



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Communic~8

www.toastmasters.org

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District 8

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District 8 is on the web

www.dist8tm.org



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Classic Hollywood District 8 Spring Conference

Spring is in the air and in addition to the grass growing, flowers blooming and spring showers, it means it is time for the District 8 Spring Conference. Are you ready to Spring into the fun? It all starts Friday, May 17th with the red carpet being rolled out once again just for you.

On Friday night come dressed like a "star" and enter a celebrity look-a-like contest as "Roseanne Barr" opens the festivities. You will also have an opportunity to play **Classic Hollywood** trivia. But the fun doesn't stop there. You will also enjoy live theater during the Evaluation Contest on Friday night and on Saturday night during the International Speech Contest. See first hand which District 8 "stars" rise to international heights! For more fun on Saturday night, dress up or dress down for the "Film Noir" night— wear black & white! Are you ready for your "close up?" Smile! Time to "strike a pose" for the paparazzi.

Expect to have fun, but more than that you have an opportunity to learn, to network and to be inspired. Our keynote speaker, Cathy Newton, will inspire us to get into the "full swing" of risk-taking. An author of three books, she has been an educator, coach, employee assistance coordinator and NFL cheerleader. See her in full swing action Saturday. Plan to attend the luncheon Saturday where club and member awards will be presented after hearing from our Regional Advisor, Dietmar Wagenknecht. There will also be District 8 business to be done—elect next year's officers.

Are you ready to learn and develop your skills? Chose from the many educational sessions offered: **Lights, Camera, Action! Anatomy of a Humorous Speech**, an interactive session to challenge you to add spice to your story development and encourage you to bring your characters to life or attend **The Table Topics Award Goes to...** and learn skills to help master Table Topics. Additional sessions include: **Set the Stage: How to Have a Successful Toastmasters Meeting**; **A Star is Born ... You!**; **Fill Those Seats!**; **Leading District 8: Your Path to Stardom**; **Mock Contest: Casting Call (Part I) and "Roll Credits!" (Part II)**; **Critics Corner: Evaluating the Performance**; and **Go From Starlet to Star with Social Media**. With so many fantastic educational sessions available to everyone at the conference, the challenge will be choosing which sessions you will attend.

You can be a part of **Classic Hollywood**. It's time to Spring into Action, register now and come be a part of all the fun! ☀

**Curtis Scroggins**

District Governor

District 8

EMAIL: DG@Dist8TM.org

Hello, District 8 Toastmasters!

The search for new leaders is always on the mind of your current District Leadership. At the District level, we have almost 70 opportunities available for those of you who are willing to step out and stretch your leadership muscles. Some of these will fulfill requirements needed to achieve DTM, while others will not. None of them are paid, but all of them will help you gain communication, leadership and networking skills that would take in some cases an entire career to achieve.

Where We Stand

It has been a great year so far, and I'll give you an update on where we stand as a District. As of the writing of this article (late April), we still need 594 membership payments, 22 more paid clubs and 26 more distinguished clubs. That sounds like a lot, and it is! We can do it! However, we do have a lot of incentives in place to drive membership this year.

1+1 Membership-Building Campaign

This program is an exciting opportunity to engage all of our members in fulfilling the mission of the organization. If you have any questions about the 1+1 campaign, please see the link on the TI website at <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/MembershipBuilding/11Campaign.aspx>.

8-Point Challenge

This is a challenge issued by the District 8 Governor to the clubs to achieve a minimum of 8 points on their Distinguished Club program. Members of any club achieving this will receive special recognition at the Spring Conference.

8% Challenge

This is a challenge issued by the District 8 Governor to the membership to achieve a minimum of 8% attendance at the Spring Conference. This would require that we have at least 178 attendees at the conference. Let's do it! I know we can!

DG Club Visit Challenge

This is a challenge issued by the District 8 Governor to the clubs. Any club that doubles its membership base (based on the membership base as of July 1, 2012) will receive a visit at one of their club meetings from the District 8 Governor. Details will be worked out with the (many) clubs that achieve this!

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**Lora Mather**Lieutenant Governor Education & Training
District 8EMAIL: LGET@dist8tm.org

A Message from the LGET

Our **D8 Education Eagles** soared to new heights and continue to soar!

D8 Eagles:

- **E**manate an uncommonly great attitude
- **A**dd value to everything they do
- **G**ather winners to them
- **L**ove to share ideas that improve the organization
- **E**quip others to lead
- **S**how fierce loyalty to D8's members and leadership

Our four squadrons were: Trainers, Conferences, TLI/Club Officer Trainings and Contests

Trainers

Toastmasters **Paul Cook and Becka Clark** presented the From Speaker to Trainer program from the Toastmaster Success COMMUNICATION Series to the session leaders for our June Toastmasters Leadership Institute. They taught us how adults learn and how to plan our sessions. We understood the difference between a speaker and a seminar trainer. Paul organized our Fall educational sessions. Becka taught From Speaker to Trainer at our Fall Conference and followed-up with organizing our Spring Conference Educational sessions.

Conferences

Leading our conferences this year were Toastmasters **Taffy Cobb, Yolande Wood, and Wendy Clothier**. **Taffy and Yolande** created a fun-filled Fall Conference in Forging Active Life-Long Learning. Their team brought you the "best ever" D8 conference with an attendance of 169. Toastmaster **Wendy Clothier** is serving as our chair for the Spring Conference. Her team has a star-studded, award winning event planned. Our Conference Eagles shared their best practices and ideas to build on our "best ever" conferences.

TLI/Club Officer Training

Toastmasters **Barbara Sapenzia and John Murphy** led our first round of club officer training with a phenomenal June TLI. They sought best practices from other past TLI chairs and passed on their accumulation of best practices to **Camesha Hill-Carter and Tom Larm**. **Camesha and Tom** co-chaired our TLI during our second round of club officer training. At the close of the second round of club officer training **18 clubs** achieved the Lucky 7 ribbon and incentive for the training of all seven of their club officers. This is a fantastic achievement for District 8. **Elaine Curry and Lemont Curry** will continue with flying high in club officer education by chairing our June 29th TLI.



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**Sandra Kardis**Lieutenant Governor Marketing
District 8EMAIL: LGM@dist8tm.org

A Message from the LGM

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were iconic dance partners who made motion pictures together from 1933 to 1949. Fred and Ginger made two movies in 1935, *Roberta*, which featured the song "I Won't Dance" and *Top Hat*. *Top Hat* proved to be one of the most successful films of the year. I am no Ginger Rogers, and you can be assured that you will definitely not hear me singing or see me dancing to "I Won't Dance." As I think about the upcoming months—May and June, I will be dancing the **Zumba**. It is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness party that's moving millions of people toward joy and health. I want you to join me in that Zumba party by wearing your "top hat" and moving as many people as you can towards the Toastmasters experience by recruiting new club members and increasing member retention.



How are you going to recruit new members? There are several things to think about. First, take a few minutes and make a list of potential members. Toastmasters members come from all walks of life. Does your list include people from your workplace, your civic and social groups, your neighborhood and your friends and relatives? Include anyone you know who is interested in personal growth. Second, now that you have collected names, give each person a brochure and an invitation to your next club meeting. Invite them for a specific date not for a possible visit sometime in the future. Show your guests the friendly atmosphere, the comfortable and self-paced learning program and the feeling of achievement they will experience in Toastmasters.

Third, find out your guests' needs and how your club can help meet them. Use the TI Features, Benefits and Value grid to show how specific segments of the Toastmasters program can fulfill a person's goals for personal and professional growth—<http://www.toastmasters.org/FBVChart>. Fourth, talk about these 5 selling points: price, time commitment, convenience, quality and **fun**.

Once your guest decides to become a member, make sure a club officer helps him/her complete a membership application and collects membership dues, vote on his/her admission during a club business meeting, hold an orientation session, conduct an installation ceremony, provide a mentor, promote involvement, and urge him/her to invite guests to each club meeting.

Here are several incentives to moving as many people as you can towards the Toastmasters experience by recruiting new club members. Are you participating in the 1 + 1 Membership-Building campaign? I have an incentive for you and your club to earn a TI \$25 gift certificate and a ribbon for your banner. The flyer was distributed to Division Governors and is on the District 8 website, [http://www.dist8tm.org/docs/1-1Program%20District%208%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.dist8tm.org/docs/1-1Program%20District%208%20(1).pdf). It is also in this newsletter.

I hope your club will take advantage of the **"Beat the Clock"** membership contest. As Toastmasters, we are taught to run meetings on time, finish speeches on time and reach membership goals on time. "Beat the Clock" is a great

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Meeting the 1+1 Campaign

By Lora Mather

In February, Sandy Kardis—our Lt. Gov. Marketing—showed us how to meet the 1+1 challenge. She welcomed Luke Garzia as a new member to one of the clubs to which she belongs, Creve Coeur Toastmasters. Sandy knows no strangers. She always takes time to introduce herself to visitors to her clubs and makes them feel welcome. Not only is she a Toastmaster at her clubs, she shares her Toastmaster's experience and how it has changed her life with everyone she meets. After clubs are chartered, membership growth happens one member at a time. And that growth begins with each member sharing his/her personal story of change and hope, just like Sandy, and extending a hand and saying "come grow with us, we will help each other learn and become a better person."

Luke's experience in Toastmasters at the club level within his first three months was so profound that he stepped up and competed at the Area level on March 30, 2013 and placed.

You too can have an impact on another person by inviting them to your Toastmasters' meeting. At your friends' first meeting, your fellow members will welcome them in and put on a great meeting filled with fun, variety and learning. Your club's atmosphere will feed your membership and change your visitors into members. Toastmasters International is encouraging and rewarding club members and their clubs with an opportunity to win a T-shirt and an opportunity to win \$250 in Toastmasters' store credit. Click on this link to hear and see International President John Lau's message and details about the 1+1 Campaign [International President John Lau's Message About the 1+1 Campaign](#). ☀



Photo by Chuck Carpenter

Pictured in photo: Luke Garzia & Sandy Kardis



1+1 Membership Building Campaign



Toastmasters International Program

**Encourage someone you know to join Toastmasters,
if the person joins...**

- **Member** - receives a letter from President John Lau and CEO Dan Rex, a 1+1 decal, plus goes into a drawing for a 1+1 T-shirt
- **Clubs** – Top 20 (in the world) with highest member gain receive \$250 TI gift Certificate
- **Districts** – Top 5 (in the world) with highest member gain receive \$500 TI gift certificate

Contest ends on June 30, 2013

District 8 1+1 Membership Program Incentives

- **Clubs** – the club in each division which adds the most new members between January 2 and June 22, 2013 receives a TI \$25 gift certificate and a ribbon for their banner.

Contact Sandy Kardis, LGM – LGM@dist8tm.org or 314-567-4908.



Classic Hollywood 1930's and Beyond

Friday, May 17
& Saturday, May 18

District 8 Spring Conference
Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel

\$80 until May 1st!

(See registration form for details.)

To help with the conference and gain leadership credits,
email **Wendy Clothier** (Conference Chair) at
aka_winnie@hotmail.com.



Celebrate Hollywood of any era!



2013 District 8
Spring Conference Registration Form
Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18

Classic Hollywood – 1930's and Beyond

Main Conference Attendee Information			
Last Name	MI	First Name	
Street Address		Apt/Unit #	
City	State	Zip Code	
Home Telephone # ()		Alternate # ()	
Email Address			
TI Designation		Club Name	Club Number
First Time Attendee? Yes No	Current Office(s) Held		
2nd Attendee – Household Member or Non-Toastmaster Guest			
Last Name		MI	First Name
TI Designation (if applicable)		Club Name & Number (if applicable):	
First Time Attendee? Yes No	Current Office(s) Held (if applicable)		

Full Registration

Includes three meals (Friday buffet dinner, Saturday lunch and banquet dinner; *breakfast not included*), educational sessions (for Toastmasters), and both contests.

Per Attendee (until 5/1 / after 5/1): **\$80 / \$100**

Additional Attendees Each: **\$75 / \$90**

Qty Subtotal



A La Carte Meals Only. Prices Per Person

Qty Subtotal

Friday Evening Buffet (**\$25 until 5/1; \$30 after 5/1**)

Saturday Lunch (**\$20 until 5/1; \$25 after 5/1**)

Saturday Dinner (**\$35 until 5/1; \$40 after 5/1**)

A La Carte Educational Sessions & Contests Only Prices Per Person (No Meals)

Saturday Educational Sessions (**\$15 until 5/1; \$25 after 5/1**)

Friday Contest (\$5 each)

Saturday Contest (\$5 each)

Total Amount \$

Meal Options

Saturday Dinner: Circle one for each attendee. For special dietary needs, please email conference@dist8tm.org

Attendee 1	Roasted Sirloin with Pinot Noir Reduction	Chicken Breast with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce	Vegetarian Option
Attendee 2	Sirloin (see description above)	Chicken (see description above)	Vegetarian Option

Payment Information

For the Conference: Make checks payable to "District 8 Toastmasters" and send with form by U.S. mail to: District 8 Toastmasters, 732 Goddard Ave, Chesterfield, MO 63005. For credit card payments, send this form to conference@dist8tm.org. An invoice will be emailed to you for payment. *Payment covers conference costs. If you want to stay at the hotel, please make your arrangements and separate payment early.*

For Hotel Reservations: Call Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel at 800-468-3571 or fax 314-890-3102. Ask for the District 8 Toastmasters' room rate of **\$85 per night** (single/double occupancy) available until **Monday May 6, 2013**. Image credits: [Roman Sotola](#).

Dear District 8 Club Presidents and Club VPEs

The Club Leadership Handbook describes the following standards more fully and explains how to carry them out.

Outside the Club Meeting:

- Attend and vote at area and district council meetings.

District 8 Credential/Proxy Certificate

District Council Meeting – Saturday 5/18/2013

Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel – 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63134

7:30am - Credentials Desk Opens

10:00am – 12:00pm District Council Business Meeting

At the district council business meeting, each club president and vice president education in attendance is entitled to one vote. However, if either or both officers cannot attend, they may designate, in writing, any other active member of their club to act as proxy or proxies for their club. (Use form below.) No other proxies are 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.

In addition, each district officer, including area governors, in attendance is entitled to one vote. Only district executive committee members carrying either credential or proxy certificates from their club are allowed three votes. All other members are limited to a maximum of two votes each.

(Date) Credential or Proxy Certificate _____

[Must be submitted to Credentials Desk to obtain ballot(s)] Certificate No. _____

1. Club name (print) _____ Club No. _____

2. Your name (print) _____

3. Your office: _____

Club president, club vice president education, area governor, other district office

4. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND (club president and vice president education only),

indicate you're duly authorized proxy below (must be an active member of *your* club):

Name (print) _____ Date _____

Signature

The Writer's Block

Sign and Sell

In 2011, the Communic~8 put out a call to find published authors among our District 8 Toastmasters. Now, as we prepare for the District 8 Spring Conference, we put that call out once again for our authors.



A special table, referred to as "The Writer's Block," will be provided for these authors in the District 8 Bookstore at the Spring Conference next month in St. Louis. All District 8 writers, past and present, can put their books on this special table. There the authors can talk up their books, autograph them for their buyers and make sales.

If you are an author and interested in this opportunity, please contact Wendy Clothier or Mary Kerwin to save your display space at the conference.

Contact info:

Mary—stlmaryk@swbell.net

Wendy—aka_winnie@hotmail.com

For our conference attendees, take time to stop by the District 8 Bookstore to check out that next Advanced Manual you will complete or pick up your next Competent Communication Manual. You can take a look at and purchase the Success/Leadership and Success/Communication series materials among other Toastmasters materials. However, this year there is more to the bookstore than ever before. Find out who are the authors among us and what they have written. Who knows you may find your new favorite book and be able to have it autographed for an added conference benefit. ☀

District 8 Governor Message

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Beat the Clock

Program Dates: May 1—June 30

Toastmasters are taught to run meetings on time, finish speeches on time and reach membership goals on time. In that spirit, "Beat the Clock" is a great motivator for finishing the year on schedule—and with a bang. The goal for your club is to earn the "Beat the Clock" award! Make this a contest in your club to encourage every member to get involved. Clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members during May and June receive a "Beat the Clock" ribbon to display on the club's banner. In addition to the ribbon, qualifying clubs earn a special discount code for 10-percent off their next club order. (The discount code expires six months from the date of issue and is not valid with any other offer.)

Applications and payments for members who join between May 1 and June 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than June 30th. Each member's join date as listed on the application must be for May or June. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward "Beat the Clock" credit.

The winning clubs will be revealed online within a few weeks of the contest ending. Winning clubs should allow up to 10 business days to receive their award if they are located in the United States and up to 21 business days if they are outside of the United States. <http://www.toastmasters.org/beattheclock2012>

Some of you may recognize these from my 8-ball newsletter. It is my intent that we finish this year on an upbeat note and end the year celebrating the accomplishment of all of our personal, district and international goals.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact me at DG@Dist8TM.org. ☀



Listen to Lead! — by Tony Gartner, DTM PDG

The skill of listening is attention!



Tony Gartner, DTM

Listening is such an important aspect of Communication and Leadership that I thought it would be a good idea to mention several “points of view” regarding listening. Pat Johnson, DTM a past Toastmasters International President, wrote about “Empathic listening” in a message on Toastmasters website.

Empathic listening is in fact listening with the intent to understand. This is when we get into the speaker’s frame of reference, see the world as they see it, understand their viewpoints and understand how they feel. Empathic listening ought to be our goal as Toastmasters. Sue Patton Thoele, author and psychotherapist writes: “Deep listening is miraculous for both listener and speaker. When someone receives us with open-hearted, non-judging, intensely interested listening, our spirits expand.”

On the same subject, Stephen R. Covey, author of “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” wrote, “*Empathic listening involves much more than registering, reflecting, or even understanding the words that are said. Communications experts estimate that 10 percent of our communication is represented by the words we say, 30 percent is represented by our sounds and 60 percent by our body language. In empathic listening, you listen with your ears ... with your eyes and with your heart. You listen for feeling, for meaning. You listen for behavior. You use your right brain as well as your left. You sense, you intuit, you feel.*”

Thomas Leonard the founder of Coach University said in part, the art of actually hearing someone, understanding what they are saying, what they mean, what that means, and then responding to that borders on an advanced art form. All of this, of course, plus plenty of wisdom, compassion, strength and encouragement, is the communication skill-set that the Certified Coach is expected to master. The amazing thing to me is that

adults aren’t that much more advanced than kids are. We adults still throw our tantrums, or pout or clam up. And, for the same reasons we just don’t know all that we’re feeling or do we know how to effectively say what there is to say. Here is a list of the primary types of things you can become an expert at listening for:

1. What’s not being said?
2. What’s needed right now?
3. What’s missing?
4. What’s in the way?
5. What’s most important to the client?
6. What false assumptions has the client made?
7. How well/quickly the client is grasping what you are saying.
8. How aware the client is of themselves and their environment.

Based on the foregoing there are really two steps to becoming an expert listener. One is to learn how to listen and what to listen for, as described above. The other is to identify and reduce what gets in the way of your ability to hear.

Tom Hill President & CEO at Eagle Goal Coach, Inc.. Lists his 10 Rules of Thumb for Listening:

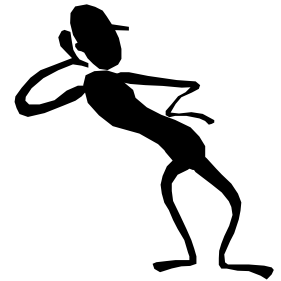
1. Make a commitment to listen to this person at this moment.
2. Don’t act as though you are listening if your heart is not in it or if the time is not right for you to listen.
3. If you want to listen but are not free to pay attention at the moment, say so, but add that you would like to listen later.
4. Focus on the speaker with your eyes and your body position.
5. Focus on the speaker’s feelings, needs, and perceptions or on the information that is being communicated.
6. Register your own feeling and “hold it.”
7. Be aware of your typical non-listening behaviors and try to control them.



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8. Offer back what you are hearing in your own words with your voice rising in a questioning tone.
9. Don't presume that what you are hearing is exactly what the speaker is trying to say.
10. Don't stop listening after your first effort to express understanding. Keep listening until the speaker confirms that you have really understood.



There is more: "Listen, listen, and listen. That is the advice of Sydney-based leadership consultant Megan Tough, who has written: "If there are unhappy or disgruntled people in your business, you can guarantee that at some stage they've tried to tell you what the problem is. It's likely you weren't listening (or didn't want to listen), or perhaps your initial reaction made the person think twice about bringing the problem to you. Truly listening is one of the greatest skills to develop, regardless of your role. Good listeners are genuinely interested, convey empathy and want to find out what's behind the conversation. **Great leaders are great listeners**—without exception."



It seems apparent that the advice in the foregoing relates to an individual listening to another in a one-on-one conversational mode but think about it in the same context as giving a speech or evaluation and listening intently to the speaker at your next Toastmasters meeting. One of the things that becomes more apparent to me every day is that "we learn to do by doing" and as strange as it may seem, we must learn to listen well before we can learn to speak well. **Are You Listening?** ☀

Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters Club 'Rebranding'

Joann York, ACS ALS—Club President

"Toastmasters—where leaders are made." As the brand says, Toastmasters is about much more than developing our speaking skills. However, many members see the two 'tracks' as completely separate from each other, they see — 1) Communication and 2) Leadership —and begin climbing each 'track' without recognizing the 'tracks' are to be connected. Think about it. Do you know any great leaders that are not great communicators? List some great leaders ... Martin Luther King Jr., Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, and Nelson Mandela ... they all have the ability to effectively communicate their message. Clearly, communication and leadership are connected.

We think we join to develop our skills at public speaking when in reality we are seeking to develop our leadership skills. Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters Club #4115 has a long history of members who have served as leaders in District 8. Our current membership includes Past District Governors, a Division Governor and an Area

Governor. With our 'rebrand,' the club intends to return to its roots and focus on developing leaders. The club will continue to meet once a month with the first 'rebranded' meeting to be held on Sunday, May 19th at 9:30 am in Boardroom 232 (2nd floor, turn left from elevator). Future meetings will be scheduled to coincide with District 8 DEC meetings, the TLIs or Conferences to allow our club meetings to be convenient for District 8 leadership to attend.

We are seeking to build our membership with current and past District 8 leaders, but membership is not limited or restricted to only current or past leaders. If you would like an opportunity to work with the district's leaders and to be involved in a club focused specifically on the connection between communication and leadership, come join us as we look to fulfill the Toastmasters brand and be "where leaders are made." We invite you to be our guest and possibly a new member. Time to lead. ☀





Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters Club #4115

Sunday, May 19th

9:30 am—11:00 am

at Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel

Boardroom 232 (2nd floor, turn left from elevator)



Come join us as we re-energize this unique District 8 club.

Come join us to develop and improve your leadership skills.

Come join us and extend or expand your Toastmasters network.

We invite District 8 leaders—past, present and future—to become members.

Be a part of the history of District 8 as you continue to build the future of District 8!

**Toastmasters' Founder Ralph Smedley was born in District 8—Waverly, IL.
No other District can claim his humble origin but us, at least not in the same way.
This club celebrates and pays tribute to our distinct relationship to our founder.**

*(Continued from page 3)***Contests**

Our Division and Area Governors raised the bar in conducting contests and creating a mutually supportive atmosphere to showcase our best speakers. Our Immediate Past District Governor **Tom Coscia** and District Governor **Curtis Scroggins** conducted two sessions of our D8 Judges Training this year. Our contest training continues with a “mock” contest as a two hour educational session on May 18th.



This year our **D8 Education Eagle Team** created opportunities for every Toastmaster to stretch their confidence and skill. The tag line, WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE is more than just a line under the logo. Our training and empowering D8 leaders through our D8 Education Eagles made our tag line our legacy. It has been a great year and our D8 Education Eagles led us to new educational heights.

Calling all EAGLES; contact me at LGET@dist8tm.org to talk about your opportunity to soar in 2013-2014. ☀

*(Continued from page 4)*

motivator for finishing the 2012—2013 year on schedule—and with a bang. The goal for your club is to earn the “Beat the Clock” award! Make this a contest in your club to encourage every member to get involved. Clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members during May and June receive a “Beat the Clock” ribbon to display on their club’s banner. In addition to the ribbon, qualifying clubs earn a special discount code for 10-percent off their next club order. As a special incentive from District 8, clubs will receive a set of 10 Promotional Welcome ribbons.

Retaining club members is equally important. Here are some tips to increase member retention: evaluate interest, analyze reasons for missed meetings, and nurture potential non-renewals. Members leave Toastmasters for a variety of reasons. It is important to find out why. If they have too many commitments, suggest a break to take care of commitments and check back with them in a few months. If it is an inconvenient meeting time, this may be true for other club members. Take a poll to find out if another time works better. If they feel pressured to work too quickly, allow them to work at their own pace. When members move away, encourage them to look for clubs near their new location. They can’t be taken away from their work by a Toastmasters meeting. Encourage them to join a community club.

The aim of every club is to fulfill members’ needs. Give your club some tender loving care and proceed with courage. Winston Churchill said, “Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.”

As of April 19, we have 11 clubs that have not paid April renewal dues and 7 with renewals below 6 members. My thanks to all the Area Governors who are following up with clubs that have not met the minimum requirement of 6 member dues renewals and clubs who have not submitted renewal dues.

Get exhilarated and join me in the **Zumba** party!

Sandy ☀



District 8 Toastmasters at the 2013 Entrepreneur Think Tank

By Sandy Kardis

Photos by Sandy Kardis

At the invitation of Jacquie Vick, President of National Black MBAA-St. Louis Chapter, District 8 Toastmasters was a part of the 2013 Entrepreneur Think Tank on Saturday, April 20th. It was hosted by The John Cook School of Business at St. Louis University. The event was a one-day mini-conference offering workshops that concentrated on 4 tracks: Business Start-Up, Franchising: A Business Model That Works, Growing the Business, and Social Entrepreneurship. Nineteen workshop facilitators shared their time and knowledge. Raymond Allen used his Toastmaster skills to introduce the keynote speaker, Samuel C. Hutchinson, founder of Interface Construction Corporation.

Toastmasters Tom Applewhite, Elizabeth Kroll and Elizabeth Link were there at 7:00 A.M. to help Sandy Kardis set up the table with Toastmasters materials such as the TI Features, Benefits and Value grid, CONFIDENCE. THE VOICE OF LEADERSHIP and FIND YOUR VOICE brochures, Toastmaster magazines, the Communic~8, as well as the District 8 banner and the table banner. They were ready to talk about Toastmasters to individuals who stopped by the table. The heaviest traffic was at registration/breakfast and lunch. Pat Mathias, Max Kaiser and Kat Mokriakow assisted with the lunch crowd. Our table was in a good location—the lunch line moved right by our table.



Kat Mokriakow and Elizabeth Link

The event ended with a general session of three choices from 4:15 P.M.—5:30 P.M. A sample Toastmasters meeting was one of the three choices. A group of about 20 individuals observed a great Toastmasters meeting with meeting roles filled by Ray

Allen, John Barry, Sandy Kardis, Debra Morrissey, Curtis Scroggins and Cynthia Scroggins.

From the various conversations, we have two potential new club leads. From the sign-up sheets, we have approximately 60 individuals with whom to follow-up. A dynamic team of Toastmasters—Ray Allen, Tom Applewhite, John Barry, Max Kaiser, Elizabeth Kroll, Elizabeth Link, Pat Mathias, Kat Mokriakow, Debra Morrissey, Curtis Scroggins and Cynthia Scroggins introduced Toastmasters to a number of potential members. ☀



Tom Applewhite, Elizabeth Kroll and interested attendee



Make a Positive Change ... Join Toastmasters

By Kent Curd—Talu Toastmasters

I was first introduced to Toastmasters in 1997 while being incarcerated in the Missouri Department of Corrections at their Tipton Facility. Unbeknownst to me at the time, it is a prison club of individuals who actually care about helping their fellow man learn to enhance who he is through qualities and skills one already possesses. Toastmasters teaches the leadership, speaking, and communication skills one needs to be productive and stable in his life. This training leads to accomplishing the plans, goals and dream that we all have.

An individual I had come to respect while serving my sentence asked me to attend a meeting time and time again until I finally relented and went thinking that I was doing him a favor. In all honesty, I was really not too enthusiastic about being a part of anything because I was still blaming everyone but myself for being in prison. The favor turned out to be one he had done for me. As a result of being involved in the Sun Dai Toastmasters Gavel Club, my mind was opened to the inner qualities of leadership, communication and speaking in front of large groups. I already possessed these skills but benefited greatly from the opportunity to refine them.

Naturally, I started out in the Sun Dai Toastmasters as a guest, was then asked to take on the office of Vice President of Education, then ultimately, I was elected to the office of President. I enjoyed an awesome growth. I experienced within myself as our club grew, became chartered, and instrumental in helping so many find themselves as I had done. After one year of being President, I was transferred to another facility, which, unfortunately did not offer a Toastmaster opportunity so I lost touch with the drive I'd once had for Toastmasters.

It would be 14 years before I would become involved in Toastmasters again during another incarceration at Moberly Correctional Center. I was asked to join Talu Toastmasters, one of the state's most recognized clubs, and this time there was no asking me more than once. Now serving as Talu's Secretary, it's giving me the opportunity to recapture the drive to succeed I once enjoyed through my past involvement 14 years ago in Sun Dai Toastmasters. That seems like a lifetime ago. It is my sincere hope that when I am once again released into society, that even if no club is in my area, even if it requires me to travel, I will be able to find one close enough for me to stay active.

If you want positive change in your life right now, I encourage you to join a Toastmasters Club in your area, because being involved in one while being incarcerated has, and continues, to change mine. ☀



Attend the Spring 2013 District 8 Conference—Register Today!

— May 17th & 18th —





District 8 members earn Education & Leadership Awards from March 14, 2013 to April 27, 2013



Division A

High-Noon Toastmasters Club

- Prosser-Burlison, Michal Sue—CC

Marion VA Toastmasters

- Schlager, Sandy—ALB

Maritz Toastmasters

- Smith, Shelley—ACB

Mastertoasters Club

- Steinbach, Carol C—CC

Poplar Bluff Toastmasters

- Suter, Darlene—CC
- Suter, Darlene—CL
- Kimbrow, Larry—CC

South County Toastmasters Club

- Gopal, Shreya—CC
- Ramshaw, Matthew J—CC
- Gopal, Shreya—CL

Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Ayers, Alan D.—LDREXC

UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Hutson, Cindy M—CC
- Holstein, Sheryl—ACB

Webster Groves Toastmasters Club

- Taylor, Joseph D.—CC

West County Club

- Bell, Susan M—CC
- Rohan, Michael E.—CL
- Laviola, Frank R—CC
- Welter, Stuart H.—CL
- Radnov, Carrie F.—CC

Division B

Aerospace Orators Club

- Haas, Diana J.—CL

B.I.B.L.E. Toastmasters

- Huddleston, Beverly E.—CC
- Huddleston, Beverly E.—CL

Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Bollinger, Lloyd H.—CC
- Sanders, Mary B.—ALB

M-Powered Speakers

- Durham, Katherina A.—CL

McCarthy Communication Builders

- White, Lyn D.—CL

Money Talks Club

- Brooks, Curtis E.—CL
- Berkbighler, Susan M.—CL

Monsanto Noontime Toastmasters

- Kryvko, Barbara K.—CC
- Kryvko, Barbara K.—ACG
- Kryvko, Barbara K.—DTM

Plus Factor Club

- El Hasan, Amin M—ACB
- Barnett, Doris—CC

River City Toastmasters Club

- Sutphen, Daryl—CC

Save-a-Lot Toastmasters (SALT)

- Price, Howard Lee—CC

Shalom Church Toastmasters

- Blue, Willie E.—ACG

Division C

ADM Toastmasters

- Yung, David—CC

Noontime Toastmasters Club

- Stout, Candy T—CC

Division E

Columbia Toastmasters

- Kaplan, Lorie F—CC

- Kaplan, Lorie F—CL

Courage to Grow Toastmasters Club

- Griffin, Debbie K—CL

Jefferson City Blue Tigers Toastmasters Club

- Williams, Benecia—CC

Ozark Orators Club

- Allen, Edward R.—ALB

Talu Toastmasters Club

- Behrens, Joseph—CC

Division F

Free Speakers

- Calhoun, Lawson H.—ACS

Jacobs P3

- Carducci, Lisa—CC

MAC Toastmasters Club

- Applewhite, Thomas R—CL
- Hayes, Philip J—CL
- Weckbach, Drew R.—CC
- Sansone, Tim Charles—CC

Missouri Toast of the Town Club

- Broadway, Latoya S—CL

MOCO Torchmasters

- Burton, Anthony W—CC
- McCullar, Steven C—CC
- Glenn, LaTunija R.—CC
- Finks, Jason—CL

Rent-A-Toast Club

- Duke, Sharon—ACS

Sigma-Aldrich Toastmasters Club

- Patel, Mitesh B.—CC

Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Woods, Meigan—CC

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

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ARE MADE**

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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The Mission of District 8

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

District 8 Map



Calendar of Upcoming Events



May

District 8 2013 Spring Conference—17th & 18th

Renaissance St Louis Airport Hotel
9801 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63134

District 8@8 Conference Call Number: (605)475-4000
PIN: 166461#

June

Early Bird Club Officer Training—1st

Eye Care Charity of Mid-America Office
732 Goddard Ave
Chesterfield, MO 63005
(pre-registration required)

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) - 29th

Wells Fargo Advisors University Learning Center
2701 Market St
St. Louis, MO 63103

District 8@8 Conference Call Number: (605)475-4000
PIN: 166461#