



Communic~8

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE
www.toastmasters.org

Volume 14 Issue 2

District 8

September 2014

District 8 is on the web
www.dist8tm.org

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- And so much more



Don't Worry

Sudharshan Anandan

In the summer of 2012, I enrolled in Missouri S&T's graduate teaching assistant (GTA) workshop. Missouri law requires international students to successfully complete the GTA workshop, which tests basic English speaking skills, before one can become a teaching assistant. I did not receive a passing grade in that workshop. I was disappointed, shocked, and most importantly...

embarrassed. This was the first time I had failed a test which most people are expected to pass. I realized that even though I could read and write good English, I had a communication problem. People reassured me,

"Don't worry; it happens to everyone."

"Don't worry; international students are generally poor in English."

"Don't worry; English is a difficult language."

After the GTA workshop debacle, I was not so confident when speaking to Americans. It took me more than 15 minutes just to order a sandwich at Subway. Sensing my distress, a friend invited me to join Ozark Orators Toastmasters Club. It was a pleasant surprise to find people who said, "You have a speaking problem, but don't worry, we are here to help."

Previously, I spoke English at a rate of 120 words per minute and I had issues with pronunciation. Ozark Orators helped me learn to pace myself and improve my word pronunciation. Whenever I was short on confidence they were always ready with a truckload of encouragement. Thanks to the support of the members of my club, I could compete in the 2013 club, area, division, and district humorous speech contests. During the course of the contests, I got an opportunity to meet more motivated Toastmasters... People who always said, "Don't worry, we are here to help."

I placed second in the district's contest, and I thought that maybe if I tried a little harder, I could do better in the International Speech Contest. I decided to give it a try. I scoured YouTube videos for speaking tips and winning speeches. I received excellent advice and criticism from my fellow club members. There were times when I was intimidated. I thought, "What if I put in three months of effort and fail?" It was during those times that I remembered Ray Horton saying, "I believe that you can do it." So, I had to try.

Through Toastmasters, I was given another pathway toward English proficiency – one that helped me reach an international stage. I got a chance to speak before an

(Continued on page 11)

**Sandra Kardis, DTM**District 8 Governor
EMAIL: DG@dist8tm.org

A Message from the Governor

Hi District 8 Toastmasters!

During one of the leadership training sessions in Kuala Lumpur, our Region 5 Advisor, Don Bittick quoted Henry Ford. "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Let's think about the three components of Henry Ford's quote and how it pertains to us.

"Coming together is a beginning" The District Executive Committee members came together in June, July and September. During June and July, Area Governors and Division Governors received a required 4 hours of training on Developing Successful Teams, Conducting Quality Speech Contests, Establishing & Supporting New Clubs, and Enhancing Club Quality. By September 30, a training report showing that 85% division and area governors were trained was due to Toastmasters International. We attained more than that - 92%! At the September 20th DEC meeting, Dan Darnall, DTM, PDG, Area 2 Governor presented the conference registration form committee recommendations. The committee's goal was to determine possible enhancements to encourage greater attendance. A club registration form and new individual registration form were approved by the DEC. The new registration forms are included in this issue of the Communic~8.

Area Governors have been reaching out to club presidents to schedule visits. With club officers, they review membership and who is fulfilling education achievements for the Distinguished Club Program. Club visits are required twice a year. These visits help us understand how to support and meet the needs of each club.

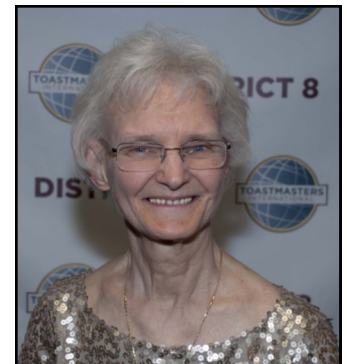
"Keeping together is progress" While Farzana, Jacquie, and I interviewed candidates for the Region International Director positions, membership retention was recognized as a key issue. What do we need to do to increase club and member retention? To date, we have 108 clubs. We need 110 clubs by June 30, 2015 to be a Distinguished District. A goal of 110 is easy to attain as long as there are no club losses.

Here are some basic tips to increase member retention: evaluate interest, analyze reasons for missed meetings, nurture potential non-renewals, and find out reasons why members do not stay. For more details, visit toastmasters.org/Members/MembershipBuilding/MembershipRetention.aspx.

"Working together is success" It takes all of us working together to attain the goals that will lead District 8 to be a **Distinguished District** for the 2014-2015 Toastmasters year. We can earn that recognition by our performance in the Distinguished Club program. The measure of success as a Distinguished District is 110 paid clubs, 4,614 member payments, and 43 distinguished clubs. We are off to a good start with 6 DTMs, one club with 5 goals, and 4 clubs with 4 goals. Homer, the greatest of the Greek epic poets said, "Always to be best, and to be distinguished above the rest."

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

Wishing you a rewarding, educational experience in communication and leadership development this year. Have fun along the way!!! — Sandy ☀



**Farzana Chohan, DTM**

Lt. Governor Education & Training

EMAIL: LGET@dist8tm.org

Follow your "purpose", with "spirit" and without "fear"

Development and more significantly self-development is an ongoing journey in our individual lives. We strive to accomplish success utilizing diverse avenues of learning. Although we all are born with the ability to succeed, it sometimes gets lost in early childhood or somewhere on the way then we have to start again in our adult professional life. Toastmasters is one important avenue which we join to pursue and enhance communication and leadership skills.



On August 20th, 2014, at the Toastmasters International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, I sat listening to the Keynote Speaker Robin Sieger. After a few minutes one thing was clear, this was not just another speech on motivation or inspiration. The core concept forwarded by Mr. Sieger is that each one of us, as an individual human, is a **"Natural Born Winner."** But -- the inherent -- the automatic levels of self-confidence and belief which we possess as a child are often lost as we grow into adults. Mr. Sieger's remarkable insights were aimed at restoring the "Natural Born Winner" inside each of us. His genuine attempt with words and actions was to make us aware of our own unique capabilities and to encourage us to follow the purpose of our existence in this world.

The "purpose" in his mind was "not the sum total of what people wear, what car they drive or how much money they have—It is also not what you believe spiritually. This is rather a deeper sense of purpose and does not come from external factors, it comes from within." He reminds us that each one of us has a timeless, eternal spirit which is the essence of our being and part of the universe. Each one of us is a unique individual with a unique opportunity, so don't waste this opportunity in your life due to fear of future failures or past regrets.

What resonated with me listening to Mr. Sieger's speech was to have a self-belief, a purpose, confidence and no fear of failure in life. I have heard the above concepts in bits and pieces before in life, but Mr. Sieger connected the dots effectively with great wisdom and humility. Likewise, I would hope that each one of us – and my fellow Toastmasters in District 8 – will rediscover their ability to succeed in our professional and personal goals, we all are "Natural Born Winners."

Officers Training: Many thanks to all District 8 Division Governors, Area Governors and Toastmasters embarking upon the journey of offering training and getting trained for their respective officer roles. Sixteen clubs had all seven officers trained. Kudos to these clubs, they are half way to getting the incentive award if they repeat this accomplishment in the second round of training. Ten clubs had six officers trained, 27 clubs had five officers trained and 13 clubs had four officers trained. They all earn their DCP credit for first round of training this year.

District Contest: All Divisions and Areas have scheduled their Fall contests and are conducting them. We expect to have some strong candidates for our District contest finals at the Fall conference.

District Fall Conference: Our conference theme is "The Anthology of Toastmasters." It is part of the celebration of the Ninety years of Toastmasters and will be a great conference with engaging educational sessions and theme related fun activities. Please read and share the details about the upcoming conference in the newsletter and on the District's Website. ☀

**Jacquie Vick, DTM**

Lieutenant Governor Marketing

EMAIL: LGM@dist8tm.org



Despite the growth of the online social networks, it remains critically important to define and understand influencers based on the influence they spread offline, in the real world. This is where the preponderance of word-of-mouth and of social influence still takes place.

~~Ed Keller~~

At the 2014 Toastmasters International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I sat in the audience and watched as international and domestic district governors (along their entourage of members) rushed to the stage to accept awards for President's Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or Distinguished Districts (District 94, District 85, District 1, District 31, etc.) District 8 was not called and I wondered what prevented us from being called to the stage?

In order for us to achieve our district's goals, we have to know where we are. So, "standing is our truth," here is why we were not a distinguished district for the 2013-2014 Toastmasters year.

2.08 Percent Membership Growth

- Mature district and more than a third of the district is in rural areas
- Corporations downsizing resulting in loss of members
- Late membership renewals

Challenge: New members and member retention

Solution: Toastmaster influences (advocates) spread the word! Invite family, friends and co-workers to visit/join your club. If a Toastmaster is downsized, invite them to continue and grow in your club. Just imagine if every club retained its members and grew its membership by eight, our membership numbers would explode!

Clubs at Charter Strength

- 33 out of 107 clubs have fewer than 12 members
- Five clubs have five or less members
- Fact: The district will lose clubs and we will need to replace those clubs.

Challenge: At risk clubs and low membership

Solution: Volunteers to serve as a coach for at risk clubs, participants for demonstration meetings and mentors for newly formed clubs

Distinguished Club Plans

45 out of 107 clubs were distinguished

- 18 President's Distinguished
- 15 Select Distinguished
- 12 Distinguished

Challenge: Club participation in the DCP

Solution: All clubs follow guidelines for the club's success plan. Currently, not all clubs participate. Achieve a minimum of five points and the club reaches distinguished status. Two points are easily obtained by making sure a minimum of four officers are trained twice a year at TLI, submit officers list on time, and all members pay membership dues before or by September 30 and again, March 31 of each year.

Be a proactive member of the district. Do not let another year go by without reaching out to help grow the district.

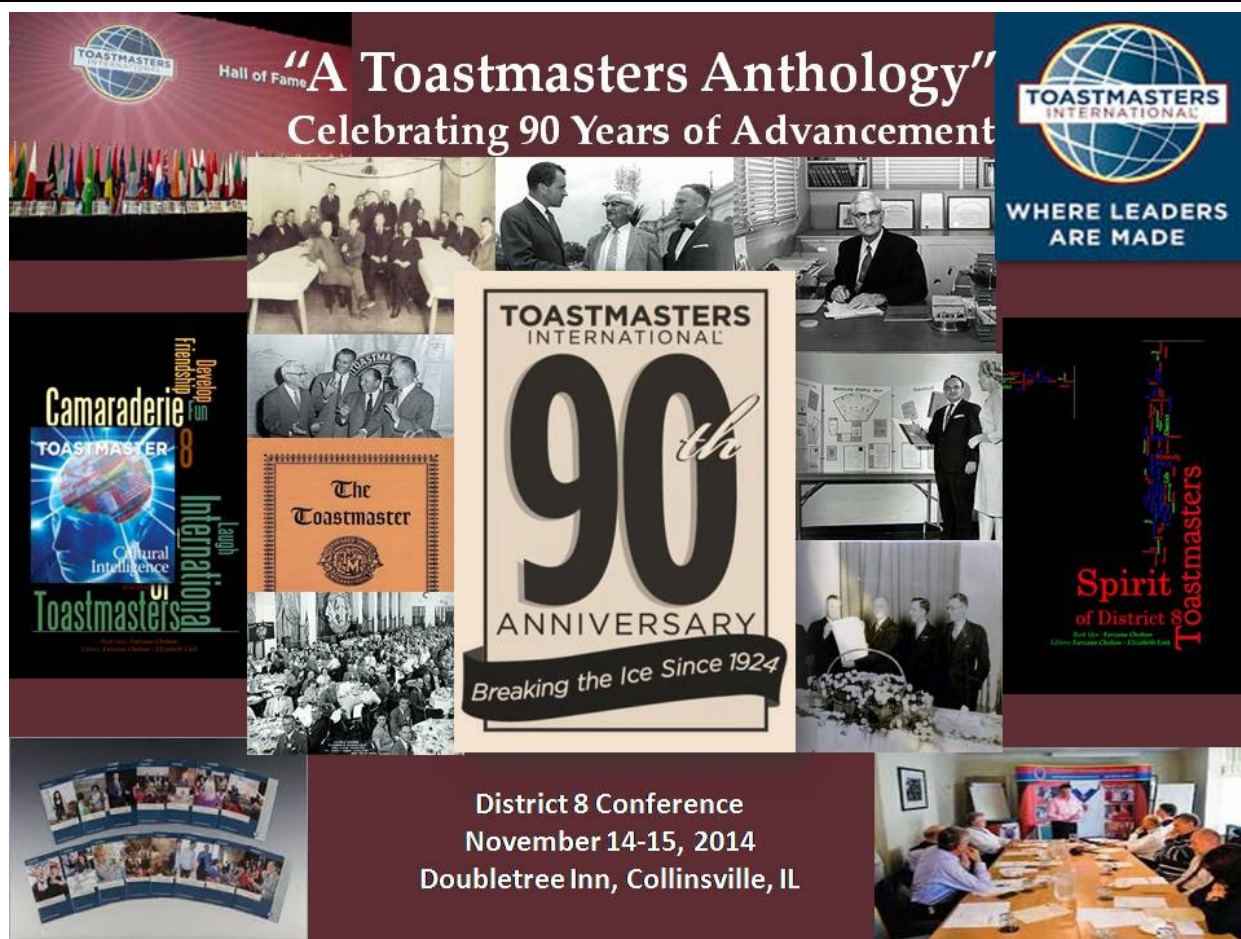
Be a significant member of your club. What is done on the club level affects the area. When the clubs are successful, the area is successful. When the areas are successful, the division is successful. When the divisions are successful, the district is successful.

Ok, so you're probably wondering about the district's performance record to date. After all, together this is how we will monitor the district's progress:

By the end of the Toastmasters' year the district must exceed our base with new clubs by four, six, or nine to be distinguished.

Paid Clubs	
Base	To Date
106	108
Goals	
Distinguished 110	
Select Distinguished 112	
President's Distinguished 115	

(Continued on page 10)



A TOASTMASTER'S ANTHOLOGY by Tom Gillard, Conference Chair

"Upon those who step into the same rivers flow other and yet other waters. All things are in flux ... like a river." Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher who pre-dated Plato, is credited with the aforementioned quote. However, to many, he is better known for the quote, *"The only thing that is constant is change."* In 1924, what began as a meeting at the local YMCA focusing on improving speech, 90 years later, has grown into an international organization. While many things have changed in 90 years, one thing remaining constant is the foundation Dr. Ralph Smedley established for Toastmasters International. As long as Toastmasters remains true to its origins and responsive to the changes in its environment, it will continue to prosper into the future.

The theme for this year's Fall Conference is, "A Toastmaster's Anthology. Celebrating 90 years of Advancement." The word anthology is taken from the Greek word *anthologia* meaning a collection of flowers. It was later used to describe a collection of short stories, poems, songs or plays which is consistent with its modern usage. I cannot think of a better word to describe what

Toastmasters International is all about. We are a collection of individuals, each with a unique story, whose talents come together to produce a work of art. Every week, the art of Toastmasters is on display at local club meetings. Through different events throughout the year such as TLI, Area and Division contests, we showcase and cultivate the artwork of each individual culminating in the Fall and Spring Contests.

It is my sincerest desire that you will attend this year's Fall Conference being held in Collinsville, IL and be part of, "A Toastmaster's Anthology, Celebrating 90 years of Advancement". It will be a time when we will remember the past, reflect on the present, and focus on relevancy for the future. Toastmasters has stood the test of time, in part, because it has remained true to its origins, and because it has remained responsive to the ever-changing environment in which it exists. Even though all things are in flux...like a river, your piece of the anthology is a constant and essential to our relevancy for the future and 90 more years of empowering individuals to becoming more effective communicators and leaders. ☀



Club Information

Club Number

Contact Phone

Contact email address

Total

Before 10/31/14 / After 10/31/14: \$45 / \$75 \$

\$

For the Conference: Make checks payable to “**District 8 Toastmasters**” and send with form by U.S. mail to: **Tim Spezia, 5037 Reynosa Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128.** 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 Doubletree Inn at 618-345-2800 or fax 681-345-9804. Ask for the District 8 Toastmasters' room rate of \$89 per night (single/double occupancy) available until **Saturday November 1, 2014.**

[illegible]



2014 District 8
Fall Conference Registration Form
Friday, November 14 & Saturday, November 15
A Toastmasters Anthology

Main Conference Attendee Information		
Last Name	First Name	MI
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	
Did you register with a club? (Check One) Yes Club# _____ No (Pay Registration Fee)		

Full Registration Includes four meals, (Friday Buffet Dinner, Saturday Continental Breakfast, Saturday Lunch Buffet and Banquet Dinner), registration fee, and both contests. Registration Fee includes keynote address and education sessions.	Qty	Subtotal
Per Attendee (until 10/31 / after 10/31): \$100 / \$130		\$



A La Carte Meals Only. Prices Per Person	Qty	Subtotal
Friday Evening Buffet (\$30 until 10/31; \$35 after 10/31)		\$
Saturday Continental Breakfast (\$10 until 10/31; \$15 after 10/31)		\$
Saturday Lunch (\$20 until 10/31; \$25 after 10/31)		\$
Saturday Dinner (\$30 until 10/31; \$35 after 10/31)		\$
A La Carte Educational Sessions & Contests Only Prices Per Person (No Meals)		
Registration Fee (\$15 until 10/31; \$25 after 10/31 **Paid by all who did not register with club**		\$
Friday Contest (\$5 each)		\$
Saturday Contest (\$5 each)		\$
Total Amount		\$

Meal Options				
Saturday Dinner: Check one option. For special dietary needs, please email conference@dist8tm.org	Beef Sirloin	Chicken Breast w/ roasted shallot demi-glace	Vegetarian	Special Diet

Payment Information
For the Conference: Make checks payable to "District 8 Toastmasters" and send with form by U.S. mail to: Tim Spezia, 5037 Reynosa Dr., St. Louis, MO. 63128 For credit card payments, send this form to conference@dist8tm.org . An invoice will be emailed to you for payment. <i>Payment covers conference costs. If you want to stay at the hotel, please make your arrangements and separate payment early.</i>
For Hotel Reservations: Call Doubletree Inn at 618-345-2800 or fax 681-345-9804 Ask for the District 8 Toastmasters' room rate of \$89 per night (single/double occupancy) available until Monday November 1, 2014 . Image credits: Toastmasters International.



District 8 Proxy

Dear District 8 Club Presidents and Club VPEs

The manual: *"When You Are the President/ Vice President Education"* describes the following standards more fully and explains how to carry them out.

Outside the Club Meeting:

- Attend and vote club's proxy at district council meetings or authorize a club member to do so.

District 8 Credential/Proxy Certificate

District Council Meeting – Saturday 11/15/14

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 1000 Eastport Plaza Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234

7:30 am Credentials Desk Opens

10:00 am 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.

Credential or Proxy Certificate (Date) _____

[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



District 8 Members Earn Education & Leadership Awards from 7/1/2014 to 9/12/2014



Division A

DSAGSL WORD Masters

- Suelmann, Andrew—CC

Franklin County Toastmasters

- Goss, Megan—CC

Jeffco Challengers Club

- Link, Elizabeth M.—ALS
- Lifka, Rich R.—ACB

Marion VA Toastmasters

- Toms, Larry L.—CC

Maritz Toastmasters

- Eiswirth, Erik—CL
- Erdogdu, Evrim—CL
- Obert, Jason A.—ALS
- Baer, Jill C—CL

Mastertoasters Club

- Phillips, Gregory S.—ACS

South County

Toastmasters Club

- Hunter, Patrick K—CC
- Kiser, George Art—ACB
- Gopal, Shreya—ACS

Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Ayers, Alan D.—ALS
- Ayers, Alan D.—DTM
- Jackson, Will R.—CC

SPEAK UP! Club

- Creamer, Steve—CC

UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Holstein, Sheryl—ACS
- Barton, Glenda—CL
- Bell, Wayne R.—CL

Webster Groves

Toastmasters

- Moore, Sidney M.—ACB
- Vaught, Daniel A.—CC
- Taylor, Joseph D.—CL
- Kironyo, Kironyo—CC

West County Club

- Kincade, David—CC

WORD Masters

- Greenwell, Daniel E.—CC
- Roth, Christa Denise—CL

Division B

Aerospace Orators Club

- Ikeda, Yutaka—ALB

Bulls & Bears Club

- Larm, Tom M.—ACB

Cave Springs

Toastmasters

- Burrus, George K.—CC
- Burrus, George K.—CL
- Walker, Karen Kaye—ALB
- Gartner, Tony—CC
- Dreher, Elaine—CC

Creve Coeur

Toastmasters Club

- Liu, Jennifer J—CC

Monsanto Noontime TM

- Saminathan, Saravanakumar—ACB
- Monken, Joshua A—ALB
- Schmittgens, Susan M—CC
- Oey, Muryadi—CL

M-Powered Speakers

- Morrison, Pam—CC

Plus Factor Club

- Blue, Willie E.—CC
- Soni, Deepak—CC

River City Toastmasters Club

- Burton, Cheryl A.—ACB
- Doyle, John M.—CC

Shalom Church

Toastmasters

- Johnson, Rashawn J—CC
- Troy, Donna R.—ACB

Speak Out

- Green, Aimee—CC

St Charles County

Toastmasters

- Tucker, Dawn Stone—CL

Toast On the Rock

- Rieffe, Harmony C.—CC

Triton Toastmasters

- Gossen, Ron—ACS
- Taylor, Lawrence—CC
- Gossen, Ron—CL
- McEndarfer, Melinda—CL

WelDon Toast Club

- Darnall, Daniel A.—LDREXC

Division C

Fairview Heights

Toastmasters

- Sills, Bill G—CC

McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Filla, Dan—LDREXC
- Filla, Dan—ALS
- Filla, Dan—DTM

Montgomery County TM

- Brown, Cindy A—CC

O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Lambert, Warren Jay—CC

Smedley Hometown

Memorial TM

- Kincade, David—CL

St Clair Club

- Koester, Herman—CC

Division E

Alpha Toastmasters

- Threadgill, Eric—CL
- Dyal, Kevin—CL
- Threadgill, Eric—CC
- Dyal, Kevin—CC
- Loschiavo, Aldano—CL

Callaway Community

- Goto, Yuki—CC

Columbia Toastmasters

- Kreigh, Ralph E.—ALS
- Kreigh, Ralph E.—ACG
- Kreigh, Ralph E.—DTM
- Reese, Alice—CL
- Dinalankara, Randima—ALB

Cuba Communicators

- Queen, Joann K.—CC

Downtown Toastmasters

- Britt, Leigh C.—ALS
- Britt, Leigh C.—DTM

Fort Leonard Wood Club

- Allen, Edward R.—ALS

Missouri U. of Science & Technology

- Clark, Kevin L.—ACB

Shelter Insurance Toastmasters

- Martindale, Don E—ACS
- Talu Toastmasters Club
- Harris, Calvin Lee—ACB

Division F

Anheuser-Busch Club

- Devereaux, Sean—CL
- Eulberg, Joseph J.—CL

BJC Toastmasters

- Feld, Kristi—CL
- Feld, Kristi—ACB
- Hubbard, Harriett J—CC

F.R.B. Club

- Harris-England, Holly K.—CL

Jacobs P3

- Wisbey, Mark B.—CC

MAC Toastmasters Club

- Suelflow, Nancy—ALS
- Suelflow, Nancy—DTM

Rent-A-Toast Club

- Berri, Kathy—ACB

RubinBrown

- Pyrauk, Shyam—LDREXC

Speaking of US

- Alderton, Benjamin W.—CC
- Alderton, Benjamin W.—CL

Toast of SLU

- Seitz, Emily Ann—ACB

ToastUS

- Washington, Rodlann D.—CC

Voices in Unity Club

- Canup, Shirle—CC
- Payne, Stephanie M—ACB
- Chapman, Jerry—ALS
- Chapman, Jerry—DTM

Welcome—Toast of the Fleet!

By Jacquie Vick, LGM

Toast of the Fleet, the district's newest Toastmasters club and the fourth club to form out of Enterprise!

On Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, Toast of the Fleet (#04209498) chartered with 21 new members and one dual member, Heather Obrecht, who is one of the club's sponsor.

Heather, a member of Rent-A-Toast, resumed her quest to start a Toastmasters club at the Enterprise Fleet Management location in early July and scheduled a demonstration meeting for Thursday, July 31st. With approximately 50 employees in attendance, the Division B and trio demonstration team (Cheryl Burton, Farzana Chohan, Ron Gossen, Sandy Kardis, Heather Obrecht, Brenda Pastel, Patsy Tyrrell, and I) engaged the audience with the benefits and professional value add of being a member of Toastmasters. By the end of the meeting, approximately 11 applications were collected.

Fast forward, the next meeting date was set and the club's assigned mentors (Lisa Cooksey-Cannon and Howard Price) were in place. The now Toastmasters members, participated fully in the meeting, filling all functionary roles. Today, Toast of the Fleet (like Rent-A-Toast, WelDone Toastmasters, and Toast on the Rock) is a fully functioning Toastmasters club, located in Division B, Carol Steinbach; Area 3, Ron Gossen.

Toastmasters, join me in welcoming Toast of the Fleet to the Toastmasters family! Thank you Enterprise for valuing the benefits of Toastmasters! ☀



Congratulations to Toast of WU—Washington University's New Club on their "Charter Party" September 16, 2014

Our next issue will include more about this event.

(Continued from page 4)

By the end of the Toastmasters year, club dues must exceed our base payment of \$4,480 (see chart to right).

By the end of the Toastmasters year, the numbers in the chart below reveals the number of clubs that must be distinguished.

Distinguished Clubs	
Base	To Date
106	0
Goals	
Distinguished—43	
Select Distinguished—48	
President's Distinguished—53	

Now that the district has submitted the two qualifying requirements (Division and Area Governor Training Report and the District's Success Plan) to participate in the Distinguished District Program to

Payments	
Base	To Date
4,480	825
Goals	
Distinguished—\$4,615	
Select Distinguished—\$4,704	
President's Distinguished—\$4,839	

World Headquarters, it is up to all of us to meet the goals listed in the charts.

Taffy Cobb, club extension chair and I along with the leadership team will work to grow the district by creating new clubs and building brand awareness. Look for promotional items, such as decals to display in car windows and bookmarks and pens that will be distributed at demonstration meetings and more. This is just the beginning, so join us.

Be an influencer, bring in new members, provide club leads, and use your expertise to encourage and support fellow members and clubs. Let's aim high and speak into existence ... District 8—PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED at the 2015 Toastmasters International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada! ☀

Excellence in Education and Training Award

By Sandy Kardis, DTM, DG

On August 21, during the Hall of Fame ceremony at the 2014 Toastmasters International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I was presented with the Excellence in Education and Training Award by George Yen, DTM, 2013–2014 International President. This award recognizes a district's success in promoting outstanding educational programming in clubs, and is awarded to lieutenant governors in education and training for meeting Distinguished District Program goals in training and achieving distinguished clubs equal to at least 40% of the district's club base. Our district club base was 111. We achieved 40% with 45 clubs. Throughout the year, I monitored club membership and DCP goals. In early May, I reached out to a number of club presidents and VPEs to encourage them to earn the needed membership requirement and/or complete the needed communication and/or leadership awards. Thank you and Congratulations to all 45 clubs!! You will be recognized at the District 2014 Fall Conference.

Every member who earns an education and/or leadership award experiences the personal growth that only Toastmasters International can provide. Membership growth, club growth, and an increased focus on distinguished clubs are all key factors in making Toastmasters International reach its mission of empowering individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. ☀

A few photos from the Toastmasters International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



(Continued from page 1)

audience of over a thousand people during the semifinals at the [83rd Annual Toastmasters International Convention](#) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia... in my non-native language, English.

When I first joined Toastmasters I had a serious problem with nervousness; I would just clutch the lectern. Even after two years of practice, I had butterflies in my stomach. There were more than a thousand people in the room. But, my mom was one of them and that gave me some confidence. The competition was on a totally different scale. I was happy to secure third place, and I decided to try again in the future.

When I look back at my journey, there are many things that I gained: I got a free trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I got a chance to meet new and interesting people, including former world champions. And, I was one of the few thousand people who watched the World Championship Public Speaking live.

I also learned one important lesson. Whenever someone has a problem, do not offer excuses. Instead tell them, "Don't worry, I am here to help."

Credits to all past and current members of Ozark Orators #1056 ☀



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Jacquie Vick, LGM
3039 Autumn Shores Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Editor: Joann York, ACS, ALS
E-mail: j_york71@hotmail.com

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

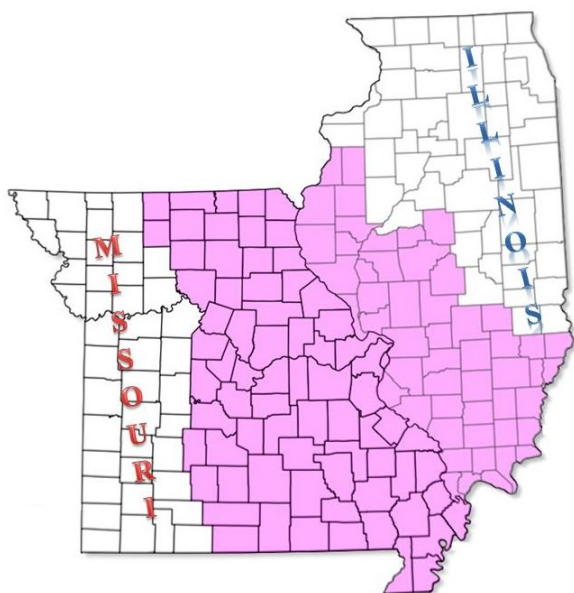
District 8 is on the web.

www.dist8tm.org

**WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE**

The Mission of District 8

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



District 8 Calendar

Sat. Oct. 18 Division F Contest

Briefings 9:00 am Prairie Commons Library
Contests 9:30 am 915 Utz Ln., Hazelwood, MO 63042

Sat. Oct. 25 Division B Contest

Briefings 9:30 am St Louis County Library—Bridgeton Trails
Contest 10:00 am 3455 McKelvey Rd., Bridgeton, MO 63044

Sat. Oct. 25 Division C Contest

Briefings 9:30 am New Christian Fellowship Church
Contest 10:00 am 10090 Old Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

Thurs. Oct 30 Division A Contest

Briefings 6:15 pm St Louis County Library—Oak Bend Branch
Contests 6:30 pm 842 S. Holmes Ave., St Louis, MO 63122

Sat. Nov. 8 Division E Contest

Briefings 10:15 am Coca-Cola Community Center
Contest 10:30 am 605 Washington St., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Nov 14-15 Fall District 8 Conference

Doubletree by Hilton

1000 Eastport Plaza Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234

Saturday, Dec. 6 Communic~8 Issue 3 Submit Deadline

Saturday, Feb. 21 Communic~8 Issue 4 Submit Deadline

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