

1937 -- 1938

LEIF R. LARSON

(Minneapolis #75)



All history of District Six has evolved from the formation of the first club. Leif R. Larson, Senior Program Secretary of the Minneapolis YMCA had seen information about Toastmasters in publications and correspondence in the "Y" organization. Not too much was known in Minneapolis as to whether or not Toastmasters was a reputable organization, and the early leaders had considerable doubts. But the first meeting was held on October 7, 1936. Five members were present. They were: Leif R. Larson, Homer R. Kinney, Ruben Kindwell, George W. Benson, and Anton G. Hanson. As there were no clubs within 1000 miles of the area, all correspondence and assistance came from Dr. Smedley at Santa Ana.

A second meeting was held on October 15, 1936. The five names noted above, as well as Harry W. Mattison and others were present. It is interesting to note the purposes, procedures, and costs of being a member of this club in 1936. First of all, the general concept, seen by the early leaders of the club was that it would be to stimulate interest and practice in public speaking among members of the YMCA. Though the YMCA gave the basis for the club, membership was not restricted then, nor is it today, to members of the YMCA. The cost of the meals was 50¢ per plate, and dues were around \$3.00 per year, which included a subscription to The Toastmaster, at that time a quarterly publication. Meetings would probably be "held every week."

The initial group was successful in expanding its program, and the expansion was culminated on February 4, 1937. After considerable debate as to a name, the group voted against using YMCA as its club name, and it became known as the Minneapolis Toastmasters Club. On March 18, 1937, the club held its charter party, with 22 members. The club received charter number 75 from Toastmasters International. (Charter members names are to be found in the appendix.) The charter was presented by Mr. W. I. Nolan, a former member of Congress. The first president was Harry W. Mattison. He and Leif had an agreement between them as to leadership of the infant organization. Both foresaw a district coming, and Harry agreed to be the first president if Leif would agree to be District Governor. This agreement was effected, and the group was on its way.

Not long after the first club was established, another club was in the process of formation. The organization meeting for the second club was held on March 31, 1937. Mr. Sheldon Ostroot, assistant director of education at the YMCA, suggested to a speech training class, which was being held there, that they might benefit from organizing a Toastmasters Club.

The speech class approved of Mr. Ostroot's idea, and voted in favor of starting a Toastmasters club on May 19, 1937. The club received its charter, No. 82, on June 16, 1937, at a meeting held at the YMCA. About 100 persons attended, and the charter was presented by Harry W. Mattison. The club chose the name Russell H. Conwell Toastmasters, No. 82, after the first secretary of the Minneapolis YMCA. There were 24 charter members, and their names are included in the appendix. George H. Knowles was elected first president of the club.

With prospects for a third club, the Minneapolis group had met the requirements for a District. The qualifications for a District at the time were that the area must have at least three clubs. Organizational meetings were in progress at Albert Lea, and there was a need for a District, since Minnesota was over 1500 miles from the nearest similar organization.

Sometime between the charter of Russell H. Conwell #82 and November 1937; the exact date has been lost; District Six came into being. Leif Larson became the first District Governor. International President William A. Dunlap visited the Minneapolis area to commemorate the founding of District Six.

With November came the third club, YMCA #91 of Albert Lea. The club had been formed due to their having heard about the two groups in Minneapolis. And Albert Lea wanted a club for their community. The records of the start of this club are less preserved, but Rudolph Hansen, a prominent civic leader of the community was one of the founders. Sponsored jointly by Minneapolis and Russell Conwell Clubs, Albert Lea received its charter on Armistice Day, November 11, 1937. Many Toastmasters from Minneapolis attended the charter party.

Shortly after the start of the Albert Lea club, another prospective community was interested in a Toastmasters Club. This community was Waterloo, Iowa. In the late fall of 1937, organizational meetings were conducted, and the club became Waterloo Toastmasters #101 in January, 1938. The first president of the club was Carleton P. "Cap" Sias, later to be the first Governor of District 19, and International President. Cap was one of the most colorful members of District Six, and his reputation and friendship was an inspiration to all in the Upper Midwest.

Thus, a District was born. Its beginnings were meager, with four clubs and tremendous territory. Lacking for better boundaries, the same territory was given District Six in its beginning as the regional jurisdiction of the YMCA. Five states and a province in Canada were included. The boundaries of District Six, as outlined upon its commission to operate as such, were the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the province of Manitoba. The first year of operation had been concluded, and it left great promise of a future of growth and personal enrichment for all who were a part of District Six.

1938 -- 1939

1939 -- 1940

HARRY W. MATTISON

(Minneapolis #75)



Harry Mattison succeeded Leif Larson on July 1, 1938 as District Governor. He was one of two District Governors who was successful in being elected to serve two terms. The by-laws at the time did not require a different person to serve in the office each year.

The first International Convention held outside of California was consummated at Tucson, Arizona in 1938. This convention shaped some of the activities which we are engaged in at present, and have come to mean much to so many Toastmasters over the years. For one important event, one must look at the first inter-club speech contest. This provided the beginnings of today's speech contest with its levels of competition from the club to the whole of Toastmasters. Each club was encouraged to change its officer election dates, so that the officers would take office on April 1 and October 1 of each year. The secretary-treasurer would be exempt from this rule, as he served an annual term.

Here in Minnesota, the District was beginning to feel its way along the path to growth and greatness. The two year period saw four more clubs affiliate themselves with District Six, and with Toastmasters International. Numerous joint meetings were held, and activity was at these meetings, for purpose of conducting district business. And the business of the District at the time was the promotion of such activities. Since there was no other officer of the district, other than the District Governor, his function was somewhat like that of an Area Governor today.

The fifth club in District Six received its charter on March 6, 1939. The location was Owatonna, and the club chose its name after the city. Charter No. 134 was presented to the club by District Governor Mattison. All three Minnesota clubs contributed to its organization.

Next came Iowa's second club, Marshalltown #164. This club received its charter in December of 1939. Waterloo #101 was the principal sponsor, due to its having been the closest club, but equal credit for its founding also belongs to Russell H. Conwell #82.

Minneapolis procured its third club in May, 1940. The Minnesota Toastmasters Club #166, sponsored by Minneapolis Club #75, brought the total clubs in District Six to seven. One of its charter members, Thomas W. Hennessy, was to become invaluable in carrying District Six through the troubled years of World War II.

At the same time, another group was forming a club, and its location was St. Paul. Toastmasters was now three years old in Minneapolis, and St. Paul was certainly not going to be upstaged by the efforts of the men in the Mill City to provide speech training to any man who desired it. Thus, the First St. Paul Toastmasters Club #167 received its charter on June 1, 1940. One of its pioneers was Garrett B. Wright, who served with distinction two years later as a valuable assistant to District Governor George W. Benson.

And one of the most interesting lessons in club extension is due to the efforts of Harry Mattison and Vergil B. Edwards, of Minneapolis #75. During the year, a man from Oklahoma was visiting in Minneapolis for a few weeks, and he was a guest at the meetings of Club #75. Upon his return to his home in Tulsa, he wanted to start a club there. Having seen Toastmasters in Minnesota, he felt that there must be some benefit for Oklahomans in the program as well. With the help of Harry Mattison and others in Club #75, the first Oklahoma club, Tulsa #148, became a reality in February, 1940. This was the first club in what is now District 16, and this is certainly a story in long-distance club extension!

On June 30, 1940, we find a club count of eight in District Six. Harry Mattison's reputation and following in Minneapolis had become known throughout the whole of Toastmasters, and at the 1940 International Convention, he was elected to the Board of Directors. This election was the initial occurrence of International service from District Six, and opened the door for the long and distinguished record of service which we have provided to the whole of Toastmasters.

The clubs which can be counted in District Six on June 30, 1940 are:

75 Minneapolis	82 Russell H. Conwell
91 Albert Lea	101 Waterloo
134 Owatonna	164 Marshalltown
166 Minnesota	167 First St. Paul

1940 -- 1941

GEORGE H. KNOWLES

(Russell H. Conwell #82)



International Officers:

Harry W. Mattison, Director

Growth and a speech contest were the main characteristics of the administration of George Knowles. During this year, six new clubs were chartered, and thus, the initial push for establishment of clubs began. Also, the first District Speech Contest was held during this administration.

Not only was Governor Knowles busy with the establishment of the new clubs, but also was his club, Russell Conwell #82. The club either wholly or partially sponsored all six new clubs chartered during the year. There was numerous exchange of ideas, of speakers, and the conduct of joint meetings with the clubs in the district. In fact, the exchanges of speakers, the joint meetings, and the charter parties were District Six in these pioneer days.

The ninth club to enter its name on the rolls of membership was Sibley #173, based in Mendota. They received their charter in November of 1940. In addition, the club had a full complement of 30 members.

Another club entered in January, 1941, in Southern Minnesota, specifically at Mankato. This club also had its full complement of 30 members, with two associates. Like many clubs who were first in their community, the club named itself after the city, and received Charter No. 175.

Washington's birthday in 1941 was the setting for the start of Gopher #183, with 25 members. This club was the fourth Minneapolis club to organize, and has a rich heritage of its own, since two members of the club have International service.

The first "captive" club in Minnesota was the next club to enter its name in the heritage. Engineers #185, sponsored by the professional engineering society, and sponsored by Russell Conwell Toastmasters, received its charter on April 15, 1941. Two of its charter members, Helge Olson and Ikel Benson, later served as District Governors. This club was by far the largest in membership. Not only did it have full complement of 30 active members, but also 13 associates.

The Knowles administration also deserves credit for the first expansion north of Minneapolis-St. Paul, with the charter presentation in May, 1941, to the Princeton Club #189. This community is probably the smallest in population to ever support a club in District Six.

The sixth club, of which not very much is known, was the Mark Twain Toastmasters Club #205 of Minneapolis. It was chartered in June, 1941.

During these years, each District Governor was an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. George Knowles represented District Six with distinction in this peculiar aspect of the District Governor's duties. The practice itself was abandoned in 1946, but all who served as District Governor in the period before 1946 enjoyed this privilege. To avoid any confusion, there were six elected Directors, of which Harry Mattison was one, beginning in 1940.

The first District Speech Contest believed to be held in District Six was held in Minneapolis in May, 1941. Due to the absence of restrictions on officers participating, the contest produced some interesting results. The winner was Robert Utne, of First St. Paul #167. District Governor George Knowles placed second.

On June 30, 1941, the rolls of club membership in District Six contained the names of these clubs:

75 Minneapolis	82 Russell H. Conwell
91 Albert Lea	101 Waterloo
134 Owatonna	164 Marshalltown
166 Minnesota	167 First St. Paul
173 Sibley	175 Mankato
183 Gopher	185 Engineers
189 Princeton	205 Mark Twain

Total Clubs = 14.

1941 -- 1942

GEORGE W. BENSON

(Minneapolis #75).



International Officers:

Harry W. Mattison, Director

District Officers:

Secretary: Thomas W. Hennessy, Minneapolis

Lieutenant Governors:

- Area 1 -- Vergil B. Edwards, Minneapolis
- Area 2 -- Garrett B. Wright, St. Paul
- Area 3 -- Rudolph Hansen, Albert Lea
- Area 4 -- Ed Foster, Waterloo, Iowa
- Area 5 -- Gerald Larson, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

AREA ORGANIZATION:

AREA 1

75 Minneapolis  
82 Russell H. Conwell  
166 Minnesota  
173 Sibley  
183 Gopher  
185 Engineers  
205 Mark Twain  
209 Minneapolis JTC.

AREA 2

167 First St. Paul  
189 Princeton  
208 King Boreas  
217 Greysolon  
221 Victory  
228 First Wisconsin

AREA 3

91 Albert Lea  
134 Owatonna  
175 Mankato  
232 Austin

AREA 4

101 Waterloo  
164 Marshalltown

AREA 5

210 Sioux Falls  
224 Sodak  
225 Collegians

## NOW WE LOOK LIKE A DISTRICT!

When George W. Benson ascended to the District Governorship in 1941, he probably faced the closest election ever for the office. The margin was one vote, but his opponent's identity has been lost. The close election certainly must have inspired him, for we owe to him the beginnings of the contemporary district structure.

Many firsts can be credited to this administration. As is obvious on the preceding page, he was the first District Governor to divide the district into areas. Each area was under the supervision of a Lieutenant Governor, whose duties were akin to the Area Governor, with whom we all have contact in our clubs. The boundaries of each area were well defined. Area 1 was all of Minneapolis. Area 2 was St. Paul, Princeton, Duluth, and Eau Claire. Area 3 was Southern Minnesota. Area 4 was the whole state of Iowa. Area 5 was Sioux Falls, and the rest of South Dakota.

Nine clubs were chartered during the year. This feat has been exceeded only two times since in District Six, and is certainly one of the best records in terms of new clubs any place in Toastmasters.

Awards were another method by which District Six became a moving force in Toastmasters, during 1941-42. These awards brought honor and prestige to one of the clubs, and to the district in general. At the time, there was an award given annually by the Home Office, and whose donor was Past International President Gordon R. Howard, for the top club in Toastmasters.. The 1942 award was presented to the Minneapolis Toastmasters Club No. 75. The club was recognized for its achievements which included sponsorship of most of the nine clubs chartered in this year. District Six was recognized as the most outstanding district in Toastmasters. The award was the forerunner to today's Distinguished District Awards. Both of these commendations were accepted by Governor Benson at a meeting in Los Angeles.

Some interest to bring the International Convention to Minneapolis was beginning to develop. Since District Six had established itself in the organization, there was a desire to hold a convention here. First, however, the City of Seattle was to have a turn. The general plan in 1941 was to have the convention in Seattle in 1942 or 1943, and a year later in Minneapolis. George Knowles' poem, taken from the January, 1942, issue of the Toastmaster magazine, explains the situation quite well:

"Toastmasters International Convention---  
We want thee  
In forty-three.  
We'll want thee more  
In forty-four."



In the interim, World War II caused a curtailment of full scale conventions until 1946, and Minneapolis had to wait for her convention until 1947.

In addition to having the Lieutenant Governors, George Benson was the first governor to have a Secretary. The office was the first in the current complement of appointive offices to be established in District Six. First holder of that office was Thomas W. Hennessy, of Minnesota #166. At the completion of the year, he was elected District Governor for 1942-43. The election of Hennessy started a tradition for all who have aspired to the office of District Governor, in terms of the importance of the secretary's duties.

Another notable servant at this time was Garrett B. Wright, of the First St. Paul Toastmasters Club #167. As Lieutenant Governor of Area 2, he added four clubs to his area, and was helpful to Governor Benson, as he attended and coordinated all the charter parties, of which there were eight.

One of the most notable clubs in District Six was chartered on November 4, 1941. This club is the King Boreas #208 of St. Paul. Their record of consecutive weekly meetings is surpassed by no club in Toastmasters. The name was chosen in recognition of the festivities which St. Paul has each year with its Winter Carnival. The club adopted a special club insignia, which was drawn by nationally-known artist John Socha, a member of the club. Two honorary members were taken in at the charter party--John F. Scott, Rex Boreas VII, and Prime Minister Patrick J. Towle. Over 130 persons attended the charter party, including 15 members from the Princeton club. Sibley and JTC clubs cancelled their meetings to attend. Two of the charter members of the club have shared in the heritage of District Six. The contributions of Tracy M. Jeffers and Herman C. Goebel will follow.

The administration brought the first clubs to District Six from Wisconsin and South Dakota. Sioux Falls gained three clubs during the year. At the end of 1941, the clubs in Toastmasters totaled 210, and charter number 210 belonged to the first club in Sioux Falls, the Two-Tenners. After a short time, the club became known as the Sioux Falls Toastmasters Club. In May, 1942, one of the most unique charter parties ever was held in Sioux Falls. The other two clubs, Sodak #224 and Collegians #225, received their charters in a joint session.

Eau Claire was the first city to have a club in Wisconsin. A charter was presented in May 1942 to the First Wisconsin Toastmasters #228. Governor Benson and others who attended from the Twin Cities had a busy evening. Using the train as their transportation, they arrived in Eau Claire, presented the charter, and caught the train as it passed through from Chicago on the return trip.

The third St. Paul club received its charter on May 2, 1942. The club chose the name Victory Toastmasters, because its first meeting was held on December 8, 1941. The charter president of the club was Emil H. Nelson, who has enjoyed a long career of service to District Six, and to the whole of Toastmasters. Victory Toastmasters #221 formed a large "V" for their picture, which was later published in the Toastmaster.

Other charters were presented to the Minneapolis Junior Traffic Club, No. 209; Greysolon #217, first club in Duluth, and to Austin #232.

The first District Conference along the lines of today's conferences, was held on August 30, 1941 in Minneapolis. International Vice President Ted Blanding attended. Not only were the clubs of District Six represented, but clubs from Omaha, St. Louis, and Chicago sent representatives. Chicago and St. Louis soon after joined to form District 8.

District Six also presented a gift to the Home Office. Each club contributed to the purchase of a permanent register of visitors to the Home Office. It was formally presented at a Board of Directors meeting on December 17, 1941. Its contents would allow for register of visitors for many years.

The administration of George Benson was a most successful one. The year closed with 23 clubs in five areas, and potential for much more success. Unfortunately, this success had to be delayed until near the end of the war.



At the Charter Party of King Boreas #208. Left to right: Patrick J. Towle, Prime Minister; Dr. W. W. Bacon, first president; A. Victor Barquist, first secretary; John F. Scott, Rex Boreas VII of the Winter Carnival; Garrett B. Wright, Lieutenant Governor of Area 2; Dr. R. W. Holmes, charter member.



Tacks are being pounded into a map, showing where the clubs in District Six are located, and where a lot more are planned. Wielding the hammer is International Director Harry W. Mattison. Next to him is George Benson, District Governor, and on the right is Past District Governor George H. Knowles. The picture was taken from an article written by a member of the Minneapolis Tribune staff, and published in the Toastmaster magazine, January 1942.

1942 -- 1943

THOMAS W. HENNESSY

(Minnesota #166)



**International Officers:**

Darry W. Mattison, Vice President  
George W. Benson, Special Representative

**DISTRICT OFFICERS:**

Secretary: Watt W. Welker, Minneapolis  
Educational Director: James F. Lichtenberger, Minneapolis  
Resident Correspondent: Norman V. Knutson, St. Paul

**Lieutenant Governors:**

Area 1 -- William E. Brandow, Minneapolis  
Area 2 -- Alfred R. Sundberg, St. Paul  
Area 3 -- Kenneth A. Gollmar, Mankato  
Area 4 -- Leroy E. Hieber, Waterloo, Iowa  
Area 5 -- Gale B. Braithwaite, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

**AREA ORGANIZATION:**

AREA 1

75 Minneapolis  
82 Russell H. Conwell  
166 Minnesota  
173 Sibley  
183 Gopher  
185 Engineers  
205 Mark Twain  
209 Minneapolis JTC.

AREA 2

167 First St. Paul  
189 Princeton  
208 King Boreas  
217 Greysolon  
221 Victory  
228 First Wisconsin  
250 Winnepeg

AREA 3

91 Albert Lea  
134 Owatonna  
175 Mankato  
232 Austin

AREA 4

101 Waterloo  
164 Marshalltown

AREA 5

210 Sioux Falls  
224 Sodak  
225 Collegians

1943 -- 1944

THOMAS W. HENNESSY

(Minnesota #166)



International Officers:  
HARRY W. MATTISON, PRESIDENT

DISTRICT OFFICERS:

Secretary: Watt W. Welker, Minneapolis  
Educational Director: James F. Lichtenberger, Minneapolis  
Resident Correspondent: Norman V. Knutson, St. Paul

Lieutenant Governors:

Area 1 -- Harry G. Morton, Minneapolis  
Area 2 -- Emil H. Nelson, St. Paul  
Area 3 -- Ted W. Joesting, Owatonna  
Area 4 -- Gordon A. Spry, Waterloo, Iowa  
Area 5 -- Dr. George L. Clifton, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.  
Area 6 -- Unorganized.

AREA ORGANIZATION:

AREA 1

75 Minneapolis  
82 Russell H. Conwell  
166 Minnesota  
183 Gopher  
185 Engineers  
205 Mark Twain  
209 Minneapolis J.T.C.

AREA 2

167 First St. Paul  
189 Princeton  
208 King Boreas  
217 Greysolon  
221 Victory  
228 First Wisconsin

AREA 3

91 Albert Lea  
134 Owatonna  
175 Mankato  
232 Austin  
271 Rochester

AREA 4

101 Waterloo

AREA 5

210 Sioux Falls  
224 Sodak

AREA 6

250 Winnepeg  
272 Pioneer  
273 Grand Forks

## THE TROUBLED WAR YEARS

As was typical of most organizations, as well as those who have profit motives, Toastmasters International's growth was curtailed to a great degree during the years 1942-44. The International Convention had to be curtailed on its full scale until 1946. All clubs were encouraged to remain in operation of at all possible, but there definitely were problems. Some clubs were able to disband for the duration of the hostilities and then start up again after, but most remained in operation. There were a few who were lost forever.

These years in District Six were led by Thomas W. Hennessy. Tom was a resident of St. Paul, but he belonged to the Minnesota Toastmasters Club No. 166. Thus, he can be claimed by both cities. He was the last governor to be reelected to the office.

One of the first events of his administration was a visit from Dr. Smedley. This was a part of a visit which took Dr. Smedley to four district conferences and a host of other meetings. He was gone a little over three weeks, and was dated up to the limit. Governor Hennessy arranged the entire trip for our founder. The trip was the first for Dr. Smedley outside California for Toastmasters. Many clubs were interested in having a visit from the founder, and the arrangements made by Tom Hennessy made this possible.

Even with the war, two members of District Six were serving as officers of the entire organization. Harry W. Mattison was elected Vice-President in 1942, and served as President in 1943-44. George W. Benson enjoyed during 1942-43 a peculiar relationship with the Board of Directors, in the office of Special Representative. He ranked along with a director, and had many of the same responsibilities. The office was created for him, as his efforts as Governor of District Six were recognized throughout the organization. There was no room for him, however, on the regular status as Director, as the full complement of six elected directors had been attained.

When Harry Mattison was elected International President in 1943, he was unable to attend the meeting in Santa Ana at which he was elected. Tom Hennessy did attend. No notification of his election was given to Harry until a few days after Hennessy returned from the meeting, and saw Harry at a club meeting. Harry was President for at least a week before he even knew it!!

The problems of club operation described above were certainly alive in District Six, as three clubs perished during the first year. Sibley, Marshalltown, and Collegians were unable to cope with the loss of members entering the Armed Services. Mark Twain #205 was lost during 1943-44. The administration did manage to start three clubs in spite of the problems.

The first new club came in November, 1943. Special significance belongs to the issuance of this charter, as District Six became an international district along with it. Winnepeg #250 was the club, and its first president was E. A. L. Hammarstrand, a former resident of Minneapolis. There were 28 charter members. International President Harry W. Mattison presented the charter.

Spring had come to Minnesota before two more clubs were added to District Six. The two clubs were Pioneer #272 of Moorhead, and Rochester #271, named after its city. Glenn Johnson, a charter member of the Pioneer club was destined to become the first governor of District 20 when it formed two years later. As published by District 20 in 1969, the heritage of District 20 is rich in the Pioneer club. The Rochester club can boast of having had an International President from their club, Alex Smekta.

During the year 1943-44, the first district bulletin was published. Its name was the District Six Shooter. The editor was George W. Benson. It was printed on legal size paper, and each issue had six pages. Featured in the bulletin were articles submitted by each of the clubs on their activities, the officers of each club, a few jokes, some lessons on grammar, and other matters of interest and concern. Each first page featured a dissertation by International President Harry W. Mattison.

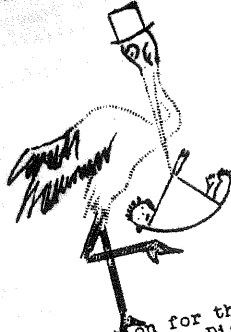
Outside speaking was a principal activity of many Toastmasters. In 1941, shortly after the second Lend-Lease Act, Dr. Smedley offered the services of Toastmasters to support the war effort through speeches in favor of selling War Bonds, and so on. The services became more desirable after United States entry into the war. District Six responded to the challenge, and provided many speakers to support the war effort. It was a fine opportunity for national service for those not in the military.

The 1944 Spring Conference featured four speakers in a Speech Contest. They were: York Langton of Minneapolis #75; Kenneth Kurtz of First St. Paul #167; Rev. W. W. Bloom of Albert Lea #91; and A. T. Tollefs of Sodak #224. The results have been lost.

The two years were successful, thanks to the efforts of Tom Hennessy, George W. Benson, and Harry W. Mattison. Their dedication had kept a district together through the trials of a war. There were 22 clubs in District Six on June 30, 1944.

# DISTRICT 6 SHOOTER

For Members of Toastmasters Clubs in Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin



A new publication for the Toastmasters of the Sixth District. Many hands have helped to put it out and it is hoped you will like it. It will fill the need for a medium of exchange of ideas and closer contact with Toastmasters Clubs of the Sixth District.

News from every club in the District is desirable, that it may be completely interesting and avoid localization. The active interest of every club may be stimulated by the suggestion that each Toastmasters Club write in to the District Governor for assignment of the opportunity to edit an issue.

Suggestions, of course, are in order and asked for. The publication cannot flourish without improvement.

## THE FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The annual Fall District Conference of the Sixth District was held at the Central YMCA in Minneapolis, October 16, 1943. It was a well-attended meeting, every Area being represented, and much good accomplished. Out-of-town clubs represented were Owatonna, Princeton, Duluth, Sioux Falls, Waterloo and Albert Lea. The banquet in the evening presented a program under the Toastmastership of Lt. Governor Harry Morton, with the other Lt. Governors as speakers. Harry Mattison, President of Toastmasters International addressed the Conference after the speaking program.

## THE SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Even now plans are being made for the Spring Conference which brings with it the Annual Speech Contest. There have been some mighty fine speeches made in this contest and they are getting better. It is about time we had a National Speech Contest Winner from this District and this may be the year. Clubs have already started their preliminary Club contests. Now is the time to write to Tom Hennessy with suggestions for some of the ideas you have always wished they would include in a District Conference.

## SPEECH RECORDINGS

Recordings of Area winners in last year's Speech Contest have been forwarded to Eau Claire Toastmasters. The records are for the use of all clubs. To secure them call the District Governor, or send a card.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DISTRICT 6 SHOOTER.....

A District Paper is essential to serve constructively for the clubs and the members alike. Toastmasters today serve on all fronts in the cause of Freedom, and wherever we can improve and better ourselves in carrying on with the ideals and ideas which have made our country great, so much the sooner can we realize a successful conclusion to the present conflict. The Toastmaster movement is grateful to the men in District Six, who continue in spite of grave days fraught with disappointments and shortages, to carry on and build and grow.

Harry W. Mattison, President  
TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

# T 6 SHOOTER

Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin



significant as we approach our twentieth year anniversary—week-milestone of April 9 to 15, 1944 of work handled and The cooperative spirit reached a new high before received so many officers; nor so many re-erial. The average number creased over October, and tered more rapidly than a Minneapolis and Sioux Falls, winter, and now reports a charter, the first in the full days for Secretary Ralph collect, tie up and get the (March issue, 5000 copies.) Club furnishing up-to-date names and tremendous task to keep the mailing experience in Toastmasters are not other latent abilities can be un-visions broadened. You are a part of us.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL.

## Area 2. Club Contest Winners

- Eau Claire . . . Erling Blom
- First St. Paul . . Ken Kurtz
- Greysolon . . . Erwin Johnson
- King Boreas . . . Tracy Jeffers
- Lincoln . . . John Slaymaker
- Victory . . . Russel K. Moore

Area 5.

- Sioux Falls . . . Gale Braithwaite
- Wadena . . . A. T. Tollefs

St. Ansgar  
Kurtz  
W. Bloom  
Levs

CONTEST WINNER ???



# GOD BLESS OUR TOASTMASTER HOME

—where we may disagree  
without being disagreeable!

