



DISTRICT 8

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District 8 News and Events

Volume 17 Issue 2

District 8

October/November 2017

Join Us for the Big Goodbye
November 17-18, in Collinsville, Illinois
by Tom Coscia, DTM, PDG
2017 District 8 Fall Conference Chair



I am thrilled to be your Conference Chair for the upcoming Fall Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Collinsville, IL this November 17 & 18.

As we follow new TI guidelines, this will be the District's last Fall Conference, and, thus, the Big Goodbye. The conference should be memorable for all. Besides the District Council meeting, fun and fellowship, we will have the District Table Topics Contest and what **may** be the District's last humorous speech contest! **Note: Next fall there will not be any contests at the Club, Area and Division level.**

In addition, we will roast Immediate Past District Director Lora Mather at the Saturday morning breakfast. We have some excellent educational sessions planned, as well as a session with updates from our visiting Regional Advisor, Michelle Kabele. This is a great opportunity for you to ask any questions you have about what is going on within the organization.

Insider Tip: I really like having meetings at DoubleTree Hotels. Why, you ask? They have excellent complimentary chocolate chip cookies. All you do is ask for one at the front desk and get this—they are warm! I try to limit myself to three cookies – one for each meal of the day.

You can register for the conference in this issue. Do it **now** so you can take advantage of early bird discounts! Signups will also be available on the District 8 website at www.dist8tm.org. Speaking of the website, as this year's District 8 Webmaster, I'm excited about our newly revamped site. Please check it out, if you haven't already done so. Feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions; my email address is at the bottom of every page. Please plan to check the website for conference updates, as well, because we will post the conference schedule, once it is finalized.

I hope to see you at the Big Goodbye in Collinsville on November 17 and 18. The cookies are on me!



From the District Director...



Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” – Theodore Roosevelt

The beginning of a new program year is always filled with so many exciting activities that time seems to have slipped away so quietly without us realizing it. Three months have passed and now it's time for us to review what we have done, what we have achieved, and what lies ahead of us.

I have selected membership retention as a focus for the district leaders, this Toastmasters year. My hope is to encourage everyone to make it their own mission for their clubs. Please read the strategic planning and execution in this issue of the newsletter. It will provide details about how the leaders are working hard to make this happen on your behalf. 🙌

From the Program Quality Director...



It is hard to believe that we are approaching the half year mark for the 2017-18 Toastmaster year. Before you know it, the Fall Conference will be here, and you don't want to miss that. On its heels is the Winter TLI, to enable club officers to complete round two of training. I want to encourage you to review your plans for what you wish to accomplish on your Toastmaster journey. Think about how you can broaden your success personally and professionally. Your district leaders are eager to assist you in any way possible! 🙌

From the Club Growth Director...



We have just completed the first of three membership campaigns (Smedley Award) this program year. In Toastmasters, membership growth is a constant ebb and flow. That can sometimes be very frustrating for clubs trying to build and sustain a membership base.

So, what do we do?

We pass out more brochures and fliers, write a news release, or even have a radio station broadcast a public service announcement. These are great tools for increasing membership, but sometimes we overlook the basics.

All Toastmasters clubs must strive to conduct quality meetings. A club that is consistently having quality meetings will enhance the member experience. When the members' needs are met, that will lead to higher retention and a healthier club. One of the best tools to determine if your club is having a quality meeting is *The Moments of Truth* from The Successful Club Series" modules. This module should be presented at least once per year or even **twice** per year. The very first category is "First Impressions". Please take a long hard look and ensure that your club is strong in this area. Is the club enthusiastically greeting guests and enrolling them in the Toastmasters' vision? One of the best ways to ensure that guests are properly enrolled is to read through "Befriend a Guest" in Project 7 of the Competent Leadership manual. Also, make sure that branded materials are displayed at every meeting, such as the club banner, ballots, table tents, lectern, and members are wearing their Toastmasters pins. When a guest shows up to a meeting, there should be no doubt that he or she is at a Toastmasters meeting! Scrutinize the remainder of the module and come up with a strategy (Club Success Plan) to correct areas that are not as strong. The next time your club discusses membership growth, ensure that the club is growing from the inside out. 🙌

From the Office of the Public Relations Manager



Good news, fellow Toastmasters: We've started this year off strong! We already had our first in-person exhibition event, the St. Louis World's Fare Heritage Festival in August. The District Trio and a few other Toastmasters came along to help me get the word out to the public about the great work we do. Unfortunately, since our registration was processed at the last minute (no exaggeration – I found out the night before the event), I did not have the opportunity to gather up many volunteers. Despite that (and the weather reminding me of the time my car's air conditioning broke while driving through Death Valley), we had a productive and enjoyable experience.

We also learned a few lessons. For one thing, you should always have extra people to help set up and tear down, particularly at outdoor events. Our intrepid District Director powered through the heat *and* an illness to make sure I had everything I needed before the event began. When it was over, I got to close up shop and haul everything uphill to the car by myself. (Thank you dearly, Kat, for the loan of your precious pushcart!)

More importantly, we learned that it helps to have something to draw people in and allow you to engage with them. Our solution was Table Topics. We put up a sign that said, "*Give a Speech, Win a Prize!*" If they made it to the one-minute mark, they earned one of my super cool handmade paracord bracelets or a St. Louis Cardinals souvenir cup (which my mother was kind enough to donate to us). Our next planned event is the Working Women's Survival Show in February. Keep an eye on your inboxes in the next few weeks for information on how you can get involved!

In other news, I'm happy to report that I'm seeing more and more members getting out and promoting Toastmasters to the public. Recently, I received a request from a club officer for a large number of pamphlets. When I asked him what he wanted them for, he told me that his club was setting up a table at a local outdoor concert night. What a great idea! I would encourage all clubs looking for new members to check for community events in their area and use the opportunity to introduce people to your club. Other ideas I've heard are to set up a table at the park or even hold a meeting in a public place, such as a restaurant. If you plan to try any of these, just be sure to always get permission from the appropriate people first!





WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE

District 8

2017

Fall Conference

Nov. 17-18, 2017

The Big Goodbye

Double Tree Hotel Collinsville
1000 East Port Plaza Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
Register at: www.dist8tm.org



2017 District 8
Fall Conference Registration Form
Friday, November 17 & Saturday, November 18
The Big Goodbye
District 8 Toastmasters Together

First Name				MI		Last Name			
Street Address							Apt/Unit #		
City					State			Zip Code	
Contact Phone #	()				Alternate Phone #	()	
Email Address									
TI Designation				Club Name				Club Number	
First Time Attendee?	Yes	No	Current Office(s) Held						

Full Registration

Includes four meals (Friday buffet dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and banquet dinner; educational sessions, and both contests)

Per attendee \$105: \$115 after 11/01

Early Bird deadline for drawing is 11/01

Qty

Subtotal

A la Carte Meals

Qty

Subtotal

Friday Evening Buffet (\$37 Early Bird Deadline; \$42 after 11/01)

Saturday Breakfast (\$18 Early Bird Deadline; \$23 after 11/01)

Saturday Lunch (\$23 Early Bird Deadline; \$28 after 11/01)

Saturday Dinner (\$37 Early Bird Deadline; \$42 after 11/01)

Meal Options

Saturday Dinner: Indicate meal choice for each full conference or dinner registration. For special dietary needs, please email

conference@dist8tm.org

Oven Roasted Beef Tenderloin

Roasted Chicken With Pancetta
Wilted Leeks & White Wine
Sauce

Vegetable Wellington

Education Sessions & Contests Only (No Meals)

Price Per Person

Qty

Subtotal

Saturday Education Sessions (\$18 Early Bird Deadline; \$23 after 11/01)

Friday Contest – Table Topics \$6

Saturday Contest – Humorous Speech \$6

Payment Information

For the Conference: Make checks payable to **District 8 Toastmasters** and send with form by U.S. mail to: District 8 Toastmasters, 5037 Reynosa Drive, St. Louis, MO 63128. For credit card payments, email completed form to conference@dist8tm.org. An invoice will be emailed to you for payment. Payment covers conference costs only. Hotel arrangements should be made separately.

Hotel Reservations

For Hotel Reservations: Call DoubleTree Inn Collinsville at 618-345-2800 or fax 618-345-9804. Ask for the District 8 Toastmasters room rates of King single - \$99, and 2 Queens - \$95 per night (single/double occupancy) available until Tuesday, November 1, 2017. Address: 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL, 62234



District 8 Proxy Certificate
 District Council Meeting

For Presidents and Vice Presidents Education

At the district council business meeting, each club president and vice president education in attendance is entitled to one vote. However, if both officers cannot attend, they may designate, in writing, any other active member of their club to act as proxy for their club. (*use form below*). No other proxy is valid at this meeting – per Article X, Paragraph (d) of the District Administrative Bylaws.

In the event one of these officers does not attend the meeting and has not designated, in writing, an active member of the club to act as his or her proxy, the officer or proxy holder in attendance is deemed to hold the proxy of the other, and may therefore cast two votes at the meeting. This assures that every club is represented by two votes. Proxy holders or club presidents/VPEs are limited to a maximum of two votes each.

IF PRESIDENT AND VPE CANNOT ATTEND

Indicate your duly authorized proxy below (must be an active member of your club):

Name of Proxy Carrier (print) _____

Print Name and Officer Role (president or VPE) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(7:30 am Saturday—Credentials Desk Opens)

DoubleTree Hotel, Collinsville
 1000 East Port Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234
 November 18, 2017: 10 am

Strengthening the Core of District 8 through Membership Retention

by Kat Mokriakow, DTM, District Director

I shared these words in a previous article; however, without substance behind them, that's all they are—words. In order to put action behind the vision, this year's district leaders have made a commitment to help our clubs *directly* in achieving their membership retention goals. The top leaders (Kat, Elaine, and James) have put together a strategic plan and shared it with all leaders of the district. It would be too much to share all of this at once with all of you, so I would like to share a few now, and will continue to do so throughout the year.

No Club Left Behind: Area Directors have agreed to make all club visits and post their reports online. *If you have not received a visit yet*, please check with your area director to see when this will be done. *If you received a message from your area director requesting a visit*, yet you haven't responded to them, please do so right away. They are on a tight time schedule and need to get this done promptly. Area Director visits are a benefit to your club members; they can provide inspiration, excitement, and, at times, a gentle nudge in the right direction, to help you stay on track to completing your goals.

Communicating Real World Issues and Finding Resolutions: During District Leader meetings, the area directors have a session where they share what is happening in their areas, specifically, the challenges of their clubs and their star clubs.

Strategic Planning Meeting: In another meeting that includes the division directors and the Trio, we take the data shared at the district leader meeting and put the items into action. Taking it to that next step allows area directors to continue looking deeper into their clubs and be on point for them. It also shows you we really care! Be on the lookout for communications and exciting things happening in the district over the next few months.

That is all for now. My hope is that when you read and learn about what **we** are doing, you will make this **your** mission. Take that extra step in bringing club quality for your members and yourself! Celebrate the good times and your members' progress. Share that success with the district and others by sending your celebrations/successes to Eileen Smith-Murphy and RJ Stratton to share in the District's Facebook group. I plan to share more at the fall conference, during the Saturday morning (November 18) business meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Celebrating Club Anniversaries

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Charter Year</u>	<u>Years</u>
DSAGSL WORD Masters	December 2012	5
Callaway Community	August 2007	10
Southern Illinois	October 2003	15
Shelter Insurance	August 1997	20
Capital T	July 1982	35
Grand Center	November 1982	35
Tarsus Toastmasters	December 1947	70

Come celebrate with Grand Center!

November 4, 2017

6-10pm

Buffet Dinner, \$35

*For more details, go to the District 8 website:
<http://www.dist8tm.org>*

Please RSVP by October 28, 2017.



Represent Toastmasters at the Working Women's Survival Show

February 23-25, 2018
St. Charles Convention Center
Exhibit Booth Volunteers Needed – Contact Eileen Murphy at eileen.murphytm@gmail.com

Come See Darren LaCroix *2001 World Champion of Public Speaking*

April 6, 2018
Venue To Be Announced



Send in Your Videos!

District 8 is collecting Toastmasters-related videos for our new YouTube channel. If you have a great clip you'd like to share, we'd love to see it!

Contact Eileen Murphy at eileen.murphytm@gmail.com for details.

Toastmasters at the St. Louis World's Fair Heritage Festival



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at our first expo of the year. We got some fresh air and talked to people about Toastmasters. It was a blast!



District 8 Members who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from July 1, 2017 to October 12, 2017

Division A

Chesterfield Toastmasters Club

- Boyd, Jason N.—CC
- Desrosiers, Kevin M., CL
- Samanta, Tanusri—CC

High-Noon Toastmasters Club

- Kirchdoerfer, Ellen K.—ALB

Jeffco Challengers Club

- Link, Elizabeth M.—ALB

Loquacious Leaders

- Moore, Scott—ALB

Marion VA Toastmasters

- Howard, Patti—CL

Maritz Toastmasters

- Hoehne, Kari A.—ALS
- Neeley, Sarah M—CL
- Neeley, Sarah M—ALB
- Nestor, Jacqueline C.—CC
- Nestor, Jacqueline C.—CL

Mastertoasters Club

- East, Jessica C.—CL
- Hill, Judy L.—CL
- Phillips, Gregory S.—CC
- Phillips, Gregory S.—CL
- Steinbach, Carol C.—CL

Poplar Bluff Toastmasters

- Sanchez, Jim W.—CC

South County Toastmasters Club

- King, Geoff—CC
- Sullivan, Timothy—CC

Southern Illinois Toastmasters Club

- Coelho, Charles F.—CC
- Mill, Cynthia M.—CC
- Scarbrough, Timothy T.—CL

Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Pettiford, Mildred D.—CC

UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- McKillip, Tim—CL

VOICES of Impact

- Wojtak, Jim—CL

West County Club

- Hawkins, Richard—CC
- Hawkins, Richard—CL

Division B

Bulls & Bears Club

- Deveydt, David W.—ACG

Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Naumann, Donna C.—ACB

Grace Church Toastmasters

- Altman, Barbara A.—ACB

Little Hills Toastmasters

- Blattmann, Robert A.—CC
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—CC
- Spezia, Timothy L.—ACB

McCarthy Communication Builders

- Lohman, Thomas P.—CL
- Lohman, Thomas P.—ALB
- Mills, Keith W.—CC
- Walton, Crystal S.—ALB

Money Talks Club

- Subbiah, Chidambaram—ALB

Plus Factor Club

- Evans, Lee A.—CC

Shalom Church Toastmasters

- Beecham, Linda—CL
- Beecham, Linda—ACB
- Roberson, Jo Ann L.—CC
- Troy, Donna R.—LDREXC

Speak Out

- Johnson, Richard Dean—ACB
- Reitenour, Kristina N.—CC

St. Charles County Toastmasters Club

- Coker, Robert A.—CL

WelDon Toast Club

- Darnall, Daniel A.—ALB
- Glover Stone, Zebrena—CL
- Glover Stone, Zebrena—ACB

Division C

Capital City Toastmasters

- Brennan, Katherine P.—ALS
- Reserva, Pat O.—ALB
- Walker, Margaret—ACG
- Walker, Margaret—DTM
- Walker, Margaret—ALS
- Walker, Margaret—LDREXC

Fairview Heights Toastmasters Club

- Boeckmann, Vernon A.—CC

Gem City Toastmasters

- Grogan, Soneeta L.—ALB
- Lee, Deborah L.—CC

Horace Mann Toastmasters

- Arms, Nicole Brady—CL
- Kloese, Sam—LDREXC
- Lillico, Keith Alan—CC
- Stroud, Drew Karl—CC

McBrien Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Farris, Robert J.—CL
- Kelly, Tim—CC
- Shahidullah, Mohammed—CC

Montgomery County Toastmasters

- Masters-Stout, Brenda—CC

Noontime Toastmasters Club

- Wolff, Storm M.—CL

O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Shaffer, Adam C.—CC

Scott Toastmasters Club

- Lowry, Amber L.—CC
- Lowry, Amber L.—CL
- Miller, Seth A.—CL
- Miller, Seth A.—CC
- Zomer, Michael P.—CL

St. Clair Club

- Grossardt, Jason Glen—ACB
- Smith-Murphy, Eileen S.—CL
- Smith-Murphy, Eileen S.—ALB

Toast of Belleville

- Owens, Kamara—ALB

Top Talk Toastmasters!

- Turner, Caren D.—CL

Division E

Alpha Toastmasters

- Atkins, Jerron—CC
- Duke, James—CC
- Johnson, Lamar Allen—CL
- Jones, Trevor—ALB

Brewer Science Toastmasters

- Stanley, Trevor T.—ACB

Capital Toastmasters Club

- Cochran, Pamela L.—CL
- Sullivan, Linda A.—ACG

Columbia Toastmasters

- Jarboe, Seth M.—ALS
- Kaplan, Lorie F.—ACB
- Pearman, Evelyn—CC

Downtown Toastmasters

- Hammond, Brenda K.—CC
- Meighan, Natalie S.—CL
- Read, Joan Sue—CC
- Tanski, Caya M.—CC

Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology

- Mehta, Meenakshi—CL

Ozark Orators Club

- Cohen, Jeff—CC

Shelter Insurance Toastmasters

- Fratila, Lina M.—CL
- Tabor, Patricia M.—CL

Division F

Anheuser-Busch Toastmasters Club

- Mwaniki-Wanyaga, Edwin—CC

F. R. B. Club

- Le, Thomas T.—CC

Free Speakers Toastmasters

- Carpenter, Denise E.—ACB

Jacobs P3

- Munro, Phil S.—CL

Midtown Clayton Toastmasters Club

- Stimac, Richard C.—ACS

Primary Speakers

- Allen, Raymond F.—ALS
- Allen, Raymond F.—LDREXC
- Allen, Raymond F.—DTM

Rent-A-Toast Club

- Phillips, Michelle L.

ToastUS

- Lynom, Kathe J.—CC

Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Dockett, Monaye—LDREXC
- Francis, Rachel M.—ALS
- Mayer, Angela R.—CL



Past District 8 Director, Farzana Chohan, Receives Presidential Citation

by Eileen Smith-Murphy, CC, ALB

Among the many exciting stories to come back to us from the recent Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver was the news that Past District 8 Director Farzana Chohan, DTM, was awarded one of the organization's highest honors: the Presidential Citation. This award, selected and bestowed directly by the International President, recognizes individuals who have made outstanding efforts in support of the mission and values of Toastmasters over a significant length of time.

No one who knows her would deny that Farzana embodies these criteria. A Toastmaster for seven years, Farzana has served in several club and district offices, published several books about Toastmasters and District 8, and shown unwavering dedication to helping people improve themselves through evolving as leaders. In an interview after the convention, I asked Farzana to share a little bit about the experience.

Can you describe the experience of receiving your award? "I'm standing there, and I'm looking at the hall, which has close to three thousand people, and I'm looking at the stage, which is really long. At the top of the stage in the background, there are huge screens. When you look at the screen, and look at the image on the screen when you're standing on the stage – really, you look very tiny. So I am standing there and I'm looking at it, and I had this sort of pride and excitement for myself. Because before that, since I heard the news, I didn't – I was like, 'Yeah, okay, this is not real.' But when you stand there and you're looking at all the people receiving awards, on this huge stage and in front of so many people, it gets to you!"



Were there any particular achievements you were cited for or that helped you to earn this award? I kind of compare the energy of the members in the district when I joined. I was able to see the potential of the Toastmasters, and I see the enthusiasm in some of the experienced members, but I never feel that enthusiasm in our newer members or other members of corporate clubs. And I think what motivated me to become a leader...was to bring back the energy which was there before. In my perception, I think I was able to energize members of the district more...I wanted everyone to work together and re-energize members about what Toastmasters actually is."

Has earning this award affected how you see your future in Toastmasters? "Yes. I think the benefits I have received as being a member of Toastmasters—and what it has done for me, in terms of giving me confidence, and gaining more confidence in my leadership skills—I want to give this to younger people, and people who aren't in Toastmasters..."

Do you have any words of wisdom to share with District 8? "Being a 76/77-year-old district, we have a lot ingrained in us, and we also have a very protective style of operating, where we want to safeguard whatever is remaining. But to walk with the changing world, we need to shift the way we work, and we need to include *all* other generations. And we need to understand it from their point of view. Unless we bring new blood in, we will not be able to sustain anything, which, in turn, will result in a lot of people losing a chance to develop themselves."

Farzana also made a point of giving credit to those who helped her along the way: "I think it was the collective work of everyone who worked with me in the district and in my Toastmasters life have been friends with me and have been my mentors. And I thought about all of them."

Kat Mokriakow Receives the Excellence in Program Quality Award

Each year Toastmasters International bestows an award to the Program Quality Director when the district achieves its goals for Distinguished Clubs. At this past convention, Kat Mokriakow received this award for leading District 8 with **43** clubs reaching distinguished, select, and president's distinguished statuses. "I was really surprised when I saw there were two brand new clubs that reached distinguished club status. They are an inspiration to me that says *anything* is possible when you really want it. Thank you to **all** District 8 members, for your commitment and dedication to helping others and yourselves." 🙌

Save the Date

Toastmaster Leadership Institute T.L.I.



When: Saturday, December 2, 2017
Time: 8AM – 3PM
Location: St. Louis, MO
******* more details to follow*******

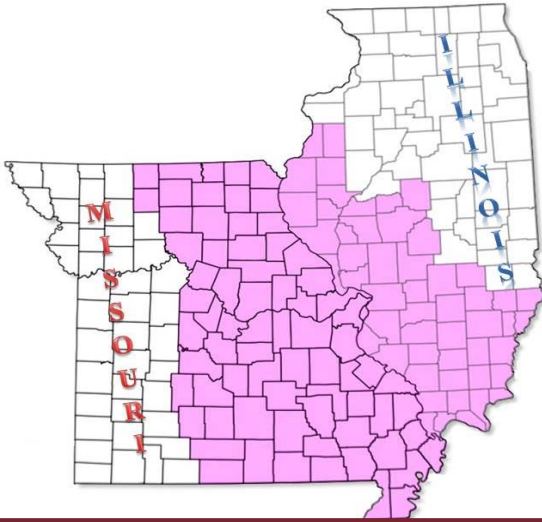


...is coming to District 8...
FEBRUARY 2018

For more information, come to the Fall Conference
November 17-18, 2017
AND

T.L.I.—Toastmasters Leadership Institute
December 2, 2017

Get a head start by coming to these events!



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

- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Service
- ◆ Excellence



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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