



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District 6 News and Events

District 6 Newsletter

January 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Messages from District Leadership
- District 6 Leadership Nominations
- Getting to DTM
- Jan 9 Lunch & Learn Invitation
- Feb 22 TLI Info
- Leadership Dimensions
- Newest Club
- Speechcraft & Youth Leadership

UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

Nov 1 – Feb 29

Officer Training

Feb 22 TLI

March/April

Area & Division Speech contests

May 9

Annual Conference & Contests

Message from District 6 Director

Happy New Year! Hi fellow Toastmasters,

Please accept my wishes of a fabulous new year for you & your family. May this year be more successful than the previous few years.

This year, I encourage you to strive for a well-balanced life using the six dimensions of leadership as promoted by the National Wellness Institute.

Visit their [website](#) & download a [wonderful article](#) on the "Six Dimensions of Wellness." As part of positive changes, I hope you can join me in focusing on the following dimensions in our lives:

1. Occupational: Use your gifts and talents to strive for a satisfying career, profession or the work you do. Be active and involved in the activities that give you an immense sense of satisfaction.
2. Physical: Take care of your physical being by having proper nutrition and exercise or activity to allow your body to carry out the work on an everyday basis.
3. Social: Since we all form part of a community or immediate surrounding of fellow human beings, strive for harmony with others and the environment.
4. Intellectual: Each one of us has a gifted brain. Strive to continually challenge yourself to come up creative solutions to challenges around you. Aim for satisfaction with activities such as Toastmasters to keep yourself feeling intellectually fit.
5. Spiritual: We all are in this world for a purpose. Think about your own beliefs that guide you on how you interact with others with different beliefs than yours. Strive to live every day in line with your core beliefs and values.
6. Emotional: Being aware of our feelings and accepting them helps us in dealing with challenges in our life. Your approach in life will define how you overcome challenges. But being emotionally aware of the feelings as you face life daily, helps you to be more successful.

I sincerely hope you have a wonderful year in all the six dimensions. May we all live in harmony to build a stronger Toastmasters community in District 6.

Wishing you a wonderful year ahead,

Ravi Rai
2019-20 District 6 Director
Toastmasters International



Phone: 612-501-4517

Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org

Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Dear Friends,

I hope the winter months are treating you well and you are enjoying the time with your family and loved ones during these holiday seasons. As you enjoy time reconnecting with the ones you love, making memories that last a life time and unwrapping gifts, I would like to remind you to gift yourself the awards you have been working on as well.

It is a new year and a new beginning. For some of us, this might be just the trigger we had been waiting for and now it's here. Let's start getting more engaged in our skill development and the development of the folks around us. Today I would like to share with you some of the ways to keep engaged for the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 Toastmasters year.

Club Officers Training may sound like it is only for the club officers to attend to learn and share what you have learnt about leadership development and influencing club members; however, I would like to encourage anyone of our members or guests to attend to learn more about our organization. Connect with your Area Directors and/ or check out the calendar in our d6tm.org website to learn about when they are occurring within our district.

District 6 Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is set for the 22nd of February 2020 from 8 am to 2 pm at the HealthPartners corporate office in Bloomington. Thanks to HealthPartners for allowing us the use of their space. We are expecting attendees to learn and share what they know about how speech contests can be run, what strategies could lead individuals in becoming a winning speaker, and what leadership opportunities are out there in Toastmasters if you would love to explore more. Club Officers can earn the second club officer training credit by attending the TLI. Apart from earning the credit of club officer training, anyone who attends will have the opportunity to connect with old friends as well as make new friends too. We are looking for volunteers to help with the execution of the event so if you are interested in any way, feel free to connect with our TLI chairs via email at TLIChair@d6tm.org. We are going to have a table for attendees to walk up to learn and share experiences on pathways, freeToasthost, as well as club central. If you are interested in assisting walks ups by making yourself available at the table, please connect with me.

Pathways is our Toastmasters education program. If you haven't started a path already, I highly recommend you complete a self-assessment and start a path. At least try to complete a few levels to get a hang of how to navigate around the system. Going through a few levels in Pathways has provided me with a general understanding of how to navigate around the system and I hope it will help you out as well. For more on Pathways, feel free to browse through the resources available on toastmasters.org and/or reach out to your peers who may have explored or are exploring the system. Remember we are learning this together and this a good opportunity to work on our skills.

Continued...

Speech Contests are another event to look forward to. They provide our folks with another opportunity to either be a contestant or run the event. This Toastmasters year we have Humorous speech contest as well as the International speech contest to look forward to. The contest winners from the club move to the area level, then on to the division level and all the way up to the district level. The winners of both the speech contests will be selected during our District 6 Conference scheduled for the 9th of May 2020. Our District 6 International speech contest winner will move on to compete at the region level, semi-final and ultimately to becoming World Champion of Public Speaking at the world stage depending on how each level goes!

Opportunities are endless in our organization for anyone willing to try. We are always looking for individuals willing to stay engaged in their own development as well as the development of folks around you. If you are one of those people or you know of folks who are willing to lead and influence others in promoting Toastmasters values, I would highly encourage you to take on one of the club leader roles or district leader roles for the upcoming Toastmasters year 2020 - 2021. Feel free to check out the **District 6 Leadership Nominations 2020 - 2021** page on our d6tm.org website or connect with me.

Remember, if you want to keep working on personal development and development of the folks around you: stay engaged. You can keep making yourself active and engaged in Toastmasters by attending the various club officer training sessions available, attending the TLI, working on Pathways, getting involved in speech contests, and even trying your hand at being a district leader. For more information on any of the things I've mentioned in my message or if you would simply like to connect with me, I would love to connect with you. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

Happy New Year and may the year be a positive one for you and everyone around you!

Take care,



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

“While most of us may have entered Toastmasters to learn to make speeches, that benefit is but the beginning of the good which may come to us and the good which we may do for mankind.”

– Ralph Smedley, Founder of Toastmasters

Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Happy January!

I would like to thank all of you who are serving as a club coach, new club mentor or sponsor. Thank you for serving the members of District 6 and fulfilling the district mission. There are still many opportunities to serve as a club coach or virtual club coach. I am hoping for many opportunities this spring for new club sponsors and mentors. If you are interested in serving as a club coach or virtual club coach, please contact Laura Bathke at lsbathke@gmail.com. If you are interested in serving as a new club mentor or sponsor please contact Marvel Kummer at marveleileen@frontier.com.

I've been visiting clubs in District 6. Thank you for warmly welcoming me. Some of the things we are doing well are making guests feel welcome, having well-planned meetings, and using Toastmaster-branded materials. Some opportunities are making sure that you have guest packets to give to the guests with information about Toastmasters and your club as well as an application and making sure your website is up to date with current information about when and where your meetings are held, maybe some pictures and other relevant information.

Please let me know how I can serve you in achieving excellence.

Respectfully,



Deb Luu, DTM

Club Growth Director, District 6
Toastmasters International
Phone: 952-270-9571

District 6 Leadership Nominations 2020-2021

Elected Positions

*All candidates declaring for a 2020-2021 District Leadership role, per Toastmasters International Protocol 9.0, must declare their intent to run to Immediate Past District Director ([Jean Pearson](#)) no later than **January 15, 2020** per Toastmasters International Protocol 9.0.*

Candidates running for a Division Director position will need to indicate which Division they are applying for.

Candidates will need to submit the official Candidate Application Form, the Nomination Form, and the Officer Agreement and Release Form to Immediate Past District Director ([Jean Pearson](#)) by the time of the interview process planned in January. Download forms from the link above.

Getting to DTM

by Edward Hoffman

My story of becoming a DTM isn't very inspiring compared to most everyone else in Toastmasters. It took me a very long time, but I might say that once one becomes a Toastmaster, expect your life to change! Toastmasters is a catalyst for positive change in one's life, and that has certainly been the case on my journey to DTM.

Having retired from a position in a professional orchestra nearly 10 years ago, I thought that I now had much more time to devote to Toastmasters. I'd been an area director in Maryland and had also helped start a club at the school of public medicine at Johns Hopkins University for people had requested to start a club in part because they had to defend their theses before a board of medical doctors and wanted practice in learning to speak in front of an audience who would evaluate them.

Moving from the Washington, D.C. area to the Minneapolis area gave me a chance to be retired from my all-consuming life as a musician. My wife Anita (already a DTM) and I joined the Word Masters club and immediately liked that it was a club of active leaders.

As I went along in the Toastmaster program, I didn't give much attention to becoming a Distinguished Toastmaster. My focus was more on helping the club wherever possible and being content with being an advanced Toastmaster. When the Pathways program was announced, it was a wakeup call for those of us who were far enough along in the awards program to think about completing the program for the DTM award before the old requirements disappeared.

I owe much of my Toastmaster's journey to DTM Ravi Rai, who asked me to be a club mentor for the "Sherpas Speak" club in Woodbury, MN. That club was a corporate club populated entirely by 30ish people, and what a marvelous experience for me. I was able to achieve a major goal to becoming a DTM through mentoring that club.

The other seminal experience for my journey to DTM was my High-Performance Leadership project. I chose a long and difficult project that involved bringing a famous musician from Los Angeles to Minneapolis to perform. I supervised a group of several other musicians with diverse organizational skills, and we worked with the University of Minnesota, Schmitt Music, the Buffet-Crampon Company and several other sponsors to line up monetary support, scheduling, other logistics, and last, but not least...music. It was my responsibility to compose and arrange all the music for our artist. The sponsors got lined up, dates, hotels were arranged, and all of the music got written, proofed and read through. Three weeks before the 10-day visit, our artist texted us that he was undergoing emergency open heart surgery and could not appear! In the HPL guidebook there is a section about preparing for unforeseen contingencies, and we had done this by hiring a stand-in performer several months earlier. Skipping to the end of this project, our "substitute" star performer worked out marvelously...perhaps better than the original plan...and the concerts came off very well. The HPL project was the last requirement, and my DTM was accepted and approved on December 26, 2019.

I wouldn't want to advocate for every Toastmaster to take almost 25 years to achieve their DTM status, but in the time from when I joined Toastmasters until now, my musical career has taken me around the world several times. The skills I have earned as a Toastmaster have enabled me to speak before international audiences, and I simply couldn't have done that without having Toastmasters in my life.



Lunch & Learn

Creating and Delivering Presentations that Get Results

When: Thursday, January 9th, 2020

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST

Where: 6625 W 78th St, Bloomington, MN 55439

1st floor building conference room to the right (west) of the fireplace

** Feel free to bring your own lunch; water will be provided.

The members of Noontime Expressions Toastmasters Club and Workspace Property Trust invite you to be our guest at a Lunch & Learn.

Presentations are an important part of any business and non-profit. General meetings, selling products, pitching a new idea, or securing funds are all situations in which presentations matter. Presentations that are poorly conceived, ultimately fail to engage and connect with audiences.

Join Noontime Expressions Toastmasters for this special FREE learning opportunity and discover the secrets of crafting and delivering powerful, persuasive presentations that get the results you want.



Presenter Steve Donofrio is a Noontime Expressions Toastmaster and an international speaker who has taught at schools, colleges, and companies throughout United States and Japan. He brings a unique blend of solid, practical education from a subject matter expert, combined with an original entertaining approach. Steve is all about boosting confidence, building leaders, and bettering lives.

Have questions?

Contact officers-609048@toastmastersclubs.org, for more information.

DISTRICT 6

TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



8:00 am

Registration • Light Breakfast • Exhibit Hall

9:00 — How to Run a Speech Contest

D6 Chief Judge reviews successful strategies.

10:00 — How to Win a Speech Contest

International Speech Contest District Champions share their winning secrets.

Kenzie Casciano • Kenny Ray Morgan • Mark Skipper

11:00

Lunch • Networking • Exhibit Hall

12:30 — Officer Training From Local Club to Global Organization: Your Leadership Matters

Region 4 International Director candidates spotlight the impact club leaders make.

Rob Christeson • Harold Osmundson • Linda Rhea

1:30

D6 Awards and Recognition Ceremony

2:00 — Adjourn

SATURDAY
February 22, 2020

HealthPartners

Bloomington, MN 55425

Officer Training

The Magnificent Seven award awaits

Education Sessions

Contest-focused, fabulous, and free!

Optional Lunch

\$10 pay at the door

Taco buffet

veg/vegan friendly

Exhibit Hall

NEW

Breakfast • Lunch

Pathways, Base Camp, and

FreeToastHost Forum •

Candidate Corners • Specialty

& Advanced club tables

**REGISTER
VOLUNTEER
MORE INFO**

D6TM.org/district-6-winter-TLI

Leadership Dimensions

A few months ago, I had an opportunity to attend a Leadership program along with several other leaders working for the State of Minnesota. We had an amazing opportunity to hear from several leaders and professionals. One of them was Chris Taylor, Chief Inclusion Officer for the state of Minnesota. I wish to share his talk on his personal leadership model. He gave me the permission to share his model with our organization.



In Toastmasters, as club or district leaders, we all strive to include every Toastmaster in our leadership. As a leader in a volunteer organization, we are given the opportunity to serve others. So how do we go about achieving this?

According to Chris, there are 4 elements of Inclusive leadership. This model applies well for all of us. We want to be leaders who include everyone who comes to our clubs. In order to be effective inclusive leaders, follow the 4 elements of Inclusive leadership:

Transformational leadership

In this style, we encourage, motivate and inspire fellow leaders to go beyond the status quo. Our organization is continuously evolving. When changes are coming our way, we must be the first to critically evaluate the challenges and be the role models to champion change. Let's build relationships to encourage growth through change.

Adaptive Leadership

In this leadership style, we develop and use skills to understand our environment, focus on emotional intelligence and create win-win situations. Our Toastmasters clubs are not just about giving speeches and taking on a role. An adaptive leader must understand the feelings of the members as well as his/her own feelings. Understanding them helps us understand the environment we work in. To thrive, we must strive to come up with solutions that make everyone feel like a winner.

Culturally Competent

Toastmasters is a very diverse organization. We welcome people from every walk of life. Welcoming diversity enriches us. But do we really understand the diversity? Remember: "Listening" in Toastmasters sets us apart from all other organizations. We must employ the technique of listening to every member to understand their point of view as well as adjust our style to meet the culturally diverse membership of Toastmasters.

Authentic leadership

Each Toastmaster has a unique personality. I am awed by what I learn from every individual. Each one of you brings a unique perspective because of the environment you grew up in. Our organization allows you to develop the skills that suit your personal style. Be who you are, and you are the best at what you do. Be genuine, be authentic.

I hope these 4 styles will help you sharpen your leadership style to be an effective leader in Toastmasters.

Best wishes,



Ravi Rai
2019-20 District 6 Director
Toastmasters International
612-501-4517 : Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org

Welcome Our Newest Club!

Please welcome our newest club, [Ergo Toasters](#), located at Ergotron in Eagan. They officially chartered on Oct 21, 2019. Below are some of the members with their charter certificates. Katya Glozman, a project commercialization manager at Ergotron, had a vision to have a Toastmasters club at work. Congratulations Katya and all the members of Ergo Toasters!



Speechcraft & Youth Leadership Programs

Did you know District 6 will pay for the cost of materials for these Toastmasters International programs? Please contact Jamie Ogborn, Administration Manager, at Jamie.I.ogborn@ampf.com

[Speechcraft](#) is a 4-, 6- or 8-session workshop developed by Toastmasters International as a way to rapidly teach the fundamentals of public speaking to new- or non-Toastmasters. It is given by Toastmasters either as a membership-building tool, to help create a new club or to educate members of the community or coworkers. Speechcraft usually has 2- to 8-participants as well as several current Toastmasters running the workshop.

The [Youth Leadership](#) Program (YLP) is designed as an experiential workshop that provides the opportunity for youth participants to develop and practice communication and leadership skills. The YLP consists of 6 to 8 sessions and can be tailored to serve any school age child, if the program design is modified to reflect the capacity and interests of the specific group of participants.

New Year = Your Chance to Say Yes-No!

Not long ago, I was chatting with a Toastmaster mentee about how to meet the many needs of her club (she is a club officer). My advice to her is that you just can't do it! In my experience, it's more important to focus on one or two of the most important needs, instead of trying to find ways to do everything. Saying 'no' doesn't mean we don't care about <fill-in-the-blank>; it means we care enough to focus and give our all to the things we say 'yes' to. It also means we are wise enough to pay attention to our own needs in order to stay healthy and motivated to be at our best.

In my home club, I'm looking forward to a discussion I'll be leading to help our group decide what to focus on (part of my Effective Coaching, Reaching Consensus project). I'm excited to see where our energies lie, and how that will take us forward in the new year. What will you say 'no' to this year, so the things you say 'yes' to can get your attention and focus?

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

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)

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL