

# Communic~8

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE  
[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

Volume 14 Issue 4

District 8

March 2015

District 8 is on the web

[www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org)

Have you checked out  
the updated  
Toastmasters website?

## What's Inside This Issue:

DG Message	2
LGET Message	3
LGM Message	4
Spring Conference Flyer	5
LGET cont.	6
DG cont.	7
Winter TLI cont.	
Open House Contest	8
District 8 Awards 12/12/14—3/2/15	9
Calendar of Events	10
More TLI Photos	

Spring Conference  
May 29—30, 2015

## Winter 2015 TLI

By Mark P. Bagby TLI Co-Chair

Pictures by Chuck Carpenter, DTM

The Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is the premier educational opportunity for club officers and membership at large that is offered twice a year. District 8's most recent



TLI was hosted by Washington University in St. Louis on January 10, 2015. About 250 District 8 Toastmasters joined the host clubs, Toast of WU and WUSTL Speaks, in a day of learning, a day of sharing and a day of fellowship. The standing room only keynote speech "Teaching Kindergartners to Collaborate: Leadership Strategy" by Robert Wild embodied one of the main aspects of TLI, Leadership. Rob acknowledged that in order to lead an effective team, there needs to be Trust, Support and Diversity. He went on to explain how many traits learned in kindergarten are still true in leading in higher education:

- 1) Kindergartners need to feel secure and loved,
- 2) Kindergartners should share toys and take turns in play, and
- 3) Kindergartners alternate periods of rest and activity.



The winter TLI featured 10 officer training sessions, eight educational break-out sessions and was capped off with contest training. Participants packed the room to hear about—How to Give a Pecha Kucha, Leadership Decision Making in the 21st Century and Community Engagements as a Toastmaster. This shows the TLI is not just for club officers and can serve the development of both a new and experienced Toastmaster.



Toast of WU with assistance from WUSTL Speaks (both are new clubs, chartered in 2014), hosted the event that received rave reviews. Rob Van Winkle (Area 4

(Continued on page 7)



## Sandra Kardis, DTM

District 8 Governor  
EMAIL: DG@dist8tm.org

# A Message from the Governor

Hi District 8 Toastmasters!

Can you believe it's already 2015? Time flies! It's time to think about the possibilities of the remaining four months of the July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015 Toastmasters year. How are you doing in your personal goals? Will you receive a communication or leadership award before June 30? How about your club's goals? Is its membership at 20 members or more? We set personal, club, area, division and district goals at the beginning of the year. At this time, we should be able to start seeing some of those goals coming to fruition.



At the January Mid-Year Training for District Leaders, one of our sessions was *Assess for Success*. This session's facilitator had us chanting "It's all about Distinguished! Distinguished! No trouble." We discussed three steps to Distinguished—evaluation, assessment, and strategy. Looking at District 8 goals on the Toastmasters International website, here is where we stand with **Paid Clubs**, **Payments** and **Distinguished Clubs**.

**Paid Clubs**—According to Toastmasters International, we have 105 paid clubs to date. Unfortunately the six suspended clubs are included in this number, and we have been informed that we will lose two clubs after April 1st renewals. The big question is will we be at 112 paid clubs for Distinguished before June 30th? It can be done. I am still hopeful. The reason we bring in new clubs is to account for club losses and to help individuals become more successful communicators and leaders. If you have a club lead from work, church or community, be sure to contact Jacquie Vick, LGM.

**Payments**—It is encouraging to observe the incremental increase in payments. In mid-December, we were at 2,087. We are currently at 2,331. We have 30 clubs who gained eight or more members. That means they have met goals seven and eight in the Distinguished Club Program. Congratulations to them for spreading the Toastmasters message and enrolling new members! We certainly hope that clubs will continue to have open houses, special events and conduct great meetings to continue gaining memberships in all areas of the district. If you need ideas on membership drives or holding an open house for your club, there is no better resource than the Toastmasters International website. Take advantage of its resources to help you and your club be successful. Let's keep our momentum to finish the year strong.

In a February 4th email sent to District 8 club Presidents, VPs Education, VPs Membership and VPs Public Relations, I encouraged clubs to earn the Talk Up! Toastmasters Award. If applications and payments for five new, dual or reinstated members with a join date between February 1 and March 31 are received at World Headquarters or online no later than March 31, a club will receive a special "Talk Up! Toastmasters" ribbon to display on the club's banner. Lory Fabian, Cave Springs Club VP Membership, replied that the Cave Springs Toastmasters Club is on a roll for signing up new members and the club would do its best to keep the momentum going and earn the award. Cave Springs has signed up 14 new members since July 2014. Kari Hoehne, Maritz Club President, replied that Maritz Toastmasters has

(Continued on page 7)



**Farzana Chohan, DTM**  
Lt. Governor Education & Training  
EMAIL: LGET@dist8tm.org

## ENGAGE with the Community as a Toastmaster

Fellow Toastmasters! What are the most important benefits of being part of District 8? It is the friendship and fellowship we all experience in our own distinctive ways. The biggest testimonials to this fact are the countless people who we all know who are involved with our District and have been over the last 74 years of its history.

This is a historical year, as District 8 was established in July 1940. This is a time to reflect on how we arrived at this milestone number and how we keep the fire going within each of us. How do we keep the “fire” burning? We **ENGAGE**. This is the best word to describe how the “fire” has burned in the past, how it keeps burning in the present and how it will continue to burn strong so that Toastmasters get to celebrate our reaching 75 and 100 years.



**ENGAGE** is a verb, which is defined “to involve oneself in an activity” or “to participate in an activity.” Using **ENGAGE** in relation to District 8, when we expand this word it is best described as:

<b>E</b>	<b>Enrich</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>Navigate</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Grow</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Aspiring</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Genuine</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Enthrall</b>

**E****nrich:** The fact that we are 74 years of age means the personal, professional, educational and leadership involvement for both individuals and for the community. Going forward District 8 should consciously focus on enhancing the enrichment experience which brings the local groups within community together while emphasizing the positive impact of multiple forms of development.

**N****avigate:** Toastmasters has an inherent navigational process built in for new members. As such, each Toastmaster should ensure to offer the same navigational support to new, less involved members to make sure they feel included. Encourage new members to actively participate in “Beyond Club Events” for them to understand the real impact and provide peer to peer mentoring as well as club coaching.

*(Continued on page 6)*



### **Jacquie Vick, DTM**

Lieutenant Governor Marketing

EMAIL: LGM@dist8tm.org



## **Your Success Drives the Numbers, Bottom-line!**

As much as I don't want to make it about the numbers, the fact of the matter is ... It's about the numbers and the success of each club impacts the district's numbers.

Just as each club strives to be distinguished, so does the district. Crucial to the district being distinguished is the ability to build new clubs and retain current clubs. How are we doing?

To date, 25 plus club leads has netted the following results:

- 1 Chartered club—Toast of the Fleet
- 1 Club in the process of completing charter paperwork
  - MO Regional Bootheel Consortium in Sikeston, MO (Division A)
- 4 Prospective clubs (completing/submitting *Application to Organize*)
- 2 Demonstration meetings in the works

The district's goal for paid clubs is 112. We currently show 105 paid clubs. By the end of the Toastmasters year, our records must reflect a minimum of 112 paid clubs. What drives the numbers for paid clubs? Members, current and new, and clubs submitting renewed memberships by the April 1st deadline. This is why it is imperative for each member to pay club membership fees on time. It matters because clubs that fail to meet the membership deadline are ineligible from being a distinguished club regardless of meeting outlined Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) goals.

The district's goal for member payments is 4628. To date, the current number, 2373, is reflexive of the first half of the Toastmasters' year. We are 51.3 percent of the way. Submission of timely club payments will drive the numbers and ensure that the district's membership payments are realized.

Key to a club's membership success is its ability to attract new members and retain current members. Hopefully, clubs have hosted a minimum of two open house events in an effort to increase membership. Note, it's not too late to participate in and receive a certificate for the Talk Up Toastmasters (February 1 to March 31) and Beat the Clock (May 1 to June 30) membership drive.

Goal number three focuses on the number of distinguished clubs in the district. Now while the minimum number is 44, we anticipate many more clubs being distinguished.

Over the next three months, there is much work to be done to ensure the club, area, division, and district goals are reached, and it's going to take the collective efforts of all Toastmasters. So, I ask that you review your club's Distinguished Club Plan, make sure your club is poised to meet its goals. If not, adjust as necessary.

It is about the numbers, so let's rise to the occasion and emerge winners by exceeding set goals for paid clubs, membership payments, and distinguished clubs! ☀



# District 8 Spring Conference

Speech Contests

Evaluation and International

Keynote Speaker  
**Rebecca Clark**

**May 29 – 30, 2015**

**Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel**  
**900 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146**

(Continued from page 3)

**G**row: New clubs and new members are critical components of the District's growth. Along with mentoring and club coaching programs, District 8 is continuing its effort to actively establish partnerships with new members and newly chartered corporate clubs. This year "Toast of WU" club at Washington University served as a "host club" for the District's Leadership Institute. "Toast of WU," exemplified the concept of "Engaging with District 8 as a Host Club" and invited their Associate Vice Chancellor as a keynote speaker, who was also recognized by District 8 for his services to academia and the community. This in turn also optimized the 'buzz' within our community club members who attended with keen enthusiasm. The leaders of the TLI were inspiring co-chairs and the entire team participated with full ownership and as a testimony of growth in leading.

**A**spiring: Our members are always aspiring to do more and continue their upward trajectory. We need to emphasize that we are more than just a public speaking organization. Instead we are part of a dynamic organization in which we have positioned ourselves to coach communication and leadership skills to corporate professionals, associations, university staff and college students. We offer exciting new educational sessions and panel discussions on how Toastmasters are an integral part of the local community.

**G**enuine: Many Toastmasters validate the personal and professional development of the Toastmaster program. It is known that self-improvement leads to a genuine interest in inspiring others to do their own improvement. In this highly technological world, much of the human interactions have been substituted with E-communications. Filters are set high on electronic devices which means humans cannot feel the genuine interest of others as frequently. Instead we Toastmasters genuinely connect with each other on our path of development within a trusting and considerate environment at our meetings. Continuing this genuine interactivity will be a critical piece to enhance the skills of communication and leadership development.

**E**nthrall: The long history of District 8 means this is a great time to share our captivating progress with more segments of the community. The idea is to tell as many people as possible how District 8 Toastmasters have engaged with the community in various and diverse efforts. We can spread the word at both the individual and club level about our current programs including Youth Leadership, SpeechCraft, TEDx speakers coaching by Toastmasters and Speakers bureau.

District 8 with its established history should be positioned as a "go to organization," where most of the community will reach out and explore how Toastmasters can make an impact in effective communications and leadership. Our focused strategic planning and knowledge sessions will create a positive buzz and raise perception through the active engagement of our fellow Toastmasters of District 8 within the communities. ✨

**ENGAGE**

*(Continued from page 2)*

gotten 10 new members in the last seven months. Five more in two months could be steep, but they would do their best. A shout out to these two clubs!!

**Distinguished Clubs**—We have 29 clubs who have already five points or more in the Distinguished Club Plan. Assuming they meet the membership requirement, they will be receiving ribbons from Toastmasters International this year and helping District 8 reach the DCP goal of 44 clubs!

Won't you chant, "It's all about Distinguished! Distinguished! No trouble!" and make it happen?

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns regarding the District. I can be reached at [DG@dist8tm.org](mailto:DG@dist8tm.org).



Photos from Winter TLI



*(Continued from page 1)*

Governor) summed it up best saying, "My compliments to you for the facility and program you put together at yesterday's TLI. The classrooms were spacious, presentations pre-loaded into each room and instructions included for instructors to reach out for technical assistance if/when needed. The program was professionally done. Directions in from the street and on-campus were clear and well-placed. The lunch was tasty. I've been a Toastmaster for nearly 19 years and this is the best TLI I've been to and you deserve lots of thumbs up from those that gave presentations, instructed and attended."



Overall, it was a great event and learning experience for myself and our team. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to my co-chairs—Karen Leingang and Valerie Gaston and to our mentor Farzana Chohan, and to the members of Toast of WU and WUSTL Speaks that helped out as well as all of our speakers/presenters and especially Samantha Garza who volunteered time, muscle and expertise.



Do you have an idea for an excellent topic or would you be interested in presenting at the Summer TLI? If so please contact District 8's Lt. Governor for Education and Training—Farzana Chohan, DTM at [livingwell90@yahoo.com](mailto:livingwell90@yahoo.com). ☀

# District 8 Toastmasters

## New Member/Open House Contest

### How would you like to:

- Gain new CLUB MEMBERS?
- WIN a PIZZA or DONUT party?
- WIN a GIFT CERTIFICATE from Toastmasters International?
- Have your CLUB's STORY POSTED in our newsletter, Communic~8 and on our District Website, [www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org)

### Contest Details:

1. Host an open house at your District 8 Toastmasters Club between March 10 and May 15, 2015, and get guests to become members.
2. Turn in your guest list and new member list to the District 8 PRO by May 30, 2015. To be counted towards the contest, your new members must have attended your Open House and be on your Open House Guest List.
3. The top 5 winning clubs will receive awards.
4. The top winner with the most new members gained from open house guests will receive the following: a Pizza or Donut party and a Gift Certificate for the Club's use at the Toastmasters International store, and a story of their Open House in the Communic~8 as well as the District 8 website—[www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org). The other winners will receive either a Pizza or Donut party or a Toastmasters International gift certificate.
5. Winners take a photo of your club with new members and party and/or gift certificate with a story written of your event emailed to the District PRO and it will be published in our Communic~8 newsletter and on the District 8 website.
6. Awards to be delivered in June 2015 (a total of \$200 in awards to be divided upon the top 5 clubs)

For more information and to turn in your club's open house details please contact:

Gina Willard, PRO  
Email: [pro@dist8tm.org](mailto:pro@dist8tm.org)



## District 8 Members Earn Education & Leadership Awards from December 12, 2014 to March 2, 2015



### Division A

#### Jeffco Challengers Club

- Breckner, Carole S.—CL
- Meadows, Brook Rose—LDREXC

#### South County Toastmasters Club

- Lindsey, Seth D.—CC

#### UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Campbell, April—CL

#### Webster Groves Toastmasters Club

- Now, Rebecca K.—ACS

#### West County Club

- Britt, Emily Price—CC
- Newcomer, John J.—CC

### Division B

#### B.I.B.L.E. Toastmasters

- Doss, Curtisleen—CC

#### Cable Talk Toastmasters Club

- Lococo, Andrew J.—CC

#### Creve Coeur Toastmasters Club

- Carpenter, Charles N.—CC
- Kardis, Sandra M.—ALB

#### Grace Church Toastmasters

- Howes, Emily R.—CC
- House, John P.—CC
- Altman, Barbara A—CC
- Jackson, Aaron Eugene—CC

#### Little Hills Toastmasters

- Jones, Jeff—CC
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—ACG
- Blattman, Robert A.—CC

#### M-Powered Speakers

- Durham, Katherine A.—CC

#### McCarthy Communication Builders

- Walton, Brian M.—CC
- Cavender, David Paul—CC

#### Monsanto Noontime Toastmasters

- Hodge-Bell, Kimberly C.—CC

- Ding, Huashi—CC

#### River City Toastmasters Club

- Burton, Cheryl A.—CL

#### Script Masters Club

- Oates, David Allan—CC
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—LDREXC
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—ALS
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—DTM

#### WeIDon Toast Club

- Darnall, Daniel A.—ALB
- Darnall, Daniel A.—CC

### Division C

#### Gem City Toastmasters Club

- Grogan, Soneeta L.—ACB

#### Horace Mann Toastmasters

- Whalen, Shannon—ALB
- Kloese, Sam—ALB

#### McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Bricker, Don Dwayne—ALB
- Amon, Rose—CL

#### Scott Toastmasters Club

- Gillard, Thomas A.—ALB

#### St. Elizabeth's Hospital

- Martin, Leslee K.—CC

### Division E

#### Alpha Toastmasters

- Anderson, Ahmad R.—ACB
- McCauley, Demetrics R.—ACB
- McCauley, Demetrics R.—ALB
- Anderson, Ahmad R.—CL
- Lester, Michael—CC
- Lester, Michael—CL

#### Capital Toastmasters Club

- Yates, Frank M.—CC

#### Columbia Toastmasters

- Smith, Adam Vernon—CC

#### Downtown Toastmasters

- Meyer, Lisa E.A.—CL

- Meyer, Lisa E.A.—CC

#### Lincoln University Toastmasters Club

- Kassim, Babatunde—CC
- Brown, Jamere—ACB

#### Ozark Orators Club

- Anandan, Sudharshan—CC

#### Shelter Insurance Toastmasters

- Smith, Erica E.—ALB

### Division F

#### Anheuser-Busch Club

- Desrosiers, Kevin M.—CC

#### Open Line Toastmasters

- Brundage, Kevin—CL
- Cox, Lori E—CL

#### Primary Conversations

- Vick, Jacquie—CL
- Mitchell, Marvin L—CC

#### Square Talkers Toastmasters Club

- Hoelscher, Richard—ALB
- Wagner, Thomas J.—ALB

#### Tarsus Toastmasters

- Scally, Mary—CC

#### Toast of SLU

- Seitz, Emily Ann—ALB

#### Toast of WU

- Leingang, Karen A.—CC
- Bagby, Mark P.—CL

#### Voices in Unity Club

- Kukan, John Michael—ALB
- Stephenson, Philip W—CC

#### Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Curry, Elaine—ALB

**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**

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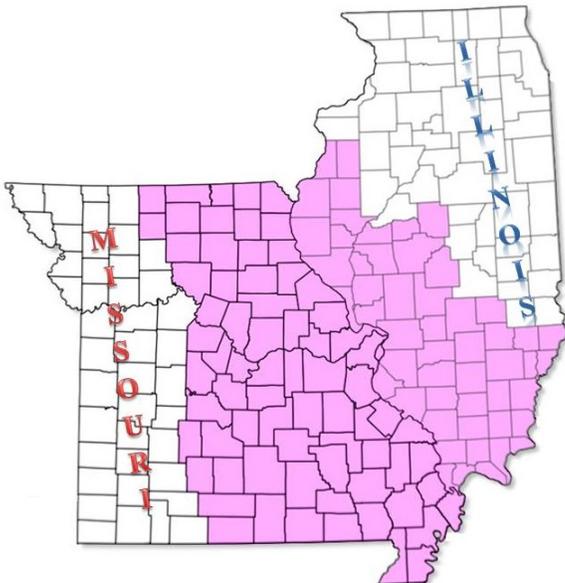
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**WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE**

**The Mission of District 8**

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



**District 8 Calendar**

Saturday, Mar. 21 Communic~8 Issue 5 Submit Deadline

Saturday, Apr. 11 Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters  
Missouri College, 1405 S. Hanley Rd., St Louis

Saturday, Apr. 18 Division F Contest  
Briefings 9:30 am Thornhill Branch—St Louis County Library  
Contest 10:00 am 12863 Willowyck Dr., St Louis, MO

Saturday, Apr. 25 Division B Contest  
Briefings 9:30 am St Louis County Library—Bridgeton Trails  
Contest 10:00 am 3455 McKelvey Rd., Bridgeton, MO

Saturday, Apr. 25 Division C Contest  
Briefings 1:00 pm Fairview Heights Library  
Contest 1:30 pm 10017 Bunkum Rd., Fairview Heights, IL

Saturday, May 2 Division A Contest  
Briefings 9:45 am Tesson Ferry Branch—St Louis County Library  
Contest 10:00 am 9920 Lin Ferry Dr., St Louis, MO

Saturday, May 2 Division E Contest  
Briefings 3:30 pm St Luke United Methodist Church  
Contest 4:00 pm 204 E Ash St., Columbia, MO

Friday, May 29 District 8 Spring Conference  
Saturday, May 30 Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel  
900 Westport Plaza, St Louis, MO 63146

Saturday, May 30 Communic~8 Issue 6 Submit Deadline

Saturday, June 20 TLI

