



# District 6 Toastmasters

## Where Leaders Are Made



### Key Dates

**4/24**

Spring Convention  
Registration Closes

**4/29-30**

Spring Convention

**May**

Club Officer Elections

[2 nd Half Key Dates PDF](#)



Spring Convention

[Register Here](#)

[Learn about](#)

### From the Desk of the District Director!



Spring is in the air! Flowers are starting to pop up, birds are singing, and hopefully the snow is going away. Spring is also the time for our upcoming Spring Convention that you won't want to miss!

This is an important time for Toastmasters: we will elect our 2016-2017 leadership team, vote on the District 6 Reformation, and finalize any realignment changes. And, of course, experience those wonderful Speech Contests!

If you haven't done so already, please go to [www.d6tm.org/spring-convention-2016](http://www.d6tm.org/spring-convention-2016) and register online now!

This spring, celebrate the accomplishments you and your clubs have achieved so far, and plan to finish strong in the last quarter of this Toastmasters year. Remember, the first club meeting in May should be your club's officer elections, so start planning now!

#### 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!

#### Club Member Dues

Are your club member dues paid? All Reminder: a club is required to have a for the club to be in good standing. Also, up dues in order to compete in contests.



dues were due April 1. minimum of eight members members need to have paid

To check the status of your club, please go to the [April Dues Renewal Status page](#).

## [Reformation](#)

## [Presidents and VPEs: Proxy Form](#)

### Club Early Achiever Awards

Your club can earn up to \$20 in Toastmasters International gift certificates and be recognized as an Outstanding Early Achiever ! But, hurry, you only have until April 15! [How to qualify](#)



*How does a club get credit for and notification of the award?*

- The clubs don't have to do anything special to receive the award if they qualify. We will be getting the numbers from TI's info (on April 15) and filtering for the award criteria. Clubs will not be notified in advance that they will receive an award. A club can simply compare the criteria to their accomplishments to see if they will be getting an award.

*How and when do clubs receive the gift certificate?*

- The certificates will be mailed to the current club president prior to the end of the Toastmasters year (before June 30).

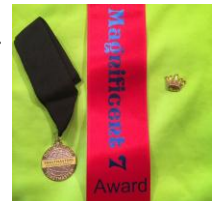
### Call for Leaders

- As of mid-March, there were still some Divisions with no Division Director candidates.
- If you are interested in being an Area Director, please see the [Area Director Application](#).
- If you are interested in being a District Chair or any other appointed leadership role please see the [District Chair / Leadership Role Application](#).
- Some specific needs:
  - Division Directors (Divisions D, E, and J need candidates)
  - Area Directors
  - Fall Conference Co-Chairs (Nov. 11-12, 2016, Duluth)
  - Spring Convention Co-Chairs (May 5-6, 2017, Plymouth)
  - DEC Food Coordinator
  - Web Co-editor
  - Several Club Growth Retention and Extension Roles

Contact [Diane Windingland](#) if interested in an appointed position.

### Spring Convention Awards

Distinguished Toastmasters, Triple Crown Achievers, and Magnificent 7 clubs (7 officers trained in both rounds) will be recognized at the Spring Convention Awards Luncheon on Saturday April 30. Recognition will be for those award achievers from the start of the Toastmasters year who did not receive awards at the Fall Conference.



### Key Dates for 2016-2017

Get important District 6 dates for the next Toastmasters year, 2016-2017, on your calendar now. [Download 2016-2017 Key Dates](#)

## Club Officer Elections

First Meeting  
in May



### Elect Club Officers in May

Did you know that your club's constitution requires club officer elections to be the first meeting in May? And that a nominating committee is supposed to nominate club officers two weeks prior to the election? (Club Constitution Article VI, sections 5 and 6). To have a successful club election, see pages 55-56 of the [Club Leadership Handbook](#).



### Congratulations to New DTM Achievers!

From left to right, top to bottom: Waheed Ayinde, Money Talks; Carol Duling, V.A.M.C. Toastmasters; Linda Larson, Voice of Leadership; Bob Lea, Hutchinson Toastmasters II; Jill Marcinkowski, One Voice; Mary Swanson, Super Speakers Club; and Daniel Vesey, Saturday Morning Live

### Early Bird Area Directors

Congratulations to the following Area Directors who submitted 100% of their club visit reports two months ahead of the deadline!

A 1: Brian Spare

B 11: Megan Jo Paulson

B 12: Helen Grothe

D 36: Jane Rischmiller

E 44: Cheryl Bergstrom

E 45: Bill Desmond

F 55: Brian Hinton

G 63: Patrice Pariseau

I 81: Tom Deyo

I 83: Samar Upadhyay



### Diane Windingland, DTM

Program Quality Director, District 6, 2015-2016

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

612-306-4214

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## Club & Membership Growth

## Membership: Winning by Helping Others Win

Membership is a key concern for most clubs, especially after a renewals period. I pledge to assist you and your club however I can.



How can your club maintain strong membership?

1. **Retain existing members.** Ensure your club helps each member grow and win personally and professionally. When a member doesn't renew, personally follow up through a phone call to show you care, discuss concerns, and find solutions.
2. **Attract new members.** Promote your club specifically to those that want or need the club's benefits to win. In your community or organization, who needs confidence, communication, and leadership skills most? Show those individuals how your club helps them win personally and professionally, and they'll visit and join.

Each person wants to succeed and win. For our club to win in membership, we need to take the first steps to reach out, understand each person's needs, and show how we'll help him or her win.

### New Clubs in District 6

Congratulations to the newest clubs in District 6:

- Austin-nites Toastmasters (#3907609) chartered on March 11 in Austin
- The Leaders' Club Toastmasters (#5342839) chartered on March 22 in Brooklyn Park

### Low Membership? Please Reach Out for Assistance

Clubs must have at least 8 paid members in each renewal period. In some situations, that can be a challenge best handled with outside help. If your club is below 8 members, has 8-12 members, or if the club has challenges with membership, please get in touch. We want you and your club to succeed, and there's no reason your club can't have strong membership. We're in this together.

### Prepare Now to Beat the Clock!

There's still time for your club to grow before June 30. In May, Toastmasters International's "Beat the Clock!" membership-building contest begins, providing extra incentives to add members in the final months. Grow and win by planning your May/June membership-building events now. Learn more by visiting [Beat the Clock!](#)

### Seeking Opportunities for New Clubs

If your employer, community, place of worship, or another organization you're associated with doesn't have a Toastmasters club yet, start one to benefit those individuals. Please get in touch with me and I'll help get it started.

If there's anything I can do for you or your club, please contact me at [hosmundson@gmail.com](mailto:hosmundson@gmail.com).

Keep growing!

Harold Osmundson, DTM

Add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members

in May and June

**Beat the  
Clock!**



- ✓ Ribbon for your banner
- ✓ 10% off a Toastmaster order

Hold a membership drive • conduct an open house

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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## Spring Convention - Register Today!

District 6 Toastmasters *Renew Your Passion* for Toastmasters!

- Attend the 2016-2017 leadership candidates' forum (Friday)
- Find out the latest news on District 6 Reformation (Saturday) and what that means to you!
- Don't miss our Business Meeting (Saturday), where you will vote on the 2016-2017 leadership team, Reformation, and Realignment.
- Come see your fellow Toastmasters compete in the Table Topics Contest (Friday) and International Speech Contest (Saturday).
- Learn more about the Revitalized Educational Program from Toastmasters International (Saturday).
- See your fellow Toastmasters recognized at Saturday's educational awards luncheon.
- Attend one or more of Saturday's educational sessions being offered by your fellow District 6 Toastmasters.

**Friday Fun Night** will be a **Renaissance Evening of Merriment** with fun activities planned following the Candidate Forum. All are welcome to dress up in their best Renaissance era costume (optional) and join in the festivities!

### Where:

Ramada Plaza Minneapolis  
1330 Industrial Blvd N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
[www.ramadaplazampls.com](http://www.ramadaplazampls.com)  
612-392-1307

## REMINDERS:

- **Deadline** to book rooms at the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis is **April 15**.
- **Deadline** for Registration for the Spring Convention is **April 24**.

**Silent Auction - Seeking Donations!** Fellow Toastmasters and clubs, here is your opportunity to come together to help fellow Toastmasters join us at the Spring Convention and to help with the costs of the event. Create a basket for the Silent Auction from you or your club. Ideas include movies, sports, game night, kitchen gadgets, gift cards, cruises, pictures, and so on. We also accept cash or corporate sponsorships. Contact Annette Peterson for more information.

Visit [www.d6tm.org/spring-convention-2016](http://www.d6tm.org/spring-convention-2016) for the Silent Auction donation form. Forms should be emailed to: [Annette.Peterson@optum.com](mailto:Annette.Peterson@optum.com).

**Donations can be delivered to the Silent Auction (Saint Paul room) at the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis on Friday, April 29, any time after 2 p.m.** If you need assistance or would like to coordinate a time to pick up donations early, please email Annette with your request.

**Looking for an opportunity to participate in the Spring Convention? Weekend volunteers are still needed.** Please contact the Spring Convention Co-Chairs, Mary Swanson and Jane Zugschwert, at [www.d6tm.org/contact](http://www.d6tm.org/contact).

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Mary Swanson, Co-Chair, [swansonmej@gmail.com](mailto:swansonmej@gmail.com) or 507-649-1879  
Jane Zugschwert, Co-Chair, [toastmasterjanez@gmail.com](mailto:toastmasterjanez@gmail.com) or 651-269- 9170

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## Renaissance Merriment at the Spring Convention

Lords and Ladies of District 6! Do you have a gift from the Renaissance period to share for our Renaissance Merriment Evening, Friday April 29?

We are looking for performers (singers, storytellers, musicians, magicians, jugglers, etc.) to make the evening merry.



If you would like to participate, please contact Steve Bujarski, Friday Fun Night Chair, at 612-207-3703 or [sbujarski@carlson.com](mailto:sbujarski@carlson.com).

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## District Reformation Process

### What is this Reform talk all about?

Merriam Webster definition of reformation: *the act or process of improving something by removing or correcting faults, problems, etc.*

Toastmasters International uses this terminology when reforming or consolidating Districts. Per Toastmasters International Policies and Protocol 7.4 document, the Board reviews the status of districts with more than 240 clubs to determine if reformation is in the **best interests of Toastmasters International and the clubs**.

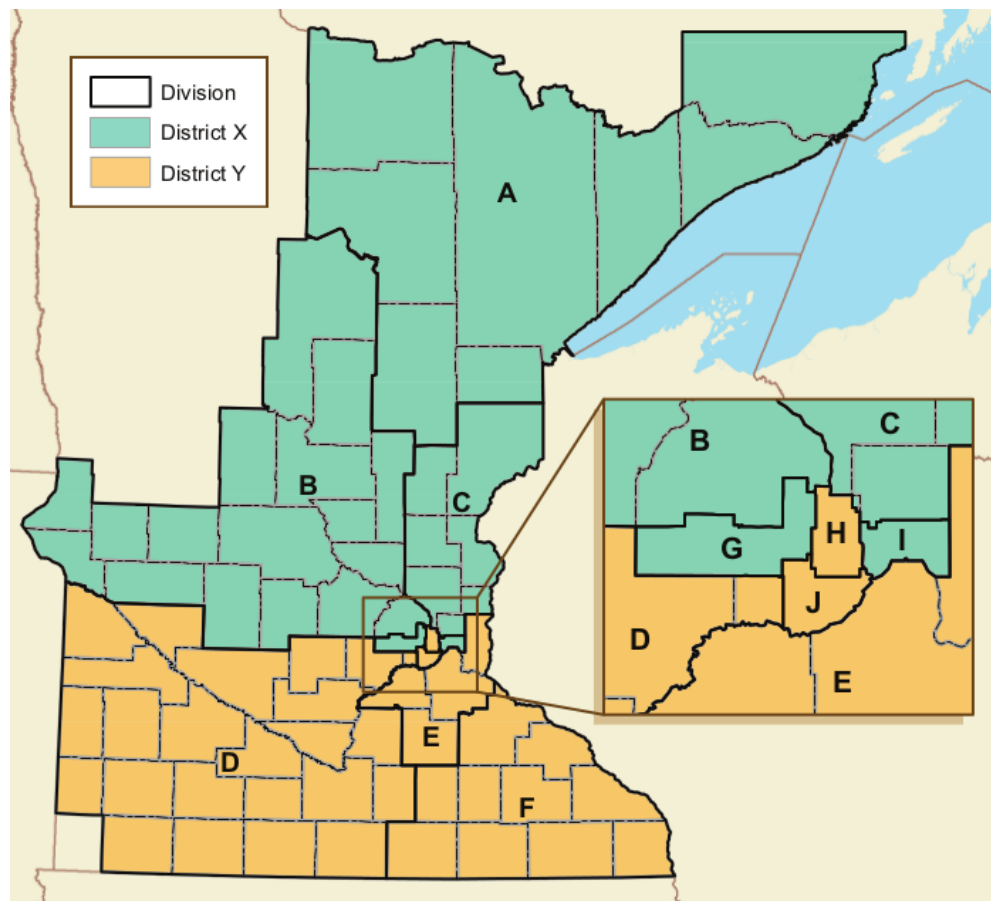
### What does reform mean to me and my club?

Your club will continue to be in the same division and area. Unless your club moved since June 30, 2015, the Realignment Committee will assign the club to the appropriate area. Your club members will continue to work the Toastmasters International education

program, plus participate in club officer training and area/division speech contests.

### What does our research show?

Investigation and interviews conducted by the Reform committee revealed two major causes to reform: time commitment expectations of district executive leaders and distance challenges. The effects have included membership strength remaining flat, anemic club growth, general members who are disengaged from district leadership, a low participation rate by district members in the district's key events (TLIs, conventions with only 2-3% attendance, and division speech contests; the major attendance is by club officers), and finally change management. **Benefits** expected from the proposed reform include reduced workload for the district executive leadership team, reduced travel and travel costs, and **most importantly greater attention to quality and support of fewer clubs and members by each leadership team**. The proposed reform attempts to evenly split the district into District X (north) and District Y (south), each containing five divisions and an average of 30 areas. No additional boundary changes are required due to the prior approved realignment. Thorough financial analysis has been completed to ensure sustainability of both districts.



### What's next? Your vote matters!

- April 30, 2016: Information will be shared at each Division Speech Contest. Also, a plenary session will be held at the Spring Convention at 8:30 a.m.
- April 30, 2016: The Reform Committee will be presenting this proposal for ratification at the Spring Convention Business Meeting.
- Spring 2017: At the Spring Convention Business Meeting, we will elect two Program Quality Directors and two Club Growth Directors, one for each future

district.

- July 1, 2018: We anticipate both districts will begin operating independently.

#### **Reform Committee Members**

Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDG - Chair

Clinton Hunt, DTM, IPDG

George Kane, DTM

Heather Hegi, Cartographer

Jon Chalmers, DTM

Mary Swanson, DTM, PDG

Sharon Rollefson, DTM, PDG

District Reform email: [www.d6tm.org/contact](http://www.d6tm.org/contact) - select "Reformation Chair"

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### **Transitions: Finding a Way to Make It Better**

The clock is our friend and our enemy. All things must keep moving forward, and the second hand does not wait for anybody. We have the opportunity to use each of those seconds. Our lives are calling, demanding we choose between God, family, work, bills, recreation, hobbies, those things that make us better, those we wish we would not waste our time on, and those that define who we are.

A year commitment to improving myself has flown by with some goals attained, others still within reach, and some left to lie like unneeded scenes cut from a film and unretrieved from the cutting room floor. My nearly complete High Performance Leadership (HPL) project for this year involved planning and orchestrating a speech contest. Now only that final speech and meeting remain. The contest is now history, along with the next level planned by others and the District contest soon to be.

I have started another HPL too. This one will take a while longer to complete and will conclude in September of this year. How are you doing on finding an activity you can make better by being involved in the planning and leadership of an effort within your circle of life?

Does your church need some help with getting something fixed or changed or moved forward? How about your family? Has it been forever that you wanted to lift the spirits of people important to you and now an idea comes into your mind about planning and coordinating some special event pulling the people you care for together into an act of community service? Are you involved in doing something at work that could be shared with your fellow Toastmasters? Why not make that commitment to finish an HPL and wrap that Toastmasters program around the effort you would love to do? It can only bring about good, and this is not dependent on your success or failure but rather involves your growth and sharing that growth with your club and advisers.

An HPL requires only your desire to complete one with a little help from some friends and two reports: at the start to share the vision and a second to share the results.

Many of these HPL packets are out there with commitments to be completed in this Toastmasters year. You can do it. I promise you that you can do it, but only if you start and move it forward with purpose. I can also promise you that HPL projects do not complete themselves; your project does require something from you. Another thing you can count on: it will be a better you who finishes that leadership project.



Another Toastmasters year is quickly heading toward transition. Someone new will backfill your position in your club or the district. Someone new will help with leadership, and (not a surprise to any of us) the second hand on each clock will keep making that swift circle, reminding us of each minute we can never get back. Make sure you have both given and received from this relationship you have with Toastmasters this year. In some cases, others are depending on you to do your part so they can pick up that torch you showed them existed and carry it forward. Complete that educational award by giving those final speeches required, or complete that leadership award by creating or providing guidance to your club or leading in service to others and your club. Finish that HPL you started or committed to start.

With the time of transitions coming, look around you, find the opportunity, step up your game, bring someone along, complete that HPL, and in all of it you will discover you have found a way to make your life or the lives of others better.

**Steve Compton**

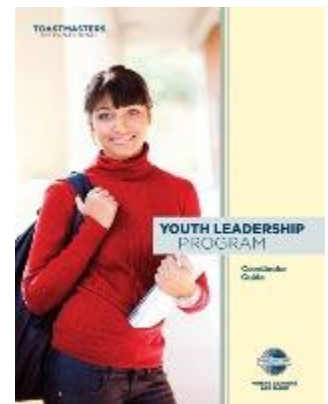
District 6 HPL Chair

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## Youth Leadership Program

There are only three months left in the Toastmasters year. Where is your club at on earning the Keith Hardy Youth Leadership award? This is the District 6 award presented annually to a club that has held at least two Youth Leadership Programs in the Toastmasters year. Will your club be the winner of the award this summer?

If your club has done two or more YLPs, please email me the dates of the YLPs and number of kids, along with the coordinator of the program.



I'll be at the conference the end of April, so please stop and see the display on Youth Leadership. Also, tell me at the conference about your experience in working with our youth, the next generation of leaders. Meanwhile, if you need some materials, please send me an email and I'll be happy to mail the educational materials.

In service,

**Mary Adams, DTM**

District 6 Youth Leadership Chair 2015-2016

Phone: 612.521.0649 (home) or 612.703.8625 (cell)

email: [adams\\_mary\\_j@yahoo.com](mailto:adams_mary_j@yahoo.com)

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## Speechcraft

Has your club seen people who never quite get Toastmasters and then disappear after a few months?

Vince Bullinger, TechMasters president, explains how Speechcraft helps clubs retain new

members:

"Rather than being 'off to the side' thinking about giving an Icebreaker speech this month or next, the Speechcraft participant becomes immersed right away and contributes right away. The Speechcraft participant feels like part of the club and understands Toastmasters more quickly. This person decides to stick around, thus improving club member retention."

TechMasters recently completed their first Speechcraft, has brought new members on board, and is planning a Speechcraft (four sessions) for next year.

Congratulations to two clubs now beginning Speechcraft sessions:

- Out of Towners, Pequot Lakes, starting April 7
- Stellar Speakers, Minneapolis, for Capella University employees, starting April 8

Clubs wishing to publicize Speechcraft may post the event to the district calendar or send information to me. Please send questions, suggestions, quotes, and graduation photos to me.

**David Rasmussen**

[tm.david.rasmussen@gmail.com](mailto:tm.david.rasmussen@gmail.com)

651-674-3164

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