



# District 6 Toastmasters

## Where Leaders Are Made



### Key Dates

**Dec. 1 - Feb. 29**  
Second Round Club  
Officer Training

**December 5**  
Holiday Potluck  
Party

### From the Desk of the District Director!

Fellow Toastmasters,

October 16 and 17 was an exciting weekend at the Fall Conference. Almost 150 Toastmasters had the opportunity to relax in the Northwoods-style resort, have delicious buffets, enjoy a wonderful Humorous Speech Contest, and many other events!

December through February will be our divisional Toastmasters Leadership Institutes (TLIs). Check the District 6 website, [www.d6tm.org](http://www.d6tm.org), or ask your area director for the TLIs nearest you.

Round 2 speech contests will consist of the International Speech Contest and the Table Topics Contest. For more information on these speech contests, go to [www.d6tm.org/speechcontests](http://www.d6tm.org/speechcontests). Check with your area director on the deadline for your club's speech contests.

#### Larry Marik, DTM

District Director, District 6 (2015-2016)

#### Toastmasters International

Where Leaders Are Made

[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

[www.d6tm.org](http://www.d6tm.org)

(District 6: Serving parts of Minnesota and Ontario)

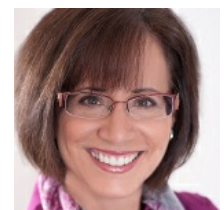


### Program Quality Counts!

#### Early Bird DCP Achievers

Several clubs have already achieved 5 Distinguished Club Points!

Click [here](#) to see the clubs (the clubs in GREEN have 5 or more points) and see how your club is doing. It's good to be GREEN!



#### Fall Conference Recap

The Fall District 6 Toastmasters Conference, titled "Seeds of Change," was a fun and educational event, with about 150 Toastmasters attending.

[Read the Fall Conference Recap](#)

[Fall Conference photos on Flickr](#)

### **District Humorous Speech Contest Winners**

First place: Tonya Butler

Second place: Amit Ghosh

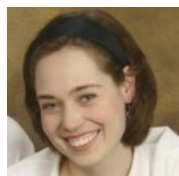
Third place: Deanna Reiter



Photo of first place Humorous Speech Contest winner Tonya Butler with Harold, Larry, and Diane.

### **Congratulations New DTM Achievers!**

Congratulations to Steve Compton, Teri Heyer, Maureen Mady, Heather Mathews, Brian Parsons, and Jane Rischmiller on recently achieving the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Award.



### **Moments of Truth**

Read an actual MOT summary from [Speak N Eagan](#).

Schedule your Moments of Truth program to be completed by 12/31/2015 to earn a lectern banner (or a \$25 gift certificate to the TI store). Send a 1-2 page summary of your findings and plan of action for quality improvement for your club to [Program Quality Director Diane Windingland](#) by 1/15/2016 to qualify for the incentive. Create the best club ever!

See the [Moments of Truth Flyer](#) for more information.



Download the [6-week MOT option](#) (10 minutes/week)

## Second Round Club Officer Training

Pump up your club officer skills, network with other officers, and plan to build on your achievements for continued success during the second round of club officer training, December 1 - February 29. Instead of only one district Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) this year,



there will be 10 divisional TLIs (you can attend any of them), plus additional club officer training sessions. The requirements for club officer training, and the dates as they become available, will be on our training page (click [here](#)). Clubs that achieve four or more club officers trained in both rounds of training will receive Distinguished Club Plan credit. Clubs with all seven club officers trained in both rounds will be recognized with a "Magnificent 7" ribbon.

## Diane Windingland, DTM

Program Quality Director, District 6, 2015-2016

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

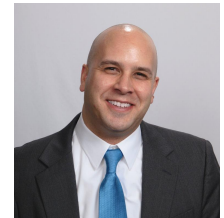
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## Club & Membership Growth

### Club Marketing - Who's Your Audience?

What does marketing your club and increasing its membership have in common with giving a great speech? In both activities, we need to consider our audience. Increase your club's membership and get the most from your marketing efforts by reading this post: [Club Marketing - Who's Your Audience?](#)



### 'Tis the Season: Plan for Open Houses & Holiday Parties

It's a great time to plan for open houses and other membership-building events. Did you know that many clubs add 5-10 new members through a single open-house event? It happens every year. The keys are to plan an enjoyable event and promote it to attract as many guests as possible. Work as a team and grow your leadership skills. And, since the holidays are soon approaching, why not plan for a holiday party? A holiday party with food and fun is a great way to celebrate with members, attract guests, and add new members. Everyone wins with a holiday party.

### New Club Announcements

Congratulations and welcome to our newest clubs in District 6!

- Flyin' Toasters (#4950862), which chartered on October 1 in Burnsville.
- Blazin' Toasters (#5028723), which chartered on October 5 in St. Louis Park.

Welcome to Toastmasters and District 6!

### Smedley Award Winners

Congratulations to the four clubs that won Toastmasters International's Smedley Award

for adding five or more new, dual, or reinstated members between August 1 and September 30:

- Happy Hour (#2752754)
- HealthToasters Club (#9648)
- Talk Nerdy To Me (#4131494)
- Zaj Lus Dragonspeakers (#999440)

By winning the Smedley Award, these four clubs receive a special "Smedley Award" ribbon for their club banner, a discount code for 10% off an upcoming order from the TI Store, and a \$100 TI Store gift certificate from District 6. Outstanding work!

The next TI membership-building contest will be "Talk Up Toastmasters!" from February 1 through March 31, 2016. These contests are a great opportunity to increase membership while also receiving awards, prizes, and discounts for your club. Your club wins in so many ways! Take advantage of these opportunities by putting this contest on your calendar and planning with fellow members.

### **Always Looking for Help!**

There are plenty of opportunities to grow by serving other members and clubs. Please get in touch with me if you can help in any of the efforts below:

- Many clubs need help and would greatly appreciate your assistance to rebuild. Anything you can do to help will make a difference.
- There are many groups, companies, and communities that Toastmasters hasn't reached yet. Our team would like to reach these groups this year.
- Any other effort that would contribute to membership or club growth.

Thanks for continuing your journey in Toastmasters and for assisting others along the way. If there's anything I can do for you, please contact me at [hosmundson@gmail.com](mailto:hosmundson@gmail.com).

Keep growing!

### **Harold Osmundson, DTM**

Club Growth Director, District 6, 2015-2016

District 6, Toastmasters International

### **Where Leaders Are Made**

[hosmundson@gmail.com](mailto:hosmundson@gmail.com)

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## **Holiday Potluck Party**

Saturday, December 5

Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Where:

Party room

1735 Graham Ave.

Saint Paul, MN 55116

Park in parking lots or on street.



Bring a dish to share.

Sign up and RSVP please: <http://d6holiday.eventbrite.com>

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## Mentor of the Month

Congratulations to Dennis Olsen, our November mentor of the month! Here is a testimonial.



I would like to nominate Dennis Olsen for his exceptional work as a mentor.

I was very afraid to speak up in front of an audience as an incident happened in my school days where I was frozen and speechless on the school stage and I could not say a single word. This hounded me for years.

Finally, I joined Toastmasters. Before joining the TicTalkers Club in 2014, I was a Toastmasters member, but my speed was very slow. I gave four speeches in four years. In TicTalkers Club I decided to start over again, and my aim was to complete the Competent Communication manual in a year's time in spite of my busy schedule.

I was assigned a mentor, Dennis Olsen. I was very nervous to give my presentation. Dennis believed in me and would always motivate me to go further. I know I used to hide behind the lectern and talk very fast, my knees used to shake, my voice had a monotone, my heart used to beat fast, and I always had butterflies in my stomach before a presentation.

I used to give my written speech to Dennis for review before each speech. He gave such encouraging words and also gave me tips to beautifully deliver it. He inspired me to go beyond boundaries, and I can't believe myself that I completed the CC by 30 June 2015. Today I am able to come out from behind the lectern and my fear is gone. That is a very big thing - it is just like miracle. I had been living with that fear for almost 15 years now.

After 10 speeches my nervousness is gone. I have slowed down, the butterflies are gone, and I have become more confident. I feel empowered and in control. All the credit goes to Dennis and of course all the TicTalkers for giving me the open feedback.

Dennis helped me like a doctor taking care of his patient. He has helped me overcome stage fright, which is a very big achievement for me. I still have a long way to go before I conquer the world with my speech, and I am happy I have a mentor and a guru (Dennis) standing next to me providing all the help and support I need.

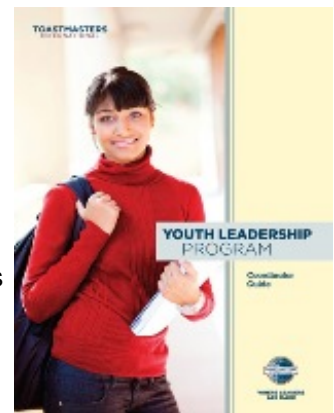
I thank Dennis from the bottom of my heart for all the support, trust, and belief he has shown in me. I wish him all the best for his future speeches and life. He is my role model.

Regards,  
Naveen Kumar, CC

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## Youth Leadership Program

How is your club coming in reaching out to local schools, home school groups, boy or girl scout troops, or local church youth groups? Our youth needs this wonderful program to help prepare them for their future. Think about what we have gained from joining a Toastmasters club. Let's pay this forward by helping our youth.



I've been receiving requests from non-Toastmasters about the Youth Leadership Program (YLP). But I just need a Toastmasters club to be the sponsor and organize the YLP session, which usually lasts 8-10 weeks. For more information, please contact me about helping these youths become part of YLP.

If you are doing YLP and need materials, I have some YLP kits available for the clubs. Just call or email me for the kit, and I'll be happy to mail it to you.

Also, if your club is doing YLP, if possible I would like to come to the last session to see the youth demonstrate what they have learned. All I need from the sponsor is the final class date, time, and location - and, if possible, I'll be there! Remember the Keith Hardy Youth Leadership Award: will your club be the one to earn this award in June 2016?

In service,

**Mary Adams, DTM**

District 6 Youth Leadership Chair 2015-16

Phone: 612.521.0649 (home) or 612.703.8625 (cell)

## Inspire Yourself: Visit Another Club



One of the best parts of Toastmasters meetings is that they are free to visit. In fact, club visits are encouraged! If you're already satisfied with your club meetings then why in the world would you visit a different club?

Club visits are fun, energizing, and often quite eye-opening. All clubs follow the same general Toastmasters meeting format, but all clubs are different. They all have a different club culture and a different feel. Meeting duration, member attendance, and agenda items vary by club. Club-to-club variety is remarkable as some clubs are businesslike while others are wildly energetic.

Do you remember what it feels like to be new? This is difficult for members to evaluate. While visiting an alternate club, you receive a guest packet and warm welcome from the club members. Furthermore, you have the opportunity to provide feedback to the club at the end of the meeting. This two-way exchange of information is priceless. On one side, you get to observe a new type of meeting than the one to which you are accustomed. Take notes! You'll likely have ideas to share with your home club. On the flip side, the club you visit will get to hear your valuable first impressions of the club and its meeting.

Club visits inspire me. I leave having learned a new Word of the Day, ideas for future speech topics, and thoughts of how my home club could be strengthened. Clubs are very welcoming, and I also appreciate the brilliant sense of fellowship among Toastmasters. Using the Toastmasters International website, simply click on "[Find a Club](#)" and then select one based on your interests and availability. Challenge yourself to visit a club or two this year as a way to enhance your Toastmasters skills and the quality of your home club. For an extra challenge, a few of your club members can try to capture the [EGG](#) (Elusive Gilded Gavel), currently held by PowerTalk Toastmasters.

Jennifer Hamlin  
Division E Director

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## Great American Experiment

As Toastmasters we need to expand our skills and break out of our box. It was then I realized that there is no box other than the walls we put up around ourselves. In America we hold a gift that allows us to step out and step up. This is the driving thought behind the annual speech contest hosted in Red Wing by the Hiawatha Valley Toastmasters. Let me tell you about this year's 5th Annual "Great American Experiment" held on Patriot Day and, as always, themed "What it Means to Be an American."

First place was won by Pam Hollrah-Asleson of Tuesdays With Toastmasters, who spoke of her proud heritage. Second place was taken by Jewel Pickert of Hastings Story

Weavers expressing the contrast between what isn't American to what a great American is. Sophomore Grant Schlichting from Cannon Falls High School walked away with third place by saying what makes us great is that we are all different from one another. Brian Hinton of Southern Minnesota Mentors tied with Steve Rawlins of Dan Patch for fourth place. Steve shared the importance of our principles as when he stayed at his post as an election judge on 9-11, and Brian portrayed how free will and choices come with responsibility. Janie Farrar, chair of the Red Wing School Board, and Dan Pilla, a retired graphic artist, both offered outstanding presentations.

Watch the calendar on or around September 11, 2016, and join in on this grand and patriotic event!



Pictured left to right: your host Ernie Stone, Grant Schlichting, Steve Rawlins, Janie Farrar, Brian Hinton, Jewel Pickert, Pam Hollrah-Asleson and Dan Pilla.

A thousand thanks for helping me tell the story!

Ernie Stone  
651.327.9012

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## District 6 Fall Convention 2015: Seeds of Change

**Thank you to our wonderful silent auction donors!**  
**Your donations help us to raise \$976.00.**

Mary Adams

Theo and Nancy Black

Margret Brunner

Roman & Vitalia Pundyz

Rhonda Rolfs

Nancy Shaner



Carolyn Boganey

Stephen Shaner

Thomas Deyo

Diane Windingland

Helen Grothe

Gayle Zorad

Fayne Hefele

Freethought Toastmasters

Julie Hill & Vitalia Pundyz

Humor Mills Toastmasters

Judi Holloway

MNRPCV Toastmasters

Beth Johnson

Money Talk Toastmasters

George Kane

Tic Talkers Toastmasters

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Division G

**Your generosity benefits all Toastmasters!**

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