



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

## District 6 News and Events

### District 6 Newsletter

February 2020

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#### 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

Dear fellow Toastmasters,

I have been watching the dashboard of District 6 regarding our clubs. We are almost 150 clubs with stats all over the place. But I also feel that the dashboard does not tell the whole picture. Every one of you works hard for your members and the organization. But where does all this effort lead to?

I have been wondering about how we function in Toastmasters. Is it all about learning? Is it about becoming better? Is it about always striving for success?

I came across a wonderful TED talk by Eduardo Briceno on how to get better at the things you care about:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eduardo\\_briceno\\_how\\_to\\_get\\_better\\_at\\_the\\_things\\_you\\_care\\_about/footnotes](https://www.ted.com/talks/eduardo_briceno_how_to_get_better_at_the_things_you_care_about/footnotes)

He talks about being in two zones: Learning and Performing.

In Toastmasters, I believe we are constantly learning what we do and then putting into practice what we learned. In other words, we are then moving into performing. Our evaluators do a fabulous job of giving us the feedback to help us learn.

Just like our efforts to learn, perform, improve and continue to be better at presentations, our club leadership also takes a similar path. But sometimes we forget that as leaders we need to continue to find ways to learn and instead keep focusing on performance. Let's get back to the basics of helping our members find value in Toastmasters. Let me request you to go the extra mile while serving our members.

Wishing you the very best of the Toastmasters days ahead.



**Ravi Rai**

2019-20 District 6 Director  
Toastmasters International  
Phone: 612-501-4517

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

## Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Hello Friends,

Congratulations on all that you are doing to improve your skill sets and for working on your personal and professional development goals for this year.

As of the report from the 21st of January, our District has earned 507 education awards during this 2019 - 2020 Toastmasters year because of all that you have been doing and submitting your education awards. Thank you to all who submitted those. If you have completed any level, I highly recommend you submit them so you get credit for all your hard work.

We have had 9 DTM award recipients so far. Congratulations to Sarah J. Bateman; Ed Hoffman; William A. Moore; Erika Steen; Kevin J. Miller; Daniel Norman Nelson; Yancong Lucy Zhu; member 04181820 and member 03587018 for this great achievement.

If you have been working hard at developing your communication skills, following the Toastmasters program is a great way to help yourself. By joining any Toastmasters club, that is what we pledged to do. If you happen to be in the group of individuals who are close to submitting your education awards, please... please... please... submit them at your earliest convenience. I am requesting this for your own benefit as I have noticed that we tend to feel more confident as we complete projects in our education program. We might agree, that with confidence in ourselves, things tend to change for the better.

Remember, the 22nd of February is when we have our Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) being hosted at the HealthPartners corporate campus in Bloomington. We have sessions lined up where you will learn the importance of judging/evaluation, the secrets on how our district speech contest winners became the top speakers, and also Toastmasters who were once club leaders and now are taking on leadership roles in the international level sharing with you the importance of leading club members. This time around we are doing without breakout sessions, and all the club officer training will be accounted for by this session. If you have a particular question that you would like answered during any of these sessions, please feel free to submit them online at this [link](#).

I have a feeling that after your attendance at the Winter TLI, you will look for an opportunity to make a positive impact in someone's life. In that case, please do feel free to find out more about what our current district leaders are doing and learn for yourself about the positions as you are the next hidden gem that the world is calling out for. I would love to connect with you to see how our effort can be put together to make a greater impact.

If there is anything you would like to talk to me about, I am always available for you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great February,



**Susan Rajbhandari, DTM**

Program Quality Director, District 6

Phone: 704-327-8726

Email: Susan.Rajbhandari@d6tm.org

## Message from the District 6 Club Growth Director

### Happy February Fellow Toastmasters:

With February right around the corner, it's time for *Talk Up Toastmasters* Membership Drive. From February 1 - March 31 invite guests to your meeting where they can learn about the benefits of Toastmasters. Add five new, dual or reinstated members and you'll receive a special "Talk up Toastmasters" ribbon to display on your club's banner as well as a special discount code for 10-percent off your next club order.

Do you know someone that wants to start a new Toastmasters club? Send me a valid lead - Name and company, email address/phone number - and I will make sure that you are involved as a sponsor or mentor if the lead blossoms into a club.

It's not too late to sign up to be a club coach. It's a great leadership opportunity and there are still many clubs in District 6 that could benefit from your leadership. Please contact me or Laura Bathke if you are interested.

I would love to speak to you at the TLI (Toastmaster Leadership Institute) on February 22 at Health Partners about your club and how I can help. Please stop by!

Thank you for everything you do for Toastmasters!



**Deb Luu, DTM**  
Club Growth Director, District 6  
Toastmasters International  
Phone: 952-270-9571

*“Here we are, with tremendous opportunity before us. I challenge you to get to work to bring us up to a higher level of service. Let us share with others the benefits we have gained for ourselves.”*

*– Ralph Smedley, Founder of Toastmasters*

# It's Club Officer Training Time!

Toastmasters Officers across the globe are attending our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of club officer training in this Toastmasters' year. Lucky for us in District 6, there are lots of opportunities to fill our training needs, learn something new, and meet friends old and new along the way.

Our own Linda Dorn, Division E Director, held an information packed and informative training on Saturday, January 25, at the Burnhaven Library in Burnsville. Check out this great group of Officers who attended!



You still have time to get to training (ends February 29<sup>th</sup>). The February 22<sup>nd</sup> TLI is a great opportunity (check out the flyer on the next page or go to [this page](#) on the District 6 website for information and to register). Additional training opportunities can be found on the District 6 website [calendar](#).

# DISTRICT 6

## TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



### 8:00 am

Registration • Light Breakfast • Exhibit Hall

### 9:00 — How to JUDGE a Speech Contest

Hands-on exercises let you compare your ballot with “ideal” one completed by D6 judging pros.

### 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 Organizations: 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

All are welcome.

### Education Sessions

Contest-focused 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 • D6  
Contest Judging Corp availa-  
ble to answer your questions

**REGISTER**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**MORE INFO**

[D6TM.org/](http://D6TM.org/)  
district-6-winter-TLI

## Speechcraft by Yawen Qian

Last Spring, I was invited to participate in a 6-session Speechcraft workshop organized by Starlett Drader and sponsored by our management at Thomson Reuters in Eagan, MN. There were 5 students and 8 dedicated mentors who all participated in preparing speeches, table topics, and evaluations, in addition to assuming meeting roles. Except for the first introduction meeting, every student gave a prepared speech at every meeting.

The workshop is well structured and runs like a condensed Toastmasters meeting with short educational topics with coaching at the conclusion of each meeting. Its goal is to improve people's speaking skills in a short period. And indeed, it did. As a student, I admit it was quite an intense workshop, however in the end I learned a lot. For example, I learned how to "get to the point", when to use the gestures, which voice to use in front of an audience, etc. The mentors played key role in the workshop – they gave the students valuable feedback, shared their knowledge, spent time to give the topic speeches and to help the students.

I also liked it because it opened a window to communicate to other people. I still remember many of the other member's stories: Chris's funny family adventure and his beloved French horn; Adam's amazing guitar playing and water-sports prowess; Akira's in-depth perspective on how to handle a busy life. As for myself, I shared my gardening hobby and a story from ancient China. It was fun to listen to all these stories. Not to mention the bonus at the last session of a Speechcraft certificate, a small celebration and delicious cookies!



Did you know District 6 will pay for the cost of materials for the [Speechcraft](#) and [Youth Leadership](#) Toastmasters International programs? Please contact Jamie Ogborn, Administration Manager, at [Jamie.I.ogborn@ampf.com](mailto:Jamie.I.ogborn@ampf.com)

**Speechcraft** is a 4-, 6- or 8-session workshop developed by Toastmasters International 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.

# In Memoriam

Joe Sharp, longtime member of Toastmasters in Rochester and St. Paul, passed away on December 23 at the Charter House Retirement Facility. Joe joined Mayo Hi-Nooners in 2009 and was so taken by Toastmasters that he soon joined the Bright Mondays club as well as Saturday Morning Live! in St. Paul. Since that time, he joined Nighttime Talkers and Faithfully Speaking, still coming to the latter two clubs after he was paralyzed from falling on an icy sidewalk in January 2017.

Despite his situation, Joe continued to dictate his memoirs, published in his autobiography "No Cure for Curiosity" in 2018. One of the chapters in that book is entitled "Toastmasters Saves My Life" where he talks about two particular members who quite literally "saved" his life, one through a wild ride to the ER and the other through consistent friendship and encouragement after his fall. Joe continued to attend two Toastmaster clubs until his death.

We will miss Joe, his wry sense of humor, his passion to ensure everyone had a plan in place when they died, his love for his family, and his appreciation for his fellow Toastmasters.

## Speechcraft

It's been my pleasure to have been a part of Speechcraft programs over the years (check out the earlier article by a recent participant). I enjoy the opportunity to share the Toastmasters learning experience with those who aren't yet ready to commit to joining a club. A favorite story from this is when I "convinced" a friend to attend Speechcraft. She did, became a member, has been an Officer including President, an Area Director, and is a rock star Toastmaster to this day!

I'm looking forward to helping at an upcoming Speechcraft at Fraser school in Richfield. (If you're interested in helping, please contact Brian Flagg at [brian.flagg@gmail.com](mailto:brian.flagg@gmail.com)).

If you haven't been involved in Speechcraft before, I highly recommend you check one out. Better yet, offer one in your community or corporation. It's a great way to shine the light on Toastmasters and your club will benefit in many ways.

Let me know how it goes!

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](mailto:Starlett.Drader@d6tm.org))

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL