



# DISTRICT 8

# Communic~8

## District 8 Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 4

Communic~8

April 2018

### **Make the District 8 Spring Conference your *Pathway for Success***

*Jeanette M. Lynch, Conference Chair*

Do you know where you need to be May 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>? You need to be at the Holiday Inn in Earth City, Missouri, located between highways 270/70 and route 141. This convenient site of the spring conference will showcase new activities along with some of the favorite, traditional ones. We are fortunate to have an International Director, Don Bittick, for our keynote address, and are actively seeking subject matter experts on podcasting and other skills associated with the new Pathways educational program.

Even the meals follow the Pathways theme! In lieu of long, buffet lines, Friday night's dinner and Saturday's lunch will feature build-your-own-plate food stations. These will be "paths" offering made-from-scratch yummys to delight vegetarians and meat lovers alike.

Friday night's food stations feature "*A Taste of Italy*" - linguine, rigatoni, bread, salad, all beef meatballs and zabaglione, an Italian dessert of fruit and cream. In addition to the feasting, Friday evening will be packed with fun events, including the District-level evaluation contest.

Book a room for the incredible low price of \$99 plus tax/fees and enjoy a complimentary breakfast the next morning, or hop down to the Hospitality Room for some munchies before attending the Candidates' Corner and the Council meeting Saturday morning. It is election time, so voting on the vital district leadership positions and initiatives are on the agenda - be there to be heard!

Lunch offers you "*The Corner Deli*" - food stations of soups, sandwiches, salads, and sides for meat lovers and vegetable lovers. This is also when you will hear the keynote address from our International Director, Don Bittick, and where we will recognize the outstanding achievements of our fellow Toastmasters and clubs.

From there you will have your choice of professional development activities before we reconvene for a special educational activity presented by our International Director. Immediately following will be additional educational activities to choose from - paving the way for your own Pathway for Success. We are gathering ideas for programming so if you have a topic idea or want to be considered for a presenter or facilitator position, email [conference@dist8tm.org](mailto:conference@dist8tm.org).

Saturday night's dinner will be the traditional sit-down banquet with three entrees to select from: roast beef simmering in mushroom sauce with red potatoes and seasonal vegetables, seared chicken breast in the chef's special reduction glaze with parsley mashed potatoes and rosemary sweet corn, or the meatless option - stuffed bell pepper with rice, squash and other seasonal vegetables. Of course, all include a salad and dessert. When you are done dining, it's time to hold the most significant contest of all, the International Speech Contest! Hear the best of the District speakers. Then it's time to recognize the best of the District Toastmasters - our new and current DTMs!

Make a weekend out of the event. May offers the best weather and you are minutes away from the casinos, Olde Towne St. Charles with its cobblestone streets and boutique shops - or jump on 270 or 70 to go anywhere in the St. Louis/St. Charles metro areas! There is even a special Toastmasters event at the World Bird Sanctuary on Sunday. If you just want to hang out at the hotel after the conference, enjoy the indoor swimming pool, fitness center, and lounge.

Catch up with your favorite Toastmasters from around the district and make new friends along the way. Enjoy new educational topics and dining options and the traditional activities as well—and do it all with the heavily discounted Early Bird conference price of \$85! This is less than recent conferences, so don't delay—those who purchase the Early Bird Full Conference Package not only get a great price, but are also entered into the raffle for a Keurig™ coffee maker. Complete your registration form available in this issue and at [www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org) and watch for more details on the educational and fun activities that can be part of your Pathway for Success.



# Toastmasters Fun Day Picnic at World Bird Sanctuary

Sunday, May 20th, 2018  
12:30pm



Free! (Please bring a potluck dish to share.)

**PARTY**

What better way to unwind from the spring conference and start wrapping up this Toastmasters year than with a special Fun Day?

Enjoy great food, fresh air, and a very special show with all your favorite Toastmasters friends! As an extra sweet treat, we will have a live raptor program conducted by the fantastic folks at World Bird Sanctuary. Get up close and personal with eagles, hawks, owls, and other special guests, then head to the picnic area for some pecking. Bring your family and friends to scurry across the playground or browse the animal exhibits.

**World Bird Sanctuary**  
**125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road**  
**Valley Park, MO**

## What's Inside This Issue:

Conference Announcement	1	Proxy Form	7
Fun Day Picnic & Competitive Speakers Announcement	2	2018-19 District Leader Candidates	8
District Director Message	3	Working Women Survival Show & Darren LaCroix photos	9
Program Quality Director & Public Relations Manager Messages	4	Education Awards (February 2 to April 13, 2018)	10
Club Growth Director Message	5	Save the Date—TLI	11
Conference Registration Form	6	Note from the Editor	12

Are you interested in being a World Champion Speaker?

Want to learn what criteria judges use during contests?

Want to have an opportunity to practice champion speeches?

Join  
**COMPETITIVE SPEAKERS STL Club**

Sports Cafe  
3579 Pennridge Dr.  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Phone: 314-659-9119

[mrjohnbarry@msn.com](mailto:mrjohnbarry@msn.com)

**From the District Director...***Kat Mokriakow***Open-minded Changes Help Us Grow**

As the year has progressed, a lot of changes have taken place. The district designed a new website, Pathways rolled out early, and your district leaders invested heavily into marketing. I will be sharing more in a future newsletter about the website and marketing; however I would like to say a few words about Pathways.

**Pathways Educational Program**

As each member hears about Pathways and determines whether or not they will embrace this new educational program, I ask that you at least give it a try. When anything new is presented and we don't fully understand it, our mind tends to avoid or reject it all together. The decision to change to Pathways was not made lightly or overnight. Much thought and testing went into this prior to the organization-wide rollout. Reading feedback on the Toastmasters website, members who are using it are happy with the results. There are more opportunities than ever before to gain skills. The most telling for me is the clearly defined transferrable skills. We can take what we learn in Toastmasters and apply it directly to our career path, whatever that may be!

**State of the District**

It is with great pleasure I am sharing how the district is advancing. Even with experiencing loss of clubs, the areas are bursting at the seams! We are close to rolling out new areas to compensate. I am a witness to some wonderful things happening in our district. The area directors are dedicated to their areas' success, and they are working hard, making sure you get what you need to advance your clubs and be your cheerleaders. The division directors are supporting the area directors and stepping up to assist whenever the occasion calls on them. Members are helping across division lines and getting involved in district-led functions.

To sum it all up, challenges may take you down...however, they shouldn't stop you. The district is developing, creating, and moving forward. You make it all worthwhile. It is my pleasure to be a part of the district leadership where things are happening.



## From the Program Quality Director...



Dear Toastmaster Family,

I can hardly believe we are in the home stretch of this Toastmaster year with only one quarter remaining. We have some exciting things planned for you to conclude this year with achievements of excellence!

My primary responsibility for District 8 as your Program Quality Director was to provide you with quality training, conferences, contests (at all levels club, area, division and district) and support the District Director and Club Growth Director in leading us on our journey of success.

Pathways was rolled out to District 8 in February 2018. This wasn't possible without the diligent and dedicated support of our Chief Ambassador, Dan Darnall, and all the Pathways Guides and Ambassadors that visited your clubs to conduct training and direction on implementing and integrating the new education and leadership model of Toastmasters International.

It has been a pleasure meeting as many of you as I possibly could at your clubs and events. I hope that you have felt some inspiration to persevere and continue to let Toastmasters be a part of your path forward in your professional, personal and community development. Communication and Leadership remain a crucial part of all our lives and Toastmasters can play an instrumental role in helping us do them well. I hope you have been encouraged by your successes this year. Don't stop learning, don't stop trying, and just don't stop!

I look forward to seeing you at the spring conference on May 18 and 19. I am looking forward to the next Toastmaster year and I hope you are as well. Follow your Pathways dreams!

Sincerely,  
Your Pathways advocate and champion,  
*Elaine Curry*

## From the Public Relations Manager...

*Eileen Smith-Murphy*



As we begin to wrap up this Toastmasters year, I'd like to reassure everyone that we are still hard at work developing the District and, hopefully, finding more effective ways to serve our clubs. Here's what we have going on...

### *Making a Group Effort.*

Marketing isn't a one-man job. Far from it. It takes the support and dedication of our members to help grow our district, form new clubs, and attract new members. I'd like to thank everyone who has been active in representing Toastmasters, whether that's organizing an open house, volunteering at one of our events, or supporting District projects, such as Meetup and the magazine distribution.

Kathy Brennan recently took the initiative of registering to set up a booth at a Girl Scouts event in Springfield, Illinois. Reaching out to our youth (and their parents) is a fantastic way to promote Toastmasters! If you hear about any local events that might be a good place to set up a table and hand out pamphlets, by all means go for it!

### *To the Journey: The Challenge to Change*

Ever wanted to give a guest an inside glimpse at the whole Toastmasters experience, including what it can mean to us on a personal level? Now you can. District 8 has produced a free e-book called *To the Journey: The Challenge to Change* that gives an overview of the Toastmasters organization, an analysis of the educational program, and poignant first-hand accounts of how membership can change lives - including the never-before-told full story of my own Toastmasters journey.

The book is available on the District 8 website (look under "Resources" and then "District Publications") in both PDF format for web browsers and EPUB format for e-reader apps and devices.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming spring conference, and at our special Fun Day picnic at World Bird Sanctuary!





**From the Club Growth Director...***James Childress*

Greetings Fellow Toastmasters!

It's hard to believe that we are in the last quarter of the program year. Wow! Time really flies when you are having fun in Toastmasters. The word is getting out about Toastmasters and District 8. Recently, the second Global Membership Campaign (Talk Up Toastmasters) concluded as well as the Open House Promotion. Toastmasters Awareness Week (Did you talk to 10 people?) featured a television interview on the STL Live Television Show by our Academy Award winners Kat Mokriakow and Elaine Curry, digital billboard advertisements, and a direct mail campaign that distributed over 6,300 postcards to the outlier areas of District 8 to create more awareness. District 8 had a booth at the Working Women's Survival Show and later in April the district will have a booth for Earth Day. Coming up in May, there will be a Toastmasters magazine distribution campaign to help generate even more leads.

We need to capitalize on this excitement and turn prospects into new members. One of the biggest reasons why prospects do not become members is a lack of follow-up. There's an old saying in the sales industry: "The Fortune is in the Follow-up." That old saying is so true. There are stories in District 8 of guests attending meetings for months or even years before joining Toastmasters because of diligent follow-up. Some of those guests not only became members, but also progressed in the Toastmasters program to become district leaders. So, you never know how a guest will respond to Toastmasters, if you do not follow-up. The key point to remember when starting the follow-up process is to not become discouraged if a prospect does not sign up right away. The main goal is to educate the prospect about the Toastmasters program so that person can make an informed decision. Sometimes it takes multiple exposures before a decision is made, so it is paramount to setup the next exposure and condense the number of exposures to facilitate a quicker decision.

Before all of this can take place, it is critical to get the prospect's contact information. Surprisingly, not getting the contact information from a prospect happens more often than most people think. Now it's time to follow-up. The initial follow-up takes place before the prospect leaves the event. First, thank the prospect for attending the event and ask the prospect what he/she like best about the Toastmasters program. Ensure that the prospect does not leave without a membership application and some type of brochure or flier. About two days after the event, follow-up with an email and send information about the next meeting along with links to pertinent websites (i.e. club website, Facebook, District 8 website). Feel free to vary the content of the messages. For an example, give a personal testimony about your experiences in Toastmasters, send recaps of club meetings, attach pictures of a member achieving an educational award, or send a copy of a club newsletter. As the time is getting near to the next club meeting or special event, send a reminder to the prospect as a precaution to ensure the guest does not forget to attend. Continue the follow-up process until the prospect becomes a member or tells you personally that he/she is no longer interested. So, let's all commit to becoming better at follow-up, because that's where we'll find our fortune to membership growth.





District 8 Conference of 2018 May 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>  
Holiday Inn – Earth City, Mo



<b>1ST person</b> First Name		MI	Last Name	
Street Address				Apt/Unit #
City/State/Zip Code				
Telephone Number ( )				
TI Designations & current office held if applicable			Club Name & Number	
First Time Attendee?	Email Address			
<b>2ND person</b> First Name		MI	Last Name	
Telephone Number ( )				
TI Designations & current office held if applicable			Club Name/# (if applicable)	
If you are a Toastmaster, is this your 1st conference?		Email Address		
Best Value is Full Registration This includes all educational sessions, all events & contests, all three meals and a chance to win		Full Conference Registration price per person only \$85. until 5/4/18 After 5/4/18: \$105 per person		Qty Total \$
<b>All a Carte Per Person Pricing</b>				Qty Subtotal
Friday's <i>Taste of Italy</i> Dinner Buffet: rigatoni, linguine, bread, salad, optional all-beef meatballs & dessert-- <b>\$32. Early Bird</b> ; \$37 after 5/4, includes contest and evening's activities				\$
Friday's Evaluation Contest-only Seating -- \$6 includes contest seating only				\$
Saturday's International Director's Keynote address & D8 Awards <i>Corner Deli</i> Lunch Buffet for soup & sandwich lovers & vegetarians -- <b>\$20. Early Bird</b> ; \$25 after 5/4, does not include any other activities				\$
Saturday's Educational Sessions -- <b>\$20. Early Bird</b> ; \$25 after 5/4, price is for educational sessions only				\$
Saturday's Banquet Dinner(see selections below) -- <b>\$36. Early Bird</b> ; \$41 after 5/4 includes contest & evening's activities				\$
Saturday's International Speech Contest-only Seating -- \$6 includes contest seating only				\$
Check # _____	Paying by credit card? <u>  </u> if so, email form to <a href="mailto:conference@dist8tm.org">conference@dist8tm.org</a>			TOTAL \$
<b>Saturday Dinner Selections complete this section for full or Saturday evening dinner only registrations</b>				
<b>Saturday Dinner:</b> Indicate meal choice for each full or dinner-only registration by placing the # of dinners in box below the description. Medical dietary needs? Email <a href="mailto:conference@dist8tm.org">conference@dist8tm.org</a> before 5/4	Seared chicken breast in chef's reduction glaze, parsley potatoes, rosemary sweet corn, salad & dessert	Thinly Sliced Roast Beef in Mushroom Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Salad & Dessert	Meatless Stuffed Bell Pepper with Rice and Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Salad & Dessert	
<b>Conference Payment</b>				
Make checks payable to "District 8 Toastmasters" and send check with this form via U.S. mail to: District 8 Toastmasters 5037 Reynosa Dr., St. Louis, Mo 63128. If paying by credit card, email completed form to <a href="mailto:conference@dist8tm.org">conference@dist8tm.org</a> and an invoice will be sent to you. You are only eligible for Early Bird prices and raffle if paid by May 4, 2018. Payment covers conference cost only. Hotel reservations and payment must be made separately.				
<b>Hotel Reservations &amp; Payment</b>				
The Holiday Inn Earth City is at 3400 Rider Trail South, Earth City, Mo 63045. Call (314) 291-6800 for the District 8 Toastmasters rate of \$99* & <b>free breakfast</b> — available only through May 4, 2018. The hotel has an indoor pool, fitness room & other amenities. * Room with 1 king or 2 queen-size beds. Tax & other hotel fees apply.				



**District 8 Proxy Certificate**  
**District Council Meeting**

**For Presidents and Vice Presidents Education**

At the district council business meeting, each club president and vice president education in attendance is entitled to one vote. However, if both officers cannot attend, they may designate, in writing, any other active member of their club to act as proxy for their club. (use form below). No other proxy is 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. Proxy holders or club presidents/VPEs are limited to a maximum of two votes each.

**IF PRESIDENT AND VPE CANNOT ATTEND**

Indicate your duly authorized proxy below (must be an active member of your club):

Name of Proxy Carrier (print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Name & Number you are representing \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Officer Role (president or VPE) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(7:30 am Saturday: Credentials desk opens)**

Holiday Inn Airport West Earth City  
3400 Rider Trail South  
Earth City, MO 63045  
May 19, 2018 9:25 am

## Selecting our next District Leaders



At the District 8 Spring Conference, District Director Kat Mokriakow will preside over the district council meeting. There are many important items to be voted on at this meeting, including the highest ranking officers of the district. Specifically, the council will elect the Trio and all five division directors. Area Directors, Staff Members, and Committee Chairs are appointed by the District Director once elected to office.

Electing our leaders is one of the most important duties of the district council. The council is made up of all club presidents, VPE's of active clubs, and the district executive committee (DEC). Those who are elected have the greatest responsibility for ensuring that District 8 meets its goals and assists other district officers and committees as they perform their duties. Most importantly, those who are elected at the District Council Meeting must support club officers in meeting their member's goals in the coming year.

The District 8 Leadership Committee has voted to slate the following individuals for the ballot that will be distributed at the Spring Conference. Anyone whose name does not appear on the ballot may run from the floor if they wish to be considered for one of these positions.

### Slate of Candidates



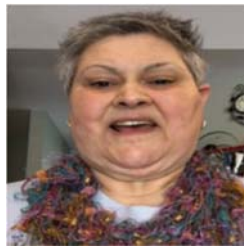
Elaine Curry  
District Director



James Childress  
Program Quality Director



Angie Breinin  
Club Growth Director



Josephine Emde  
Division A Director



Larry Kimbrow  
Division B Director



Ellen Kirchdoerfer  
Division C Director



Theresa Stewart  
Division E Director



Geoff King  
Division F Director

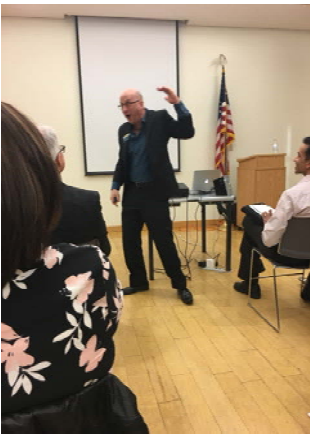




Highlights of the Women’s Working Survival Show



Highlights of Darren LaCroix’s St. Louis Visit



## District 8 Members who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from February 2, 2018 to April 17, 2018

### Division A

#### Chesterfield Toastmasters Club

- Jones-Golstein, Dawn M.—CC
- Pluss, Adrienne R.—ACB

#### Crossroads

- Walle, David C.—ACB

#### DSAGSL WORD Masters

- Swehla, Keith—CC

#### Franklin County Toastmasters

- Hopkins, Michael F.—CL
- Kohnen, Mark D.—CL
- Poinsett, Brenda—CL

#### LCMS Toastmasters

- Darnall, Susan M.—CC
- Milner, Kathleen—CL

#### Marion VA Toastmasters

- Howard, Patti—LDREXC
- Martin, Carla—CL
- Martin, Carla—ACG

#### Mastertoasters Club

- East, Jessica C.—ACB

#### South County Toastmasters Club

- Hendrickson, Carl H.—ACG
- Pitkin, Sarah—CL

#### Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Bowland, Christopher Y.—CC
- McClanahan, Darrel M.—CC

#### UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Orban, Terri—CL

### Division B

#### Bulls & Bears Club

- Boley, Susan—LDREXC
- Pham, Jordana B.—CL

#### Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Sanders, Mary B.—LDREXC
- Sanders, Mary B.—ALS
- Sanders, Mary B.—ACG
- Sanders, Mary B.—DTM

#### Creve Coeur Toastmasters

- Block, Les—ACG

#### Little Hills Toastmasters

- Morrison, John R.—CC
- Spezia, Timothy L.—CC

#### Money Talks Club

- Subbiah, Chidambaram—ACG

#### Shalom Church Toastmasters

- Jamerson, Keith H.—ACB

#### St. Charles County Toastmasters Club

- Coker, Robert A.—ALB
- Thornhill, Toney C.—ALB

### Division C

#### Capital City Toastmasters

- Adigwe, Regina N.—CC
- Sullivan, Linda A.—CC

#### Gem City Toastmasters

- Leenerts, Roger A.—ACB
- Lefler, Lisbeth—CC

#### Horace Mann Toastmasters

- Arms, Nicole B.—ACB
- Stanfield, John F.—CL

#### McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Graff, Theodore R.—CC

#### O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Richter, Lance E.—CL

#### Riverbend Toastmasters

- Shoemaker, Marilyn—CC

#### Scott Toastmasters Club

- Hall, Nicholas J.—CC
- Miller, Seth A.—ACB

#### Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters Club

- Mather, Lora D.—ACS

### Division E

#### Alpha Toastmasters

- Taylor, Phillip—CC

#### Brewer Science Toastmasters

- Reeves, Michelle K.—CC
- Baggett, Margaret L.—CC

#### Capital Toastmasters Club

- Jarboe, Seth M.—ALS

#### Columbia Toastmasters

- Valenzuela, Sergio—CC
- Valenzuela, Sergio—CL

#### Talu Toastmasters Club

- Meador, Bryan C.—CC

### Division F

#### Ansira Toastmasters

- Chipman, Jane M.—LDREXC
- Chipman, Jane M.—ALS

#### Central West End Toastmasters

- King, Geoff—ALB
- Ndungu, Gladwell—CL

#### F.R.B. Club

- Harvey, Jason D.—ACB
- Sampler, Shamara C.—CC

#### Grand Center Club

- Marshall, Pam L.—CC

#### Jacobs P3

- Munro, Phil S.—ALB

#### MAC Toastmasters Club

- Perkins, Stan—CC
- Potter, Tim—CC

#### Midtown Clayton Toastmasters Club

- Schoeneberg, Wayne T.—CL

#### MilliporeSigma Toastmasters

- Porter, Richard W.—ALB

#### Primary Conversations

- Bowe, Cornelius—ACS

#### Rent-A-Toast Club

- Halker, Jeffrey R.—CC

#### SPEAK UP! Club

- Deuschle, Joan—ACS
- Strothmann, Mark M.—LDREXC
- Wnuk, Nick J.—CC

#### Square Talkers Toastmasters Club

- Copeland, Clifton J.—CC
- Copeland, Clifton J.—CL
- Wagner, Thomas J.—ACB

#### Toast of SLU

- Pinner, Katherine M.—CL

#### Toast of WU

- Boaten, Veleria—LDREXC
- Boaten, Veleria—CL
- Boaten, Veleria—ALB
- Kleekamp, Maureen—CL

#### ToastUS

- Tourjee, Selina M.—ALB

#### Voices in Unity Club

- Chapman, Jerry—CC

#### Webster Groves Toastmasters Club

- Liao, Tao—ACB
- Liao, Tao—CL
- Liao, Tao—ALB

#### Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Mead, Julie—CC

#### WUSTL Speaks

- O'Laughlin, Rebecca L.—CL



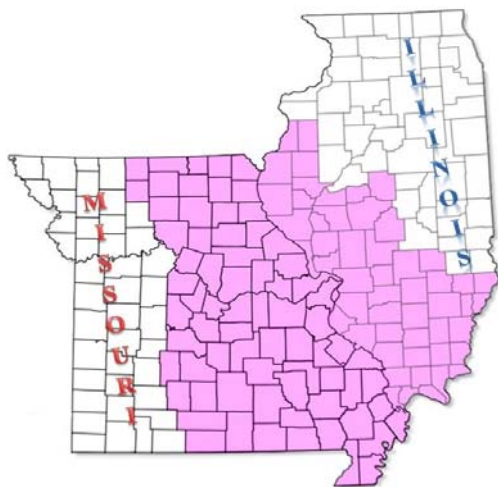


# **Toastmasters Leadership Institute**

June 16, 2018

More details to come...





### The Mission of District 8

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

**District 8 is on  
the web!**  
[www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org)

#### Toastmasters International Values

- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Service
- ◆ Excellence

#### TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

*Editor:*

Cecily Hawksworth, CL

*Email:*

[cecily.hawksworth@  
gmail.com](mailto:cecily.hawksworth@gmail.com)

#### From the Editor



Thank you to all of those who submitted articles for this issue! I'm really excited by the things happening and about to happen in our district, and love to hear about it from all of you. Keep those

stories coming!

If you'd like to submit something for a future newsletter, please send it to me (Cecily Hawksworth, [cecily.hawksworth@gmail.com](mailto:cecily.hawksworth@gmail.com)) as a Word document. If you have photos you'd like included, make sure they are high-resolution, meaning at least 600x600 pixels.

The submission deadline for the next newsletter is **June 1**.

