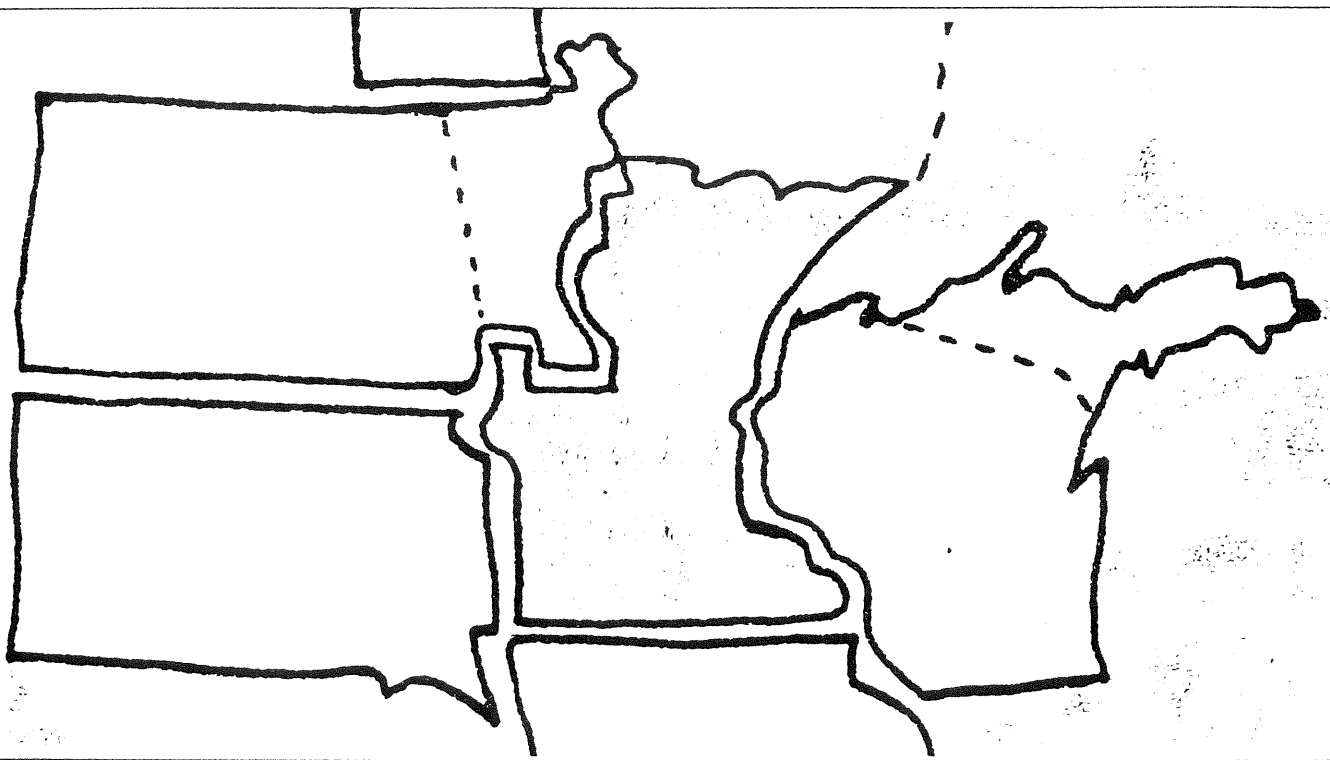


District Six Toastmasters
In Touch with the Past
In Tune with Tomorrow



The story of how great men
have made a great organization.

Men on the Move
are the Men of District Six.



DISTRICT



6

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

District Governor

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My Fellow Toastmasters:

A few years ago a limited history of our District was assembled. With the passing of Leif Larson, our first District Governor, it became apparent that if we wanted to compile a more comprehensive record of our District, we should not delay. With that thought Tom Shrewsbury, our District Historian, was asked to search out records of our District from its beginning and put them into proper order for possible publication. The result is this first published history in book form of our District. Tom is to be commended for expending much time and effort in producing such an excellent report.

I also take pride that this history would be published while I was ~~performing~~ serving as your District Governor. It is my sincere hope that you will all enjoy reading about the growth of our District and the many dynamic Toastmaster leaders who have served so effectively since its beginning.

Most sincerely,

Clifford L. Thompson,
District Governor

INTRODUCTION

The history of District Six is a history of men among men dedicated to the Toastmaster movement throughout the great Upper Midwest. The pioneering spirit of our early leaders manifested itself in the development of Toastmasters International. Distance held no terror when one realizes that District Six once covered Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the province of Manitoba, Canada.

District Six has contributed enormously in the development and leadership of Toastmasters International. "Big Six" has contributed many Directors, Treasurers, Secretaries, and no less than Five International Presidents! Truly, this is a record that every Toastmaster of our district can be proud of!!

Conceit of learning has never been the fault of District Six leaders. Communication through counsel and guidance has been the Golden Rule of the leaders of the past. They have given us a rich heritage. Let the future leaders use it as a guide.

Life has become more meaningful to the men who have been exposed to the teachings of Toastmasters. It has developed men in all walks of life. It has created civic and national leaders--in politics, education, medicine, science, theology, and the humanities.

District Six is a great and proud district, because its men have accepted the doctrine and teachings of our late Founder, Dr. Smedley. He has stated that one of man's great fulfillments is a greater appreciation of himself through the art of oral communication.

We are living in an age which requires greater understanding through greater oral sophistication. Men of District Six have accepted the challenge in the past that will lead to a greater future.

Our deep thanks to the historian, and the editors, and the many Toastmasters who have contributed to the history of a great and glorious district in Toastmasters International.

ALEX P. SMEKTA

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

PREFACE

As Historian, it has been my pleasure to compile and write the memoirs of a great segment of Toastmasters. Ever since its inception in 1937, District Six has been a leader in Toastmasters International. We have enjoyed the position of being the largest district in the organization for the past few years. District Six has contributed more Presidents to the organization than any other district. We have five Past International Presidents to our credit, and three more have been at one time or other been members of District Six.

This history is not only the history of the men who have made the district the great one that it is, but of its clubs as well. For without the clubs, we have no district. Certainly there will be emphasis on the outstanding leaders from District Six in this publication, but the reader must remember that they, like the nervous neophyte giving his ice-breaker, have greatly benefited from the association in their clubs. The training provided in the clubs has given them impetus to seek higher office in District Six, and in Toastmasters International. Any club who has contributed officers to the district should realize that this is another form of extension of the club's services, just as is the participation in an Area Speech Contest, or the exchange of a speaker with another club. Those who have held office are a tribute to the success of their clubs.

As one reads this publication, he will notice some bits of information which are not normally known to each Mr. Toastmaster. Some of the readers will find that, over the years, the charter number which your club has was held by one or more other clubs. Since its founding, Toastmasters International has had a policy of reissuance of charter number after a club has ceased operations. For a time, the charter numbers were held in reserve and reissued to the same district which had originally received that number. Since 1965, the policy has been to hold the numbers in reserve for a fixed period of time, and then to reissue them without regard to district affiliation. Through no fault of District Six, or any of its leaders, past or present, numerous clubs have found it necessary to abandon their activities over the years. The reasons for this will be as numerous as there are clubs who have ceased their operations.

The publication has been divided into certain segments, as outlined in the table of contents. The purpose for this is to separate certain periods of our history into tangible components to give us a perspective on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. I have set this book up such that important characteristics of several years are featured in each section.

Each District Governor's area organization is enumerated, to show the development of the areas. The area enumerations include all new clubs and all abandoned clubs for the year. In instances of reissuance of a charter in the same year, the abandoned club is shown in its former area in parenthesis.

After the current administration has been reviewed, a Hall of Fame section has been enumerated. This "Hall of Fame" lists those members whose achievements deserve special recognition. Included in this section

is a list of all members on record at Toastmasters International who have completed Basic Training, and those members who have earned Able Toastmaster recognition. The recipients of awards in the District Six awards program are also to be found in this section. This enumeration includes the Area Governors of the Year, the Toastmasters of the Year, and the Clubs of the Year. Following this, we have compiled a section entitled, "Who's Who in District Six", a list of all members who have contributed two years or more of service to District Six in the capacity of Area Governor and higher office. Any other members who deserve special recognition are also listed in the section. These men are, truly, a tribute to the clubs which they represent.

As is customary, and, at times, cumbersome, any publication which is consummated with a scholarly approach acknowledges those whose help made the publication possible. This publication is no exception. As the editor I feel that special recognition is due to those persons who have contributed most to completion of the project.

First of all, the Staff of World Headquarters is to be commended for its complete cooperation and assistance in supplying the lists of Basic Training completions, Able Toastmasters, and other data which enabled me to complete this work.

Second, the members of my committee deserve special thanks. The regular members have been Harry Mattison, George Benson, Ikel Benson, Alton Clark, Alex Smekta, and Max Perras. Many other Toastmasters have been of valuable service in obtaining needed information. Emil Nelson has supplied many pictures appearing in this book. It is an honor for District Six to have received greetings from the Honorable Harold LeVander, Governor of Minnesota, from Honorable Warren P. Knowles, Governor of Wisconsin, and from John P. Robarts, Prime Minister of Ontario. Special thanks to Don Plaskett, Division 4 Advisor, for his help in getting the greeting from Ontario. Our current International President, Ralph E. "Bud" Howland, also sent greetings and they are greatly appreciated.

Third, special thanks is due to the of Dave Nordell, the current editor of the Big Six Digest. He provided the inspiration for the title, and has also been valuable in making publication in this form at the relatively low cost possible.

Fourth, the services of my wife, Linda, have been of inestimable value. Many nights she has laid aside her plans to take notes for me while I was organizing the material.

Finally, proper commendation is due all who have contributed to the heritage of District Six. You have contributed greatly through being an officer, by benefiting from Toastmasters training, and by being willing to share a portion of your experience with others. Your wives have been at your side, to provide interest and moral support in your accomplishments. The clubs and the members of these clubs have made this district the great one that it is. Without their fine spirit of cooperation and fellowship, this district would not enjoy the prestige and recognition it enjoys in Toastmasters International.

Tom Shrewsbury, Historian
Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 9, 1970.



Ralph E. Howland, President
Toastmasters International.



Honorable Harold LeVander
Governor of Minnesota.



Honorable Warren P. Knowles
Governor of Wisconsin.



Honorable John P. Roberts
Prime Minister of Ontario



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92711

RALPH E. HOWLAND
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
POST OFFICE BOX 62
OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066

March 10, 1970

T. D. Shrewsbury, Historian
2924 Northway Drive
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55430

Dear Tom:

It is a pleasure to be included in the compilation of the Toastmaster history of District 6. It is just twenty years ago that the Oconomowoc Club #834 was chartered in District 6. In that time I have had the opportunity to know all of the District's leaders and many of its Club members. Proud as I am of District 35, which was created from District 6 in 1952, I have always had great admiration for the great effect District 6 has had on the growth and shaping of our organization.

It was, in part, inspiration from the Toastmasters of your District that spurred me to seek the opportunity of serving beyond the Club. This has been most rewarding to me and I feel quite proud to be among those of District 6 who have achieved the presidency. It is my please also to greet each of you on this occasion as President and to convey most sincere congratulations from Toastmasters throughout the world. May your future accomplishments be as beneficial to our International movement as those of the past.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Howland, President
Toastmasters International

REH/eob

Enclosure



STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL

HAROLD LEVANDER
GOVERNOR

March 6, 1970

Mr. Thomas D. Shrewsbury
Historian
District Six
Toastmasters International
Santa Ana, California 92702

Dear Minnesota Toastmasters:

Congratulations to each of you. Your decision to devote some time to improve your ability to communicate is indeed wise. No matter what your vocation is, you are extremely handicapped if you cannot convey ideas or give logical structure to a position or assimilate information.

Being required to give approximately 300 speeches a year, I can testify that communication is a most necessary art.

Best wishes to all Toastmasters.

Sincerely,


Harold LeVander
GOVERNOR

HL: jk



The State of Wisconsin

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MADISON

53702

WARREN P. KNOWLES

GOVERNOR

Greetings:

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to the Toastmasters of District Six. For over thirty years, the Toastmasters of District Six have helped thousands of people become proficient public speakers and interesting conversationalists!

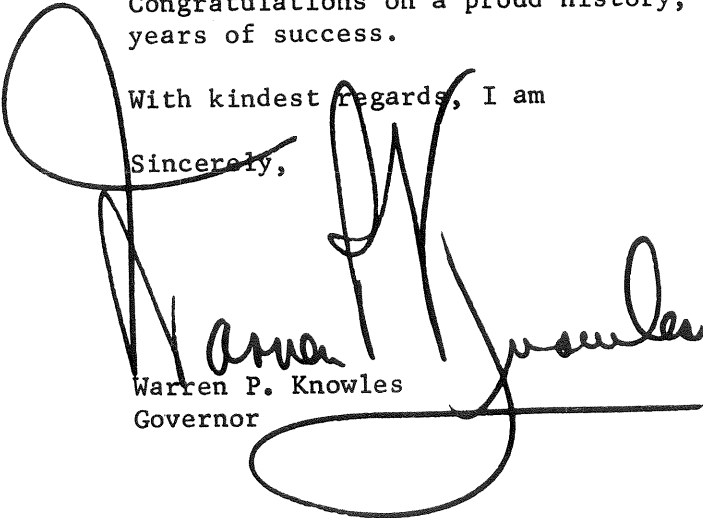
The ability to communicate effectively is a talent not easily acquired by many people. Through your "toastmaster" program, however, you have helped many individuals gain the self-confidence they need to express themselves clearly.

In this day of credibility and generation gaps, communication is crucial to a better understanding of attitudes and differences. If people can engage in meaningful dialogue, they are capable of resolving the most difficult of problems.

Certainly, your activities throughout the years have contributed to this dialogue and have enriched the lives of many people. Congratulations on a proud history, and best wishes for many more years of success.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Warren P. Knowles
Governor



PRIME MINISTER OF ONTARIO

Toronto, Ontario.
March 16, 1970.

Toastmasters International has achieved a well-deserved and most commendable record of achievement through its dedication to the improvement of oral communication and leadership training. Hand in hand with these new tools, has been the self-education which Toastmasters have obtained by taking part in Toastmaster programs. As a result, Toastmaster Clubs have been the launching pad for a great many of our community and political leaders.

I am delighted, on behalf of the people and Government of Ontario, to extend my good wishes to members of District 6 of Toastmasters International in Northwestern Ontario and our neighbouring State of Minnesota and, through this greeting, to all Toastmasters International Districts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Robarts".

John P. Robarts
Prime Minister of Ontario

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TOASTMASTERS BEFORE DISTRICT SIX

Ralph Smedley's concept of a fraternal forum for the free exchange of ideas and the development of public speaking ability first materialized at Santa Ana, California in 1924. Having been selected as Secretary of the Santa Ana YMCA, Dr. Smedley was able to organize a club and to conduct successful meetings. From these meetings, the first being on October 22, 1924, all that is Toastmasters today has evolved.

Many of the concepts first used in that club are still very much a part of our club meetings today. For example, membership was to be limited to 30 members; anyone 18 years of age or older might become a member; a member might be dropped from the roster after two unexcused absences. The meeting agenda was very similar to that used today as well. Speeches were to be of five to seven minutes' duration, and five would be presented each meeting. A general business session was to begin at 6:30 p.m. with the president in charge. At 7:00 p.m., the Toastmaster of the evening was introduced and took charge of the speaking program. At conclusion of the speeches, there would be a general discussion period of ten minutes' duration, in which any member could participate, so long as any individual comments did not exceed two minutes. An evaluation of the meeting followed the general discussion, and adjournment was at 8:00 p.m.

The evaluation portion of the program was conducted by a single critic, who has now assumed the role of the "general evaluator", or some such similar term as may be used by each club. Individual evaluations of the speeches came later. The general discussion period was the forerunner of table topics.

In the summer of 1925, the club was visited by a young man from Anaheim, J. Clark Chamberlain. He found the organization to his liking, and, with assistance of Dr. Smedley and the Santa Ana club, the second club was formed in the early months of 1926. This was the spark which produced the incentive for establishment of more clubs.

The next club came in the spring of 1927. Having heard of the activities in Santa Ana and Anaheim, the Los Angeles YMCA Secretary, J. Gustav White, pioneered that club. Numerous other clubs were established in the next few months, and the beginnings of a national organization were there.

A federation was formed late in 1927. The purpose was to form some type of continuity among the various clubs, and to hold occasional meetings for exchange of ideas. Legal protection was taken out by Dr. Smedley in 1928 in order to preserve the concept, and the name, "Toastmasters Club."

By 1930, there were about 20 clubs in one manner or another connected with Toastmasters. The desire to form a stronger organization became more apparent, and the first meetings were held that summer to realize the goal. Organization was consummated on October 4, 1930, at Santa Ana, California, which completed it. The name "Toastmasters International" was chosen, as there already was a club in British Columbia. J. Clark Chamberlain was elected President of the new organization.

Articles of incorporation were filed by Toastmasters International with the State of California, as a non-profit corporation in 1932. Numerous copyrights which Dr. Smedley had title to personally were signed over to the organization. A strong desire on the part of some early members to capitalize on the programs was thwarted with the incorporation by Dr. Smedley in his assigning of his copyrights. They were assigned on condition that, should the organization begin to operate on a profit basis, that the proceeds would revert to Dr. Smedley, or to his estate. Since that time, numerous groups outside the organization have operated, especially in the thirties, but the use of the name "Toastmasters Club" has been guaranteed as exclusive property of Toastmasters International and its affiliated clubs.

1933 brought the first issuance of club charter numbers. Smedley Club No. One in Santa Ana received charter number one; Anaheim #2, and Los Angeles, #3. The 1934 convention at San Diego brought into existence the establishment of the district organization. At first, there were two districts authorized. District One consisted of the entire state of California, while District Two had boundaries of the states of Washington, Oregon, and the province of British Columbia. (The first expansion outside of California was at Seattle.)

In the spring of 1937, the growing pains were really beginning to be noticed. The five clubs in Arizona requested permission to organize a District, and that state became District 3. Other calls for new districts were being heard in California, where growth had made effective operation by one district impossible. District Four became a reality, with its boundaries being that portion of California north of the Tehachapi Mountains. And District Five, consisting of San Diego and the Imperial counties was next to be realized. At the same time, there was another movement, with which we are directly concerned through the rest of this publication. For at this time, Toastmasters was becoming known in the Great Northwest--at Minneapolis.

This summary highlights the development of the organization in the years before District Six. We now tell the story of the largest District in Toastmasters International, and the district with the richest heritage.



1937 -- 1944

THE PIONEER ERA

