



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District 6 News and Events

District 6 Newsletter

May 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Messages from District Leadership
- PROS Toastmasters
- D6 Virtual Conference: [Bloom where you are planted](#)
- Toastmasters, the gift that keeps on giving
- Awards Time

UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

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,

I would like to express my gratitude to every Toastmaster and their family who are on the frontlines battling the Covid-19 pandemic. It is because of your dedication and service that we are able to stay safe. Thank you for all you are doing.

It is heartwarming to note that many fellow Toastmasters clubs have adapted to the challenging time by having online club meetings. District 6 has been supporting all the clubs to have online meetings through Zoom. If your club is still looking for some help in this regard, please contact your Area or Division Director; we will get a recurring meeting set up for you.

As the year ends, we are looking to welcome our new leaders. I hope you will join me in conducting a successful Virtual District Council (business meeting) on May 9 at 10.30 am. [Register here.](#) I hope you also enjoy the educational sessions on Friday with "Meet the leaders", Larry's keynote, and Speech contests on Saturday.

Thank you for doing your best for fellow Toastmasters. Please stay safe. Please accept the best wishes from our family to yours.

Sincerely,



Ravi Rai

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

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Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Dear Friends,

The pandemic has hit us, and it hit us from different angles. We have had to change our ways and try to adapt to things we may not have been normally used to. Some of us had to experience losses ourselves and some had to witness the losses of our loved ones. It is a difficult feeling to lose someone and something and I feel similar even though every situation is different. This too shall pass, and when we get to the other side, we will come out even stronger.

We are fighters, we are individuals who have built our District 6 community of Toastmasters with positive thinkers supportive of one another. I can see this time being as good as any other to tap into each one of us to see how we can help each other. Our community is built on the value of integrity, respect, service, and excellence. I see this as a perfect moment to keep practicing our values by being honest and keeping our strong moral compass towards the right direction, in being respectful of all diversity we have come to include in our lives, serving them to achieve a better life and become better individuals. I see this as a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished so far, where we stand, and possibly to think about how we want to get to where we want to be - moving forward.

Communication is a good place to start. Our supportive community is about bettering our communication skills so why not start here? I highly recommend connecting with our friends within our clubs, outside of our clubs, and to see if we can offer any help in their lives; to see if we can possibly help utilize the amazing skillsets they already have. Let's help one another be mentally, emotionally, and financially stronger. Let's be creative in our ways now to figure out how we can keep ourselves connected even though we are physically maintaining our distance for our health. We learn by trying to see what works and what doesn't. Keep at it, to see how technology can help us be more efficient and effective at the same time.

I hope you are taking good care of yourselves, practicing social distancing, and yet connecting in creative ways so we all come out on the other side even better! Please feel free to connect with me if there is anything I can do to assist you in your journey.

Hope you stay safe.

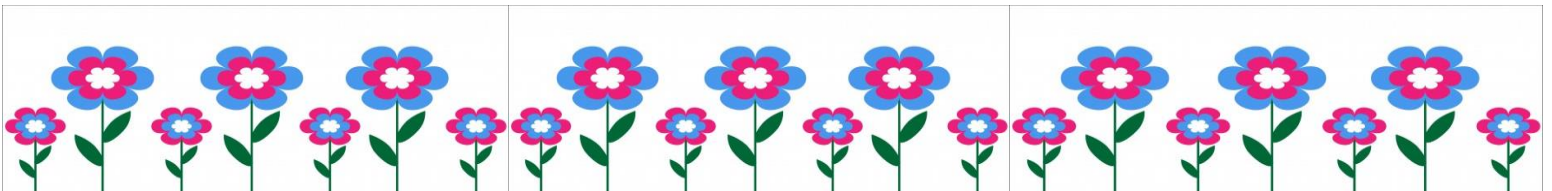


Susan Rajbhandari, DTM

Program Quality Director, District 6

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Message from the District 6 Club Growth Director

Hello Fellow Toastmasters:

First and most importantly, I hope everyone is healthy and well. We are living through a very challenging time. Hang in there! I am hoping that each week brings us closer to a sense of "normal" with some restrictions being lifted.

I am already enjoying meeting online with my fellow Toastmasters and guests. I don't know about you, but I thrive when I am connecting in person with people. I don't like working from home on a regular basis. Online meetings help to fill this void for me, and I hope for you as well. We can find value with online meetings and reach our goals. If you are not meeting online, please contact me and I will help you make that happen. I highly encourage you to "visit" other clubs in different states or even different countries. You can find clubs that meet online by going to www.toastmasters.org, **Find A Club**, and sort by online attendance accepted.

Beginning May 1 through June 30, the **Beat the Clock Membership Drive** is happening. Add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members and earn a beautiful ribbon to display as well as 10% off your next TI order. You can build your membership now by:

- ❖ Inviting coworkers and friends to your online meetings. They may be looking for a way to connect with others while developing skills from the comfort of their home.
 - ❖ Updating Club Central on toastmasters.org, to show that you are meeting online.
 - ❖ Using Eventbrite - a free media to advertise your meetings.
 - ❖ Contact local newspapers - some are free with event notifications. Sun Newspapers is one.
 - ❖ Putting an invitation on Facebook, have an online open house.
- You can do it!

I am able to visit a lot more clubs virtually these days and have been taking advantage of that. I am hoping to visit your club in the near future! I want to know how I can help you and your club. Please don't hesitate to let me know. Reach out to me to visit your club.

Wishing everyone continued success in your Toastmaster journey,

Deb



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



You're invited to PROS Toastmasters – Please Pass the Word!

Club name: PROS Toastmasters

Club #: 4650

Chartered: 1981

What makes us unique: Power & Reach and Speech (PROS) Toastmasters Club.

- We are a virtual club that has a lot of speaking opportunities for those looking for them. **We are not bound by a meeting location or only meeting on the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month.**
- PROS can accommodate anyone looking to get extra speeches once they become a member on any day they wish.
- PROS also has many Toastmaster members who have been District Directors, Division Directors, and all other roles in the District leadership team.
- PROS is a veteran group that reveres helping others succeed and meet their educational and leadership goals.

Contact: Please visit our website, <https://4650.toastmastersclubs.org/>, and click on "Contact Us" for meeting information and any other questions you have

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)

District Council members (Club Presidents, VPE, DEC members):

Please be sure to [register](#) for the Council business meeting on May 9.

This is important to conduct District business and vote for 2020-2021 District leaders.



Bloom where you are planted

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL
D6 Conference

Friday, May 8 • Saturday, May 9

VIA ZOOM

For registration and details visit:
d6tm.org/2020-district-6-conference



Message from District 6 Public Relations

I do hope each of you will join us for this year's [2020 District 6 Virtual Conference](#).

Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9

You can come and go as you please and attend as much—or as little—as you'd like. All for FREE!
Here are some reasons I encourage you to pop in:

Explore the Toastmasters world beyond your club

- Venture out! Often our perspective is focused on or limited to what happens in our clubs. Get a glimpse of how the organization runs at our District level.
- Learn about opportunities to enhance your leadership and communications skills. There just might be a District role perfect for you.
- Meet your leaders. Get to know those running for District office.

Find fellowship...in your pajamas!

- I know...I know... There are limitations to virtual meetings. But here you can watch and learn best practices while navigating your own clubs through virtual meetings.
- (And if we encounter glitches...learn how we [try our best] to handle them with aplomb).
- Virtual meetings are here to stay for the foreseeable future. Learn to adapt in our supportive Toastmasters environment.

Who couldn't use a good laugh and some inspiration?

- Lift your spirits through laughter. What a perfect year for the District Humorous Speech Contest!
- Get inspired by some of our District's strongest speakers in the International Speech Contest.
- Connect and feel part of something special.

Please REGISTER if you'd like to attend all—or some—of the D6 Virtual Conference so we can email you a secure link. "See" you at the conference!

For registration and conference details:
d6tm.org/2020-district-6-conference

And please join our [D6 Facebook community](#).



Bloom where you are planted

D6 Virtual Conference **Information Sessions • Friday, May 8**

3:00 pm Pathways

Pathways isn't as bad as it seems. Learn tips and best practices, get answers to your questions, identify resources, and discover confidence that you, too, can utilize Pathways! Walk through how to use our new learning platform with Jamie.

4:00 pm Going virtual is pretty cool!

Vince and Monte will share their experiences on running virtual meetings and virtual Speechcraft sessions. Hear what their clubs have done to figure out ways to keep connecting with their club members and Speechcraft participants.

5:00 pm How to Win When You're Quarantined In: Sweepstakes 101 and Q&A

You are indoors much of the time now due to the pandemic. Maybe cash isn't flowing as well as it was. How can you still acquire things without the money? Try entering sweepstakes. It's easy, fun, and can be very prosperous.

Registration is FREE!

d6tm.org/2020-district-6-conference



Toastmasters, the gift that keeps on giving

by Jamie Ogborn- District 6 Administration Manager 2019-2020

As part of dealing in a stressful time I have made a point to think about what I'm grateful for at least once per week. When I sat down to do this yesterday, I had a bit of writer's block. It wasn't even because I had a bad weekend, I had a great weekend and a lot of sun, but I had so many things on my mind, I couldn't focus. I instead took that time to read back on what I had written down since I started this. I was surprised at how many of my notes were from Toastmasters. I really enjoy seeing fellow Toastmasters, I'm really excited about how we were able to figure out how to do online contests, I have finally finished my last speech for my DTM award, I got to attend a very well run Youth Leadership Program meeting, I am getting to see people that I enjoy working with running for district roles and adapting very well to the new environment, and I continue to get to learn and get experience with things that continue to help me with my career!

For this article I want to point out that Toastmasters isn't just about public speaking, it truly is the gift that keeps on giving. I started out, new to my career, scared to death of speaking in front of a group, and struggling to answer questions on the spot. It took a couple of years to get over these hurdles. I could have stopped there and been very happy with my Toastmasters experience, but I didn't. I took on an officer role where my goal was to bring guests into the club, I set up events for the club and I helped with contests and officer training. I learned about how to keep things organized, build relationships quickly, understand the goals of people that I work with and I got even better at presenting. I could have stopped there and been very happy with my Toastmasters experience, but I didn't. I became an area director and a club mentor for a new club. I got to work with clubs to help with challenges they were facing, help some evolve to a better quality meeting, recognize others for their incredible atmosphere and club meetings, ran my own contest, trained officers and learned how to take full responsibility for my role and the area that I served. Once again, I could have stopped there and been very happy with my experience with Toastmasters, but I kept going. I became the Administration Manager for District 6. I learned how to keep things organized, the importance of keeping the leadership team ahead of events and deadlines and keeping the resources that they need at hand, I had some great experiences working with various leaders to set up District Officer Trainings, Contests, District Events, Newsletters, and Contests, and I learned how to deal with difficult situations and communication challenges. I could stop here and be very happy with Toastmasters, but I won't as I have so much more I can do and learn with Toastmasters.

I have heard several people point out all of the negatives of having Pathways online and having virtual meetings, but I also continue to see the benefits of where we have evolved to. Just last weekend I had a speech and I could not find my competent communicator book to save my life. I remember my frustration that I just have 3 speeches left and this could be one of them, but I gave in and looked up online the evaluation form of one of the projects that I think I still needed to finish and hoped that it was indeed one of the ones I should be working on. I remember thinking how much I wished I hadn't pushed to get another CC done before the cutoff and just stuck with Pathways that I could just look up online. I don't know how many times I have done this, but I do know that I really appreciate clubs that break the rules and post content online and it doesn't feel good appreciating bad behavior. I am glad that we now can order printed materials, print off the projects, or use the online system. I also think about how proud I am that our district stepped up to allow online contests and online meetings. I remember in college when I was too sick to be at the school, I was very grateful that a college had just opened a degree program online. I didn't have to wait to get better or give up on college all together, I just had to find a different way to get it done. That college gave me the opportunity to keep moving forward with my education and career. Though these contests may not be saving someone's career opportunities, it is allowing our most competitive members to still compete for the world title, which not every district allowed. It also allowed several of us to shine and show off our ability to problem solve and create solutions under pressure. Our online club meetings are helping people get proficient with the video conferencing tools available to them to allow them to continue to work and grow despite having to stay home and are allowing members to continue to grow and reach their goals.

I highly recommend you talk with your club members and district leaders about additional gifts that you can get from Toastmasters above and beyond the original goal that you joined for, so that you too can enjoy the gift that keeps on giving despite the challenges that this year continues to bring. Stay safe!

Awards Time!

It's that time in the Toastmasters year where we get to recognize and reward fellow Toastmasters 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 their 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/>

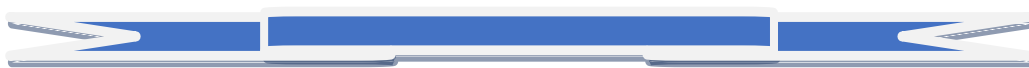
Don Murray award is presented a member who has worked hard beyond the club level without holding a district office. This award typically goes to that quiet, behind-the-scenes person whose contributions have helped the district and their fellow Toastmasters. The award is made without regard to club, area,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

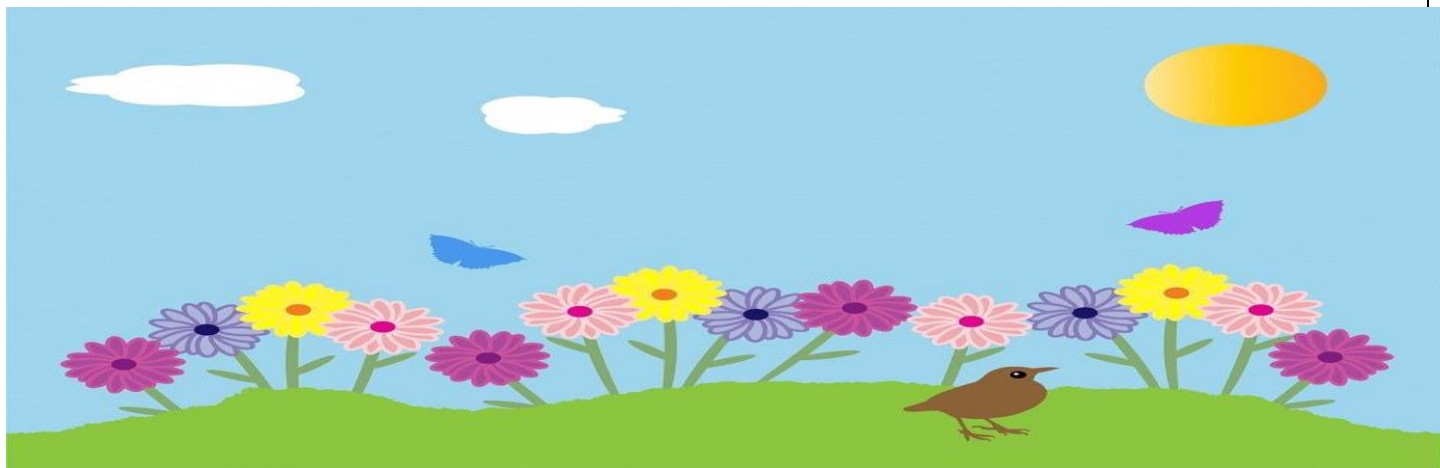
Keith Hardy Youth Leadership award: <http://www.d6tm.org/keithhardyaward/>

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.





The Garden of Life

Did you catch the theme for our upcoming District 6 Virtual Conference? **Bloom Where You are Planted.** I've always enjoyed this thought; it is like the "be here now" mantra, reminding us that *now* is the only moment we truly have. Why not make now beautiful?!

I've recently been speaking to a few Toastmasters leaders about our individual Toastmasters' paths, and the future we hope for. We shared our concerns and our excitement, but most of all, we shared our caring for each other. This fertile Toastmasters garden is where we all continue to bloom and grow, no matter how we got here or how much or how little we are able to give going forward.

Today I gave a Toastmasters presentation about gardening skills. I do not claim to be a great gardener, but I certainly enjoy trying! And isn't that what it's all about? Attempting new things. Nurturing with expectation. Finding joy in the moment. Sharing the abundance that life offers to us.

I am so grateful to have you, my beautiful Toastmasters community. May you always find the courage, the support, and the light you need to keep on blooming wherever you are planted!

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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