



# Communic~8

## District 8 Newsletter



Volume 21 Issue 2

April 2022

### District 8 Mission

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

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## D8 2022 Annual Conference

The theme for the District 8 Virtual Annual Conference is Pathways to Success and will be held on April 22-23, 2022. This year's conference will be a mix of traditional and nontraditional events.

The Friday evening events will share the benefits of the prison clubs within District 8. The keynote speech will be delivered by a former prison club member Tony Davis. After his speech, please participate in the first ever trivia contest to raise money for the Robert/Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund. The evening will wrap up with the District Evaluation Speech Contest.

**Saturday morning will start off with a speech from the 2005 Public Speaking Champion Lance Miller. The speech will be followed by the annual business meeting which will include electing the District's officers for the upcoming year. We will be offering 3 education sessions in the afternoon to encourage members to make progress on their**

**Paths (please read the descriptions below for more information). Which will be followed by roasting our Immediate Past District Director RJ Stratton. The evening will wrap up with the District's International Speech Contest and the swearing in ceremony of the new District officers.**

### Education Sessions

**Networking** – Have you been missing the one on one interaction that you experienced at the in-person conferences? If so this session is for you. This sessions will offer participants the opportunity to meet fellow Toastmasters and have one on one conversations with them. Not only will you get to meet new people and broaden your network, you will be completing half of a Level 3 project by attending a Networking

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## Message from your District Director

**David Kincade**

### **Spring is here!**

Spring is the time we Toastmasters look forward to each year, the Annual District Conference! This year we have as our keynote, one of the finest speakers ever to grace a toastmasters stage: 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, Lance Miller! This event, brought to you by your District 8 conference planning team.

The team has been working extra hard to make this virtual experience one of the highest quality events available anywhere. Best of all, It's FREE! I expect to see record attendance at this year's conference, with the Trivia Contest, the District Championship Evaluation Contest, workshops on everything from completing higher levels in Pathways to Tall Tales. Don't miss this chance to see Immediate Past District Director, RJ Stratton, DTM roasted by the district. Come and watch, or share your memories of RJ's time in office.

Let's not forget the District Championship International Speech Contest. The winner will move on into the quarter finals of the World Championship of Public speaking! Who knows, we may be watching the next Lance Miller in action?

I really want to thank the entire district, the club members and officers, Area Directors, Division Directors, and the District Staff for all their hard work and planning to make this year's contest season a success. We have some of the best organizers and functionaries in all of Toastmasters, and you should all be as proud as I am.

As this year Toastmasters winds up, we find the most exciting times are to come. I will see you at the Annual Conference.

## **Annual Conference** (cont. from page 1)

event. Once you are back with your club, share a 5-7 speech about your experience and the project will be complete.

**Tackling Level 4 & 5** – Does the thought of motivating others and leading projects make you nervous? How does one complete a High Performance Leadership Project? If you are stuck and searching for answers on how to make progress on you level 4 and 5 projects, then this session is for you. Hear how others have accomplished this tasks and have your questions ready for a discussion panel. After this session, you will be able to complete your Path in record time.

**The Art of Telling Tall Tales** – Do you have awesome experiences to share with others, but struggle with your delivery? Come join this session and learn how to stretch the boundaries in telling of your best/worst vacations and other adventures.

Click **HERE** from a message from your International President on why you should attend.



## **Message from your Program Quality Director**

***Karen Leingang***

***Success is not final: Failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts. – Winston S. Churchill***

We are quickly approaching the last quarter of the 2021-2022 Toastmasters year. I was wondering where the time had gone to, but then I looked at District 8's achievements and I started to understand.

- 21 clubs had all 7 officers attend both the summer and winter club officer sessions and turned in a club success plan.
- 66% of possible club officers attended training session in the fall while 63% attended spring training sessions.
- 4 people have completed 2 Pathways level 5
- 11 Triple Crown winners
- 1 Club (Scott Toastmasters) with 10 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 3 Clubs with 9 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 4 Clubs with 8 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 5 Clubs with 7 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 4 Clubs with 6 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 6 Clubs with 5 Distinguished Club Goals completed
- 85% of Fall Area Club Visit reports were submitted with Division C completing 100%
- Area 2 and Area 16 Directors completed and submitted all Spring club visit reports
- All Area and Division Evaluation and International Speech Contests are completed.

District 8 has been very busy this past 9 months, but we still have more work to do before the end of the year.

- April 22: Trivia Contest to support the Roberts/Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund (visit District 8 website for more information )
- April 22-23: Annual Conference (visit District 8 website for more information )
- Month of May—Club Officer elections
- June 4th Virtual Summer TLI (Please do outreach to me if you would like to present)
- Awards Ceremony (TBD) to celebrate District 8's achievements.

I am very proud of all the hard work that the District 8 members have put forth to ensure the clubs and District are successful With that in mind, let's finish the year strong and watch our achievements grow.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Program Quality Director for the 2021-2022 Toastmaster year.



## **Message from your District Club Growth Director**

***Dawn Tucker***

### **Rack Up Renewals All Year Long**

**I hate to tell you this, but I think many of our District 8 clubs are “doing Toastmasters” wrong.**

This is the time of year when we think about which members will renew their memberships to our clubs. It is human nature, I think, to concern ourselves with things like this when we have deadlines to meet. The dues deadlines for Toastmasters dues renewals are April 1 and October 1, and we put the most thought and effort into ensuring our members renew in March and September of each year. The April 1 deadline seems even more crucial than October 1, because it occurs closer to the end of our Toastmaster's year on June 30, the deadline to complete goals for the Distinguished Club Program, assuring our clubs' Distinguished status for the year. March is fraught with worry and activities to increase (or at least hold on to) our membership numbers through June 30. Then we relax again, at least until September.

### **We could do better.**

I challenge you to think about *members* more than membership numbers! Think about your club's unique members and the member experience your club provides all year round! While some of our members leave because they truly do not have time to continue with Toastmasters, and some truly cannot afford it, most people make the time and find the money to do the things they believe are valuable to them. How valuable is your club's meeting experience? Could you add more value, based on your members' goals? What did your members come to Toastmasters to learn or achieve? Is your club providing that for them? That's something we need to think about, and work to provide, year round. If we do that, March and September won't be nearly as stressful. New memberships and renewed memberships will be the logical outcome for guests and members, as they see great value in the Toastmasters club experience.

**Try it and see. There really is no downside.**





## Message from Your District Alignment Chair

***Tim Spezia***

Recently the Alignment committee completed work on its primary task which is to balance club make up throughout District 8. What is the alignment committee and why is it necessary? The Alignment Committee consists of the Division Directors and an appointed chairman who are tasked with determining where changes in club make-up is needed in each area within the district. The committee starts meeting after the Winter term starts, usually around the first of February and begins discussion on where changes are needed.

The Toastmasters International governing documents, specifically Protocol 7 indicate the make-up of Areas and Divisions. On July 1 of the new Toastmasters year, no Area will have less than four Clubs or more than six. No Division will have less than three Areas. An alignment plan must present a viable structure for Areas and Divisions for the next Toastmasters year showing a proper mix of Clubs.

The input for club statistics is from a variety of sources such as input from the Division Directors and Toastmasters International dashboards. As a committee we normally look for what is going well in an Area and where there are challenges. Often patterns emerge that show successful Areas are made up of strong Clubs that adhere to the Toastmasters International format like having officers trained, strong Pathway interest and communication with district leaders. Club members are enthusiastic and passionate about their Club's purpose. This is an apparent strong motivator. On the other hand, sometimes due to circumstances beyond an Area's control, the number of Area clubs present must be rebalanced to comply with recommended Club levels.

An alignment plan has been formulated for the 2022 – 2023 Toastmasters year. It has been presented to the trio and accepted by the District Executive Council. The next step will present the plan at the Annual Business Meeting April 23 and ask that Council for any discussion and plan acceptance as presented. After this stage, the plan will be sent to Toastmasters International who will give final approval for next year's realignment. Once the approval stage is complete, the plan as approved goes into effect on July 1, 2022.



## ***HPL Project Made Club Open House a Success***

Soon after Talu started meeting again, talk about the Annual Awards Banquet and Open House was on the 'to do' list. One member chose to take it on as his High Performance Leadership Project, by assembling his Guidance Committee, discussing past events successes, areas that needed improvement, and his vision for the upcoming event. Our Club President submitted the winning theme "Conquering the Communication Crisis," which became an undercur-

rent as we moved forward with invitations, a quality program, keeping everyone up to speed, and creating an event we would be proud of.

Invitations to visit a prison club require a bit more pre-planning and commitment, which makes guest attendance all the more valued by our members. We wanted all guests to know they are appreciated.

Our Keynote speaker was this year's District 8 Director David Kincade. He addressed the value of truly hearing what others are trying to communicate and how that intentional act impacts both parties long afterward.

Other distinguished guests included District 8 Trio members Dawn Tucker & Karen Leingang; long-time supporters like Former Division E Director Natalie Meighan, VIC and Area Director David & Carol Mallory, Former Area Director Seth Jarboe, as well as several new faces.

Knowing Toastmasters love to talk, we wanted to fulfill that desire. Guests went out of their way to join us and we wanted to hear from them! Everyone's participation in an extended Table Topics session made this event informative, diverse and entertaining.

With the goal of improving communication, we sought to create a more casual event with dinner, a Keynote Speaker, Table Topics, a timely yet honorable Achievement Ceremony, and still have plenty of "free time." We had some great conversations and learned things like how Karen strategically took on the role of club secretary. She mentioned there have been many famous historical influencers who held secretarial positions in their rise to notable success?

Not only was our event a success, making this an HPL project benefited all those that were a part of it; The Mastermind Team, the Project Leaders, their teams and those that observed the process. We all knew our key objectives, stayed focused, timely, and ahead of the game on several occasions. Glitches? Yes! Mistakes and missteps? Yep! Could-a, would-a, should-a's along the way? You know it! But we won in the end because we did it. By assessing both the event and the HPL we are aware of things to consider for our next Annual Banquet and Open House... THIS SPRING! We look forward to having you join us at Talu!

# District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from November 26, 2021 to April 12, 2022

## Division A

### Aetna Toastmasters

- Graves, Tammy—LD4

### Capital T Toastmasters

- Blue, Willie—EH1
- Blue, Willie—EH2
- Blue, Willie—EH3
- Maddox, Sharon—SR2

### Centene Speaks

- Ali, Nighat—MS3
- Jaladanki, Neeharika—PM4

### Crossroads

- Ablan, Tamara—VC4
- Ablan, Tamara—VC5
- Ablan, Tamara—DTM
- Bohn, Robert—MS1
- Brinkley, Robert—SR1
- Darnall, Daniel—EH1
- Heaton, Robert—EC2
- Mathews, Margret—PI1
- Mathews, Margret—PI2
- Mathews, Margret—EC4
- Miller, Dwayne—LD3
- Miller, Dwayne—EH1
- Nicolas, Bret—EC2
- Stanze, Arthur—IP5

### Heartland Storytellers

- Howard, Patti—VC3
- Kimbrow, Larry—IP4

### High-Noon Toastmasters

- Meyer, William—PM1
- Prosser-Burlison, Michal—PM1
- Scott, Sophia—EC1

### Jeffco Challengers

- Berri, Kathy—SR3

### Loquacious Leaders

- Hoeckelman, Tiffany—MS4
- Mitchel, Vicky—PM1
- Mitchel, Vicky—PM2

### Rabo Masters

- Trapp, Daniel—PM1

### RGA Toastmasters

- Boppana, Prasad—DL3
- Campbell, Lisa—PM2
- Campbell, Lisa—LD5
- Pronovost, Erik—MS2
- Pronovost, Erik—MS3
- Wissman, Christina—PM1

### South County Toastmasters

- Burchett, Steven—VC1
- Denton, Kathryn—PI5
- Krauska, Thomas—PM2
- Perper, James—PM2
- Perper, James—PM3
- Salih, James—EC2
- Stewart, Brent—EC3
- Van Winkle, Robert—IP1
- Young, Debbie—MS2

### Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Griffin, Dan—MS1
- LaCroix, Andrew—DL4

## Division B

### Aerospace Auditors

- Ikeda, Yutaka—EH1

### Creve Coeur Toastmasters

- Ahmed, Shahnaz—VC1
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—VC2
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—PM1
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—PM2
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—PM3
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—PM4
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—PM5
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—IP4
- Ahmed, Shahnaz—IP5
- Gibbs, Kasey—PM3
- Hresko, Michelle—IP1
- Kardis, Sandra—EH2
- Manewith, Stuart—PM1

### Grace Church Toastmasters

- Altman, Barbara—PM1
- Altman, Barbara—PM2
- Altman, Barbara—PM3
- Morrissey, Debra—EC3
- Tyrrell, Pat—LD3

### Moneta Voices

- Lawson, Kelly—VC1
- Schaller, Matthew—PM1

### Money Talks

- Jones, James—IP1
- Plair, LaKeeshea—PM1
- Zubovic, Denis—IP1

### Noontime

- Kelley, Melissa—EH1
- Mudd, Jeffrey—LD3
- Reding, Joan—IP4
- Van Meter, Sarah—VC2
- Van Meter, Sarah—VC3
- Van Meter, Sarah—VC4

### Plus Factor Club

- Mitchell, Chris—PM1

### Script Masters

- Clay, Krystal—MS3

### Shalom Toastmasters

- Jamerson, Keith—VC3
- Troy, Donna—PM1
- Williams, Paula—EC5

### Triton Toastmasters

- Lawson, Ann—PM1
- Lawson, Ann—SR1
- Taube, Rachel—SR3

## Division C

### Capital City Toastmasters

- Henton, Brittany—SR1

### Collinsville Toastmasters

- Griebe, Lisa—DL5
- Griebe, Lisa—TC2
- Griebe, Lisa—TC3

## District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from November 26, 2021 to April 12, 2022 (cont.)

### Fairview Heights Toastmasters

- De Silva, Umanga—VC4
- Marshall, Pam—DL2

### Gem City Toastmasters

- Boll, Julie—DL3
- Grogan, Soneeta—EH2
- McDonnell, Aiden—PI3
- Nelson, Aiden—PI3
- Nelson, Sherry—VC3
- Williams, Margaret—TC1

### McBrian Lincoln-Douglas

- Wilson, Lynn—SR3

### Montgomery County

- Lanum, Vi—IP1

### Mt Vernon Toastmasters

- Jalkanen, Karl—EH1
- Jalkanen, Karl—EH2
- Jalkanen, Karl—EH3
- Jalkanen, Karl—EH4
- Martin, Yvonne—PM1

### O'Fallon Toastmasters

- Heilig, Leslie—MS1
- Heilig, Leslie—MNTR
- Lambert, Warren—PM3
- Lambert, Warren—MNTR
- Lysdahl, Alexandra—VC2
- Smith, Justine—SR4
- Smith, Justine—SR5
- Swearingen, Sandra—SR1
- Swearingen, Sandra—SR2

### Scott Toastmasters

- Bowser, Dawnella—MS3
- Manor, Charice—PM2
- Manor, Charice—PM3
- Wood, Yolanda—PM1
- Wood, Yolanda—PM2
- Wood, Yolanda—PM3
- Wood, Yolanda—PM4
- Wood, Yolanda—PM5
- Wood, Yolanda—MS4
- Wood, Yolanda—MS5

### Southern Illinois Toastmasters

- Heern, Cindy—PM2

### St. Clair Toastmasters

- Curry, Lemont—MS2

## Division E

### Capital Toastmasters

- DeSouza, Raquel—IP2

### Cave Springs Toastmasters

- Disko, Ron—PM1
- Johnson, Krissy—PM4
- Johnson, Krissy—PI1
- McGaughey, Joshua—DL1
- Woods, David—PI2
- Woods, Deborah—SR3
- Woods, Deborah—SR4

### Continental Communicators

- Beck, Ariel—DL1
- Rowe, Mary—PM1
- Rowe, Mary—PM2
- Rowe, Mary—PM3
- Rowe, Teddy—PI1
- Stewart, Theresa—EC1
- Stewart, Theresa—EC2
- Stewart, Theresa—PM1
- Works Salley, Annetta—EC5
- Works Salley, Annetta—SR2

### Downtown Toastmasters

- Acharya, Shikha—PM2

### Little Hills Toastmasters

- Roy, Sandeep—IP5
- Spezia, Tim—DL1

### Mastertoasters Club

- McChesney, Joseph—PM1
- O'Keefe, Kayli—PM2
- O'Keefe, Kayli—PM3

### Ozark Orators Club

- De Silva, Umanga—PM3
- De Silva, Umanga—PM4
- De Silva, Umanga—PM5
- Nuno, John—PM3

### Talu Toastmasters

- Anonymous—DL3
- Anonymous—PM2
- Anonymous—PI3
- Anonymous—PI2
- Anonymous—PI1
- Anonymous—SR3
- Anonymous—PI5
- Anonymous—IP2

### Techmasters

- Kambadur, Ipsita—PM2
- Rai, Amita—PM1

### UniGroup Toastmasters Club

- Hurrell, Jake—PM1
- Hurrell, Jake—PM2
- Orban, Terri—EH4

## Division F

### Free Speakers Toastmasters

- Breinin, Angela—DL4
- Carpenter, Denise—PI4
- Hammond, Cheryl—PI3

### Grand Center Toastmasters

- Bufford, Lonza—PM1
- Bufford, Lonza—PM2
- Gardner, JoAnn—IP1
- Keeton, Rosetta—VC3
- McNeal, Curtis—PI1

### Midtown Clayton

- Flanery, Kay—PM1

### Primary Conversations

- Williams, Stacy—EC4

### Rent-A Toast Club

- Young, Evan—IP2

### Toast of SLU

- Hoque, Farzana—PM4
- Hoque, Farzana—PM5
- Hoque, Farzana—MNTR



## District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from November 26, 2021 to April 12, 2022 (cont.)

### Toast of WU

- Bengtson, Jason—SR2
- Kleekamp, Maureen—MS1

### ToastUS

- Lynom, Kathe—VC2

### Voices in Unity

- Triplett, Melissa—DL4

### WUSTL Speaks

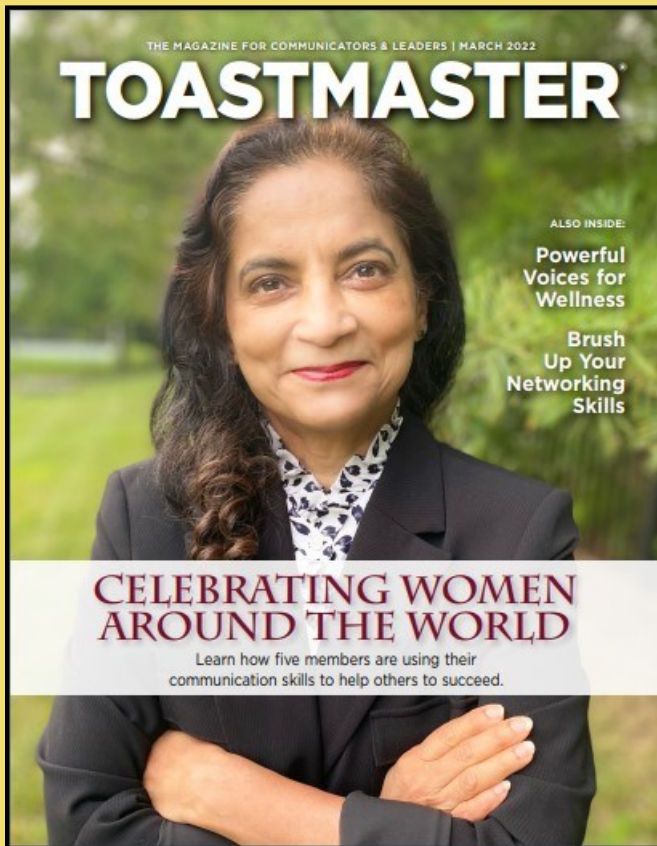
- Early, Rosalind—SR3

### 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

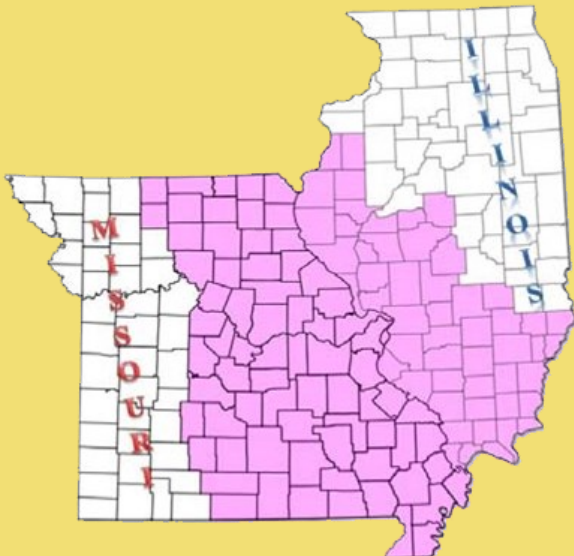
| Abbr. | Path Name               |
|-------|-------------------------|
| DL#   | Dynamic Leadership      |
| EC#   | Effective Coaching      |
| EH#   | Engaging Humor          |
| IP#   | Innovative Planning     |
| LD#   | Leadership Development  |
| MS#   | Motivational Strategies |
| PI#   | Persuasive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



## **Our Own Farzana Chohan Made the Cover of the March Toastmaster Magazine!**

Congratulations to past District Director and Regional Advisor Farzana Chohan for making the cover of the March Toastmaster magazine! We are all proud of you.

Check out the issue [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).



### **District 8 Mission**

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[\*\*www.Dist8tm.org\*\*](http://www.Dist8tm.org)

### **From Your Editor**



[\*\*Tom Coscia, DTM, PDG\*\*](#)

Have something you would like to submit?

Please email Tom at [webmaster@dist8tm.org](mailto:webmaster@dist8tm.org)