



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District 6 July 2020 News and Events

District 6 Newsletter

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In the Next Issue:

Pathways now for everyone!

UPCOMING D6TM EVENTS

July 18

TLI - Free Virtual Training & Educational Sessions

August 31

1st Round Club Officer Training Ends

August 24-29, 2020

Virtual Toastmasters International Convention & 2019 World Championship of Public Speaking



2020



2021

A Message from your District 6 Director



Susan Rajbhandari, DTM

Friends,

As I sat down to write something to post on our newsletter, I was thinking of something that would sound perfect. I thought to myself; would it be good to talk about the Distinguished Club Program? Would it be perfect if I talked about going back to the basics, if I talked about how the physical distancing is affecting us or talk about something else? Something else that would sound more perfect. As I thought more, my definition of what perfection meant to me changed. It changed by the moment; and as the thought of the perfect message changed, I also realized that self-doubt started to overcome me. This time around, it was not just about the perfect message. I started thinking about whether or not the message I sent out was going to be received like I intended it to be received. I am talking about self-doubt.

I was in search of a perfect message that would be delivered and received perfectly. For what? Possibly for a perfect action to be taken. The thought had been going for days, months, and now I realized my friends were waiting – waiting on me to provide an article for our Newsletter. It's time for delivery and I have nothing. This is how I feel.

Let me ask you this: Have you felt like you have been waiting for a moment that is perfect to get something done? Have you stopped yourself from taking an action because someone else would judge you for your action? Have such questions and thoughts led you to NO delivery or loss in opportunity for you, your family, your friends and community around you or globally? My friend, I am here to share with you that any moment is a moment of perfection if you are willing to make it so. Will there be folks to judge you? Yes, of course, because we are all human and that is in our nature. We simply can't help ourselves from judging one another despite how much we try. But that doesn't mean we stop doing what we can do.

We do things because we want to and out of the goodness of our hearts to make things better. I am talking about life in general, and Toastmasters is a part of our lives. Our mission is to empower **individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders**. We make that happen by staying engaged and doing things, not only by thinking. Yes, thinking is a great start but we want to take action. Newton's third law, from what I remember, states "for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." I do not mean to start proving a physics law of any sort; but if we were to think about it, we will get results only if we act, correct?

My friends, my request to you is take charge of this moment you have, to see how you could help yourself, your family, your friends and community around you become better communicators and better leaders and foster self-confidence and personal growth. Visit our website d6tm.org for more information on what opportunities are out there and connect with me if there is anything I could assist you in. I look forward to working with you and serving alongside this Toastmasters year 2020-2021. Happy New Toastmasters Year 2020 - 2021!

Working Together - Celebrating Excellence!

Susan

Susan Rajbhandari, DTM

District 6 Director, 2020-2021

Toastmasters International

Phone: 704-327-8726 Susan.Rajbhandari@d6tm.org

A Message from your District 6 Program Quality Director



Deborah Luu, DTM

Fellow Toastmasters:

I am honored to serve District 6 as your Program Quality Director for 2020-2021. My goal is to provide quality training to Division Directors, Area Directors and especially club officers so they can all serve you, the member, to have the best Toastmaster experience, ensuring that you are reaching your goals and finding value in each club meeting.

Club officers - the upcoming TLI (Toastmasters Leadership Institute) on July 18 will provide you with the tools you need to understand your officer role and have a successful club. You need to attend all 3 sessions to receive credit for Round 1 club officer training. There are some great presentations. Please select your choice when you register through Eventbrite. Please stay for the awards presentations.

If you are unable to attend the TLI you can choose from various club officer training sessions in July and August. These will be showing up on the District 6 calendar very soon. All sessions for round 1 club officer training will be online. Round 1 club officer training ends on August 31, 2020. Please work together to try to have all seven club officers trained in Round 1. You must have a minimum of 4 trained in each round to qualify for points in your club's Distinguished Club Program.

I would like to recognize all clubs for the large number of educational awards turned in during the past Toastmaster year. I want to share with you 13 clubs which had the highest percentage of educational awards per 7/1/19 base membership. Congratulations to all of you!

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Membership Base</u>	<u>Education Awards</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Class Act Speakers	8	20	2.5000
Toro ProsE Toastmasters Club	4	7	1.7500
Schwan's Effortless Delivery Club	7	12	1.7143
Midday Mumlbers Club	11	17	1.5455
Cottage Grove Toastmasters	8	12	1.5000
Community Spirit	8	11	1.3750
TNT- Toastmasters - N - Technology	8	11	1.3750
SUPER Communicators	9	11	1.2222
HealthToasters Club	28	34	1.2143
Hutchinson Toastmasters II	20	23	1.1500
Lakeville Toastmasters	14	16	1.1429
Stagecoach Speakers - Early Risers	22	25	1.1364
Gopher Toastmasters Club	16	18	1.1250

I am looking forward to working together and celebrating excellence with all of the members of District 6!

Respectfully,

Deb
Deb Luu, DTM
2020-21 District 6 Program Quality Director
Toastmasters International
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A Message from your District 6 Club Growth Director

Linda Dorn, DTM

Happy New Year!

Yes, it's the start of a new Toastmasters year! How exciting to be able to wipe the slate clean and focus on our new goals for the 2020-2021 program year! What are your goals this year? Do you have a goal to step outside of your club, to grow in your public speaking and leadership skills, and help your fellow Toastmasters and District 6? If so, then have I got a deal for you! Many of us are meeting digitally. Do you need a digital guest packet, new member orientation materials, and more? Then read on.

We have a variety of opportunities available for you in District 6. In Club Growth, I am specifically looking for Toastmasters who are interested in serving as **Club Coaches**, on a **Club Growth Research Team**, and Toastmasters who are willing to assist on our **Demo Team** to take on roles during our prospective club demonstrations meetings. Is your club willing to have a Club Coach assigned to your club to help you build your membership and club procedures? If so, please fill out the **Club Seeking Coach** form. Click into this link to see our [Help Wanted](#) page for more details.

Are you meeting online? Would it be helpful to have a digital guest packet, digital new member orientation materials? You will find these resources (and more) on the new [Club Growth Resources](#) page. If your club is not meeting online, I invite you to consider one of these options:

- Check out the [find a club map](#) on the Toastmasters International website to find a club near you that meets online. Enter your location > Select the search options > Select the days preferred for online attendance > Click submit. Contact the club to see if you could join them for a few meetings to get used to meeting online.
- Partner up with another club. I have actually done this and both clubs are having an awesome time learning and growing together not only in Toastmasters, but navigating Zoom.
- Contact your Division Director to set up Zoom meetings for your club. District 6 has several Zoom accounts and we are happy to set up Zoom meetings for your clubs at no cost to the club.

We have a lot of work to do in Club Growth this year and we can achieve great things by sharing our gifts and talents at the club, area, division, and district levels. After all, teamwork makes the dream work!

Thank you in advance for all that you do to share the good news about Toastmasters! I look forward to collaborating with many of you as we honor our District 6 theme of **Working Together – Celebrating Excellence**.

HELP WANTED:

The Club Growth team is looking for individuals interested in serving in the following roles - Click into these links:

[Club Coach](#)

[Club Growth Research Team](#)

[Demo Team](#)

[Club Seeking Coach](#) – We are looking for clubs with 12 or fewer members, who are interested in having club coaches. If your club would like a club coach assigned to your club, please complete the form within this link.

INCENTIVES:

Please view the full list of incentives by clicking:

[Incentives](#)

Club Growth:

- July 1 – September 30: Be Our Guest—Host an open house and have 3 new members join to earn a \$15 gift card for your club.
- July 1 – June 30: Club Lead incentive—Receive a \$50 gift card for any new lead that results in a chartered club within the 2020-2021 program year.
- July 1–June 30: Distinguished Club Coach: All Club Coaches who help lead their assigned clubs to distinguished during the 2020-21 program year will have their names placed in a drawing for one of ten \$25 gift cards.

Warm regards,

Linda

Linda Dorn, DTM

2020-2021 District 6 Club Growth Director

Toastmasters International

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An Invitation to the next District 6 TLI – Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Our first ever virtual summer TLI is scheduled on Saturday, July 18, 2020 from 8 AM – 12 PM via Zoom. We have breakout sessions for officer trainings at 8 AM and three educational options from which to choose for the 9 AM and for the 10 AM sessions. You will need to attend all three sessions in order to receive officer training credit. Below is a sneak peek of what's in store for you:

8 AM Sessions

Breakout by officer roles. If you haven't already registered, please Click here to [register](#) for your Eventbrite free ticket. *Be sure to also indicate which officer role(s) you have.*

9 AM Sessions (Choose one)

- Annie Rathman, ALB, District 6 Public Relations Manager, “Unlocking your Star Power”.
- Jamie Ogborn, DTM, District 6 Pathways Guide, “Pathways Base Camp Manager.”
- John Arsenault, “Best Practices for Online Meetings.”

10 AM Sessions (Choose one)

- Kari Barlas, DTM – “Unconscious Bias: Getting Real About Your Club’s Culture.”
- Linda Dorn, DTM – “Club and Member Growth Toolbox.”
- Steve Donofrio, PM4 – “The R.U.L.E. of Harmony.”

11 AM Award and Recognition Ceremony

Click here to [register](#), to volunteer or pose a question!

Respectfully,

Chau Bahn Stanton, ALB, ACG
TLI Chair



Is your club hosting Online Meetings?

Read about Jamie Ogborn's experience:

It was mid-March, Spring was just beginning, many were taking trips to warmer places and others were competing to make their way to the world stage. As if the world had stopped, everyone had to decide whether to cancel or go online for all of their events. As someone who never slows down, it isn't a shock that I have found a way to adapt most of my social interactions in a virtual setting, from work, to Easter dinner, to Toastmasters meetings and contests, to happy hours, to a kid's camp. It's safe to say I have learned a few things from my journey. Continued . . .

The first thing that I learned is that less is not more and more is not better. Living out in the woods and being at home alone for most of the shutdown thus far, I did feel a lot of anxiety in the few weeks when I had limited social interaction. I also struggled the first couple of weeks with a different schedule. Things like Toastmasters helped keep me around positive and energetic people and kept me busy and on a schedule. I learned very quickly, though, what "Zoom fatigue" was all about as virtual happy hours and contests were a nightly occurrence for a while and my Saturday mornings were booked for three months straight.

This is not just true for single individuals. Parents are having to care for and entertain their kids while still being productive at work and are dreading the thought of potentially having to be teachers on top of that again. Many couples are trying to figure out their office situations so that they can still get their work done without being in each other's way. Essential workers are often doing more work in less time with more equipment to deal with and risks to their health and their family. Laid off workers are trying to figure out how to get a job in this climate and how to pay the bills. The need for Toastmasters doesn't go away at this time, but the needs of individual members may have changed. They may need a different time/day or more flexibility. They may need to work on some different skills that are now essential to get the next job or be effective in the current environment. They may need the social interaction.

The second thing that I learned is that the virtual meeting software that one uses doesn't matter a lot. Zoom is a common software for Toastmasters clubs as it is fairly easy and is free for 45 min meetings. (You can set up 2 meetings if you want to do an hour-long meeting with a break in the middle.) Also, Zoom is used at district events. Skype, Teams, and WebEx are common for corporate clubs as they tend to use the software that their employers use. This allows members to attend the meetings on their work computers instead of having to switch back and forth throughout the day and allows people to get better with the virtual meetings that they need to be effective at work. As long as the software you use allows all of your members to join, allows you to connect with video and audio clearly and allows you to share your screen, it will work.

I also learned that the first meeting takes some patience. It takes 10-15 minutes to get everyone in and settled the first time. After that, more people start signing on 5-10 minutes before the meeting and it takes less time. You will have to decide how you will do everything online. Do you have electronic forms for evaluations? Many teams have had the speaker email their Pathways evaluation to the whole club instead of just the evaluator to allow people to give written feedback. Other clubs just have members email free form text back to speakers with their feedback.

How will you show the time? Some clubs have the timer show a green, yellow, and red item in front of their camera. This works if it's easy to see the camera. If you have a lot of people and software that doesn't let you pin a video to the front, this can be challenging. Some clubs send a message in the chat stating green, yellow, and red. This works if you have the chat function and if everyone has it up. My preference is to use a timing app. I like <https://tmtimer.calebgrove.com/>. The timer would bring each color up as a shared screen. This doesn't work if the speaker also wants to share screen or if the timer's software does not have enough power to share "backgrounds." There are also clubs that have the timer simply hold up 1, 2 and 3 fingers or give verbal timing cues.

You also can't give awards out virtually. Some clubs have chosen to announce awards, some have images of awards or certificates that they share on the screen, emailing or mailing them later. In addition, many clubs have networking time during the meeting. Anyone who has gone to a large virtual happy hour knows that socializing with a large group in a virtual session does not work well. Some software such as Zoom, and WebEx have the option to create breakout rooms that you can use to set members and guests into smaller rooms during those parts of the meeting.

Many clubs have asked what the role is for Sergeant at Arms since they don't have to set up a room. A great role to have in every online meeting is serving as Host. This role opens the meeting, helps with any issues people have getting in, manages the waiting room if you have one, manages the chat, manages recordings and/or breakout rooms as appropriate and makes sure that the meeting runs smoothly. I have also found it helpful for this person to email the meeting link to everyone within an hour before the meeting as this puts it to the top of the inbox where it is easy to find. This can be a good role for the Sergeant at Arms if comfortable with the software.

The last discovery that I have made is that online meetings are FUN if people want to have fun. I highly recommend still having a theme for every meeting. Table topics and speeches bring life to any meeting, virtual or live. Playing with the backgrounds can be fun as well. In one of my club's meetings we all reported from a different Star Wars location. Another club has given excellent feedback and tips to members to help them be better virtual presenters. We have seen tips on everything from backgrounds to lighting to framing to limiting glare on glasses to how to make people feel as if you are speaking just to them.

If you are looking for a club, whether you need to find one that meets online, one that meets at a different time, or one that provides another need, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Let me be a source if your club needs any help with online meetings!

Jamie Ogborn, DTM

District Finance Director
District Pathways Chair
jamie.ogborn@d6tm.org

***Your club can do it –
Get online!***



Recognition

Click here:
[Winners of Awards](#)
... to see our 2019-2020 Toastmasters Year
Outstanding Leaders!

Toastmasters will be Recognized for their Achievements
Saturday, July 18, 2020 during the Virtual Summer TLI

Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year
Area Director of the Year
Division Director of the Year

Lou Novak Award:

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 Award:

Don Murray award is presented to 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:

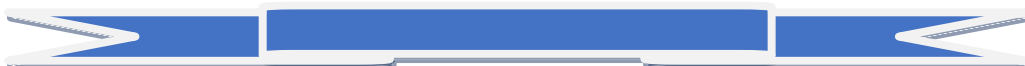
This Award is presented to a club holding at least two Youth Leadership Programs in the same program year, excelling in providing opportunities for young people to grow their communication and leadership skills

Lorin Pollman Award:

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

Alex P. Smetka Award:

This award was created to honor a Past District Director to recognize one Past District Director who has helped the current District in achieving excellence. This person has served the mission of District 6 by providing mentoring to the District Director and other Toastmasters leaders.



A Letter from the Editor . . .



Welcome to our New Toastmasters Year!

Cathi Droz, DTM

I have always considered July 1st in our Toastmasters calendar year to be a day of second chances, heralding a time of renewal. Invariably, I will renew a resolution I made on January 1st that I eventually failed to uphold.

I was a teacher and then counselor/therapist. Though now retired, I consider myself driven by a need to share. I am happy to step into the job of publishing our District 6 newsletter. The editor position will help me with my Toastmasters resolution: to disseminate to my fellow Toastmasters as much of the knowledge I have gained from my 30 years of experience in this dynamic program as I can.

It is my hope that you and your club will assist me in keeping everyone informed of news and helpful ideas from across the district this year. Let's make it a fun and productive one!

So, tell me – What's your Toastmasters New Year's resolution?



Summertime!



Do you 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:

Cathi Droz, DTM
Newsletter Editor
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In the Next Issue: Preparing for Pathways!