



District 6 Toastmasters

Serving Parts of Minnesota and Ontario

District News and Events

District 6

January/2018

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District 6 Spring Conference

May 4 - 5, 2018



Wishing you the very best this year. Below are updates to start 2018 strong.

Let's Make 2018 Count!

In 2018, each member deserves to grow and experience all that Toastmasters offers. You deserve that. To assist you, I've created the [Make It Count! guide](#) with 10 ways to get more from your membership. By focusing on transferable skills, fundamentals, steady achievement and recognition, and service to others, you'll grow while impacting others.



Calling Timeout - Refocusing on Goals

Are your development goals clear? Are your club's goals for its members clear? Have you and your club become so busy with meetings and filling roles that you've lost sight of the important goals? If so, it's time to call a timeout and discuss as a club.

Reserve 30 minutes at your next meeting (or a separate meeting) to revisit the goals and needs of each member. What skills are needed for each member to advance in his/her career and life? Determine how the club and its meetings can achieve those. Add educational presentations and activities to help all members learn and practice skills. Plan for the club to meet often enough to meet member needs and goals.

With the other 30+ minutes of your meeting, conduct a [Moments of Truth session](#) with members to identify opportunities to improve the club's overall quality. It's time well spent.

Clubs exist to help members grow and achieve. Clubs are vehicles for each member to move forward in both career and life. When the club's goals align with the member's goals, and when members drive the club based on their needs, meetings are more meaningful for each member. Take time to slow down as a club so you can speed up in your growth.



Talk Up Toastmasters!

Membership Contest February 1 – March 31

Add 5+ Members

It's Time to Talk Up Toastmasters!

Would you like to see more members in your club? Each member's experience improves when the club grows and maintains healthy membership. Just having guests improves the experience.

To recognize clubs that grow, the Talk Up Toastmasters! contest rewards each club gaining 5 new, dual, or reinstated members with a join date between 2/1/2018-3/31/2018. Winning clubs receive a ribbon for their club banner, a 10% discount on a Toastmasters Store order, a \$25 Visa gift card from District 6, and special recognition at the Spring Conference on May 5th. Rally your fellow members and start talking to win Talk Up Toastmasters!

How can your club win the Talk Up Toastmasters! contest? Below are 3 strategies that can be combined:

1. **Have a "Guest Drive"** - Guests lead to members. To grow membership, first focus on having more guests. Challenge each member to bring at least 1 guest to each meeting. Hold a contest to see who can bring the most guests in February-March. Thanks to Rachael Snavelly of AC Early Risers (#2665) for this great idea!
2. **Increase Meeting Value** - To attract more guests (and members too!), add an interesting educational presentation to every meeting. Presentation topics could include: how to use PowerPoint effectively, how to conduct efficient meetings, how to use email effectively. Brainstorm as a club. By adding educational value, your club attracts learners and growth-oriented individuals that'll gain the most from your club.
3. **Invite Former Members** - Contact former members, let them know they are missed, and invite them to return for an enjoyable, educational meeting. They'll appreciate that you thought of them.

Good luck!



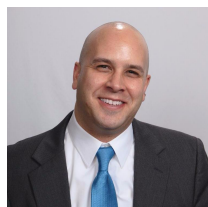
The Next World Champion of Public Speaking is in District 6!

That's right! I'm certain the 2018 World Champion of Public Speaking will come from District 6. It could be you! The International Speech contest starts in February/March. I encourage you to compete (if eligible). No matter the outcome, you'll grow as a speaker. That's the real prize, but it comes through the competition.

If the International Speech contest isn't your thing, then compete in the Tall Tales contest. Stretch the truth, exaggerate, or just tell us interesting lies for 3-5 minutes and you'll do great!

It's time to grow and experience what speech contests offer you. Please compete in your club's upcoming speech contest. Visit the [District 6 Speech Contests page](#) to learn about the International Speech and Tall Tales contests. Good luck, and I hope to see you competing at an area/division speech contest in the near future.

Thank you for all you do. Let's make 2018 count. Keep growing!



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Quality Matters

CHANGE. A word that's very utterance causes anxiety.

Often, our routines can be like being wrapped in a favorite warm blanket on a cold night: familiar, secure, and comforting. Unfortunately, new lands haven't been discovered, the moon hasn't been landed upon, nor Mars colonized by sitting there wrapped in your warm blanket. Sure, those are extreme examples. But you also won't reach your full potential by doing the same old thing expecting a different result.

Change is inevitable, unavoidable, but not unmanageable. Change becomes manageable if you keep these 3 things in mind:

Accept: accept that change is going to happen

Adapt: find what fits you

Accelerate: as you make the changes your growth will propel you forward

As you grow, our organization and our educational program need to evolve as well. To that end, Toastmasters International is excited to roll out the Pathways Learning Experience!

This is a gigantic change. Pathways will have the ability to be tailored more toward your goals than the current educational program. Pathways will be managed online. Pathways will have mandatory projects and elective projects to complete at different levels.

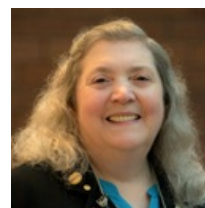
This change is coming... As of right now, it's scheduled to roll out in April. I'm not necessarily saying there won't be challenges along the way. With change comes challenge. But we will accept that change is coming, adapt to that change and accelerate our journey towards accomplishing our goals. I'm excited by what I've seen of the program so far and look forward to you getting a chance to experience it for yourself soon!

Club Officer Training - Round 2 of Club Officer Training has begun! Round 2 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/officertraining/>.



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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 recipient:

- Cheri Jacobson of Stagecoach Speakers NOC MPLS (#1791917)

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](#)

New Club Announcement

Congratulations to our newest club. Welcome to Toastmasters and District 6!

- Stagecoach Speakers and Leaders - Wells Fargo Center (#6778078) chartered on 01/01/2018 in Minneapolis

Club Growth

A new program "Virtual Club Coach Program" in District 6 is being formed that is sure to benefit clubs looking for additional expertise. Over the past few months, we have found many clubs in District 6 that were looking for Coaches but have been unable to get a coach due to lack of availability of coaches. At the same time, we have many club coaches who are looking for a central place to connect. District 6 Club Coach team has come up with an idea of connecting interested clubs and coaches to a central team.

How does it work?

Any interested club or Toastmaster can call into a Zoom meeting either by phone or internet to be connect to a online collaboration session

Who administers the program?

District 6 Club Growth Directors: Ravi Rai & Dave Gibson

Who is it for?

Ideally clubs with <12 members, but any club that's interested

How often?

1-2 times a month in the evenings

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Contact Ravi or Dave for more information



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Youth Leadership Program

Happy New Year, friends and fellow Toastmasters!

Kudos go out to two clubs joining together to provide a Youth Leadership Project for **24** 6th-graders! [Riverbluffers #2426](#) and [Humor Mill #330](#) are each sending out a member or two on a week-to-week basis to help the Coordinator of the Youth Leadership Project at St Croix Lutheran Middle School. Great Partnership!

Sometimes it takes more than one club to pull off a project. Many members have tight schedules and not everyone can commit to a full 8 session YLP. But it only takes ONE to get it started! One member stepped up from one club, then one member from another club said they could chip-in, then another and then another. With a few members from each club coming out to fill in for a session or two - it all gets done as a Team! It especially

benefits the youth to see and hear different Toastmasters Members share their skills and energy!

If you want to try a sample-sized Youth Leadership Project, reach out and I can help you find a place to pitch in for a session or two! There are a few YLPs that will be kicking off in the Twin Cities metro area over the next 2 months and they could use your unique personality and experience - even if just for 1 or 2 sessions.

Thanks to all members who have spoken with me about promoting a Youth Leadership Project!

Let's work together to make the 2nd half of the Toastmasters International Program Year a great success!



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Club Success Story

"We are our own worst critic."

"The camera never lies."

Every time we give a speech in Toastmasters, we receive an official evaluation and feedback from several more people. But can we enhance the evaluation process by watching our own speeches?



HealthToasters has been videotaping speeches for nearly five years. Today I'm going to share with you some of the benefits we've received and the best practices that we've developed over that time.

[Click here to read more!](#)



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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.
