



DEEP: DISTRICT EIGHT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

# Congratulations! District 8 is Distinguished!

Farzana Chohan – DTM – District Director, District 8

## Thrilling ride to a finish line

As the TM year 2015-2016 draws to an end, last few weeks have been thrilling for District 8, including fellow Toastmasters, club officers, Area Directors, Division Directors and leadership team. A constant monitoring and coordinating to help last few clubs to put in memberships and educational credits have been a roller coaster ride. Interestingly, all the Districts around the world are on the same journey, which makes it longer for TI to keep up with all the updates on dashboard. At the end, we did strike a home run!

District 8 will be recognized in Washington DC at Toastmasters International Convention on August 19<sup>th</sup> during Hall of Fame Ceremony. The Distinguished District Program recognizes districts that meet TI's

goals in club growth, membership and educational achievement.

**Fellow D8 Toastmasters, Congratulations! To each one of you! for working on your goals and making to a Distinguished District on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, that is Diamond jubilee of District 8!**

## District 8, It is time to Celebrate your Success!

Synopsis: This recognition program is for district leaders to focus on increasing membership, forming new clubs and ensuring clubs are meeting the needs of their members and providing them the intended value of the program. Success in the Distinguished District Program is derived from focus on the member.

Every district that meets recognition program prerequisites and goals may become a Distinguished, Select Distinguished or President's Distinguished district. The program is designed so that earning recognition is based on performance, not district size.

# 2015-2016 Distinguished District 8! Congratulations!

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**Fellow District 8 Members, it is an honor to be part of your team on a leadership journey and serve as a District Director of District 8, Toastmasters International.**

Each one of your support, made it a good year for District 8. District had added 12 new clubs, as we finish this year on Jun 30, 2016.

**The vision for this year was set as DEEP - District Eight (8) Enhancement Program. The goal was "to enhance the Visibility of District 8 in region".**

Our efforts in following "DEEP" for this TM year has been successful.

This was a very significant year for our District, as it happens only once in 75 years that a District gets to celebrate its 75th birthday. District is proud to be of that Diamond age, as it marks the positive contribution, character and strength of District 8 members in helping the Toastmasters International grow throughout the world in its 90-year history.

We celebrated "D8 Diamond Jubilee" through historical exhibit at our conferences and leadership Institutes and recognizing the Past District Governors of District.

We organized workshop with world champion of Public Speaking Mark Brown. Before that we conducted workshop for developing contest speeches and marketing campaigns.

Now, let us look at some numbers. Toastmasters International's 3 goals set for all Districts in the organization are: Paid Clubs, Member Payments and Distinguished Clubs. Within each of these 3 goals each District has the

## District Director's Message

opportunity to be recognized as Distinguished, Select Distinguished or President Distinguished. Each of these levels have specific requirements for recognition just as clubs, areas and divisions. A District can earn a different level within each of the 3 major goals, but the status has to be the same across all three major goals to receive recognition by Toastmasters International. the requirement for a District to be Distinguished, Select Distinguished or President Distinguished is a specific number determined by Toastmasters International for all 3 levels of all 3 major goals. This recognition is not won but is earned because of a District's members and leaders.

At this point, District 8 has earned a Distinguished Status after a nail biting finish. We are already recognized for Member payments as Select Distinguished for 2015-2016.

At the time of this article, we have 110 paid clubs, 4,587 member payments and 45 Distinguished Clubs.

It has been a great journey as member of a district leadership team. Since last many years, have played leadership roles from Public Relation officer to Lt. Governor Education and Training and a very first District Director of D8.

I have tremendously enjoyed these years, while making friends with fellow Toastmasters with whom I have met and worked. Members within the clubs I visited, new clubs, the clubs I mentored, the TLI and conference co-chairs, this year's District Executive Committee, and the clubs in which I had membership and have membership.



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I am honored for the encouragement of PID Chuck Carpenter, First Vice President Balraj Arunasalam, Region 5 International Director Magnus, Don Bittick, Region 5 Advisor, Steve Grant, PDG D40, Past District Governors of District 8, Mary Kerwin, Cindy Larm, Tony Gartner, Tom Coscia, Dan Darnall, Curtis Scroggins, Tim Spezia, Lora Mather, and Kat Mokriakow.

I would like to extend my very best wishes to our newly elected officers, Lora Mather, Kat Mokriakow and Elaine Curry for the 2016 – 2017 Toastmasters year.

**Don't forget, to, at least tell people who cross your path, about the value of being a Toastmasters. Why? so that they can start the journey of professional and personal development, like yourself!**

**Continue to strive for better as you deserve it!**

# Club Growth Director's Message

## District 8 Has a Stellar Ending for Membership and Growth.

As we started this year, I wrote that I was looking forward to a stellar year. I am happy to say that it has been that and more. The district has taken great strides in strengthening their core and building clubs that will last a lifetime. We added twelve new clubs this Toastmasters year and each one is unique and brings their own personal culture for learning and growing to District 8. Each one is an enhancement and I was privileged in being a part of their beginnings. I am also happy to share that many existing clubs are not only building their membership, but they are also developing a good quality program within their club setting. As clubs progress through the club evaluation process, set up for themselves that structure of learning and personal growth, they will realize guests who attend their meetings will be attracted to the excitement and want to be a part. I am asking clubs to complete the Moments of Truth Evaluation designed by Toastmasters International at least once per year.

As Club Growth Director, I hosted for the first time ever that I know in the history of District 8-a total of four separate Membership Growth Workshops. For those who attended I hope you were encouraged, learned a few things, and were able to bring a thing or two back to your clubs to put you on the right track for success. I

also personally visited many clubs around the district and will continue to visit others as time permits.

There are many members that has stayed true to the course and maintained their membership and kept their attendance commitment to their club, some way beyond what is expected of them. Without you, many clubs would not be meeting. You truly hold the club together time after time. To all those members who went the distance: as the Club Growth Director, I say thank you.

As I move into the next position of Program Quality Director, even though I will continue to keep the focus of Club Quality, my attention shifts to training and education. I will be promoting the Triple Crown Award and will be hosting a variety of workshop. More to come as the Toastmasters year clicks over and the new term begins. I am looking for volunteers from individuals to serve at functions throughout the year. Even if you have not done any of it before or even if you are new, you are welcome to volunteer. If we have many people step forward, no one will have to take the lion's share of the responsibility.



**Kat Mokriakow – DTM**  
Club Growth Director  
Program Quality Director - Elect

I am wrapping up this article to let you know that District 8 has achieved its goals for Club Growth and Membership Payments. This means that we had very little club loss and had a net growth of new clubs. It also means that many of the existing clubs either retained their members or increased their membership substantially. That shows District 8 is growing and becoming stronger as a result. I had the honor to work with a few clubs that put forth extra effort to ensure their club stayed active. Through this effort their club was not only saved, but is thriving.

**Thanks so much District 8 members for making this a Stellar 2015 – 2016 Year.**



# Don Marsh

receives

## Communication and Leadership Award

### Toastmasters International

by Rebecca Olson

At the 75th Anniversary Spring Conference, the gala dinner was about to begin. The dignitaries from the District 8 Leadership Team entered the room as they were announced by the Logistics Manager, and took their places at the head table. Then, Don Marsh and his wife Julie Marsh we announced and entered the room.

District Director Farzana Chohan, presented broadcast journalist and broadcaster Don Marsh with the Communication and Leadership Award, which is presented to a person in the community who is an outstanding communicator and leader in their field.

Don Marsh is a popular radio show host of “St. Louis on the Air” on station KWMU. He has broadcast the show since

2005, making an impact by bringing intelligent discussion into the cars, homes and workplaces in our community.

Don spoke of his many interesting adventures in his 55 year career, entertaining the audience of about 150 toastmasters at the dinner.

Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development. Our membership is more than 332,000 memberships. Members improve their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 15,400 clubs in 135 countries that make up our global network of meeting locations.



# Appreciation Awards presented to, Past District Governors,

District 8 - Toastmasters International: Spring Conference May 07, 2016

by Farzana Chohan - DTM



1. Dan Darnall – PDG
2. Tom Coscia – PDG
3. Cindy Larm – PDG
4. Tim Spezia – PDG
5. Barbara Kryvko
6. Chuck Carpenter – PID – PDG
7. Curtis Scroggins – PDG
8. Fly Westemier – PDG
9. Mary Kerwin – PDG
10. Lora Mather – PDG
11. Sandy Kardis - PDG

## District 8 Champion of Public Speaking

### Dhanuja Singh

by Farzana Chohan

#### Semifinalist at World Champion of Public Speaking in Washington DC's Toastmasters International Convention

This year's Champion of District 8 Public Speaking, Dhanuja Singh has earned a **distinctive honor**, as she won both the Evaluation Speech contest and International Speech Contest on Friday and Saturday respectively. The feat which is hard to do at the same time.

The unassuming persona of Dhanuja Singh cannot be taken for granted. She is objective, articulated and speak from her heart. At the Evaluation of John Mohr's pattern speech about "Rose" and how he was inspired to support and promote women, specifically in Science and Technology, she and all of her fellow contestants gave a poignant evaluation.

An interesting coincidence was that all five contestants

were women and that spoke about the changing dynamics of gender in this world. Dhanuja won Evaluation contest on Friday night.

On Saturday, just like Friday, it was a tough contest between five winners from five Divisions of District 8. Each contestant gave a great speech which was inspiring. Dhanuja Singh won with her story about fixing the hurdles in life.

She articulated her speech with combination of hope and despair and how each one of us can succeed.

**Congratulations to District 8 Champion of Public Speaking! Dhanuja Singh**





# Amazing Evening with Mark Brown

by Farzana Chohan – DTM

It was an amazing evening for District 8 with 1995 World Champion of Public Speaking, Mark Brown!

He was inspiring, full of tips and suggestions for aspiring speakers of District 8. He shared his journey with humble honesty. He connected with audience at a personal level.

District 8 invited Mark to inspire fellow Toastmasters on their journey to speech contests and how thrilling the ride is. Sitting in the front row was PDG Mary Kerwin remembers the moment just like yesterday, when Mark won the title of "World Champion of Public Speaking" and every one ran up to stage and had a picture with him. Indeed, Mary had a picture with him as well just like 1995.

The audience included the District 8 Champions, aspiring speakers and Toastmasters, who wanted to hear and see the champion himself. It was a standing room event with over 90 members who attended the event, some of them drove for 2 hours one way on a week night and some arrived an hour earlier from Illinois and Missouri, to beat the rain and traffic. Kudos! to all D8 members, Lora, David and Webster University students. Thank you Mark, for making it memorable for D8!



# 2015-2016 Distinguished District 8! Congratulations!

Divisions: A, B, C, E, F

**Fall Conference**  
November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
Columbia, MO  
Save The Date  
Look For Exciting Details Soon!

