



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

## District 6 News and Events

### District 6 Newsletter

June 2020

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#### UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

**June 15**

Award Nominations Due

**June 30**

End of Toastmaster Year



### Message from District 6 Director

#### Thank you District 6.

Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

It has been a wonderful journey serving as your District Director. The journey of my service comes to an end on June 30, but I hope to continue to be part of the camaraderie as a simple Toastmaster. I realize that this is going to be my last contribution in my current role. My heart therefore is filled with gratitude for having this opportunity.

#### Unprecedented Times

This year has been a year filled with turns at every corner. With the latest event in Minneapolis, we have been forced to look deep inside to search for answers. I see agony and frustration all around us. We fear for our safety and those of our loved ones. A few fellow Toastmasters have even suffered property damage. The scar in our hearts leaves behind a pain that will take years to heal and hope we will have a new beginning of our American spirits.

#### The Toastmaster Spirit

Living in the Twin Cities has been a blessing as I have found friendship and love in the Toastmasters community. I believe that there is a spirit in our Toastmasters community that helps us overcome the setbacks. I hope you can use this spirit to reach out to each other and to those who are hurting. The self-development I have experienced prepares me to be kind and be respectful. I hope you have found your own Toastmaster spirit.

#### DCP and the recognition awards

If your group has struggled to achieve Distinguished status, then you are not alone. We all have had to adopt to this new norm. It is difficult to achieve a traditional award while adjusting to the new method of having club meetings and serving fellow members. I hope DCP is not a letdown as there are so many different measures of celebrating successes. If you have not yet looked into the recognition awards, please take a look at the following [link at Toastmasters International](#) and check the various awards. As district leaders we look forward to recognizing our fellow Toastmasters with one or various awards.

*Continued...*

**Continued from page 1, District 6 Director message:**

## Experiences

My role as District Director completes my 3-year journey of the TRIO membership. It has been a blessing to serve in all the District roles. It has gained me insight into my own strengths and weaknesses. I am constantly reminded of the need of building relationship and always doing your best. There have been times when it was a sense of feeling overwhelmed, but I am glad I have had this experience to become a better leader and help me understand people.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your leader. It has been an honor and a privilege. Hope you stay safe, secure and take care of everyone around you.

Best wishes to you on your Toastmasters journey.

Sincerely,



**Ravi Rai**

2019-20 District 6 Director

Toastmasters International

612-501-4517 : [Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org](mailto:Ravi.Rai@d6tm.org)



### **Toastmasters International – Online Ovation/Education Award Silver, Online Ovation/Education Award Gold**

Clubs will qualify for these awards by meeting both of the following criteria by June 30, 2020:

- Indicating in Club Central that they allow online attendance
  - The club must have allowed online attendance between January 1 and June 30, 2020. If the club already allowed online attendance prior to January 1, 2020 and continued to allow online attendance, it would qualify. If the club did not allow online attendance prior to January 1, 2020 and began allowing online attendance, it would qualify. Clubs that have never allowed online attendance at any point between January 1 and June 30, 2020, would not qualify.
- Achieving the listed education goal requirement in one of two tiers
  - The first tier/silver award will be presented to those that achieve four education goals (traditional, Pathways, or a combination), based on the DCP.
  - The second tier/gold award will be presented to those that achieve six education goals (traditional, Pathways, or a combination), based on the DCP.

### **The Great Revival Award**

This award will be presented to clubs that were suspended by April 1, 2020, then reinstated between April 1 and September 30, 2020.

### **Membership Consistency Award, Membership Resiliency Award**

Based on a club's membership base as calculated on July 1, 2019, the first award is presented to any club that experienced no net member loss; the second award is presented to any club that experienced a net member gain by June 30, 2020.

Check the [Recognition Awards tab](#) on the [COVID-19 page](#) of the Toastmasters International website for more details.

## Message from the District 6 Program Quality Director

Dear Friends,

June marks the last month of our Toastmasters year; and to me it seems like there is so much going on. So much going on all around the world, around our community. What do we focus on and what do we not? Everything seems so important. What may seem important to you, may not seem important to me; and what may seem important to me, may not seem important to you. However, there is one thing I am sure most of us can agree on. That is, regardless of where we come from and what we face in our everyday lives, communicating with one another is certainly important.

Communicating is only the beginning; how we do it - is a different story on its own. Our organization is a place for a supportive environment for all individuals to learn, practice and share what we feel we have learnt about being better communicators and better leaders. I agree, we live in a real world where things may take a different turn than we had originally planned for. Then again, what we do about it, is up to us. Some of us may have come across this saying - "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it". I think it is a good reminder for all of us, especially in times like these, to question ourselves - how can we make it better from here on?

We are in the development of ourselves together. Our organization focuses on bettering communication skills and leadership skills. We have the option to work on those skills through our education program and the vast amount of opportunities we have in our clubs, areas, divisions, districts, regions and international level. Let me relate our organization to a physical gym that folks go to in order to improve their physique. If we joined a gym and left it at that, I am not sure we would be happy with the results we would get. Similarly, if we joined Toastmasters to become a better communicator and/or a better leader - we might want to rethink if we are utilizing our gym appropriately. Just like there is exercising equipment at a gym; we have our education program. Just like there is a venue where folks go to work out, we have our meetings at various levels starting from clubs all the way to international. The outcome of going to the gym well engaged would be a good physic. The **result of an engaged Toastmaster**, in our education program and applying those skills in our clubs and district, is a better communicator and a confident leader that can inspire the folks around us.

There is always room for improvement and I believe we have what we need for now. Our education program will evolve and so will our meetings - physical or virtual. That's evolution. The choice is ours and I sure hope we choose to want to become a better communicator and a confident leader. Now, I request you to start being engaged if you haven't already by working on your education program, taking on a club officer role in your clubs or a district officer by applying online at <http://www.d6tm.org/district-6-2020-2021/>. Opportunity awaits - I sure hope you are ready to work together and celebrate excellence.

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

### Hello Fellow Toastmasters:

First, I would like to thank each and every one of you for adjusting to zoom meetings instead of in person meetings during this challenging time. They really are fun! If you haven't started meeting online, now is the time. Please contact the Trio or Division Directors to help you set up an online meeting. Stay connected with your club. This is also the perfect time to go on a trip around the US and the world visiting other clubs online. I have heard some great stories of Toastmasters visiting a different club each week. Travel by plane may be limited right now but not travel via online meetings!

To help you finish the Toastmaster year strong, the [Beat the Clock Membership Drive](#) awards clubs that get a minimum of 5 new, dual and reinstated members with a beautiful ribbon for their banner and a 10% coupon off of Toastmaster merchandise. Have an online open house, advertising on Facebook, Eventbrite, Twitter and other social media. Give a personal invite to your friends and coworkers. Now is the perfect time!

Finally, as the year comes to an end along with the Legacy Program, please take some extra time to help that member who is struggling with Pathways. You can meet on the phone or online, sharing your screen for extra help. A quality club is inclusive of all members receiving value. Please help me to make sure no club member gets left behind. I can guarantee that they will greatly appreciate your extra efforts.

Club officer training round 1 begins on June 1, 2020. You can attend from the comfort of your home! Please check the [District 6 calendar](#) for dates and times as they become available.

Finish strong! If there is anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to let me know!

Respectfully,

Deb



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



## First Ever District 6 Virtual Conference is a Success!

May 8-9, 2020

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped out with the virtual conference, the contestants who let themselves out there in the speech contests and all the attendees who spent the time being with each one of us virtually showing support to our community of Toastmasters who are constantly working towards developing a better version of our selves. Thank you once again, this virtual conference was successful only because of you!

### Congratulations to the District 6 Speech Contest Winners:

<b><i>Humorous Speech Contest</i></b> 1st: Earl Roethke 2nd: Margaret Nelson 3rd: Deb Miller	<b><i>International Speech Contest</i></b> 1st: Kenny Ray Morgan 2nd: Eric Schurr 3rd: Nathaniel Engelsen
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### **Congratulations to the District 6 2020-2021 Leaders, elected at our May 9, 2020 District Council Meeting:**

District 6 Director: Susan Rajbhandari

Program Quality Director: Deb Luu

Club Growth Director: Linda Dorn

Division C Director: Troy Dukart

Division D Director: Cory Gallagher

Division E Director: Tara Bolanda

Division F Director: Goutham Putta

Division M Director: Mike Dupris

Division N Director: Linda Brown

### **The following have been appointed:**

Administration Manager Colleen Marie Kelly

Finance Manager: Jamie Ogborn

Public Relations Manager: Ann Rathman

Logistics Manager: Ed Burke

## *Awards Time!*

District 6 Clubs and Members are encouraged to submit your nominations for efforts in Speechcraft, Youth Leadership, building new clubs and simply going over and above to serve fellow members of District this year.

Nominations must be submitted by **June 15, 2020**.

### *Awards main page:*

<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/>

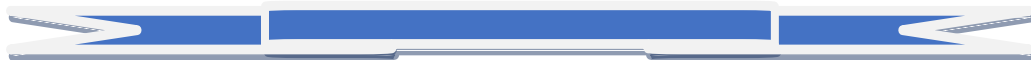
Don Murray award is presented a member who has worked hard beyond the club level without holding a district office. This award typically goes to that quiet, behind-the-scenes person whose contributions have helped the district and their fellow Toastmasters. The award is made without regard to club, area,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



## Toastmasters, Where Leaders are Made.

### A call to serve through leadership

While the pandemic has kept most of us working remotely, staying at home, or finding new ways to be creative, I hope you are finding the time to take care of yourself. We often forget to make time for our mental wellbeing. I would like to take a moment and thank our nurses, emergency services, and those helping to slow the virus. Although another virus is on the merge, how are you staying healthy? Are you making time to connect with friends and family? It is important to talk to others if you are feeling depressed or anxious.

2020 has been a kind of learning curve year. Using virtual meetings now more than ever. A new Toastmasters year is starting. Newly elected Club Officers won't be inducted the same as we have in previous years. Many things have gone online. I've been attending Online Happy Hours and Networking groups etc...

My time in Toastmasters has been a call of service for my personal growth and wellness. And, to lead with compassion. I recently gave the level of a pathway 2 speech about understanding your leadership style. I see things a lot differently now than I have in the past. Like slowing down and appreciating the moments we have with each other and leading others with compassion. I have often wondered why many things haven't gone virtual? After all, we are supposed to be living in the digital age. :) Humour me here a little.

I would like to take a moment and recognize the Trio or other members who took their time and efforts to put together zoom meetings, continuing the contest, and conferences. This has been a great experience to see many people come together online. I have learned many things from all of you and how people can unite over helping each other in any way possible.

I remember my very first public speaking class in college, and I wish it was something made available when I moved to the United States 30 years ago from a little island in the Caribbean with big dreams. I am a proud bi-lingual speaker. My native language is Patois a broken kind of English dialect. I have been able to assimilate to living in Minnesota. While it was not always an easy journey. I am proud to be here.

I have been able to grow as a leader utilizing many skills I have gained throughout my time. It has been an honour to serve as an Area Director 43.

I have been out covering the protest and marching alongside people for the first time. Seeing this has traumatized me. It is horrific what happened to George Floyd and should never repeat. If you see someone in trouble lead with heart and help them in times of need. Don't just sit on the sidelines.

Let's be better members of our respective communities. Let's go out and do some good. Help out where you can and where help is needed. My fellow Toastmasters let's not forget to lead with compassion and heart this year. Lead with love. Stay positive.

The world is your oyster.

I look forward to serving another great Toastmasters year as a Webmaster. Thank you for making it a wonderful experience.

Warmest Regards,  
Jolanta Kissoon Young  
Webmaster, District 6.



## Yes: You ARE creative!

Today is my last article as your 2019-2020 D6 Newsletter Editor. It has been a great honor to serve in this role this year. One of the reasons I said 'yes' to doing it was to explore a previously untapped part of me. You see, I've rarely ever thought of myself as *creative*.

It's been something I've always wished I could say about myself. I brought this up with a coach last year, and she challenged me to change my thinking! Not only that, but she gave me the boost I needed to look at the things I do every day as creativity: problem solving at work, replacing a recipe ingredient when I don't have the one called for, writing sincere thank you notes, and telling fun stories during coffee time with my girlfriends... With this newfound creative side, I could go on and on! 😊

One of the first creative outlets I found during my challenge was creating word clouds. There are lots of word cloud generators out there (just google it). For this last page as your Newsletter Editor, I have entered into a word cloud generator all the past articles I've written, to see what popped up (below). It's a fun representation of my thoughts over this past year. I hope you enjoy it, as much as I've enjoyed serving you. Hope to see you soon and see how your creativity is springing to life too.

Starlett

*Have an article to share? Email me to be included in the next edition of the District 6 Newsletter. I'll be sure to pass it along to our new Editor!*

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

