



District 6 Toastmasters

Serving Parts of Minnesota and Ontario

District News and Events

District 6

December/2017

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As 2017 finishes, Happy Holidays to you and your family. On behalf of the District 6 team, sincerest thanks to you for being a member. You make Toastmasters amazing. We're looking forward to helping you get the most from Toastmasters in 2018. Please reach out if you or your club need any assistance.

Giving Thanks to Supporters

The holiday season is a great time to give thanks to those who support you and your club. Consider writing and sending a personal thank-you note to the following:

- Any organization or property-management office that allows your club to hold meetings in its space.
- Any employer, manager, human resources department, or other sponsoring organization that supports your club and allows you to attend meetings.
- Any individual or organization that assists with membership dues.

Thanking these generous individuals and organizations shows appreciation, strengthens partnerships, and it even promotes your club through goodwill. Although the holidays are a great time for this, this can be done several times each year.

Planning for Guests & Open Houses

In January, interest in Toastmasters and your club will increase significantly. Be ready for guests, and capitalize on the interest by promoting and planning for open houses. An open house is a special meeting designed for guests, to help them learn about your club and what it can do for them. While conventional meetings focus on members and their growth, a great open house focuses on guests and their needs.

Plan several open houses for the next 6 months, as each allows your club to learn, improve, and grow. To learn more about open houses, see this [brief guide to open houses](#). To invite others, use the [prospective member flier](#) and [club meeting invitation](#) from Toastmasters International. Invite your Area Director and other district leaders to help make your club's events successful.

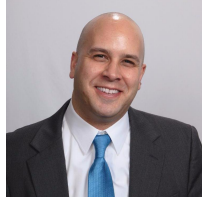
Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) - January 6th

If you are a club officer or are interested in seeing your club grow, please attend the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) on January 6th at the DoubleTree in Bloomington. This is one of several smaller TLI events held around District 6 in January and February.

The 1/6 TLI features training sessions directly from district leaders on increasing your club's value, developing transferable leadership skills in your role, and membership building. This event is free, and you can register through the [Eventbrite TLI registration](#)

[page](#).

Thank you for all you do. Enjoy the holiday season. Keep growing!



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Why Run for an Elected District Position?

1. Be a influential servant leader and positively impact more people to gain benefits from the Toastmaster program
2. Gain organizational leadership skills that are transferable to leading groups at work.
3. Be part of a team that grows together!

There are 16 elected positions available for 2018-2019. Six positions (as of 12/19/2017) do not have declared candidates: CGD-South, Division Directors for A, D, E, F, J. (All positions are open until the deadline of January 13, 2018).

For more information and forms: <http://www.d6tm.org/call-for-nominations/>

Upcoming Special Events

Meetings that Matter: Free Breakfast and Mini-Workshop on Handling Motions

January 20, 2018, 8-10 am, New Hope, MN

Be the meeting hero at your next business meeting! Learn how to handle motions properly and with confidence in a fun, interactive session. Register at <https://meetingsmatter.eventbrite.com>.

Author! Author! - Free Seminar on Authoring Books

January 20, 2018, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Mound, MN

Learn how to author a book, learn the secrets of self-publishing, and learn how to use book authorship to enhance credibility. See the [event flier](#) and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-author-free-toastmasters-seminar-tickets-39879672173>.

It's Back! - District 6 Speakers Bureau

We're excited to announce the return of the District 6 Speakers Bureau! Reach new audiences, gain new speaking experience, and further develop your skills through the District 6 Speakers Bureau. This is an exciting opportunity for ambitious members. To learn more and sign up, please visit the [District 6 Speakers Bureau page](#).



Quality Matters

This time of year lends itself to reflection, gratitude, and giving. As a leader, taking a moment to think about the people and things that you are thankful for, allows you to gain more perspective. We're thankful for our club officers across nearly 300 clubs in District 6. Their service to their club helps fulfill the Club Mission and allows each of us to participate in an organization that has made a positive impact in our lives. We encourage you to express your gratitude to your club leadership for their service to your club.

We're also thankful for the District 6 leadership team: Area Directors, Division Directors, and the 7 District officer positions. Their service helps us achieve the District Mission.

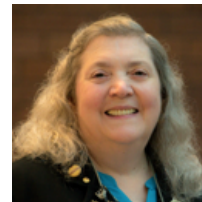
Now that we have taken a moment to be thankful, allow us to remind club officers that the Round 2 of Club Officer Training has begun! The second round goes from Dec 1, 2017-Feb 28, 2018. Please connect with your Area Director for dates and times for officer training. You can also find options at <http://www.d6tm.org/officertaining/>.

Have a wonderful holiday season!



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Member Recognition

Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Award

The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award is the highest honor in the Toastmasters education program. This award requires at least 45 speeches, 6 months of club leadership, 1 year of district leadership, club building, mentoring, and other activities. Achieving this award reflects commitment and excellence in communication and leadership.

Congratulations to our newest Distinguished Toastmaster Award recipients:

- Michelle Perdue of Northwest Wind Club (#692)
- Derek Baerenwald of Escalate (#1224471)

Educational Awards 2017-2018

The reports below show the educational achievements by District 6 members in the 2017-2018 program year. Congratulations to each member!

[All Education Awards Submitted](#)

[Triple Crown \(3 or more educational in the same program year\)](#)



Connect, Share, and Learn

Join District 6's Facebook groups

[District 6 Facebook Group](#)

Club Office-specific groups: [Pres](#), [VPE](#), [VPM](#), [VPPR](#), [Sec](#), [Treas](#), [SAA](#)

Club Success Story

The story below shows how simple membership-related practices add up and make a big difference quickly.

Kim Lang, VP Membership of Luncheon Linguists (#4611) and [2017 District 6 Humorous Speech champion](#), helped her club add 9+ new members in just a few months using simple practices.

In August, the Luncheon Linguists club had 12 active members, with 8-10 attending a meeting. This strained and stretched members to cover meeting roles. To increase the club's membership, the first step was to increase the number of guests. Kim promoted meetings through the sponsoring company's intranet and consistently encouraged members to invite others. As a result, several guests visited.

Having guests is an important step in the membership-building process. But, since guests can choose between several clubs, creating a positive experience is critical. Thankfully, Kim and her fellow members provided a solid experience for guests.

Before meetings started, Kim welcomed each guest, shook hands, and gave each a small gift bag with a pad, pen, and candy. Each guest also received a welcome letter and [membership-application form](#).

At the end of each meeting, the Toastmaster asked each guest for feedback and comments regarding the meeting. Before guests left the meeting, Kim again shook hands with each guest, thanked him/her for coming, addressed any questions, and invited the guest to the next meeting. With a positive experience, several guests joined!

Attracting new members is one side the membership coin. Successful clubs must also retain members. To retain members, Kim reaches out to any member that's missed several meetings in a row. This small act lets each member know he/she is important and missed by fellow members. It addresses any obstacles early so the club can help the member make progress towards goals.

Consistently following these simple practices strengthens a club by attracting new members and retaining existing members. Your club can achieve the same results. Congratulations to Kim Lang and the Luncheon Linguists!

Featured Resources for Clubs

Flexible Club Programming - Do members in your club often serve in multiple meeting roles? If so, there's a better way. Theo Black, DTM, PID wrote a fantastic guide for planning meetings based on your club's membership level. Please read the [Flexible Club Programming guide](#) to make your meetings more enjoyable.

A Roadmap for Club Growth - This awesome article from the Toastmaster magazine shows how a club tripled in size within 90 days. Follow [A Roadmap for Club Growth](#) and your club can do the same.

Measuring What Matters - Want to understand the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) and why its goals are important for your club? The [Measuring What Matters article](#) provides an excellent perspective on the program and how it leads to a sustainable club and a quality experience.

When Bad Things Happen to Good Clubs - Every club encounters challenges, and many challenges are common across clubs. [When Bad Things Happen to Good Clubs](#) covers several challenges clubs have and how to overcome them.

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