



District 6 Toastmasters

Where Leaders Are Made



Key Dates

May 5-6

Spring Conference

[Info & Registration](#)

Presidents and VPEs:

[Proxy Form](#)

May

First meeting, elect club officers

May 1 - June 30

Beat the Clock Membership Contest

May 17

[Speak with Confidence](#), St. Cloud

June 1

Club submits [TMOY](#) to Area Director

[2nd half key dates pdf](#)

Mythical Creatures

Don't tell my granddaughters, but unicorns aren't real. They are mythological creatures just like "born leaders." Leaders aren't born, they're made.



"Where Leaders Are Made" is our organization's tagline. I think it's a little misleading. The Toastmasters program isn't an assembly line, taking in people as raw material in one end and outputting leaders at the other. Becoming a leader isn't a passive process applied externally. It is an internal process, one in which members, whatever their personalities, use the Toastmasters program to become leaders through the hard work of trying to achieve worthwhile goals: giving a speech despite nerves, planning a meeting agenda despite last minute changes, being a club or district leader despite setbacks and disappointments.

Become the best version of yourself through the hard work of becoming a leader. Dream a bigger dream for yourself. Expect magic. Go ahead -- let loose your inner unicorn.

I hope to see you, the leaders and prospective leaders in District 6, at our Spring Conference, May 5-6. Look for me on Friday night. I'll be wearing the unicorn headband and rainbow hair.

Diane Windingland, DTM

District Director, District 6 (2016-2017)

Toastmasters International

Where Leaders Are Made

www.toastmasters.org

www.d6tm.org

(District 6: Serving parts of Minnesota and Ontario)

Contact me!

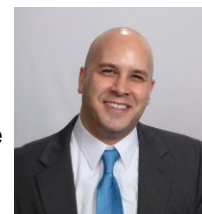
toastmasterdiane@aol.com

612-306-4214

Quality Makes the Difference

Getting More from the Toastmasters Education Program

How familiar are you with the Toastmasters Education Program? When you joined Toastmasters, how was the program introduced to you? While many have already completed the Competent Communication (CC) manual, there are extremely useful and overlooked sections of this excellent manual. Unfortunately, this oversight prevents members from



receiving the most value from Toastmasters.

Just below are some extremely helpful sections of the CC manual that will help you and all members get more from Toastmasters. I wish I read these sections when I joined! Please share this with your fellow members so they can also benefit.

- The Toastmasters Experience (pages 4-6) -- A great introduction in just three pages
- About Your Club (pages 66-78) -- Clearly covers all meeting and officer roles
- The Toastmasters Survival Guide (pages 79-82) -- Addresses common challenges
- The Toastmasters Education Program (pages 60-65) -- Covers the comprehensive Toastmasters Education Program very well

Spring Conference -- Register by April 25th

Please register soon for the [Spring Conference](#), held May 5-6 at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth, Minnesota. The deadline for registration is April 25th. You don't want to miss this conference!

Why attend the Spring Conference? Members attend this conference for several reasons, including:

- Enjoying and learning from the district-level Evaluation and International Speech contests. Each contest allows members to learn from the 10 division-winning contestants.
- Attending the [Business Meeting](#) to meet and elect district leaders for the 2017-2018 program year. It's educational to learn about the leaders, their respective roles, and also to observe the meeting and election procedures.
- Meeting other members from clubs within District 6. The networking value of conferences is as beneficial as anything else. At the Spring Conference, you'll meet others who share the same values and enthusiasm for growth.
- Learning from the [education sessions](#). The education sessions offer you a variety of topics to learn from. Additionally, our International Director, Monique Levesque-Pharoah, DTM, will treat us to presentations on appreciation and leadership.
- Simply having fun. You'll have plenty of opportunities to enjoy yourself throughout the conference.

There's something valuable for you at the Spring Conference. Please visit the [Spring Conference page](#) to learn more and register.

Club Officer Elections -- First Meeting in May

It will soon be time for your club to hold its officer elections. According to Article VI, Section 6 of the [Club Constitution](#), club officer elections should be held at your club's first meeting in May. For a guide on how to hold elections, see [pages 56-59](#) from the [Club Leadership Handbook](#). This guide ensures your club holds a fair election, allowing each member the opportunity participate and run for an office. Although the procedure might sound intimidating and formal, members enjoy the practice of running a formal procedure, developing new skills as a result.

Serving as a club officer is a rare opportunity to develop skills and gain experience in organizational leadership. Please step up to serve your club and its members as an officer. Additionally, encourage other members to step up as well. For a concise and well-written description of each of the seven club officer roles, see the Club Leadership Roles section, starting on page 22 of the [Club Leadership Handbook](#).

Recent Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Achievements

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 the following members on achieving their Distinguished Toastmaster award:

- Erik Bieber of Golden Toasters (#1062040)

- Joanna Carley of Tonka Talkers (#2119)
- Aaron Tatone of Crosstown Talkers (#1349520)

Educational Achievements for 2016-2017

The reports below show the educational achievements by District 6 members in the 2016-2017 program year. Congratulations to each member!

- [All Education Awards Submitted](#)
 - [Triple Crowns \(3 or more educational awards in the same program year\)](#)



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](#)

See you at the Spring Conference. Keep growing!

Harold Osmundson, DTM

Program Quality Director, District 6

Toastmasters International

Where Leaders Are Made

Phone: 763-213-7795

Email: hosmundson@gmail.com

Marketing Matters

Hello, District 6!

I'd like to give an official welcome to our newest club, The Hardhatters Toastmasters Club. TI has processed their charter paperwork and they are our newest club! Welcome Hardhatters!



Beat the Clock! Program Dates: May 1 - June 30

Who else loves the anticipation of knowing something is coming up?! Prepare your club NOW for May and June's Beat the Clock membership-building award!

Make it your club's goal to earn the "Beat the Clock" award and encourage every member to take part. Clubs adding five new, dual, or reinstated members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 receive a "Beat the Clock" ribbon to display on the club's banner. Qualifying clubs also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order. (The discount code expires six months from the date of issue and is not valid with any other offer.)

Applications and payments for members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than June 30. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward "Beat the Clock" credit.

So how do we add five new members in our club?

This is a valid question. To help answer that question and to help you gain new ideas on ways to bring new guests in to your club, our Program Quality Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM, created a five-step plan called the [Be My Guest](#) program. Click on the link to check it out!

More ways to gain ideas for Building Your Membership can be found in the [Build Your Membership kit](#). Click on the link to check it out too!

New Club Ideas

If you don't have a club at your place of employment but feel that it might be a good fit for a Toastmasters club, please contact me (see signature below) and we can discuss if it's a

good fit and the next steps. I look forward to hearing from you!

Will YOU help "birth" A New Club that charters by June 30?

Any member who starts a prospective new club after July 1, 2016 that becomes a chartered club between 4/1/2017 and 6/30/2017 will receive a \$50 TI gift certificate. One award per new club.



With less than 90 days to finish out this Toastmasters year, let's all make a conscious effort to share our Toastmasters experience with others and invite them to visit our clubs!

Ben Smith, DTM

Club Growth Director, District 6

Toastmasters International

Where Leaders Are Made

Phone: 612-770-8590

Email: bensmithtm@gmail.com

Public Relations

Is Your Club Participating?

The Website Excellence Program (WEP) and District 6's four Public Relations (PR) contests are ending on **April 15!** That's just a few short days from now, but you still have time to enter!



Here's what you'll learn about in this month's article:

- Guest Packet

- Brochure or Flyer
- Newsletter
- Selfie
- WEP

Guest Packet

Here is a list of items that have been in the packets of past winners:

- Welcome letter
- *Toastmaster* magazine
- Application form
- Ice Breaker from CC and Listening Project from CL
- Club contact and meeting information
- Meeting roles
- Gifts like pens and paper OR publications like "Finding Your Voice"

While the above items are great, also think about what makes your club unique, and don't forget about the quality of the items you include. You can download Toastmasters branded logos, colors, and templates at www.toastmasters.org to make your guest packet professional and appealing.

Brochure or Flyer

Brochures and flyers are a great way to promote your club at events in your community. They should be specific for your club and updated since the start of this TM year.

Here are some considerations for a quality brochure or flyer:

- Toastmasters brand, including logo and colors
- Your club's meeting information, including date, time, and place
- Appeal

Newsletter

Having a club newsletter is a way to let your current, past, and future members stay in touch. It can be paper or electronic format. Information to be shared can be about who has spoken, received an educational award, won a contest, or topics of general interest. For this contest, more than one newsletter must have been published during the current TM year.

Here are ways to make your club newsletter pop:

- Toastmasters brand, including logo and colors
- Variety
- Promote event or club
- Appeal to reader
- Recap past events
- Photos

Selfie

This new category is for FUN! This is a chance for your club to let its creative juices flow. Gather your club members together for a photo and get silly.

Here are a few of the things the judges will be looking for:

- Toastmasters brand, like your club banner
- Creativity
- Humor or enjoyment
- High resolution
- Selfie used on your club website, social media, flyer, or brochure

The person taking the photo does not need to be in the photo, but the photo will get bonus points if they are in the photo.

Website Excellence Program (WEP)

An excellent website helps potential guests find you and want to join your club. WEP is a 10-step program to get your club website in the best shape possible. Once you've completed all the requirements your website is already excellent, but now you can get

recognized district wide. Check out the websites of clubs who've already completed the program at www.d6tm.org/wep-clubs.

Mandatory requirements:

- Current Toastmasters branding logo
- A link to the club's website on the corresponding Toastmasters International "Find a Club" web page.

Points for WEP features:

The PR team will assign awards based on the 10 points below that must be visible on the PUBLIC side of your club's web page.

1. Welcome message or invitation to attend on home page
2. Contact Us page or (phone and/or email address)
3. Meeting information / directions (location, directions, date, time)
4. Recent photos of club meetings/events, including current members.
5. At least three member bios/testimonials on a members page (or similar). State benefits received from Toastmasters membership.
6. Current club officers listed on the website
7. Link to social media (e.g., Facebook, MeetUp, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)
8. List of CC and CL components
9. At least three supporting content pages that are not simple links to others' content (e.g., About Our Meeting page, president's welcome message, FAQs, a sample meeting agenda, newsletters, etc.)
10. Links to both District 6 and Toastmasters International websites

Secret shopper: One of the most important functions of the website is to allow a prospect to ask a question and get a prompt answer. Part of the review of your fancy new website includes the WEP action committee using your Contact Us link. To qualify as a Gold Star website, your club must respond within 24 hours. For fairness, the test will occur Monday to Friday and not on a holiday.

Recognition:

- Gold Star Website - 9 or 10 points and qualify for the secret shopper.
- Silver Star Website - 7 or 8 points
- Bronze Star Website - 5 or 6 points

All submissions received by **April 15, 2017**, will be reviewed. In the comments box, please specify the level for which you are asking to be reviewed (Gold, Silver, or Bronze).

Websites arriving early will be reviewed and given suggestions on improvements.

Clubs that receive Gold, Silver, or Bronze Star awards for website excellence will be recognized at the Spring Conference, displayed on the District 6 website, and be allowed to display the website excellence level on their website.

You can learn more and submit your club's items for the PR contests at www.d6tm.org/prcontest and the WEP at www.d6tm.org/website-excellence-program.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Daniel Grundtner

Public Relations Manager, District 6, 2016-2017

Club Officer Elections

First Meeting in May



Two New Specialty Clubs Launching! Act Now!

Toastmasters on TV

A new advanced Toastmasters club is starting at a community access TV station in Blaine, MN. Toastmasters meetings will be televised throughout the northern suburbs, giving Toastmasters members the experience of public speaking on TV and speaking to a large audience -- and giving that large audience exposure to Toastmasters. Toastmaster members of this club will not only be taking their Toastmasters journey to a new level but also will learn how to use TV cameras, studio equipment, and editing software if they so desire.

This new club is a first for the district. In fact, we know through the magic of Google that there are only three other clubs like this in the whole country!

The informational meeting is THIS WEDNESDAY, April 12, at 6:15 p.m. at the Golden Valley Library. For more information, please contact me.

Cheri Jacobson
cherijacobson_tm@comcast.net.

Toastmasters for Stage Performers

www.eventbrite.com/e/toastmasters-for-stage-performers-tickets-33364334623

Many stage performers know how to sing or to play an instrument well but are not comfortable on a stage. Others, like exceptional public speakers, elevate banter to an art form. I've seen and enjoyed both types of performers -- ones who literally hide in shadows and others who are equally entertaining and engaged between the songs.

This prospective club will tailor the Toastmasters educational program for musicians, storytellers, and other stage performers.

The demo meeting is Friday May 12, 3:30 p.m. at Ridgedale Library, Room 172. Experienced Toastmasters and prospective members are encouraged to let their interest be known and/or attend toward starting this club.

David Rasmussen
651-674-3164

Take a Chance and Win BIG with Toastmasters!

Ladies and gentlemen, "Beat the Clock" and "Come on Down!" We're ready to make sure the "Price Is Right" and that nobody is in "Jeopardy" as you spin the "Wheel of Fortune!"

Yes, that's right folks. Come join us for the District 6 Toastmasters...you guessed it...TV Game Show Spring Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Plymouth, MN, May 5-6!

There will be many awesome speakers for exciting educational sessions, lots of awards and recognition for all our superstar achievers, as well as Evaluation and International speech contests, where the winner could advance to become the next world champion speaker!

And of course, let's not forget the "*good food, good friends, and good fun*" when you join us for Friday FUN Night! Come dressed up for dinner in your most creative, outrageous, attention-getting costumes. You just may be one of the lucky winners selected to participate in our own Toastmasters version "Let's Make a Deal" TV Game Show and win fabulous prizes. Then following the speech contest, we continue our TV Game Show theme with a friendly Toastmasters Family Feud competition!

So whether your favorite game shows were hosted by Bob Barker, Monty Hall, and Richard Dawson or you tuned in to those with Drew Carey, Wayne Brady, and Steve Harvey, one thing's for sure...the TV Game Show theme for the 2017 Spring Conference will be great fun and will appeal to everyone!

Save the dates (May 5-6), and stay tuned to the District 6 website and leadership newsletters for more exciting details to come!

Vitalia Bryn-Pundyk, M.Ed/DTM
Spring Conference Co-Chair

Win **BIG** with



It's Friday Fun Night! Survey Says ... Contestants Wanted!

Have you ever wanted to be a contestant on a TV game show? Here's your opportunity!

Friday night's fun will begin during the buffet dinner. Come to dinner dressed in your **most outrageous** costume and increase your chance to be selected by our own Toastmasters "Let's Make a Deal" host, Monte ... Jefson. He's itching to make a deal!

Following the Evaluation Contest, the stage will be lit up for Toastmasters "Family Feud." Families will compete in two rounds, with the two winning families progressing to the championship round for winner takes all!

If you want to be a "Family Feud" contestant, contact host Stevie B at tmstevieb@mediacombb.net or 612-207-3703.

More Friday Fun!

Are you good at word puzzles? Do you solve the Wheel of Fortune puzzles before the contestants and think "I can do that"? You will have your chance at the D6 Spring Conference. After you register on Friday, May 5th, come join us in Conference Room C from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. for your chance to solve a puzzle, spin the wheel, and win a prize. Light refreshments will be served. We couldn't get Vanna, but Vinnie will be there to greet you.

Please attend the **District 6 Business Meeting** on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 10:15 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth, MN. Hear from the district's leadership and learn and vote about district business that could impact your club. Club Presidents, Vice Presidents of Education (or their proxies), and district officers carry votes. The business meeting and the candidates forum at 9 a.m. are free to attend. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Spring Conference Business Meeting

Dear District 6 Club Presidents and VPs-Education,

We need YOU on May 6th!

The District 6 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6, in Plymouth, MN, at 10:15 a.m. Members carrying votes must visit the Credentials Desk before 9:45 a.m. that morning. District business including elections can't be conducted without a quorum.

Information about proxies, how to use them, and what will be voted on is available at www.d6tm.org/2017-spring-conference/spring-conference-proxies-and-credentials. You can also find a link to a proxy form that you can download on the same web page.

The location of the business meeting is:

Crowne Plaza
3131 Campus Dr.
Plymouth, MN 55441

If you have any questions about the business meeting ballot, proxy, or credentialing process, feel free to contact me at swansonmej@gmail.com.

See you in May!

Sincerely,

Mary Swanson, DTM
2016-2017 District 6 Proxy Chair

Youth Leadership Program

Fellow readers of the monthly District 6 newsletter,

Has someone in your club or someone you know in another club taken part in a Youth Leadership Program in the last year? I am gathering



information about all YLPs that have taken place across District 6.

I ask that everyone check around at their club, and with other Toastmasters that they know, and send an email to me about any and all who have carried out a YLP since summer 2016. Some Toastmasters have been able to handle serving up a YLP on their own, or with the help of TI headquarters, and some have reached out to me to let me know they have a program going. I have a short list of a few YLPs that (I know for sure) have taken place, but I want to hear about ALL of the Youth Leadership Programs throughout District 6! Part of the reason is to collect marketing data to support future YLP initiatives in the district and also to make sure everyone who has put in the time and effort is acknowledged.

I am grateful to all D6 Toastmasters who have taken part in a Youth Leadership Program and the many who have shown interest in helping get a YLP started! As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions about YLP or if you know of possibilities for upcoming Youth Leadership Programs.

Sincerely looking forward to all of your emails,

Ray Young III

raymondmyoung3@gmail.com

Youth Leadership Program Chairperson 2016-2017

Toastmaster of the Year (TMOY)

Select your club's TMOY and submit to your Area Director by June 1 ([TMOY form](#)). See the [TMOY page](#) for submission dates for Area TMOY and Division TMOY as well as additional information.



Speak with Confidence! St. Cloud



Last presentation skills training opportunity on May 17 in St. Cloud.

Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

Toastmasters, Diane Windingland, DTM, District Director, St. Paul, MN 55116

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