Lakeville Toastmasters, and Burnsville participated in the event.

Stories presented included a Bengali ghost story, an Italian Tall Tale, a Nepalese parable, and stories about 'growing up.'

Awards for best story telling were presented to:

Susan Rajbhandari, Lakeville Toastmasters, First Place

Don Scott, Big Apple Toastmasters, Second Place

Ruth Alliband, Northfield Community Toastmasters, Third Place

Thank you to all the Toastmaster members who participated and volunteered for meeting roles.

Noel Aldrich

President, Northfield Community Toastmasters



New Location = Huge Win

We had a HUGE WIN this year when we moved to a location that doesn't charge us rent! My club, Pros Toastmasters (#4650), was in the red with our budget due to the high cost of our lease at our previous location. We didn't have the membership to pay what was being charged to us, so as an Executive Committee, we decided it was the best interest of the club to find a lower charging venue. I reached out to my local VFW and they offered us a FREE ROOM annually! Although not a requirement for each meeting, the only compensation they requested was to ask our members to buy a pop or some food from them. If your club is paying a lot for rent, demand better! There are so many places that can accommodate a Toastmaster's Meeting. We are now able to afford a new club banner, potlucks, and member recognition among other things!



Sincerely,
Troy Dukart, ACS, ALB
Area 22 Director President,
Pros Toastmasters #4650

Hello Fellow Toastmasters!

It's an honor to be here as the District 6 Newsletter Editor this year. If you'd asked me last year (or even last month!) if I ever thought about being an editor (of anything), I probably would have laughed a little and said no. Lucky for me, someone did ask me, and I said yes!

That's always been the thing about my Toastmaster's journey: New opportunities come knocking and before I know it, I'm expanding my comfort zone and acquiring new skills. The best part about it is that I often find later that I need just that skill in my work, my church, my community, or my family.

I bet you've had similar experiences. I bet others would love to hear those stories; so why not write an article for the next newsletter? I'm asking. What will YOUR answer be?

I can't wait to hear from you! Sincerely,

Starlett

Do you have an article to share?

Email me to be included in the next edition of the District 6 Newsletter:

Starlett Drader,
Newsletter Editor
(Starlett.Drader@d6tm.org)

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