



Communic~8

District 8 Newsletter



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District 8 Mission

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

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Newsletter Editor

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“Together We Lead ...

Together We Learn”

For over 80 years District 8 has faced its fair share of adversity, changes and challenges and we've always managed to excel and overcome whatever we have faced. But this year something the likes the world has never seen, the pandemic changed the way things are done. It presented a whole new set of challenges and changes.

District 8 not only was adapting to a new educational program called Pathways. But we found ourselves living in a virtual world. Not something toastmasters are used to, especially when we like holding in person meetings & events.
Yes, Sir!

Everything in the toastmaster's world was hit with having to go virtual... virtual training, virtual club meetings, virtual speech contests, and even a

virtual conference. Who would have ever thought that such a thing could have happen in our lifetime? It's something straight out of the Twilight Zone. But looking back to how District 8 rose to meet the challenge and implement the needed changes, I am reminded of the story about The Frog in the Milk Pail.

Cont. on the next page



Message from your District Director: RJ Stratton (cont.)

A little frog was hopping around the farmyard. He was looking for good things to eat. The frog went to hop up onto the tabletop, but the frog fell, "SPLASH!" right into the milk pail. The pail was filled halfway with fresh milk. The level of the milk was too low for him to reach the top of the pail. The sides of the pail were high, and he could not climb out.

The frog kicked, and he swam in circles until he became tired. The frog tried to close his eyes just to rest for a few seconds, but he sank to the bottom of the pail where his nostrils filled with milk. He could not breathe. He used his legs to push off the bottom and kicked with all his might until he came to the surface again. He was so afraid, and he was so tired. He just wanted to rest. But every time, he quit kicking, he sank into the milk again and started to drown. The frog did not give in to his fear or his tired legs. He kicked and he kicked and he kicked and he kicked.

Then, something strange happened. The milk began to turn thicker around him. At first, this made kicking even harder. The thickened milk tried to suck him to the bottom of the pail. It was harder than ever to swim and to kick. But still the frog would not give up. Finally, the milk turned thick enough that the frog could stand on top of it instead of sinking in. The milk had been turned into butter through all the kicking and turning and churning of the frog. The frog was able to climb out to safety and to return to his family.

And Just like The Frog...

In true District 8 tradition, leaders emerged and started to put things in place to meet and deal with COVID-19 and the transition to a virtual world. New leadership roles and best practices were created, a Virtual Task Force, the Marketing Team, Zoom Masters, and many others that were needed in 2020 - 2021.

When I took the role of District Director, I envisioned, "Together We Lead - Together We Learn." Never dreamed that we could've achieved the success we have had in 2020 -21. This district came together, planned, scheduled, lead, and learned. In the world of Toastmasters there are many leaders & members, but the *Cream of the Crop* rose to the Top in District 8.

So Remember... Just like the Frog in the Milk. When your life gets really tough. When you think you've had enough... When the world brings you to your knees ...Just take a big deep breath and try again before you rest ... Keep on working, do your best ..

Never Give Up.. .Because Together we can Overcome.!

RJ Stratton, DTM
District 8 Director 2020-21



Message from your Program Quality Director

Dawn Tucker



“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”—Sir Winston Churchill.

It takes a lot of work to make opportunities into realities, even when there isn't a major challenge to the standard operating procedure, as we have during COVID-19. In the case of winter TLI, our co-chairs Paul Cook, DTM, and Alex Miller, ACB & ALB, wanted to make the most of our new virtual landscape to create an event members would be eager to attend. In a perfect balancing act, District 8 Webmaster and Logistics Manager, Tom Coscia, DTM, kept all of our great ideas connected to reality - and the internet. We had an amazing faculty of facilitators who trained officers and presented electives for a full day of education and entertainment. We also had a dedicated staff of Zoom masters who kept each session on track. From international presenters to online games to lunchtime networking sessions, TLI was an optimistic enterprise to squeeze the most we could out of a rare opportunity.

If you were able to attend Winter TLI in January, I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. The evaluations we received were very positive, with some good suggestions for improvement, as well. If you weren't able to attend, our elective sessions can be accessed [HERE](#):

Keeping up the optimistic attitude of winter TLI, Division Directors Karen Leingang, DTM and Art Stanze, DTM added group training and Kahoot games to their online makeup training sessions.

We are currently in the middle of contest season. While Toastmasters International dictates the rules and requirements (and offers best practices for virtual contests), competitors have many opportunities to make creative use of technology in their speeches. Keep up with the latest rules, but let your creativity out to play as you think of how to use the camera to your advantage in your speech. If you're not competing, you can try a variety of Zoom experiments in club speeches.

We're living in strange times, and doing things in different ways. Some like the convenience of online meetings, while others are looking forward to meeting in person again. In the meantime, I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to visit meetings across town, across the country, or across the world – all from the comfort of home. You might learn something new from another club, meet new people and make new friends.

Looking forward, we have a virtual spring conference just ahead. Please set aside April 9th (Friday evening) and 10th (all day Saturday) for an additional opportunity to try new things in new ways. Conference Chair Barbara Kryvko, DTM and the conference committee are also making plans for getting the most out of this online event. Yes, another virtual event, and yes, another great opportunity to connect with friends from one end of District 8 to the other, and see what else this “Whole New World” of possibilities has to offer.

While we wait to see what the new normal will be, we can make the most of all of the opportunities we have in our current challenging situation.

Message from your District Club Growth Director

Victor Mattison



April 1 may sound like it's a long time from now, especially as we're experiencing record cold weather. However, it is coming fast. This means our winter coats can soon be put away but it also means our semi-annual membership renewals are due. Each year it seems we have a mad-dash to the finish line - most clubs get their dues filed during the last days of March.

This year we can do better. We need your help!

We're asking all members, club officers and district leaders to strive to have renewals submitted by Sunday, March 7 and commit to having them done by Sunday March 15.

The effort to do this early - or later - is precisely the same so don't procrastinate, start early. Here are three things you can do:

1. Send an email, text, phone-chain or other communication to all members when you read this. Make it a club-wide challenge
2. Mention it in each and every meeting and club conversation from now until you register
3. Challenge clubs in your Area to see if your area can be 100% successful at getting this done. Make it an area-wide or division-wide challenge. Area and Division Directors, consider this "game-on."

Getting renewals done early will help in many ways such as allowing your district leadership team to spend more time on the clubs that need more help. Please commit to making this happen so we can build on the great start we have in 2021.

Victor Mattison
Club Growth Director
cgd@dist8tm.org



Need Help with Virtual Meetings?

Check out these **resources** on the D8 Website!

Message from your Immediate Past District Director

James Childress



Greetings District 8 Toastmasters!!

Wow! It has been very frigid in these parts lately. One thing that has been heating up is the upcoming election for our new District 8 leadership team. On April 10th, we will announce the new leadership team that will continue the great legacy of outstanding leaders in the 80-year history of District 8. Some of our leaders went beyond District 8 to serve as Region Advisors, International Directors, and even winning the prestigious Toastmasters International Presidential Citation Award. Are you ready to take your leadership to the next level?

The first step is get nominated. You can self-nominate for a district leader position, be chosen by another club member or by a member of the District Leadership Committee (DLC). Please review **Protocol 9.0** in the governing documents on the Toastmasters International website to learn more about the position you want to apply for and if you meet the requirements to become a candidate. The last day to declare your intent to run for office is **February 24, 2021**.

The next step is to be evaluated by the DLC. The DLC will ensure that you have met all of requirements and completed the necessary paperwork. Once that has been done, it is time for the evaluation process. Each candidate will be interviewed by the DLC on a variety of topics such as leadership, teambuilding, and Toastmasters knowledge. The DLC team will deliberate and vote to determine if the nominee can proceed to run for office. The candidates will be notified of the DLC's decision.

Next the campaign process will begin. The DLC Chair will provide guidance to the selected candidates on how to appropriately campaign. One of the highlights of the campaign process is the Candidate Showcase. The showcase is normally conducted before the Annual Business Meeting. Each candidate is given equal time to be interviewed on questions related to the achievement of the District mission.

Now it is time for the election! The election will be held during the Annual Business Meeting. The District Council, consisting of the District Executive Committee, Club Presidents, and Vice Presidents Education will cast votes to determine the winners. Floor candidates are allowed. However, the floor candidates must declare their intent to run to the District Director at least seven days prior to the election and go through the DLC evaluation process to be eligible to run from the floor.

That was a quick overview of the process to run for District office. Being a District Leader is one of the greatest highlights in the Toastmasters educational program. It is an opportunity to grow and most importantly, give back to others. I encourage you to strongly consider applying for District Leadership. Please contact me at jamesrvp@yahoo.com for more information. Best wishes on your journey to higher leadership.

James L. Childress; Immediate Past District Director

This year's District 8 Spring Conference is April 9 -10, 2021, and we're completely virtual. Your computer screen is your portal to a whole new world of meeting new people, learning new things, and having unique experiences that are not possible at in-person conferences.

No matter where you live, you'll be able to jump into any conference session in just a few clicks. Immediately, you'll see familiar faces and new friends from near and far. Everyone will have a front row seat to District 8's best speakers in both the International Speech and the Table Topics contests. Attend the District 8 business meeting in your

A Whole New World!



District 8 Spring Conference **April 9 & 10, 2021**

slippers. Participate in educational sessions given by experienced Toastmasters from all over the world, and you don't even have to fill up your car to get there. See our wonderful keynote speaker, Lindy MacLaine, a finalist

for the 2020 World Champion of Public Speaking...and from your own home, you can personally ask her questions about her experiences.

We are excited to provide quality programming from Friday night to Saturday night, and it's all free. All you have to do is register on the [District website](#). We'll see you there...virtually!

Many do not know that District 8 Toastmasters has two prison clubs, Alpha Toastmasters & Talu Toastmasters, that are part of District 8. Where inmates are allowed to host a toastmaster's club and conduct club meetings. Now you may ask, "Why does this matter?" But instead of me trying to explain it. I'll let one of the members of the Alpha club, share in his own words ... Why It Matters! By the way he has earned his ACG and ALB designation.

Testimonials

WHAT HAS TOASTMATERS DONE FOR ME?

What has toastmasters done for me?
Look at me! Can't you see?

I was once so very shy,
A very low self-esteem had I.

You very seldom head me speak,
Because I felt scared and weak.

Then a friend invited me in,
They all accepted me like kin.

Learned to listen not just hear,
Helped to have my friend near.

Listened to others when they talked,
Gathered pointers to help my walk.

Improved my thinking as I grew,
Felt there's nothing I can't do.

My vocabulary grew along with me,
Suddenly I'm beginning to feel free.

I learned some leadership skills too,
Now I've something to offer you.

I have become a new me,
Someone I'll proudly let you see.

Now this answer is all mine,
What Toastmasters has done is fine.

The Alignment Committee Role for District 8



As your 2020-21 Alignment Chair for District 8, I thought it would be a great opportunity to explain just what role the Alignment committee serves and its objectives.

Districts must review and amend their alignment of clubs, areas and divisions once per year. This is a TI mandated task stated in *Protocol 7.0 District Structure from the Governing Documents*. Matters of club growth and club loss must be considered in the submitted plan. The submitted plan is approved at the Annual Business Meeting and must be submitted to Toastmasters International by July 15. After the council vote, the alignment plan cannot be changed and will remain in effect for the coming new Toastmasters year.

District structure as currently outlined by Toastmasters International simply states how the structure of district leadership is molded for all Toastmasters districts. It is based on the following policy statements:

- A. Area and division organization is in place to serve members in a timely and more manageable fashion.
- B. Alignment determines where to assign new clubs
- C. Area and Division Management must follow these guidelines:
 - i. Maintain geographic proximity to nearby clubs
 - ii. Areas must consist of four to six clubs; with few exceptions
 - 1) On July 1, no area can be assigned seven (7) clubs
 - 2) An area can have three (3) clubs on July 1 only if a new club is well into the charter process for that area.
 - iii. A division must have a minimum of three (3) areas.

With all this in mind the role of the Alignment committee is to examine the district as a whole and determine if any changes are indicated based on club membership strength, club count and club experience.

There are five (5) divisions within District 8 consisting of twenty two (22) areas; this divides the district club membership into twenty two (22) separate areas where an appointed Area Director is responsible for communicating with leaders in each assigned club in those areas. Maintaining a manageable communications level is the primary reason why the count of clubs is reviewed yearly. Too many clubs in an area results in too much work resulting in potentially a missed club experience for club members. Too few clubs represents member growth opportunities missed. What will the Alignment committee look to deliver in its plan?

1. Are clubs assigned showing a geographically coordinated makeup? Why is this important? Area directors must be able to locate and visit their clubs even in a Zoom or post Zoom oriented meeting format. An in-person visit commands a much higher degree of attention and appreciation from members, than a phone call or email. Visiting the club in person shows interest and personal attention for those clubs. That is the kind of service a strong club expects from its district leaders. The club visit is thoroughly documented and its contents reviewed by district and TI leadership.

(Cont. on the next page)

Club Mentors

Did you know every new Toastmasters club is assigned a club mentor? Mentoring a new Toastmasters club is similar in many ways to mentoring a single person. You act as an advisor for the new club to help them get off to a great start. While new clubs benefit greatly from this relationship, so do the mentors!



Benefits of Mentoring

- Develop your capacity to translate values and strategies into productive actions
- Prove yourself as a valuable leader
- Build teamwork skills
- Apply leadership skills in new situations
- Earn credit toward the path to DTM, if you successfully complete your role

A club mentor assignment is six months long. If you are interested in serving in this role or learning more about it, please reach out to me.

Debbie Young, Club Quality Chair, Debbie@dyoung.net

The Alignment Committee Role for District 8 (Cont.)

2. Would area success be influenced with a slight adjustment to club make up? Many times clubs in areas begin to develop a certain level of camaraderie particularly at area and division council meetings. Members can expect to develop a positive learning experience with tools learned by participating at the area contest. This in short may develop stronger clubs that meet the needs and objectives of their members thereby furthering the Toastmaster's message. Newer clubs may benefit from new learning opportunities.
3. Are there areas in danger of ending the current year below four (4) clubs? If so, corrective action is needed.

In all, the Alignment Committee seeks to create a positive Toastmasters experience for all Toastmasters members. This is accomplished by taking in to account the interests of members and district leadership to help District 8 become more successful.

Reference : Protocol 7.0 District Structure section from the Governing Documents

<https://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Governing-Documents>



Almost time for the District 8 Annual Business Meeting. Each year, the annual meeting of the voting members of District 8 Toastmasters (District Council) is held during the District Conference, for the purpose of electing next year's district leaders and conducting district business. This Toastmaster's year the Annual Business Meeting will take place the morning of April 10th, 2021 at 10:00 am. The District Council is comprised of Club President's & VPEs from every club in the district & the District Executive Committee. These are the represent-

atives from each of the district clubs and they are the voice of the club at these meetings. If there is something you want addressed at the meeting, let your club president or VPE know.

Some of the things that will be discussed:

- I. The District Audit Committee will report on their audit of the district budget compliance, money spent, & financial conduct of district leaders. The District 8 Profit and Loss Statement is presented by District Finance Manager.
- II. 2021-2022 District Officers will be elected by the District Council, District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Directors,
- III. The proposed realignment of clubs to Areas and Divisions for 2021-2022 is discussed and adopted at the District Council annual meeting.
- IV. The District Leadership Committee report on nominees for 2021-2022 is presented at the District Council annual meeting.
- V. Nominations from the floor are taken, and election of District officers is conducted at the District Council annual meeting.
- VI. The District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Immediate Past District Director, and District Public Relations Manager report on progress toward District goals.

This year the District Conference will be online and totally virtual. Which means the election process will be different and rules for conducting the election will be different.

1. When the voting process is conducted online, no proxies are permitted.
Each District Council member must cast their own vote. District Executive Committee members are entitled to one (1) vote and may cast an additional vote if they are a Club President or Vice President Education.
2. Voting will be done through online polling. To help with the election process, when signing into the business meeting, each Council Member, please rename yourself and put your designation of CGD, Div Dir, Club Pres, or VPE.
3. List of candidates will be posted on the District 8 website and prior to the election there will be a virtual showcase of candidates. Where you can meet the candidates and hear from them, as they will be interviewed.

As we get closer to the dates for the District 8 Conference information will be made available and all the important business documents for Business Meeting will posted on the District 8 website. Watch for Conference and business meeting updates & information on the District 8 website. www.Dist8TM.org. You can [REGISTER HERE](#).

PDG / PDD Sharing Wisdom, Knowledge and Experience

Elaine Curry, DTM, PDD



District 8 each year establishes a committee comprised of Past District Governors / Past District Directors (PDG/PDD) to provide support to the District Trio as they face the challenges of their Toastmaster leadership year. It is the committee's objective to meet and prepare a report that was shared with our Trio of challenges that we identified and suggestions to resolve them. We also make ourselves available to the Trio should they require advice, counsel, or guidance at any time.

We are fortunate to have such a wealth of experience and knowledge still active in District 8 Toastmasters. This provides a huge advantage for the clubs they are members of as well as their participation in District training events and conferences. It has been my honor to lead the committee this year. The key areas that we identified as presenting challenges were: Coaching, Education, Outlier (clubs in areas and divisions outside of St. Louis radius), Retention and Sunset (clubs that may possibly not be able to maintain minimum membership of 8). The committee divided into sub-committees of two to three members to focus on providing suggestions for consideration that could possibly assist in resolving the challenges for each key topic.

It is my hope that our Area and Division District leaders are all engaged in helping our District weather the storm of last year's unprecedented adjustment of moving to a virtual world. It has sent us into uncharted waters. We are now preparing to return to having meetings in person or hybrid meetings of virtual combined with some members meeting in person. I commend the District leaders that found ways to conduct productive meetings, training events and our annual conference with creativity and increasing the attendance of meetings by inviting members from around the world.

We had a brilliant Advisory Committee. The committee members were:

- Curtis Scroggins, DTM
- Tom Coscia, DTM
- Dan Darnall, DTM
- Tim Spezia, DTM
- Cindy Larm, DTM
- Kat Mokriakow, DTM

This distinguished group of PDG/PDD did a brilliant job as members of this committee. I want to encourage you to seek inspiration and motivation for the example they have set for our District.

I take this opportunity to thank each committee member for their participation and commitment in being a part of the committee. We continue to strive for Excellence in District 8.

District Creates Additional Support Opportunity for Inmate Clubs



There are a lot of things I could mention at this time that would require no further explanation; COVID-19, Zoom and Pathways. I could say with a high level of confidence that all Toastmasters have heard of these topics. I could also say with as much confidence that each of these topics has most likely in some way affected your Toastmasters journey. COVID-19 has forced us to cease in-person meetings, Zoom has become the venue of choice for most virtual meetings and Pathways is the new track we are all using to complete our Toastmasters goals.

Adjusting to the various impacts these events have had on our Toastmasters lives is fairly routine for Toastmasters with internet access, but the impacts of these changes has doubly affected members of our inmate clubs, who have no access to the internet nor the ability to meet in person at this time. The lack of internet access has forced us to order and print all pathways materials and also limits our interaction with members outside of the facility to just those visitors who are willing to attend an in-person meeting.

The average income of an inmate can range from 5 cents an hour to \$1.25 an hour and the state stipend for those inmates without a job amounts to \$7.50 a month, or \$90 a year. With this level of income you can imagine how paying full Toastmasters dues of \$90 a year could be a bit of a hardship. To put it in perspective, imagine if paying your Toastmasters dues required your entire annual salary! Add to that the fact that inmates in some institutions are not allowed to do their own fundraising to pay their dues and other Toastmasters expenses.

Despite these challenges, both of our existing inmate clubs have had some significant accomplishments. Alpha, located in Jefferson City, was the first inmate club chartered in the history of Toastmasters Worldwide. Talu, located in Moberly, at one time was the #1 ranked Club in the world for Clubs it's size in Toastmasters. Additionally, both Clubs have had inmates achieve their DTMs while incarcerated.

In the mid 2000's District 8 started conducting fundraisers and established a scholarship fund for the inmate Clubs. Fundraisers were typically held during the District Conferences and consisted of Silent Auctions and flower sales. Funds were deposited directly into the Omer Roberts/Dori Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund and a process was established to process these funds to help alleviate the cost of Toastmasters for the inmate Clubs. Funds donated are 100% used by the inmate Clubs. Approved uses are to pay 50% of the inmate dues and 100% of Pathways printed material costs. The Fund was originally managed by District 8 but is now managed by Toastmasters International.

This year since our conference will be virtual, we will not have the opportunity to hold in-person fundraising. However, we would still like those interested in helping out to have a simple, direct and free way of making contributions to the scholarship fund. The District has established a page on the D8 website where donations can be made to the scholarship fund. You do not have to be a member of Toastmasters to donate.

You can find more information about the fund and make donations to the fund by using the link at the bottom of the Fund page, located at <https://dist8tm.org/resources/inmate-scholarship-fund/>. If you have any questions about the Fund, there are several District resources involved with it, but feel free to start by contacting me at the contact information below.

Curtis Scroggins, Roberts/Drummond Fund Chair, scrogginscurtis@gmail.com (573) 291-9011

What It Means to be a Division Director

Nicole Brady-Arms



"A leader's job is not to do the work for others, it's to help others figure out how to do it themselves, to get things done, and to succeed beyond what they thought possible." –Simon Sinek

When I was asked to write this article on what it means to be a Division Director, my mind immediately went to the inspirational speaker Simon Sinek. Several years ago, I was introduced to Sinek's "Starts With Why" TED Talk. Eventually, I discovered his TED Talks on Leadership. His perspective on leadership would plant a seed in my mind to grow—*it's not about me; it's about them.*

For many years, in my mind, the concepts of managing and leadership were synonymous with one another. Yet, in listening to Sinek's presentations, I realized how they are two very different concepts for achieving the same outcome. Simply put, managing is a "do it" and leading is a "together we can" to accomplish a task or goal.

What does this mean as a Division Director? As someone who made the progression from Club Officer to Area Director to Division Director, I think there is a transformation from managing to leading with each successive role. I don't want to say there isn't a place for managing because there is. At the Club level, there is a need to focus on hitting club goals and membership. At the Area Director level, the transformation starts because it's no longer about a singular club, but rather a group of clubs. Then, as a Division Director, it really is about leadership. At this level, the focus becomes about setting the tone and establishing the goal for the entire Division.

As a Division Director, in setting the tone, I started the Toastmasters' year with referring to my Area Directors as a Team. Yes, that's Team C with a capital "T." Our goal is not to lose any clubs as we're living through a pandemic. Being a leader doesn't mean managing the how this goal will be accomplished, it's continuously being accessible, engaged, and offering support where they can figure it out for themselves.

In closing, what it means to be a Division Director is keeping in the forefront how *it's not about me; it's about them.* It means learning how to embrace the change in focusing on the goals and more focusing on the people in order to achieve the goals. It's means not just being categorized as a Division; it's becoming a Team, Team C.

Area Director's Corner

Patrick Hunt



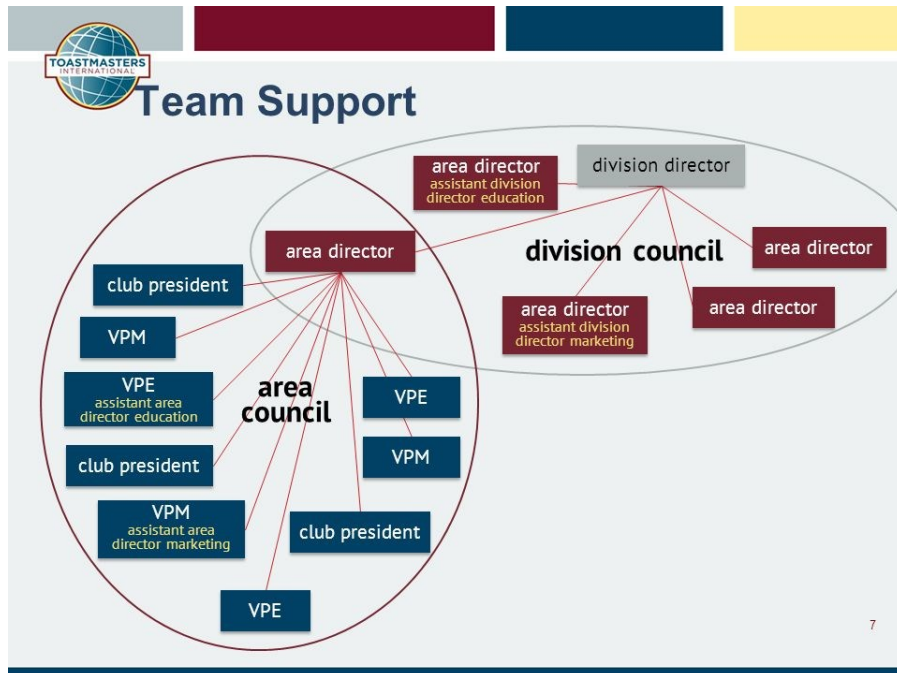
When I was first making my rounds and visiting the different clubs in Area 4, I was struck by how the average member was unaware of all the different clubs in their own Area. For those who were regular participants in contests, there was some level of familiarity when it came to the make-up of Area 4. However, no one truly knew the individual members of other clubs. Each of the clubs I visited, Capital T Toastmasters, Centene Speaks, RGA Toastmasters, and South County Toastmasters, were filled with exceptionally fascinating and dedicated individuals. Each club was doing amazing things, but the first thing that came to my mind was the possibilities that would be in reach if all our clubs came together to form a more cohesive group.

In January 2021, I hosted the first Area 4 Joint Club Meeting. Each club had members who volunteered for the different functionary roles and put forward a speaker and an evaluator. There were a few minor Zoom related hiccups, but the meeting ended up being a great experience for all involved and each club voiced their interest in continuing these types of meetings. After the meeting, the two main things I heard from participants was how much they enjoyed the chance to get feedback on their speeches from members of other clubs as well as the chance that they were provided to share their ideas and brainstorm with other rising leaders in the District. Each of the clubs in the area had great innovators and planners inside of them.

By bringing them all together, each club could share what was working for them and ask others what they thought about the obstacles that faced them. For some clubs, that obstacle was low membership and for others it was low member participation. However, while these things were novel challenges to the clubs that faced them, they were known factors to others. By being able to draw on the collective knowledge of the entire area, each club was better able to serve its members and ensure the best Toastmasters experience possible.

It is my hope that in time, these meetings will become not just a forum every other month for Area 4 clubs to speak in, but a place where area wide initiatives can be discussed and implemented. The area level has the potential to become the newest and most robust vehicle of facilitating the Youth Leadership Program, Speechcraft, Interpersonal Communication Program and other community focused events.

(Cont. on next page)



Area Director's Corner (cont.)

Many clubs lack the interest or members to formally organize these sorts of events, but by placing these events under the control of the area, interested members from clubs who would not have otherwise participated can get involved. I

understand that there may be worry that this would put undue stress on our Area Directors. However, if we were to make an Area Executive Committee Chair position that would act as a "Community Event Organizer" or some better alternative name, we could elevate members from clubs who are already involved in these programs to that position without greatly adding to the Area Director's workload. This would not be a major change for the Community Event Organizer as they would already be familiar with the ins and outs of running these sorts of things. In fact, I think that this would allow them to draw on greater resources and empower them to hold larger and more vibrant events thanks to having multiple clubs behind them.

The area is the future for Toastmasters International. In a time of falling membership, what we need most is a glue to hold our existing Toastmasters together and a means of reaching out to those who can become future Toastmasters. Through the area, we can show our members that their club is not the limit of Toastmasters International and that they are a part of a large network of people who want nothing more than to see them succeed. We make ourselves integral parts of our communities and provide fantastic opportunities to youth and adults alike. What we need most is a sense of connectedness with our fellow Toastmasters and our communities at large.

I call on every Toastmaster reading this, every Club President, Area Director, and Division Director, to consider the possibilities that are available to our clubs if we begin to encourage club cooperation at the area level. We have so much to gain, and absolutely nothing to lose.

If you are interested in trying to organize your own Area Joint Club Meeting, feel free to reach out to me, and I will do my best to help in whatever way I can!



RECOGNIZE YOUR MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS!

Another Way of Promoting Toastmasters

Have you thought of how a letter of recognition could be used to promote Toastmasters? After completing a Pathway Level, the VPE is given the opportunity to send a letter of recognition to the member's employer. Have you had one sent to your supervisor? Is your VPE asking you who to send one to? How is it that this can promote Toastmasters? I'm so glad you asked.

First, if your employer is paying for your Toastmaster sessions, this gives them the feedback that their employees are progressing. Have you ever noticed that when surveys are done, communication is usually listed as one of the top areas for improvement? Use this to your advantage when writing goals at work. Specifically note the Pathway and Level you hope to achieve in communication. Then at the end of the year, during your self-evaluation, you can add this letter of achievement to your official record. Secondly, it also gives management the opportunity to evaluate Toastmasters for the rest of their employees as they see growth in your communication skills. Even if you are in a community club, send the letter of recognition to your supervisor. Third, it allows you to follow up with your supervisor to see if they received it. Start the conversation with them how you have enjoyed being in Toastmasters and what you have gained by being in Toastmasters.

You can use these letters of recommendation when applying for jobs. Again, it shows your willingness to improve your communication skills. You would also want to note those areas of leadership that you have taken on. You never know if that prospective employer was themselves once a Toastmaster.

In conclusion, we know that word of mouth is the best form of advertising. This is just another tool in the arsenal of public relations that we can use to promote Toastmasters. I challenge you to give it a try.

Struggling Clubs, Let's talk ...

If your club is struggling to maintain or grow membership here are some resources and helpful information to consider.

Back to Basics for creating and maintaining a quality club:

Quality Meetings, Strategic Marketing and what it takes to qualify to be in the Club Coach Program.

Quality Meetings:

Toastmaster meetings must be conducted with the specific toastmaster elements to stay consistent in quality and beneficial to all members and guests. Special events are a nice break at times while maintaining the integrity of the "Toastmaster" brand; 1 – 3 Speakers with Evaluations, Table Topics & necessary club business.

Take Some Pressure Off

- Consider partnering with another club!
- Find a club that meets at the same time to take the stress off of your key members. This may help to ensure quality meetings, coverage for all roles and functionary positions, provide a much needed break for your core group to focus on their personal program and rebuilding your membership.
- Go to the Toastmaster International website > find a club > find the search drop down menu and search by "day and time" to find clubs that meet at the same time, then research and speak to their leaders to see if it is a good match for you.

Marketing your Club:

- A. Check and make necessary updates to your club information.
- B. Communicate how to attend your club meeting using Toastmasters International "Find a Club" search tab, Meetup, Facebook, etc.
- C. Create a plan to strategically add new members.

Example: Create a list that would generate 5 or more potential visitors from one contact. College (s); Chamber of Commerce; One or more Specific Companies; Government Agencies, etc. Obtain current contact information for faculty, administrative staff, Human Resources, sales, training coordinators, IT department, etc....

Struggling Clubs, Let's talk ...

Help for Struggling Clubs (cont.)

Create an easy to implement marketing blitz promoting your Club or a Membership Building Event.

Call your contacts, speak to key people, build a relationship with them as they may be potential guests, members or resources to the next leaders of your club.

Ask to speak at a meeting to promote the benefits of TM and specifically invite them to your club, an open house and/or a Speechcraft Program.

The Club Coaching Program:

If your club has 12 members or less and they agree to work with a coach:

- Contact your Area or Division Director they will contact the
- Club Retention Chair &/or the Club Growth Director who will then work to find you a Club Coach.

The club and coach's goals are to work together to help the club become a Distinguished Club and for the club to continue to be successful and truly distinguished for years to come.

To become a Distinguished Club:

- 5 DCP points
- Attain the membership goals for your particular club.

(To find a club's particular membership requirements: look on the Toastmaster International Website, Distinguished Club Report)

Resources for all clubs and members: dist8tm.org > Resources tab > Club Coaching:

- Club Coach Playbook
- Rebuilding Clubs Manual
- Club Coach Videos: "Speechcraft" with Annetta Works Salley Jan 15th 2021 for the 2021 Pathways integrated Speechcraft Program.

Evelyn Pearman, D8 Marketing Team: Club Retention Chair 2020-21, Club Coach Program

Virtual Meetings – Bring it on!

Last year around this time we were busy looking for reservations at county libraries to book the conference rooms for Area and Division contests. Can you believe it has almost a year since we had in-person Toastmasters meeting? Who would have imagined that we will be operating virtually for over a year? The pandemic threw a challenge and like everyone in the world, toastmasters stepped up, showed resilience never backed down in continuing with our core principles i.e., conducting meetings, contests and helping each other to become a better leader and communicator.

As we humans are social beings it was understandable that we initially had some resistance to take part in virtual meetings and contests. However, we adapted and embraced the changing world!

We formed a virtual task force last summer and thanks to all the volunteers who came together and spent countless hours of their time in researching different video conference tools. Finally, as a District we landed on using Zoom video conferencing tool for our virtual meetings.

On our District website, we have a page dedicated for **VIRTUAL MEETINGS** which has wealth of information. Over the last one year, with the help of district leadership, we have conducted various Zoom training sessions to ensure our members are comfortable in using the technology as we did not want to leave anyone behind when it comes to our meetings and contests! We have also expanded our “Zoom Masters” from handful of them to around 20! These Zoom Masters are like Jedi Master of virtual meeting! They are valuable members to any virtual meeting. They can help with any Zoom functionality related issues while the Toastmaster and others can concentrate on conducting the meeting.

As you may know, Youth Leadership program is the cornerstone of Toastmasters organization. Our Youth Leadership coordinators typically conduct multiple programs each year. Greg Phillips and I partnered and conducted a fully virtual Youth Leadership Program in November last year. The program was a success considering that it was the first virtual program. Youth Leaders were creative in using the technology and showcasing their communication and leadership skills.

As we move into Spring season, I am optimistic about our future. I am hopeful that very soon we will be looking into each other's eyes directly, shaking hands, shedding tears, laughing, and enjoying the camaraderie of a true club meeting. Until, then let us keep Zooming!

A BIG THANKS to our District 8 leadership and countless members who volunteered to take up the challenge of supporting virtual meeting whenever they were called upon!

I am proud to be part of District 8 Toastmasters!



Suresh Gopalakrishnan, DTM, Virtual Task Force Chair

REMEMBER WHEN....? Looking Back to District 8 at 50 Years

Once upon a time, not so long ago, District 8 had live, in-person conferences. The website notice about our virtual 2021 Spring Conference on April 9-10, reminded me that before the pandemic, District 8 used to have in-person conferences. The year the District celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1990, which wasn't all that long ago--just thirty-one years. Times had changed since District 8 had first formed in 1940 on the eve of World War II. In case you're counting, District 8 has been in business for 81 years. If we take the 'way-back machine' and go to the Golden, the 50th, Anniversary of District 8 – we would visit Alton, IL, and Clayton, MO for the Spring and Fall Conferences of 1990.



Nov. 1990 D8 Conference, 50-yr Celebration
Recognizing Metropolitan (348), chartered Jan. 1946
Mary Hose, Sherry White, Mike Lewis, George Noll

1990 – Thirty-one years ago, District 8 celebrated its 50 Year Anniversary. There wasn't just one Conference then – District 8 opened their Fiftieth Year with the Spring Conference May 11-12 in Alton, with the theme 'Great Rivers Gathering'. The conference opened Friday night with a "Great Rivers Gong Show" and concluded Saturday evening. Charlie Rogers, DTM, ID, gave the keynote. The International Speech Contest, on Saturday night, was the main event of the conference. The winners were Bill Stanley, and Jack Rardin.

The main celebration of the Fifty Year Anniversary happened at the Fall Conference in Clayton, November 9-10, 1990 with the theme- "Fifty Years and We Have Just Begun". Lorraine Newgent (Fairview Heights, IL) had made history as the first woman District 8 Governor, with Nick Greles as Lt. Gov of Education, and Charles Carpenter as Lt. Governor of Administration. Toastmasters Clubs presented skits, such as, 'Young Dr. Smedley - the first 25 Years', by the Logan Ag Club 2808. The program also included a special honor roll of clubs, 1940-1950, and special recognition of District 8's oldest clubs. There was a video interview, 'Meet CC McBrian', to honor one of District 8's oldest members who was Judge Charles McBrian, Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters Club 4115. He had been honored also in the August 1990 Toastmasters Magazine on his 91st birthday, and for his 53 years in Toastmasters. Keith Woodman served as chair of this conference, with Jack Rardin as coordinator of the anniversary festivities.

As we look forward to our virtual Spring Conference in April, I realize I greatly appreciate being able to keep active in Toastmasters by going to virtual club meetings, virtual training, virtual contests, and conferences. Like other Toastmasters, I've learned new technology skills, met Toastmasters from around the world, and during bad weather, been able to get to meetings from the comfort of my own living room.

As we take part in virtual contests and conferences, we should realize we are making history now. We, and other Toastmasters in the future, will look back and say, 'Remember when?...



**Speechcraft Coordinator's
Annetta Works Salley, EC4,
CC**

Virtual Sessions



Hybrid Breakouts



Digital Speechcraft is HERE!

Change is good when the desired outcomes have a positive impact on the people intended. Do YOU know five people who could benefit from a public speaking coach in a safe Toastmasters environment? Speechcraft officially made its debut in digital format with more benefits and growth opportunities.



Toastmasters International is offering two informational webinars for guidance and tips on how to get started. Sign-up is required. Go to [TI's education page](#) and sign up for one of the informational webinars offered. Once you are empowered to coordinate a Digital Speechcraft, order a [Digital Bundle](#) and TALK IT UP TOASTMASTERS!

I'm excited for the District 8 clubs who are set to rollout Digital Speechcraft **and** a social-distanced in-person Speechcraft with MORE TO COME! I met with District 8 Club Coaches who were eager to learn about creative strategies of how to use this powerful PR tool for club growth and ignite Pathways adoption among members.

Plus...

Toastmasters members who become coordinators can earn DTM credit! Also GREAT for a Pathways leadership (team building) project as well. Be creative and the Pathways projects will be numerous.

NOTE: The traditional Speechcraft is no longer available for purchase but remains valid for Pathways credit until June 30, 2021.

Meetup WORKS!



December 2020, Evelyn Pearman, Club Coach Retention Chair, brought me, Club Coaches, and District and Club officers together for a Meetup workshop to demystify Meetup. This hands-on experience for navigating the account setup process and create group calendar event posts. This was a hands-on workshop allowed me to share creative way of using the manual Speechcraft until the Digital Speechcraft was released. THANK YOU to those in attendance for making it a productive workshop.

Contact Annetta

E: A6director@gmail.com

M: 314.827.5818

Meetup Tutorial

The above link is a tutorial for listing club meetings on Meetup.com. The District 8 Meetup account supervision and management is the responsibility of the District 8 Public Relations Manager (*PRM*).

Click [HERE](#) for the Meetup Workshop video on the District 8 YouTube channel.

District 8 Meetup Groups

The following are the links to the District 8 Meetup groups:

[Saint Louis Speakers and Leaders](#)

[Central/Southern Illinois Speakers and Leaders](#)

[Columbia/Jefferson City Speakers and Leaders](#)



Online Meeting Resources

News from Toastmasters International

February 2021

Clubs and members who have struggled to adapt to online meetings can visit the [Online Meetings page](#) on the Toastmasters website for a wide assortment of resources. Under the **Tools** tab, find tips and infographics, virtual backgrounds and camera frames, digital ribbons, and more.

Click on the **How-To Videos** tab to share videos with fellow members to help them get situated in online meetings. The **Quick Reads** tab provides a variety of articles from the **Toastmaster** magazine on topics like virtual meetings, video conferences, staying connected, and visiting clubs globally.



Announcing the District 8 Virtual Speakers Bureau

Talent, skill, and expertise – District 8's Speakers Bureau has the speaker you need—whether it is a keynote speaker, break-out session leader, storyteller, school assembly presenter, or something in-between. District 8 Speakers are available to present in-person or virtually.

Are you interested in joining the Speakers Bureau? A speaker must have demonstrated the capability to engage an audience through speeches and topics with a credible professional presence. The minimum qualifying requirement is accomplishment of the CC award or completion of Levels 1 and 2 in any Pathways project. Topics should be of universal interest, i.e. leadership, communication skills, business topics and social media just to name a few.

Potential engagements include a variety of in-person or virtual venues, including keynote address, conference breakouts, seminars, workshops, commencement address, after dinner/lunch speeches, community group meetings, school assembly and storytelling. Remember during this pandemic time many clubs are looking for virtual speakers to fill their agendas. Take advantage of this opportunity to spread your wings and volunteer to speak virtually to other District 8 clubs or clubs around the world. Both District 8 Facebook and the Official Toastmasters International Facebook Group are available to volunteer or accept virtual speaking slots.

All candidates for the Speakers Bureau should e-mail John Barry to let us know of your interest. You will be asked to complete an application with a list of speech titles and presentation topics to be considered. If approved, speakers will be requested to provide a head and shoulders photo and a short bio. Also let us know if you know of any potential speaking opportunities within the District. Our own District members are our best marketing agents so if your company, church, association, chamber of commerce or hobby club needs an in-person or virtual speaker please contact our Speakers Bureau. Check out **[Speakers Bureau](#)** website page.

John Barry, DTM

Speakers Bureau Chair

mrjohnbarry@msn.com



You are invited to join

Capital T Toastmasters An Advanced Club

What is an Advanced Club?

Advanced clubs are primarily made up of experienced Toastmasters who want to grow more rapidly than those in a typical club. They are Toastmasters who want to set a higher bar. The main difference between a basic and an advanced club is the level or type of feedback.

**Meets
Virtually
2nd & 4th
Thursdays
7 pm**

Why Join?

- Learn from tenured Toastmasters – most with their DTM
- Round Robin Feedback
- Learn to give better feedback
- Opportunity to give longer speeches
- Learn to do 5-7 minute impromptu speeches

Your Dual Membership Advanced Club

Capital T Toastmasters Website

Contact Mark Bean Johnmark.bean@gmail.com for more info.

District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from July 1, 2020 to February 15, 2021

Division A

Capital T Toastmasters

- Blue, Willie—VC1
- Coscia, Tom—MS3
- Coscia, Tom—MS4
- Maddox, Sharon—EC1
- Strothmann, Mark—PM1

Centene Speaks

- Dahm, Sara—DL3
- Dahm, Sara—DL4
- Walker, Ira Jamar—PM2

Chesterfield Toastmasters

- Billadeau, Andrea Lynn—IP2
- Billadeau, Andrea Lynn—IP3
- Desrosiers, Kevin—VC5
- Desrosiers, Kevin—SR1
- Nardoni, Kristina—IP1
- Zhang, Emily—VC2
- Zhang, Emily—VC3

Crossroads

- Ablan, Tamara—SR1
- Ablan, Tamara—SR2
- Ablan, Tamara—SR3
- Adams, James—DL4
- Heaton, Bob—ACG
- Darnall, Daniel—LD2
- Darnall, Daniel—LD3
- Ganapathy, Aravinda—MS1
- Heaton, Robert—EC1
- Mathews, Margret—EC1
- Mathews, Margret—EC2
- Miller, Dwayne—LD1
- Miller, Dwayne—LD2
- Muelleman, Norman—DL4

High-Noon Toastmasters

- Bohnert, Arielle—PM1
- James, Donald—EC2
- Kirchdoerfer, Ellen—IP2
- Wayland, Jered—PM5
- Welter, Andrew—EH1
- Welter, Andrew—MNTR
- Welter, Andrew—LD3

- Welter, Andrew—LD4
- Welter, Andrew—IP5
- Welter, Andrew—EH2

Jeffco Challengers

- Berri, Kathy—SR1
- Berri, Kathy—SR2
- Marino-Emde, Josephine—IP2
- Marino-Emde, Josephine—IP3
- Meadows, Brook—LD1
- Taylor, Joseph—EH1

Loquacious Leaders

- Blanton, Ronald—EH1
- Blanton, Ronald—LD2
- Blanton, Ronald—LD3
- Blanton, Ronald—LD4
- Blanton, Ronald—LD5
- Hoeckelman, Tiffany—MS2
- Hoeckelman, Tiffany—MS3

RGA Toastmasters

- Boppana, Prasad—DL1
- Kenney, Kristen—IP1
- Lamb, Amy—MS5
- Leong, Chung—TC1
- Pronovost, Erik—PI1
- Pronovost, Erik—PI2

South County Toastmasters

- Bond, Kim—PM1
- Denton, Kathryn—PI3
- Higashino, Katsuko—IP2
- Hunt, Patrick—VC1
- Hunt, Patrick—VC2
- Mattison, Victor—HPL
- Mattison, Victor—ALS
- Mattison, Victor—DTM
- McConnell, Susan—VC1
- McConnell, Susan—VC2
- Page, Keith—PM1
- Perper, James—IP1
- Perper, James—IP2

- Perper, James—PM1
- Salih, James—EC1
- Stewart, Brent—EC2
- Viswaroopan, Prathyush—EC1
- Viswaroopan, Prathyush—EC2

Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Cross, Tim—EC1
- Kulkarni, Advait—DL1
- LaCroix, Andrew—DL1
- Morris, Dana—IP2
- Ruzicka, Stephen—IP3
- Smithers, Ireen—SR2
- Sturdivant, Michelle—IP4
- Thibaut, Cherol—PM1
- Thibaut, Cherol—PM2

West County

- Mather, Lora—DL4
- Rohan, Michael—IP1

Division B

Aerospace Auditors

- Floyd, Chris—MS1
- Ikeda, Yutaka—EC4
- Law, Kevin—IP1
- Schultz, Tawanda—PM1

Ascension Health Toastmasters

- Gier, Charidee—IP1
- Gier, Charidee—IP2
- Gier, Charidee—IP3
- Himmelberg, Lauren—IP1
- Kent, Kesha—PM1
- Kent, Kesha—PM2
- Kent, Kesha—PM3
- Kent, Kesha—DL1
- Kent, Kesha—DL2
- Kent, Kesha—DL3

District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from July 1, 2020 to February 15, 2021 (cont.)

- Kent, Kesha—DL4

- Kent, Kesha—DL5

Grace Church Toastmasters

- Altman, Barbara—IP1
- Lowe, Etta—PM1
- Tyrrell, Pat—LD1

McCarthy Communication Builders

- Lohman, Thomas—IP1
- Walton, Crystal—PM3
- Walton, Crystal—PM4

Moneta Voices

- Whatley-Blaine, Nancy—SR1

Money Talks Club

- Durfee, Georgia—EC3

Noontime

- Brown, Shannon—PM1
- Kryvko, Barbara—PM1
- Kryvko, Barbara—PM2
- Li, Wensheng—PI1
- Reding, Joan—IP2
- Reding, Joan—IP3
- Van Meter, Sarah—DL1
- Van Meter, Sarah—DL2
- Van Meter, Sarah—DL3
- Van Meter, Sarah—DL4

Plus Factor Club

- Blue, Willie—MS1
- Blue, Willie—MS2
- Chrenka, Dan—IP3
- Mueller, Garrick—PM1
- Mueller, Garrick—PM2
- Triplett, Melissa—EC5
- Willey, Sarah—PM1
- Willey, Sarah—PM2

PMIMSL Toastmasters

- Farwell, Terry Lyn—EC3
- Mayta, Ninfa 'Connie' - DL1

Script Masters

- Gregory, Linda—EC2

Shalom Church Toastmasters

- Beecham, Linda—LD1
- Beecham, Linda—LD2
- Jamerson, Keith—PM3
- Jamerson, Keith—PM4
- Shaw, Kelly—VC4
- Thedford, Anecia—PM1
- Troy, Donna—LD3
- Troy, Donna—LD4

Division C

Capital City Toastmasters

- Brennan, Katherine—PM5
- Evoy, Curt—PI1
- Farishon, Chris—LD3
- Farishon, Chris—LD4
- Rankin, Sue—VC1
- Rozhon, Amanda—LD1
- Street, Melissa—PM1

Collinsville, Toastmasters

- Anderson, Art—EC4
- Griebbe, Lisa—DL4
- Rushing, Fable—LD3
- Wuellner, Grant—PM2

Effingham Toastmasters

- Pals, Brandon—EC1
- Rounds, Ralph—IP5
- Siemer, Henry—PM1
- Soltwedel, Beverly—DL1
- Woods, Daniel—HPL

Fairview Heights Toastmasters

- Marshall, Pam—DL1
- Shute, Barbara—IP1
- Turner, Caren - SR1

Gem City Toastmasters

- Dieker, Kathy—PM2
- Gander, Alice—EC3
- Gander, Alice—EC4
- Lee, Deborah—PM1

- Leenerts, Roger—PM1

- Leenerts, Roger—PM2

- McDonnell, Aiden—PI2

- Reed, Ray—VC2

- Reed, Ray—ALS

- Reed, Ray—DTM

- Williams, Margaret - MS3

- Williams, Margaret - MS4

Horace Mann Toastmasters

- Arms, Nicole—MS1

- Arms, Nicole—MS4

- Arms, Nicole—MS5

- Arms, Nicole—DTM

- Johnson, Mitch—IP3

- Mahoney, Monica—LD1

- Snow, Brianna—TC2

League of Our Own Toastmasters

- Arms, Nicole—MS2

- Arms, Nicole—MS3

- Douglass, Cherena—VC2

- Franklin II, Mark—IP1

- Hemingway, Larry—EC1

- Joseph, Makeda—MS1

- Joseph, Makeda—MS2

- Joseph, Makeda—MS3

- Kloese, Sam—IP4

- Stephens, Shaketta—MS1

- Stephens, Shaketta—MS2

Marion VA Toastmasters

- Martin, Carla—PM3

- Martinez, Williams Jose—PM4

- Neal, Michael—PM3

- Shaner, Dara—DL1

McBrien Lincoln-Douglas

- Randall, Nathaniel—TC3

- Randall, Nathaniel—TC4

- Randall, Nathaniel—TC5

Montgomery County Toastmasters

- Apps, Leslie—MS1

- Fletcher, Tahney—LD1

District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from July 1, 2020 to February 15, 2021 (cont.)

Mt Vernon Toastmasters

- Dudley, Chad—EH1
- Dudley, Chad—EH2
- Howard, Patti—TC1
- Howard, Patti—TC2
- Howard, Patti—EC5
- Mlot, Linda—VC3

O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Patel, Kanal—PM1
- Works-Salley, Annetta—EC2
- Works-Salley, Annetta—EC3

Smedley Hometown Memorial

- Christina, Ritter—PM1
- Christina, Ritter—PM2
- Foster, Robert—PI2
- Mather, Lora—DL3
- Triplett, Melissa—DL1
- Zickler, Karl—MS1

Southern Illinois Toastmasters

- Beck, Aur—VC2
- Bryk, Karla—IP1
- Heern, Cindy—PM1
- Juul, Bonnie—IP1
- Miller, Jonalyn—IP1
- Miller, Jonalyn—IP2
- Sailiata, Lori—DL1
- Sailiata, Lori—DL2
- Scarbrough, Tim—MS1

St. Clair Toastmasters

- Curry, Elaine—DL1
- Curry, Elaine—DL2
- Grudzinski, Chris—IP2
- Hudson, Stephani—IP2
- Koester, Herman—VC1

Toast of Belleville

- Diefenbach, Tracey—PM1
- Hegger, Phyllis—VC2
- Hegger, Phyllis—VC3
- Richey, Kimberly—PM4
- Richey, Kimberly—PM5

- Strong, Shari—EH2
- Teasdale, Tom—SR3

Top Talk Toastmasters

- Pullen, Aime—DL1
- Turner, Caren—ALS
- Turner, Caren—HPL
- Turner, Caren—DTM

Division E

Capital Toastmasters

- Weaver, Denise—PM4
- Weaver, Denise—PM5

Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Bianco, Lisa—PM3
- Hindt, Wynne—LD3
- Hindt, Wynne—LD4
- Swanson, Catherine—PM1
- Webb, Amber—EC1
- Willman, Darlene—IP4
- Willman, Darlene—IP5
- Woods, Deborah—EH4
- Woods, Deborah—EH5
- Woods, Deborah—SR1

Downtown Toastmasters

- Britt, Leigh—VC3
- Connon, Joshua—SR1
- Hammond, Brenda—PM1
- Hampton, Nina—IP1

Little Hills Toastmasters

- Mokriakow, Kathryn—MS1
- Roy, Sandeep—IP3
- Schmitz, Dan—MS1

Mastertoasters Club

- Adrian, Nancy—PM1
- Allen, Wayne—EC5
- Beck, Lauren—IP2
- McChesney, Joseph—PI5
- McChesney, Joseph—EH1
- McChesney, Joseph—EH2

Ozark Orators Club

- De Silva, Umanga—IP1
- De Silva, Umanga—IP2
- De Silva, Umanga—IP3
- Paudel, Shyam—VC1
- Paudel, Shyam—VC2
- Rawlins, Charles—PM2
- Rawlins, Charles—PM3

St Charles County Toastmasters

- BHATNAGAR, MUKESH—DL1
- BHATNAGAR, MUKESH—DL2
- BHATNAGAR, MUKESH—DL3
- BHATNAGAR, MUKESH—DL4
- Coker, Daniel—ALS
- Coker, Daniel—DTM
- Thornhill, Toney—MS2
- Thornhill, Toney—MS3
- Thornhill, Toney—MS4
- Tucker, Dawn—PM3

Techmasters

- Dopuch, Sheila—IP1
- Kambadur, Ipsita—PM1
- Krishnaswamy, Ranjini—IP1
- Krishnaswamy, Ranjini—IP2
- Vishnumolakala, Santha—DL1
- Vishnumolakala, Santha—DL2
- Yog, Vidushi—DL2
- Yog, Vidushi—DL3
- Yog, Vidushi—DL4

UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Orban, Terri—DL3
- Orban, Terri—DL4
- Orban, Terri—EH1
- Orban, Terri—MNTR
- Shellenbarger, Shelley—PM1
- Smith, Jeffrey—MS1
- Smith, Jeffrey—MS2
- Smith, Jeffrey—MS3
- Wiegand, Paul—PM1

District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from July 1, 2020 to February 15, 2021 (cont.)

Division F

Anheuser Busch

- Sciaroni, Andrew—IP1
- Zimmerman, Tom—EC1

Free Speakers Toastmasters

- Breinin, Angela—DL2
- Carpenter, Denise—PI2
- Dunphy, Shannon—EC1
- Hammond, Cheryl—PM3
- Hammond, Cheryl—PM4
- Hammond, Cheryl—PM5
- Wisneski, Douglas—IP3

Grand Center Club

- Dennis, Regina—VC1
- Tyson, Arian—LD1

Jacobs P3

- Eisenbacher, Emily—VC1

Midtown Clayton Toastmasters

- Byrne, Laura—DL1

MilliporeSigma TM

- Russell, Karen—VC3

Primary Conversations

- Anderson, Robin—SR2
- Lee, Brenda—LD1
- Lee, Brenda—LD2
- Lee, Byron—PI1
- Lee, Marlon—LD2
- Little, Alleiah—LD2
- Truss, Tim—PM1
- White, Tammie—PM1
- Williams, Stacy—EC1
- Williams, Stacy—EC2
- Williams, Stacy—EC3

Speak Up!

- Kardis, Sandra—TC4
- Kardis, Sandra—TC5
- Sharpe, Mary—IP3

Toast of SLU

- Leingang, Karen—VC5
- Wise, Marquette—HPL

Toast of WU

- Bengtson, Jason—SR1
- Boaten, Veleria—SR3
- DiRuscio, Michael—DL1
- Jordan, Rebecca—LD3
- Kleekamp, Maureen—PM4
- Leingang, Karen—DL4
- Whitney, Teisha—IP2

ToastUS

- Lynom, Kathe—VC1

Voices in Unity

- Sherwood, Patricia—DL1

WashU Med Masters

- Hendrix, Rachel—EC3
- Leingang, Karen—VC2
- Leingang, Karen—VC3
- Leingang, Karen—VC4
- Leingang, Karen—DL5
- Riley, Martha Jo—PM1
- Torres, Melissa—DL2
- Voss, Jorine—PM2

Webster Groves Toastmasters

- Ciotti, Melanie—PI4
- Clark, Jane—VC2
- Moore, Dawna—PM2
- Murphy, John—EC2
- Taylor, Joseph—VC3

Wells Fargo Advisors

- Steckert, John—PM3

WUSTL Speaks

- Alotaibi, Mamdouh—IP1
- Early, Rosalind—SR1
- Ogunniran, Peter—PI2
- Ogunniran, Peter—PI3
- Ogunniran, Peter—PI4

Editor's Note

Did you earn an award and it does not show? Your privacy settings at TI are set to hide your name.

Educational Descriptions

Abbr.	Path Name
DL#	Dynamic Leadership
EC#	Effective Coaching
EH#	Engaging Humor
IP#	Innovative Planning
LD#	Leadership Development
MS#	Motivational Strategies
PI#	Persuasive Influence
PM#	Presentation Mastery
SR#	Strategic Relationships
TC#	Team Collaboration
VC#	Visionary Communication
MNTR	Mentor Program

D8



Missed some of the electives at the last TLI?

Missed a lunch and learn?

Want to re-watch D8 speech contestant speech?

Check out the [D8 YouTube](#) page!



District 8 Mission

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

www.Dist8tm.org

From Your Editor



Tom Coscia, DTM, PDG

Next issue will be in April.

Have something you would like to submit?

Please email Tom at webmaster@dist8tm.org