



## District 6 Toastmasters

Where Leaders Are Made

### November Update

#### Fall Conference

The fall Conference that ended on Saturday, November 1, was an exceptional event. Thanks to Jean and Dave Pearson (Conference Co-Chairs), the various chairs on their team, and Larry Marik (Lieutenant Governor Education and Training). These and many others contributed enormously to the overwhelming success of this semi-annual event. Thank each of you for your dedication, service, and enlightening attitudes.



#### Membership & Club Statuses

This fifth month of the Toastmasters year is proving to be quite challenging from a membership perspective, as shown in the table below. Both individual membership and number of clubs are below the pace set in 2012-2013 (when District 6 was a Distinguished District) and 2013-2014 (when District 6 experienced 1% membership growth). There is much more work left to do (District 6 is not on track to being a Distinguished District to date), based on paid clubs and membership payments! Moreover, our goal of extending the opportunities Toastmasters offers to more in our district is in jeopardy.

D6 Membership & Club Renewal Update (November 3, 2014)

Category	Total
Total YTD Membership Payments (2014-2015)	4,660
Total YTD Membership Payments (2013-2014)	4,882
<b>Paid Clubs Base (July 1, 2014)</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>Paid Clubs YTD</b>	<b>262</b>
Paid Clubs YTD (2013 - 2014)	277
Active Clubs	292
<b>Low - Min. Requirement Not Yet Met - 11/3/2014</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Renewals Not In - 11/3/2014</b>	<b>11</b>

One additional piece of information around membership involves the Smedley Award 2014-2015. Only one club added five or more new, dual, or reinstated members from August 1 to September 30. During the same period last year, five clubs received the Smedley Award. Please watch for correspondence in the next week or two regarding opportunities for each club member to help build membership and rebuild clubs in District 6.

District 6, the race is on, and I encourage each of us to continue to make a Toastmasters difference throughout your sphere of influence. This is best accomplished by focusing on **membership** (growth and retention), **club building/club rebuilding**, **club strengthening**, and **Distinguished Clubs**! Thanks for all that you do to **enlighten** each other in our Toastmasters journey. You are incredibly **enlightening**!

**Clinton Hunt, Jr., Ph.D., DTM**

District 6 Governor, 2014-2015

District 6, Toastmasters International

**Where Leaders Are Made**

## Education & Training

### Club Officer Trainers

There will be some changes for our second round of club officer training. If you are not an area or division governor and you plan to help with club officer training, please reach out to me first.



### Educational Awards

Congratulations to all of those who have earned educational awards. The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award is the highest educational award earned. A Triple Crown is awarded to any member submitting three or more awards in one Toastmasters year.

The number of educational awards earned across the District are as follows:

- 131 - Competent Communicator Awards
- 89 - Competent Leadership Awards
- 67 - Advanced Communicator Awards
- 48 - Advanced Leadership Awards
- 26 - High Performance Leadership Awards
- 23 - Triple Crown Awards
- 20 - Distinguished Toastmaster Awards

### Club Dues

Twelve clubs have not submitted their October club dues. Seventeen clubs are under the eight minimum members needed to be in good standing. Please get your club dues in if you have not already done so.

### Fall Conference Recap

The 2014 Fall Conference was a blast with a variety of costumes, educational sessions, and two great speech contests. The speech contests each involved 10 contestants, with the top three finishers listed below. Please take a few minutes to congratulate each for their hard work that helped make this a successful contest.

	<b>Table Topics</b>	<b>Humorous</b>
First Place	Casey Peterson	Raymond Norton
Second Place	Dan Livengood	Kai Knutson
Third Place	Catherine Rai Cardenuto	Harold Osmundson

### Presenters Recap

Mike Storkey, First Vice President of Toastmasters International, visited us from Townsville, Queensland, Australia. He did a wonderful keynote presentation on membership building, planning your long-term goals in Toastmasters, and finding your successors.

We also had great educational sessions: Jane Rischmiller (Laughter Yoga), Joel Reiter (Tips for Tough Crowds), Marilyn Bennett (Energize Your Club - Empower Your Members), and Joe Meyers (#NewMembers).

### Larry J. Marik, DTM

Lieutenant Governor Education & Training, District 6, 2014-2015  
District 6, Toastmasters International

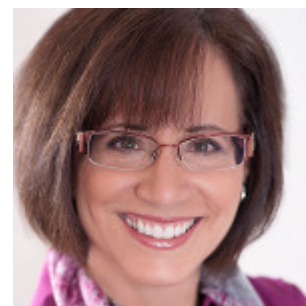
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## Marketing Matters

### Birth Announcement: New Clubs!

Since the last newsletter, District 6 has birthed two new clubs (five total since July 1):

- **Ah Busters** (Minnetonka, Western Division, Area 97)
- **B-Talkative** (Plymouth, Northern Division, Area 53)



Contact me with your ideas for new club leads, and let's expand our Toastmasters family!



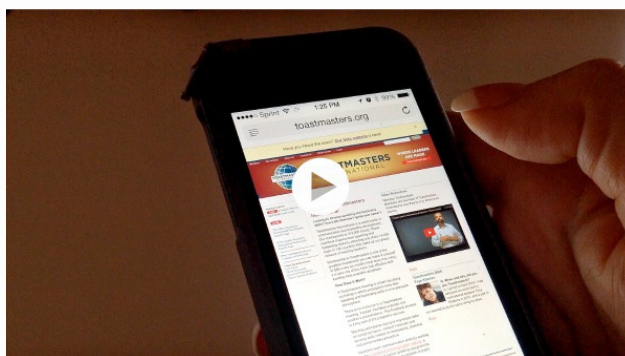
### Special Thanks to Anne Groetsch, Extension Chair

A critical part of new club development is the kickoff team assembled for the demonstration of a Toastmasters meeting. While many people have participated in kickoffs, there is one constant in them all, our D6 Extension Chair, Anne Groetsch! Anne diligently assembles the team, handles email communication, and prepares the agenda. Thank you, Anne!

### Toastmasters on Your Phone

You can also expand the Toastmasters family through increasing membership in existing clubs. I am always ready to help someone find a club, and I often use my phone to do so by having the "find a club" web page saved to my phone's homescreen.

This [video](http://youtu.be/-Jhoa6YS2zo) shows how I use Toastmasters websites on my phone: <http://youtu.be/-Jhoa6YS2zo>



### Request for Help with a Small Project: Corporate Club List

I am looking for people to help with small marketing-related miscellaneous projects.

Here's the first one: A list of Corporate Clubs.

Purpose: This list may help us develop additional clubs at organizations that have more than one location and will help us more easily determine if an organization has a club as we research possibilities.

Project: Create an Excel spreadsheet of companies or other organizations (such as government agencies) that have one or more clubs.

What's involved: The project would mostly involve going through the district directory and looking for clubs that meet at a company or other organization and putting info into an Excel spreadsheet (company, club name, open or closed, division, area, city).

Deadline: November 30, 2014. If you are interested in helping with this project (or if you have an idea for one), please contact me.

**Diane Windingland, DTM**

Lieutenant Governor Marketing, District 6, 2014-2015

[toastmasterdiane@aol.com](mailto:toastmasterdiane@aol.com)

612-306-4214

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## PR Corner: Fall Conference Recap

District 6 recently concluded the Fall Conference in Rochester, Minnesota. I have some very fond memories. Here is my summary.



### Organization

The conference was chaired by Dave and Jean Pearson. They formed a great team of volunteers, who organized the event through months of preparation starting in June. They took care of decorations and worked with the hotel staff to arrange the meeting rooms and delicious meals. They coordinated the entire schedule of packed events. Right from registration through to Saturday's banquet, the show was run very smoothly, giving attendees a wonderful experience.

### Distinguished Guest: Mike Storkey

A distinguished guest came all the way from Australia to be part of the convention. Mike Storkey is the First Vice President of Toastmasters International. Mike gave a keynote address that motivated members to go beyond the club and be part of the leadership at district level. Mike was presented an Enlightening Leadership Award from District 6.

### Non-Toastmasters Dignitaries

Saturday morning saw a visit by Rochester Mayor Ardell Brede. Brian Kaihoi of the Mayo Clinic was presented with Communication & Leadership Award at the Saturday luncheon.

### Educational Sessions

There were four educational sessions:

Laughter Yoga by Jane Rischmiller

Tips for Tough Crowds by Joel Reiter

Energize Your Club - Empower Your Members by Marilyn Bennet

#New Members by Joe Meyers

### Roast of Past District Governor

After Saturday luncheon, members of District 6 poked fun at Sharon Rollefson, immediate past district governor. The event was coordinated by Dru Jorgensen.

### Fun Times

An atmosphere of fun surrounded the conference, especially on Friday Fun Night, which was on Halloween. Contestants had an opportunity to display their talents in creating costumes. The best costume and presence was awarded to Joan Watson and Pat Croal as witches. A hospitality suite was available on both nights for members to socialize, catch up, and reminisce. I especially enjoyed visiting with my Toastmasters friends from Canada.

### Contests

For the Table Topics Contest, the question was "How has Toastmasters made you a better communicator?" Congratulations to winners Casey Peterson, Dan Livengood, and Catherine Rai Cardenuto. Casey's response included how he rose through the ranks at his workplace as a direct result of the skills learned through Toastmasters. For the Humorous Speech Contest, first place winner Raymond

Norton shared his family's love of birthday parties; a great delivery coupled with vocal variety, gestures, and use of the stage set him apart from other contestants. Second place winner Kai Knutson told of an awful first day on the job; he looked fabulous with body gestures and use of the stage. Finally, third place winner Harold Osmundson recounted his woes with home remodeling. A number of us can relate to undertaking self-motivated projects, only to realize that the end result was not what we expected.

### **Silent Auction and Resource Center**

At the conference, we had the opportunity to bid on items at the silent auction and to restock our educational supplies at the resource center. Thank you, fellow Toastmasters Jane Rischmiller, Trishauna Johnson, and Jay & Kimberlee Redington for running the silent auction and the resource center.

My time at the Fall Conference reminds me of the great time I have with my Toastmasters friends. I look forward to seeing them again at the next event.

Best regards,

**Ravi Rai, DTM**  
Public Relations Officer



## **Many Thanks**

What a phenomenal Fall Conference! And it would not have been possible without the wonderful work and exceptional efforts of all the fantastic volunteers who stepped up and helped make this conference an overwhelming success! In the true meaning of servant leadership, we were blessed to have Toastmasters of all ages and experience levels come forth and ensure everyone in attendance was provided outstanding service and exceptional support.

To our Committee Chairs who worked tirelessly throughout the entire process, please accept our deepest appreciation and humblest thanks. Truly, without your herculean efforts, collaboration, and dedication to Toastmasters, none of this would have been possible. Your selfless commitment serves as a hallmark for all who desire to forward and champion the call of Toastmasters International.

We also wish to thank the District Trio for granting us the privilege to serve and helping seamlessly and successfully assemble the multitude of pieces and parts that a meaningful conference necessitates. And of course, we wish to extend a gracious thank you to all who attended and made Rochester their home for a fun and exciting weekend of excellent competition, exceptional educational opportunities, and boundless camaraderie, networking, and just plain fun! We hope you all had a "boo-tiful" time!

Our sincerest thanks!

Jean & Dave Pearson  
2014 Fall Conference Co-Chairs

The Silent Auction was a huge success because everyone stepped up and did their part. The list is too long to say Thank You to everyone by name for contributing toward this. Here is a short version:

- Thank you to everyone for the great donations.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the auction run smoothly.
- Thank you to all the bidders for bidding on the items.
- Thank you to all for picking up their winning items in a timely fashion.

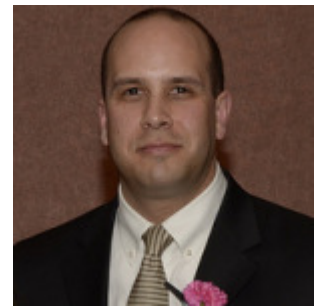
We especially want to thank Jean and Dave Pearson for the opportunity to be a part of the Fall Conference Team. The members and clubs of the District came together as a team and raised over \$1,500 from the Silent Auction!

Jane Rischmiller and Trishauna Johnson

## Speechcraft

One third of the 2014-2015 year is now complete. Now is a great time to assess how your club is doing thus far:

- How is the club's membership?
- Is it time to plan some public relations and membership-building activities?
- Are you and your fellow members growing and challenging yourselves?
- Are club meetings fresh, lively, and enjoyable?



These are great questions and topics to discuss as a club. If you or your fellow members find that it's time for additional emphasis on membership building, if you'd like to try something new, or if you'd like to challenge yourself and other members to grow by teaching and coaching, then consider running a Speechcraft program.

Speechcraft is a program that helps others develop basic speaking skills over a 4-8 meeting period. It's a valuable service we can offer to the outside community. Speechcraft is also a great tool to promote your club, while also helping members further grow their skills by leading and teaching. And, if your club chooses to hold Speechcraft sessions during regular meetings, those sessions will add new participants, energy, and content to the meetings.

For the benefits mentioned above, I encourage you to learn more about Speechcraft and consider running a program. To learn more, the online resources below will help:

- [Speechcraft - www.toastmasters.org/speechcraft](http://www.toastmasters.org/speechcraft)
- [Speechcraft in Brief - www.toastmasters.org/members/membershipbuilding/speechcraft.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/members/membershipbuilding/speechcraft.aspx)
- [Consider Speechcraft - www.toastmasters.org/members/spotlightarticles/considerspeechcraft.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/members/spotlightarticles/considerspeechcraft.aspx)

I'm here to assist you and your club throughout the process of promoting and running a Speechcraft program. I'll provide templates for promotional flyers, session agendas, and other resources.

If you have questions, or if there's anything I can do for you and your club, please get in touch with me at [hosmundson@gmail.com](mailto:hosmundson@gmail.com).

Keep growing, and help your fellow members grow!

Harold Osmundson, DTM  
Speechcraft Chair, District 6  
Toastmasters International  
Where Leaders Are Made

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## **November: Important Tasks**

- Evaluate the membership and educational goals for the year
- Prepare club accounts for audit
- Area Governors: Complete reports of your visits to area clubs