

e-Communic~8

District 8 News and Events

Volume 17 Issue 1

District 8

August/September 2017

A message from our District Director My Vision: Strengthening the Core of District 8 Through Membership Retention By Kat Mokriakow, DTM, District Director

In our Toastmasters clubs, we are always looking for new members so our group continues to prosper. Club growth is very important to the future of our clubs; however I would like to ask the question: how much time is spent retaining the folks already a member of the club? When you first attended a Toastmasters meeting, you saw something in that program that can help you in some way. Whether speaking before a crowd, conference calls, or being a more effective leader, there was an opportunity for you to improve and grow.



If members are not achieving what they first saw for themselves in the Toastmasters Program, they are going to quit and go elsewhere. Momentum will wane, and the next thing you hear is "I'm busy" and "I'll come back when I can." Yet, most do not come back. Each situation is different, but the results are the same. A loss of a member.

Benjamin Franklin supposedly said once, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." Whether this saying was from Benjamin Franklin or someone else, it is one that we can all take to heart. The success of each club is all in the planning. Helping each member realize their potential and how they contribute to their personal success and that of the club is one of the primary goals of club officers. In order to help you, Toastmasters International has created the Club Success Plan. This structure gets you thinking of your personal responsibility to the club and to yourself, and helps the team come together to better the member experience. Having organized and fun meetings doesn't just happen, it takes planning and execution of those plans!

Sir Winston Churchill is credited with another, oft repeated, saying: "Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it." If your club has not completed a Club Success Plan and you struggle year after year getting members to join, stay, and complete educational goals, <u>now</u> is the time to change. Reach that full potential you



know you can accomplish!

The district leaders are planning for the current and future success. Your Area Directors have finished the area director training and are excited about helping each of their clubs. I am proud of all of them and how they bring their own experiences and wisdom to each task. In the next pages you will be introduced to the leadership team and learn a bit about them. When an Area Director reaches out to you, please be ready to share the good news of your club and any challenges you may have. They are there to support and help you and your club members.

Here's to a great year and one of growth, interest, and keeping our members happy and developing! Elaine, James, and I will be sharing things of interest throughout the year; consequently stay posted for more.

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From the Office of the Public Relations Manager by Eileen Smith-Murphy

Happy New Year! With the change of leadership on July 1st, I have been appointed to serve as PRM for District 8, and I am looking forward to serving my fellow Toasties to the best of my ability. Traditionally, the job of the PR office is to promote the public image of District 8 Toastmasters; however, it is my intention to go beyond that narrowly defined duty.



My Mission: To provide effective, accessible platforms to connect Toastmasters of District 8 with our communities, with our leadership, and with each other.

What does that mean? That I am here for you! If there's something you would like to communicate to the district, contact me. If you need help advertising an event, contact me. If you just want to make friends, contact me!

I also intend to make myself available as a resource for club Vice Presidents of Public Relations, with advice, tips, tricks, and training in some of the more daunting challenges of the job. Are you a VPPR in need of guidance? Contact me!

We are already in the process of putting into action my lofty PR plan for District 8. Some of the things you can expect to see in the near future include:

- A. Toastmasters online We are revamping our social media outlets!
- B. Toastmasters in the community We can and will make a difference!
- C. Toastmasters in the news We are looking for any opportunity to get our message out!
- D. *Toastmasters in the spotlight* Have a club member who has accomplished something noteworthy? We want to recognize our outstanding Toastmasters. More details on this soon!

Some changes have already gone into effect. Our new Facebook group has really taken off, gaining nearly 100 members in its first few weeks! This is a virtual hangout for Toasties from all over District 8 to share, discuss, and generally do what we do best – communicate. If you would like to invite your fellow Toastmasters to an open house or need some extra functionaries for a speech contest, this is the perfect place to advertise.

If you haven't already joined the Facebook group, you can do so by scanning the code provided to the right, or searching "District 8 Toastmasters" on Facebook, going to the *Closed Group*, and clicking "Request to Join." For the security and privacy of our members, this group is **only open to members of District 8 Toastmasters clubs**. Please answer the security question in order to join! (Note: The group is separate from our Facebook page, which will be used to promote events to the public. Liking the page does *not* mean you have joined the group.)



Toastmasters is about more than giving speeches. It is a developmental journey to allow us to make a difference in our lives and those of others around us. Dr. Smedley called the Toastmasters club a "laboratory," but it can be so much more. I am committed to making sure every one of you gets the best possible Toastmasters experience.

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News from your Program Quality Director

by Elaine Curry, DTM

I am excited to be starting this Toastmaster year as your Program Quality Director and look forward to watching you all develop, along with your clubs reaching their goals. It is my desire to celebrate each victory with you. I believe success is personal; each goal you attain is success. Let's make success happen together. To recognize you for each incentive milestone reached, I am offering the following incentives:



Fall 2017 – deadline November 1, 2017

Clubs who achieve at least 4 education goals in the DCP will receive a set of advanced communication manuals for the club.

Spring 2018 – deadline March 1, 2018

Complete club renewals by March 1, 2018 (one month earlier than the TI date of April 1) to receive dessert (cake or cupcakes, or fruit tray) at your club's open house or club International contest meeting.

Year-end rally – deadline June 30, 2018

Raise your club level's Distinguished Club status over the previous year. If you were President Distinguished, you are a winner if you maintain that level. The deadline is June 30. You will receive a Toastmasters banner with the core values.

<u>Anytime throughout the year - Individual Member</u>

I would be thrilled to present you with a Triple Crown Award pin at any District event after which you have qualified for the award for achieving 3 educational awards during the Toastmaster year.

News from your Club Growth Director by James Childress

Greetings fellow Toastmasters! The new Toastmasters year has just begun and I am super excited. I am excited because I sense a newfound energy around District 8. It's important that we parlay that energy into club membership growth

In 1924, Dr. Ralph C. Smedley had a dream – to help people improve their communication and leadership skills in a friendly, non-threatening environment. We can continue that dream by building a healthy club membership.

While building and maintaining your club's membership can be challenging, having a healthy club membership of at least 20 ensures more ideas, participation, input and better learning for all. A healthy membership also helps to provide better club programs, and adds more variety, while contributing to stronger club leadership and more enthusiasm at club meetings.

To help facilitate more membership growth, I am pleased to offer these incentives:

Toastmasters International Membership Campaigns

Smedley Award (runs August 1 – September 30) Talk Up Toastmasters (runs February 1 – March 31) Beat the Clock (runs May 1 – June 30)

- \$50 District Bookstore gift certificate: Club that wins any <u>one</u> of the Toastmasters International campaigns
- \$75 District Bookstore gift certificate: Club that wins any <u>two</u> of the Toastmasters International campaigns
- \$100 District Bookstore gift certificate: Club that wins all <u>three</u> of the Toastmasters International campaigns

Rules: To win any one of the membership campaigns, a club must add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members during the campaign period (transferred memberships do not qualify).

Please stay tuned for more marketing incentives throughout the year. Now let's go out and sign up new members!

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The Youth Leadership Program

by Greg Phillips, Youth Leadership Chair



In order to join a Toastmasters club, the requirement is that one is at least eighteen years old. In reviewing the benefits that each of us achieved after joining Toastmasters, just think of how much more can be accomplished if the person starts at the age of thirteen!

That is where the Youth Leadership Program comes in. Toastmaster clubs around the district have the opportunity to hold a Youth Workshop in order to allow young adults from age 13 to 17 gain a "heads up" on best practices for communication

and leadership habits which they will carry with them for a lifetime.

Our own Public Relations Manager, Eileen Smith-Murphy, is one such success story. She was a member of the Youth Leadership group that met in Mascoutah, Illinois, which was led by Randy Lanning.

<u>How it Works</u>: The program is presented in eight sessions during (or after) school, evenings, or on weekends. Each session usually lasts one to two hours. Activities taking place in the sessions include:

- 1. Evaluation of present speaking ability
- 2. Discussion of chairmanship principles
- 3. Presentation of speeches
- 4. Impromptu talks
- 5. Group evaluation
- 6. Discussion of speech organization
- 7. Discussion and practice in listening
- 8. Discussion of gestures in speaking
- 9. Discussion of voice and vocabulary
- 10. Exercise in chairmanship

The Sponsors: A local Toastmasters club serves as sponsor and provides the experienced leaders needed to present the program. These adults are patient and understanding; they remember their own struggles with youthful issues and work well with kids, as a result.

The adult with overall responsibility for the program is the coordinator. He or she works closely with any cooperating organization and attends each meeting, conducting most of the training, and counseling participants. The coordinator has an assistant who conducts discussions and substitutes for the coordinator, should he or she be unable to attend a meeting.

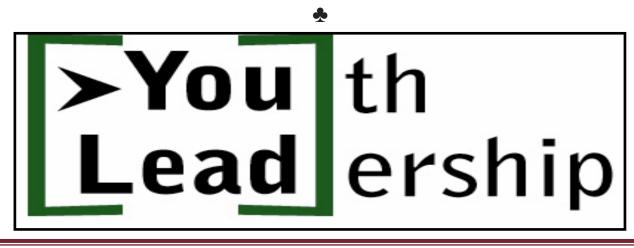
There is usually no cost to participants for tuition or materials. The materials used in the program are produced by Toastmasters International and are provided by the sponsoring Toastmasters club, which orders them from Toastmasters Headquarters for a small fee.

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Generally, meetings follow a format similar to that of a Toastmasters club meeting. There is an announced agenda and participants learn and practice parliamentary procedure during each meeting. Lecturing is minimal, but discussion is held during each session. Select participants preside over the meetings. The remaining class members are assigned other duties on a rotating basis, so everyone is actively involved. Participants also deliver short impromptu and four prepared speeches. In every meeting, participants learn to apply the principles of listening, thinking and speaking.

To learn more about this important Toastmasters program, please email <u>membership@toastmasters.org</u>.



Announcing the District 8 Speakers Bureau

Talent...Skill...Expertise...District 8 Toastmasters has it! Are you interested in joining the Bureau?

How to Qualify

A speaker must have demonstrated the capability to engage an audience through speeches and topics with credible professional presence. As a D8 Toastmaster, the minimum qualifying requirement is accomplishment of the CC award (see your club president or VPE for details on how to achieve the CC award). Topics should be of universal interest, i.e. leadership, communication skills, business topics, and social media – to name a few. Where Will I Speak?

Potential engagements include a variety of venues, including keynote addresses (in and out of Toastmasters events), conference breakouts, seminars, workshops, commencement addresses, after dinner/lunch speeches, community group meetings, school assembly, and storytelling events.

How Do I Get Involved?

All candidates for the Speakers Bureau should email either Farzana Chohan or John Barry to express interest. An application will be provided to complete and return. Please add a list of speech titles and presentation topics you wish considered. Once approved, speakers will be asked to provide a head and shoulders photo and a short bio.

Let us know if you are interested, or if you know of any potential speaking opportunities within the District.

Farzana Chohan Co-Chair, Speakers Bureau farham32@yahoo.com

John Barry Co-Chair, Speakers Bureau mrjohnbarry@msn.com

Division A Leadership Team

Parshu Anantharam—Division A Director



I am the Division A Director this year, and I served as the Area 2 Director in 2015-16. I am honored to have achieved my DTM in 2017, and my goal is to strengthen the clubs in Division A this year. Outside of Toastmasters, I work in information technology and enjoy reading, volunteering in the community, and am keenly

interested in health and fitness.

Scott Moore—Area 2



Scott has been in Toastmasters for a year and a half now. During this time he has held both the VPE and president roles in his club, and helped it make the transition from a closed club to an open one. Scott has attained his CC and just completed his ALB. Outside of Toastmasters, he will soon be starting work towards his second master's degree at SLU, in order to make a career change to be a counselor with his own

practice. Scott enjoys reading, hiking, lifting weights, playing board and table top games, and volunteering in the community. You'll typically find him with a smile on his face and a joke at the ready.

Geoff King—Area 4



Patti Howard—Area 5



After taking on club responsibilities for the past 5 years, Patti has stepped up to the additional challenges and responsibilities of Area Director. She has served as club secretary, president, and VPPR. Patti's outside interests include gardening and canning those goodies. She also enjoys beekeeping, duck hunting, and fishing with her husband. Patti serves as the president of the Lay Family Genealogical Association, president of the Williamson County Republican Women, and as the Trustee Board

Secretary at her church. She and her husband have three black labs.

Ellen Kirchdoerfer—Area 5 Assistant

Ellen is Assistant Director for Area 5. She has been a member of the High Noon Toastmaster Club for 5 years, where she's held the offices of President and VP PR. Ellen has achieved ACS and ALB. She enjoys time with her husband, children, and grandchildren, on their small farm. Ellen is also a member of the University of Missouri Extension Council for Cape Girardeau County.



David DeVeydt—Area 9

Dave has been in Toastmasters for more than six years. During this time, he has been the Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer, and webmaster; currently, Dave is serving as an Officer at Large. He has attained his CL, and just recently completed his ACG. Outside of Toastmasters, Dave is actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America as a Greater St.

Louis Area Council Chairman for the Exploring Program, as well as an advisor for business-focused Exploring Post 1922, sponsored by Edward Jones. He is a consummate fisherman who can be seen in the trout streams throughout Missouri, or serving his community by volunteering at his church.

Division B Leadership Team

June Jeffries—Division B Director



June serves as Division B Director this year, after serving as Area 13 Director last year. She has been a member of Toastmasters since 2008, and during this time, has served in most officer roles at Creve Coeur Toastmasters, including four terms as President. June serves as a club mentor for Forest Park Speaks and is working on her second CC and CL, after achieving ACG and ALS. Outside of Toastmasters, she volunteers as a Crisis Line worker for Safe Connections, an agency working to end

domestic violence. June enjoys outdoor activities—standup paddle board, hiking, fishing, and travel. She believes Toastmasters can benefit everyone and our society as a whole.

Tonya Rivers—Area 3



For over 16 years, Tonya has worked as a business and technology consultant in various leadership roles within well-known Fortune 500 corporations. Her professional contributions include delivery of high-visibility capital projects involving emerging technologies, divestitures, mergers, and acquisitions. Tonya joined Toastmasters in December 2014 and has served as President, Vice President Membership, and Sergeant at Arms. Currently, she is a member of River City Toastmasters and PMIMSL Toastmasters clubs, and has attained the Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) and Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB) designations. Since 2014,

Tonya has been an active member and volunteer of the PMI Metropolitan St. Louis Chapter and serves on the board as Vice President of Professional Development.



Rick Hoelscher—Area 13

Rick has been a Toastmaster for about 7 years and is a member of West County Toastmasters. He is a project leader working to help implement a new business technology solution at Millipore Sigma (formerly Sigma Aldrich). In addition to Toastmasters, Rick's favorite hobby is alpine skiing and instruction. He also enjoys both road and trail bicycling and hiking.



Will Rivers—Area 16

Will has been an active Toastmaster since 2015. He previously served as the VP Education for River City Toastmasters and currently serves as the VP Membership for the MIMSL. Will has been in IT for over 15 years, holds a master's degree in applied analytics and currently manages US and globally based IT teams of engineers for CenturyLink. He enjoys spending time with his family during his downtime.



Susan Boley—Area 18

Susan is this year's Area 18 Director. She has been in Toastmasters a little over 14 years, and is a charter member of her home club. Susan has served as the Treasurer, VP Membership, Secretary, and VP Education. She has attained her ALB and, most recently, her ACG. Outside of Toastmasters, Susan enjoys running, reading, photography, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Nancy King—Area 20



Division C Leadership Team

David Kincade—Division C Director



Division C has had a stellar year in 2016-17, and the prospects for this coming year are even brighter. The leadership team is engaged, present, and motivated to succeed. What a team! I have been a Toastmaster for 5 years now. I'm serving my 2^{nd} consecutive term as the Sergeant at Arms for Smedley Hometown Memorial Club, and West County Club's VPE, where I am the immediate past president.

Competitive speaking was my focus for the past few years, winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes at District level speech contests. What has all this done for me? It has taught me that leadership is a learned behavior. Looking at the Division C team, I know I will be learning a lot from their skills, as we work for our clubs. As I said in a speech once, "*There is Magic in the Mundane*." With a team like this, we can all *Focus our Magic* on giving our members the best possible Toastmasters experience.

Pebalz Eslahe—Area 1

Pebalz is already super-engaged, and communicating well with her clubs.



Nick Hall—Area 6



Nick is active duty Air Force and is the Superintendent of Safety Operations for Air Mobility Command located on Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He has been involved with Toastmasters since 2015 and has achieved Advanced Communicator Silver and Advanced Leader Bronze. Currently serving as the Area 6 Director and member of Scott Air Force Base Toastmasters Club, Nick is actively pursuing his Advanced Communicator Gold and Advanced Leader Silver. He has also been involved with Toastmasters clubs in Korea, Italy, England, and Florida.



Vi Lanum—Area 10

Vi is President of Noontime Toastmaster Club #7316 in Springfield, Illinois. If you want to get her attention, it's wise to speak in her first language: "Automotive." English is second. Vi started out in her father's automotive shop by washing his tools, at the ripe age of six. This fascination lead her to join the US Army Reserve, where she drove tactical refrigeration and petroleum trucks. Later in life, Vi returned to college, where she studied automotive technology. Having earned her CC and CL, Vi is presently working in the Technical Presentations advanced communication manual.



Josh Hunt—Area 11

Josh has been a member of Toastmasters since 2016 and has achieved his Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG) and Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB). He is a mentor for the newly chartered club, ABECU Toastmasters, and is a Scott Air Force Base Toastmasters club member, where he served as Vice President Membership (VPM) last term. Currently, Josh is working towards his Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). In his spare time, he is a power lifter and music enthusiast.



Division E Leadership Team

Natalie Meighan—Division E Director



Natalie has been a Toastmaster for 6 years. She's earned her ACB and ALB awards and has served as a club officer for the last 5 years. Outside of Toastmasters, she works professionally as a Right of Way Agent for a local agency, purchasing land and rights to build transportation projects. In her "free time," Natalie teaches martial arts with her husband, Mark, and also assists him with their print, imprint, and promotional products business – Omnia Imprints. She spends her volunteer time on the Board of Directors and

as an active fundraiser for Safe Passage Domestic Violence and Crisis Intervention Center in Moberly, Missouri. Natalie is looking forward to a year of enthusiastic growth and success for Division E!



Linda Sullivan—Area 7

Linda taught business for 10 years (4 in high school and 6 at Lindenwood College, now University.) She worked in textbook publishing in a number of different positions, before moving to Jefferson City to serve as a business education supervisor for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Since retiring in August 2005, Linda has worked part-time, through a temporary employment agency. She enjoys traveling, especially cruising, and has two grown children and four grandchildren. Having grown up in southwest Arkansas, she has lived in Ohio and Virginia, in addition to Missouri.



Dan Galarza—Area 14

Danny has been a Toastmaster for 2 years. He has served as club President and VPE. He's excited to help the local area clubs however possible, to increase membership, and to help people become better speakers and leaders. Danny grew up in New York City, and was in the Army for 22 years. After his retirement from the Army, he worked as a defense contractor for 8 years. Danny now works for Brewer Science, in Rolla. He's married, with 2 adult children and recently became a grandpa! Danny enjoys teaching karate and raising, training, and competing with Roller Pigeons.



Evelyn Pearman—Area 21

Evelyn has been a Toastmaster less than one year. She's a member of 2 clubs and is currently serving as the club Vice President Education. She loves "serious-fun": Go for a goal a purpose; solve a real problem that benefits you and others, work and accomplish it. Teach, inform, help, protect... "Serious-fun!" In high school, she enjoyed entertaining her mates with a dramatic reading from the back cover of their romance novels. She's since discovered the delight of product descriptions on packaging labels and brochures. Try it... in your best southern accent say "Smothered in Chocolate"... Some of the names she's answered to are: Big-mouth!;

Tenacious!; Yo, Serious!; Help...; Um...; You know...; Mom!; I was thinkin'...; and Evelyn. She is a serious go-getter and is self-employed.



Division F Leadership Team

Angie Breinin—Division F Director



Angie is the Division F Director (second term) for the 2017-18 Toastmasters year. She has been in Toastmasters since 2009, and has served as club officer several times (President, Treasurer, and Secretary). She has also held other offices at the District level, including Area Governor. She has her CC, CL, and her ALB. Angie is a Senior Project Specialist in the Commercial Project Management department at MilliporeSigma (formerly Sigma-

Aldrich). Outside of Toastmasters, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Leo, and her "fur baby" (Aussie) Arty. Some of her favorite hobbies are yoga, Zumba, going to the movies, and visiting the dog park with Arty.

John Mark Bean—Area 8



Dhanuja Singh—Area 12

Dhanuja has been a Toastmaster for over 5 years, and during that time, has been President, VP Education, Treasurer, and Secretary. She has attained ACS and ALB, and is actively pursuing her ACG. Outside of Toastmasters, Dhanuja is employed with Thomson Reuters and practices yoga.

Monaye Dockett—Area 15



Monaye has been a Toastmaster for two years. During this time, she has been the Vice President Education and is currently the Sergeant at Arms. Monaye has attained her CC, CL, ALB and just completed the High Performance Leadership program. Outside of Toastmasters, she can be seen in the community, volunteering and advocating for youth.



Karen Leingang—Area 17

Karen has been a Toastmaster for 3 years. During this time, she has been Secretary, VP Education, and President; currently, she is the Immediate Past President of Toast of WU. Karen has completed her ALB and is just shy of finishing her ACG. Outside of Toastmasters, Karen enjoys working out, spoiling her pets rotten, and spending time with her family.

Vic Mattison—Area 19



Victor has been in Toastmasters just over a year and has served as club Secretary and VPE for South County Toastmasters. He has been awarded his CC and will complete his CL, later this summer. Victor is a management consultant who focuses on business turnaround work. After graduating from Mizzou, he received his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He was an adjunct instructor of entrepreneurship at Washington University, is a Trustee of the Anthonies Mill Resort, serves on the regional board of Great Circle,

and is on the board of the Laclede's Landing CID. Presently, Victor is training to receive his private pilot's license. He, Laurie, and four awesome kids enjoy travelling, and just returned from a month-long vacation in Europe. Both he and his son are Eagle Scouts, and have been active in Boy Scouts of America.

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The Mission of District 8

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

District 8 is on the web. www.dist8tm.org

Toastmasters International Values

- Tratogritu
- IntegrityRespect
- Kespec
- Service
- Excellence

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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From the Editor



Hello, District 8 Toastmasters! My name is Cecily Stewart Hawksworth, and I am your new Communic~8 editor. I've been a Toastmaster since April 2014, when my club, WUSTL Speaks, chartered at Washington University. Since then, I've served as Secretary, VP Education, and am now VP PR. My fellow club members like to call

me the WUSTL Speaks "wiki, because I make sure I know as much as I possibly can about something I get myself involved in, before I start doing it. I am an academic coordinator at WashU, and when I'm not in the office, I enjoy spending time with my husband and three cats, reading, singing, knitting.

I look forward to hearing from YOU about what YOU'D like to see or read in our newsletter, so please send me any article ideas or photos of exciting things that have happened in your club. Has your club recently celebrated a milestone anniversary? Do you have any "non-standard" meeting roles specific to your club? What is it that makes your club special? Are there people in your club who have been recognized in their professional or personal lives, who you feel should be highlighted? I want to hear about all of these, and more!

I hope that all of you will put on your thinking caps, and share something interesting about your club or clubs, or a fellow Toastmaster.

Articles and/or ideas should be sent to me (at <u>cecily.hawksworth@gmail.com</u>) **no later than** the 18th of each month, to be included in the next issue.

If you've read this whole blurb, email me with a recent favorite book or movie. Who knows? They may be listed in a future newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE:

Fall 2017 Conference November 17-18, 2017 DoubleTree Hotel, Collinsville 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive Collinsville, IL 62234