



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District 6 News and Events

District 6 Newsletter

April 2020

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UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

April 9, 18, 23

Division Speech contests

May 8 & 9

Annual Conference & Contests

June 1

TMOY due to Area

June 30

End of Toastmaster Year

Message from District 6 Director

Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

What a turn of events it has been for all of us. I hope you and your family is doing well. All of you have been in my thoughts as we all go through these trying times together.

While we were in the middle of the contest season, we had to change our format to "virtual speech contests". While we were not perfect, we did learn a lot and had lots of fun. While we miss our in-person contests, we have been successful in providing opportunities for all our contestants.

How to continue with meeting our fellow Toastmasters has been on my mind. Many Toastmasters clubs have continued to use various meeting platforms to continue meeting online. My home club uses Zoom for our meetings. Today I learned that Webex has free plans that could work for your club. The District would be happy to provide Zoom meetings for your club in case you want to try this. Please talk to your Division Director in this regard.

I always feel, when faced with challenges, the best in us comes out. I hope you and your club members continue to let the best in you be the strength of the group.

If there is anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any district officer.

Please stay safe, healthy & strong.

Sincerely,



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 this message finds you well. As I see the situation update for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the website of Minnesota Department of Health, it makes me think about all of us doing our part to keep us safe. Only we may know exactly where our life is now, with the stress level we may be going through personally, professionally and socially. If for any reason, you think anyone of our Toastmasters community could help you out in any way, please feel free to reach out to anyone to see how we could be supportive of one another during these times.

If you are at home keeping up with social distancing, I encourage you to think of this only as physical distancing more than a social distancing. I would personally like to recommend you use any such tools you may have to still connect with each other and your Toastmasters community. I understand we may not be physically meeting for club meetings until further notice; nevertheless, this has created an opportunity to connect via some video conferencing applications. My home club conducted our meetings through Zoom. We became creative on how we wanted to use it to our benefit. I hope you are doing something similar as well. There are other tools I have heard of such as Google Hangout, Cisco WebEx, Microsoft Teams. Please feel free to use any one of these or others that may seem to fit the needs of your club and its members.

We are in the midst of conducting Division Contests. We have completed Division E and Division D speech contests so far. Congratulations to all the Contestants for participating and stepping up to the occasion. Thank you to all the volunteer leaders who served in making those speech contests fun and memorable. With new challenges came new opportunities to come together, and I am glad to see how we, as a team, are bonding through these moments to find ways to be supportive of one another. Thank you once again to everyone who have been involved and will be involved in the speech contests that have been completed and the ones that are yet to occur. Please check out our [District 6 calendar](#) page for the details on the upcoming Division Speech contests.

Please remember that our first ever District 6 Virtual conference is happening on the 8th and the 9th of May. If you are looking for an opportunity to present at the conference, we are still looking for presenters. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the conference. We want you to attend our Virtual Business meeting on the 9th at 10:30 AM. Check out the candidates who are running for the District Office at the Candidate Forum too. For more details, and to register (required to receive the Virtual link/password) for the conference, please visit our [2020 District 6 Virtual Conference](#) page. I hope to find you there.

Hope you stay safe.



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

Fellow Toastmasters:

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe during this difficult time. There is a new club that will charter in April. Farmington Speak Easy is currently getting all their charter applications and forms together to send to Toastmasters International. Congratulations to them!

Now is the perfect time to update your club website to attract new members. Please do not advertise your online meeting information on your website. There are Zoom bombers out there! You can still grow your club! If you are not meeting online, there are many online meeting platforms available. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the District 6 Spring Conference on May 9th! Until then, stay safe and stay home.



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

Marvel Kummer – Outstanding Member!

Marvel Kummer was recently recognized by Club Growth Director, Deb Luu, as an Outstanding Member.

Marvel was recognized as an outstanding member for all her contributions to District 6 and Toastmasters. Marvel is a member of Super Communicators Toastmasters. She has completed 4 paths in Pathways and recently earned her DTM award in Pathways. She has completed many leadership projects to earn this including being the Sponsor/Mentor Chair for District 6 and being the Area 33 Contest Chair. Marvel never hesitates to mentor a new member, help with a demo meeting for a potential club or anything else she feels will add value for the members. Thank you, Marvel, for all your contributions to District 6!





2020 District 6 Virtual Conference

May 8 & 9

This is a Free Event! All are Welcome!

**** visit the website for additional details**

<http://www.d6tm.org/2020-district-6-conference/> **

[Click here](#) to register for FREE!



The District Leadership committee has evaluated the candidates running for District office in 2020-2021 and nominated the following candidates:

Program Quality Director: Deb Luu

Club Growth Director: Linda Dorn

Division C Director: Troy Dukart

Division E Director: Tara Bolanda

Division F Director: Goutham Putta

Division M Director: Mike Dupris

Floor candidates will be invited at the district council meeting:

Division Director

Club Growth Director

Division D Director

Division N Director

(if proposed per alignment & passed by the district)

The elections will be held during the business meeting on Saturday May 9, 2020 at 10:30 am.

Awards Time!

It's that time in the Toastmasters year where we get to recognize and reward fellow Toastmaster who are making a difference in our clubs, our District, and the wider world!

Toastmaster of the Year (TMOY): d6tm.org/tmoy.

Each Toastmasters club has talented, hard-working and dedicated members. Each year, one member stands out because of his/her participation inside and outside the club. This member supports their fellow members, the club, and perhaps the overall Toastmasters organization. These members are deserving of Toastmaster of the Year (TMOY) recognition.

Important TMOY Dates (new Dates)

June 1: Club selects a TMOY and forwards to Area Director.

June 10: Area Director selects Area TMOY & forwards to Division Director.

June 17: Area Director notifies Area TMOY recipient

June 17: Division Directors select Area Director of the Year (ADOY) for their Division.

June 20: Division Directors forward nominations to [Administration Manager \(Jamie Ogborn\)](#) and to District Trio.

July 18, 2020 (Summer TLI): Announcement of Division & District TMOY



Additional awards

<http://www.d6tm.org/district-6-annual-awards-nominations/>

Lou Novak Award: <http://www.d6tm.org/LouNovakAward/>

Each year the Lou Novak award is presented to a member who significantly contributes to the growth of new clubs in District 6.

Don Murray: <http://www.d6tm.org/donmurrayaward/>

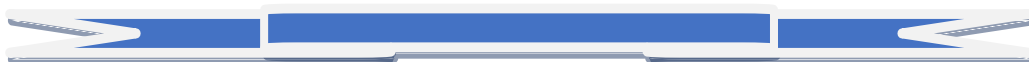
Don Murray award is presented a member who has worked hard beyond the club level without holding a district office. This award typically goes to that quiet, behind-the-scenes person whose contributions have helped the district and their fellow Toastmasters. The award is made without regard to club, area, or division affiliation.

Keith Hardy Youth Leadership award: <http://www.d6tm.org/keithhardyaward/>

This Award is presented to a club holding at least two Youth Leadership Programs in the same program year, excelling in providing opportunities for young people to grow their communication and leadership skills

Lorin Pollman Award: <http://www.d6tm.org/lorinpollmannaward/>

This award is presented to a club that conducted Speechcraft sessions to help educate members of its community and promote membership growth in Toastmasters.



Keeping Our Spirits Up

By Attracta Abulu, DTM, Westerly Winds Toastmasters

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing WFH (work from home) directive from our company, many people are worried and some in near panic for many reasons. Will I lose my job? Will I be able to pay my bills? How will I take care of my family? What about food? What if I run out and there is nothing to buy? How about members of my family who are away from me for various reasons, when will I see them again? How about my aged parents? How will I take care of them? What about my friends, will we ever get together again? I am lonely, what am I going to do? My kids who are home from school are driving me crazy! What can I do? When will this end?

All these are valid questions and valid fears in abnormal times such as these. In spite of all of these upheavals to the fabric of our society, we have to hang on to the hope and to our faith (whatever that means to you) that this too shall pass. We may experience tough losses. We may even lose loved ones (as heartbreaking as that is), we may encounter changes in our relationships both personal and professional, how we make our living, how we do our work, how we learn, even how we speak. The world throughout its history has experienced devastating events such as plagues and other pandemics, wars and cataclysmic natural disasters. In spite of all of this, I know one thing for sure and that is that humanity is resilient. From the ashes of any devastation, humanity, like the mythological bird the Phoenix, will always rise again.

I leave you with the words of the Madison, Wisconsin retired school teacher, recently turned poet, Catherine O'Meara (also known as Kitty O'Meara), in her poem "And People Stayed Home". Her words speak to the current times and capture the essence of humanity's ability to adapt and bounce back.

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Please be safe and take care of yourselves. This too shall pass.

Don't forget! Upcoming District Contests

Division C Contest: Thursday April 9, 2020 Time: 5:30 PM

Division F Contest: Saturday April 18, 2020 Time: 9 AM

Division M Contest: Thursday April 23, 2020 Time: 5:30 PM

District Contest: Saturday, May 9, 2020 time: 1:00 PM



Physical Distancing vs. Social Distancing

This month's article by our District 6 Program Quality Director, Susan, really got me thinking: "...I encourage you to think of this only as physical distancing more than a social distancing." How very true! While I continue to struggle internally with all this distancing - missing my family and friends and coworkers, and shuddering to think about how long it will be before we can physically connect again - I have been amazed at the myriad ways we have been able to connect through various technologies, through good old snail mail, and through spirit.

I am grateful to all those who keep others in their thoughts and prayers, and to every one of you for stepping up to connect and to serve. May we we meet in person very soon. Until then, remember that every act of kindness reduces "distancing" of all forms.

Sincerely, Starlett

Have an article to share? I know you have stories of encouragement and triumph in these difficult times!

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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