



DISTRICT 8

# E Communic~8

## District 8 News And Events

Volume 16 Issue 3

District 8

November 2016

### **The Importance of Our District Council Meeting**

By Lora Mather, DTM, District 8 Director



Leaders must be knowledgeable about their organization. Each member is a leader. We have a higher expectation for club officers. It is a higher level of leadership. Our District Council meeting is where we do the business for our district. We share reports on the state of our district financially and its future development. Each club has two votes that are carried by the Club President and the Club Vice President Education. If you are a Club President or Club Vice President Education and you cannot attend the District Council Meeting at 10 am on Saturday November 19 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Columbia MO, then you need to fill out a proxy and give it to a member in good standing. By doing this, you are helping a Toastmaster to gain knowledge and become a leader. If your club attendee is a seasoned Toastmaster, please do not deny them the privilege of voting for your club. The proxy form can be downloaded from the District 8 website. You can also use the proxy form included in the September 2016—October 2016 Communic~8 issue you received in the mail.

The two major items requiring a vote are this year's District Executive Committee appointments and the 2016-2017 budget. Look at the Our Team page on the District 8 website for the appointees <http://dist8tm.org/our-team.html>. Click this link <http://dist8tm.org/resources.html> to review the 2016-2017 budget and narrative.

There are changes happening in the Toastmaster's program. The District Council meeting is an opportunity to learn about these changes and to learn how you can provide input and become a change agent in our organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the District Council. #

## A President's Distinguished Club Since the Beginning

By Annetta Canady, ACB, ALB, Area 15 Director, Primary Conversations #1159447

Primary Conversations, comprised of a diverse group of business professionals, chartered May 1, 2008 with 28 members. Since then the club has been President's Distinguished for eight consecutive years. What makes us a successful club? Leadership and vision, promoting the Distinguished Club Program and engaged members.

Raymond Allen, 2010-2011 Division F Governor and Jacquie Vick, DTM are the co-founders of the club. Their vision to have a premium professional club with active involvement at all levels of the district was shared with club officers and members. The goal was not just to be a successful club but to be active in the district. According to Raymond Allen, "members of Primary Conversations, new and old, past and present, have much to be proud of because we are goal setters and achievers. Keeping our eyes on the prize, we are an elite club achieving President's Distinguished status our first year."



### Leadership and Vision

"Raymond and I," said Jacquie, "are committed to leading by example and have always encouraged club members to get involved in district activities in an effort to maximize their Toastmasters experience." This set the tone for the club and helped club members set and achieve their Toastmasters goals. Jacquie further stated, "Several of our club members challenged themselves by competing in bi-yearly contests and have held a variety of district leadership roles such as Area Governor, Division Governor and Public Relations Officer. The tradition continued as several members most recently served in the capacity of Area Director, Division Director, Finance Manager, Club Growth Director, and Program Quality Director."

### Promoting the Distinguished Club Program

Using the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) as a guide and the tools provided by Toastmasters International, the executive team identifies members and obtains a verbal commitment from individuals to achieve specific goals each year. Member progress is tracked, and the club is kept abreast of overall progress of meeting or exceeding club goals.

### Engaged Members

According to current Club President Robin Anderson, "the key to success for Primary Conversations Toastmasters is its members." What was true when the club was chartered eight years ago is still true today. Members who are

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truly committed to their personal development are typically those that are the most engaged. One of a club's biggest challenges is not only attracting new members who contribute new ideas and fresh perspectives but maintaining the attention of long-standing members when competing with other attention-grabbers such as work, family and social commitments. Over the years, club leaders assumed a major responsibility by partnering with new members as mentors to coach them through roles and communication goals. Individual member success and rewarding individual and team accomplishments is instrumental to building a successful distinguished club plan. As many will agree, individual success which has been recognized and nurtured builds into club success. The achievements of many paired with everyone working together has been instrumental to the overall success of the club.

The implementation of tools over the years has caused members to be engaged and committed to getting educational awards and advancing in area, division, district and international contests. Other district recognition includes two Area Governor of the Year awards received by Raymond Allen in 2010 and Lisa Cooksey-Cannon in 2015, Triple Crown Award received by Annetta Canady, Growth Sponsor (membership growth), four DTMs with the possibility of three more within the next year and club members who have held about 14 district offices.

The photo was taken at the 2015 District 8 Fall Conference. From left to right are Pierre Smith, 2015-2016 Division F Director and Club Secretary, Jacquie Vick, 2015-2016 Program Quality Director and Club Treasurer, Annetta Canady, 2016-2017 Area 15 Director, Robin Anderson, DTM, 2009-2010 Area 19 Governor and Club President, Lisa Cooksey-Cannon, 2015-2016 Finance Manager and Club VP Education, and Ebony Thompson, club member. #

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## A Tea Party

This is the theme for the roast of Immediate Past District Director, Farzana Chohan, DTM. What stories are there in your cup of tea leaves that you would like to share?



We are roasting Farzana on Saturday morning, November 19 during breakfast which is scheduled from 7:30—8:45 am. Please note that a specified amount of time is allocated for the roast.

Contact Sandy Kardis, DTM, PDG at [sandymmk@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymmk@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesday, November 16 to secure your Tea Time with Farzana. #

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## When the Toastmaster Member Is an English Language Learner (ELL)

By Rosemary Wilson, ACG, ALB  
SAA Midtown Clayton Toastmasters Club #283

Toastmasters International has a long-standing reputation among adults whose native language is other than English and who want to be able to speak English so as to be fluent, accurate, appropriate, authentic, and understood.<sup>2</sup> Membership in one of its 15,900 clubs worldwide (including the United States) is highly desirable as an effective way to do this. English is the official language of Toastmasters International as well as the lingua franca (or common language) worldwide. More people speak English as a foreign language than monolingual English native speakers.<sup>1</sup> I have no education in applied linguistics or phonetics but as a Toastmaster for 16 years I now wanted to become better prepared for helping club members who are English language learners (e.g. ELL) speak to be better understood. What I have discovered and learned in my research of ELL could be useful for other native English speaking club members in their roles as mentor to an ELL club member and/or as just as a fellow club member-at-large. Hopefully, this article's content will also prove independently useful to the ELL himself/herself. I have curated some professional theories and practices from the references listed to fit the purpose of this article. Herein, I will discuss some general ELL speech learning strategies, some ELL learning strategies already in the Toastmasters education program to facilitate improved oral communication, and some digital and non-digital learning/tutoring strategies available for free or fee for ELL members striving to achieve this goal.

To begin, I want to discuss some general ELL learning strategies. Important is the fact that being intelligible (understood) in spoken English is not synonymous with being accent free. Intelligibility resides in the interaction between the speaker and the listener. "If the listener expects to understand a speaker (context and expectations) they are more likely to find the speaker intelligible."<sup>2</sup> Also noteworthy when learning a foreign language is that the spoken form of the language is the primary approach and the most difficult lesson to master while the reading and writing of the foreign language is secondary and easier to learn.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Toastmasters focus on learn-by-doing speaking experiences is most suitable and an overall priority in ELL education. Most importantly, the level of motivation to learn a foreign language by an individual is best served when the learner's future vision of themselves includes fluency in that foreign language.<sup>2</sup>

Next to consider is the organization's "A Toastmaster's Promise" which contains several principles that promote learning for ELL Toastmasters. When working on improving oral communication in a foreign language, listening and speaking are learning priorities over reading and writing that foreign language. Attending club meetings regularly provides a regular audio-lingual experience of the English lexicon that is grammatically and phonetically correct. The rhythm in spoken English phrases, word and syllable stress in multisyllabic words, vowels and consonants, and focus of sentences can all be experienced repeatedly by the audience member. Preparing and fulfilling meeting assignments (e.g. manual speeches, evaluations, timing report, table topics etc.) encompasses the ELL principle of practice, practice, practice. Receiving speech introductions in advance when serving as the meeting Toastmaster allows for practice using as near perfect English as possible when reading this script aloud later during the club meeting. The friendly environment that is the Toastmasters club meeting is crucial for effective learning. The club meeting offers a safe and easy place for the ELL member to speak, to build confidence, and to progress on the intelligibility continuum as well as towards completion of an educational award. Serving as a club officer offers a leadership dimension for the ELL, both inside and outside of club meetings, to orally communicate ideas and directions. Informal small talk one-on-one with another club member before and after club meetings is a useful extemporaneous speaking opportunity for the ELL learner.

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Another member mentoring the ELL learner offers the opportunity for informal helpful feedback along the learning curve. The manual speech projects' content on vocal variety and use of pauses (putting words into thought groups) are especially important speech techniques for the ELL member to regularly use for improved intelligibility. Competing in Toastmaster speech contests with ample advance rehearsal of the speech is another valuable option for ELL member to consider. The Toastmasters format of speech evaluation (e.g. commend, recommend, commend) is perhaps the most valuable lesson of all for the ELL.

This would be a much different article if it had been written before the introduction of digital technology in the 1990's. I have listed some digital options for the ELL learner to consider using. Note some options are free and some are not. Digital options listed are in no priority order and this is not an all-inclusive list:

**<http://learningenglish.voanews.com>**, internet audio recordings (**<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>**), **EnglishTalkShop.com**, video and pronunciation software, **[pronouncenames.com](http://pronouncenames.com)**, smart phones with voice recording and playback, **<https://en.duolingo.com/>**, podcasts, **VoIP** (Skype), word games, e-readers which include interactivity thru video and sound, **Merriam-Webster.com** (hear correct pronunciation of a word), **[www.speechschool.tv](http://www.speechschool.tv)**.

At the same time, there are many other options for the ELL learner to consider that are not technology related. Repetition is absolutely necessary to acquire the syllable stresses, sound patterns, and pitch variations, of English.<sup>2</sup> Vocal variety, timely pauses, and slower speech cadence are crucial speaking skills to perfect and continually use. Again, this list is in no priority order and not all-inclusive:

reading poem or newspaper aloud, singing, playing pronunciation games, participating in role play dramas, posting sticky notes of words and phrases to practice, being storyteller and/or tour guide for family/friends, answering the phone, avoiding the use of slang, swear words, colloquialisms<sup>1</sup>

In conclusion, here is some of the quantitative research findings Toastmasters World Headquarters has published on its website in its July 2014 *Language and Demographics Report*. "The results in this report reflect the data collected from a simple random sample that is representative of the entire Toastmasters member population." The report's findings say "57.5%" of members joined the club "to learn or practice English". This report also includes the breakdown statistic that "11.9%" of new Toastmasters members had a personal goal of "improving fluency in the English language". This data confirms the presence of ELL learners amongst the ranks of the organization's membership. CUE THE APPLAUSE! For when all is said and done, you and I are among the 345,000 diverse voices today that are Toastmasters International.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Dudeney, Gavin, and Nicky Hockly. *Learning English as a Foreign Language for Dummies*. Chichester, West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons, 2010. Print.

<sup>2</sup>Celce-Murcia, Marianne, Donna Brinton, and Marguerite Ann. Snow. *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language*. Boston: National Geographic Learning, 2014. Print. #



## Virtual Meeting Attendance

By David Kincade, ACB, ALB, West County Toastmasters Club #2905



Tonight West County Toastmasters had their first virtual meeting attendee. Lora Mather attended from over 200 miles away via the Internet and an iPad Mini on a tripod. She served as Topics Master as you can see here, officiating the Table Topics section of our meeting.

She was able to see everybody and hear the speakers quite well, and she was able to be heard by all in the room. In all the test was a success. I look forward to her attending West County Toastmasters on a regular basis this way, as she is now living in Southwest Missouri during the week and finds it difficult to make the Monday night meetings.

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## What You Need to Know About Pathways

By Sandy Kardis, DTM, PDG

VP Education Creve Coeur Toastmasters Club #1267

A call to revitalize the Toastmasters education program resulted in Toastmasters Pathways learning experience, the name of the new education program. By participating in the new program, we can learn five core competencies: Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Leading and Managing, Leading Strategically, and Building Confidence. These competencies were paired to form five disciplines. The new program will launch with 10 different learning paths based on these five disciplines:

Public Speaking + Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal Communication + Strategic Leadership

Interpersonal Communication + Management

Public Speaking + Management

Public Speaking + Strategic Leadership

Pathways is maintaining Toastmasters' guiding principles and education concepts. Club meetings will continue to be at the heart of our Toastmasters experience. Toastmasters' 2016 – 2017 International President, Mike Storkey, DTM says this about the new program, "Members are going to be excited about Pathways once they experience it and discover the many benefits: the opportunity to work online and use interactive tools; the learning that's tailored to individual goals, and all the wide-ranging, relevant skills they can develop."

The first phase kicks off in January 2017. Three districts will test Pathways in a pilot program that is expected to last about three months. After the first phase is complete, Pathways will roll out by region in eight subsequent phases. District 8 is in Region 5 and will roll out in Rollout #8, the second to the last phase. Once Region 5 rolls out, we can either work in the Pathways learning experience or continue to work in the current education program during the transition period when the two programs will run concurrently. When the transition ends, two years after the last region rolls out, all members will work in Pathways.

The principle of the Toastmasters Distinguished Club Program (DCP) is the same, but the educational goals will reflect the new learning structure. In Pathways, the number of educational goals will remain the same, but the six goals will represent the work we do by completing Levels 1 – 5 in learning paths rather than in the current education program. There will be plenty of time before clubs have to formally adopt the new DCP format. The current educational program will run concurrently with Pathways during a transition period. Once the transition period ends, the six Pathways goals will be the DCP educational goals for all clubs.

**Dan Darnall, DTM, PDG will be presenting an educational session on Pathways at our District 8 Fall Conference on Saturday, November 19 at 2:00-2:50 pm. You will not want to miss his presentation, Shedding Light on the Pathway – An Early Look at the New Educational Program.**

My sources for this article were the July, September and October 2016 issues of the *TOASTMASTER* magazine.

Sterman, Paul. "The Possibilities of PATHWAYS." Toastmaster July 2016: 13-17.

"TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS – learning experience – When Will Your Region Experience It?." Toastmaster September 2016: 9

Sterman, Paul. "The DCP Takes a Turn in Pathways." Toastmaster October 2016: 28.

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### Laugh, Learn, and Connect at the Fall Conference

In addition to the Business Meeting, the Fall Conference presents an exciting opportunity for Toastmasters to learn **with others** in the district and **from others** in the district. With the exception of International Director Region 5 Magnus Jansson, DTM, who will be hosting a session on successful leadership, all of our educational presenters are Toastmasters from clubs in District 8.

Other topics for the educational programs at the conference include: Dan Darnall's introduction to Pathways, livening up Table Topics, success in coaching and mentoring, information about holding virtual meetings, the *High Performance Leadership* project, tips for C-Suite and Triple Crown achievements and how to add fun to your club.

As Toastmasters, we are all ever eager to learn, and the District Conference has learning opportunities for everyone from new members to seasoned DTMs. Pre-registration is available through the district website <http://dist8tm.org/conferences.html> and walk-in registrations will be accepted for the educational sessions and contests on each day of the conference.

November 18 – 19, 2016  
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia  
3300 Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202





## District 8 Members Earn Education & Leadership Awards from October 12 —November 6, 2016



### Division A

South County Toastmasters Club

- Kutell, Adam Henry—ALS
- Kutell, Adam Henry—DTM

High-Noon Toastmasters

- Layton, Chris A. CC

### Division B

Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Aichhorn, William G—CC

Plus Factor Club

- Barnett, Doris—ACG

Money Talks Club

- Berkbighler, Susan—ACB

Aerospace Orators

- Ikeda, Yutaka—ALS

River City Toastmasters Club

- Rivers, Willie J. —CC

Triton Toastmasters

- Taylor, Lawrence, ACS

### Division C

St. Clair Club

- Curry, Elaine—ALS
- Koester, Herman—CL

McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Farris, Robert J.—CC

Scott Toastmasters Club

- Hall, Nicholas J.—CL
- Hall, Nicholas J.—ACB
- Hunt, Josh M.—CL

O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Kirk, Christopher W —CC

Collinsville Toastmasters Club

- Kitchen, Kris E—CC
- Morris, Phil L—CC
- Saba, Paul—CC

St. Elizabeth's Hospital

- Middendorf, Cindy A.—CC
- Stratton, Raymond L.—ALS

Captial City Toastmasters

- Prather, Lee Ann —ALB

### Division E

Shelter Insurance Toastmasters

- Bronson, Matthew J—CC
- Jones, Brian C—ALB

Downtown Toastmasters

- Depue, Jade R—CL

Brewer Science Toastmasters

- Galarza, Daniel—CC
- Galarza, Daniel—CL

Talu Toastmasters Club

- Lockhart, Jimmie—CC

### Division F

MilliporeSigma Toastmasters

- Breinin, Angela M.—ALB

Jacobs P3

- Carducci, Lisa—ACB

Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Dockett, Monaye—CC
- Jennings, Michelle W —CL

MAC Toastmasters Club

- Haberstroh, Bradley—CC

Webster Groves Toastmasters Club

- Lu, Weijen—CC
- Now, Rebecca —LDREXC

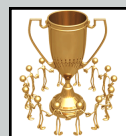
F.R.B. Club

- Pickler, Christopher—CC

Midtown Clayton Toastmasters Club

- Stimac, Richard C.—ACB

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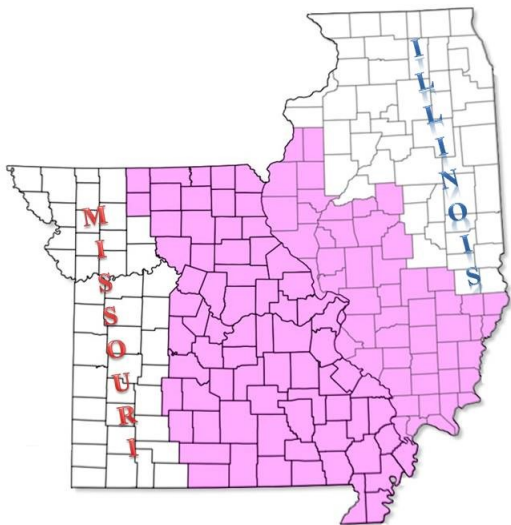
**District 8 is on the web.**  
**www.dist8tm.org**

**Toastmasters International Values**

- ♦ Integrity
- ♦ Respect
- ♦ Service
- ♦ Excellence

**The Mission of District 8**

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



**Save the Date**

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**

**Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)**

**Webster University**



**District Vision:**  
**District Eight Enhancement Program (DEEP)**

**From the Editor**

This is an extra issue to allow for some articles that we did not have room for in the paper edition. It helps to share your news with members and clubs in a timely manner.

I appreciate the articles that have been submitted thus far. Keep those articles coming for the next issues of the Communic~8! How about writing about your experience at the District 8 Fall Conference? Be sure to email your contribution about you, your club, a club member, or a Toastmaster item for a future issue in Microsoft Word to the Editor Sandy Kardis at sandymmk@yahoo.com. Include photos if possible.

The submission deadline for the next issue is **December 2.**

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