



Communic~8

District 8 Newsletter

October 2023 Volume 22 Issue 1



District 8 Mission

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

District Officers

District Director

Rhonda Green
DD@dist8tm.org

Program Quality Director

Charice Manor
PQD@dist8tm.org

Club Growth Director

Patti Howard
CGD@dist8tm.org

Immediate Past District Director

Karen Leingang
IPDD@dist8tm.org

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Newsletter Editor

Tom Coscia, DTM, PDG
webmaster@dist8tm.org



Toastmaster Pamela
Rodney, EC3, Finalist

2023 International
Speech Contest,

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DISTRICT 8 TOASTMASTERS 2024 Spring Conference

ARE WE THERE YET?
APRIL 26-27, 2024



HOLLYWOOD CASINO AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
777 CASINO CENTER DR,
MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO
63043-4821

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON VIA
DISTRICT WEBSITE

For complete event details and updates, join our private **District 8 Toastmasters Members ONLY Facebook Group** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dist8tm>.

Message from your District Director

Rhonda Green, DTM

Becoming the Best - You Can Be

There is one program/plan that Toastmasters International has which is all about you. Do you know what it is? Can you guess? It's the **Distinguished Club Program (DCP)**. At first thought you probably believe this is not true or maybe you think it is all about club success. No, it's all about you, the club member. Keep reading and you will see how. Let's start at the beginning. Every goal in the DCP is about supporting you the member to become a better communicator and/or a better leader.

Goals 1 - 6: These (6) goals are all about educational achievements for you, the member. Each time you complete a Pathways education Level 1 through 5, this is a record that you have meet an educational goal. In addition when the VPE identifies which member is dedicated to completing a level during the year, it helps the VPE to know how often that member needs to speak to accomplish their goal. The VPE uses this information to schedule you and the other members to make sure you have the opportunity to speak and improve.

Goals 7 - 8: These (2) goals are all about membership. Nope, these goals are about bringing in new members, not just to increase the size of the club, but also to have new views and evaluations. An Evaluation from someone which has never heard you speak before, provides you feedback, from a different point of view.

Goal 9: Training of the club officers is important so that they can help you achieve your goals. The officers are also the one's that certify that each one of your educational goals has been completed. If you have been elected as an officer in the club, then the training is designed to help you learn new leadership skills, by supporting every member of the club, including you.

Goal 10: Administrative goals. An officers list has to be turned in each year, to make sure that each officer receives information from Toastmasters International and the District. To keep you up-to-date on everything that is being done to support you as a Toastmasters Member. October and April Dues Renewals. The dues have to be paid twice a year to make sure that you have an active club. Without the dues payments, you have no club and no mutually supportive members to help grow and improve as a communicator and a leader.

Now you see, the Distinguished Club Program is all about you the member, from the very beginning of your journey with Toastmasters. You are the life-blood of this organization. Everything that is done is about finding the best way to support you in becoming **THE BEST YOU THAT YOU CAN BE!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE SPRING CONFERENCE FOR **Free?**

The District 8 Conference Fundraiser will be an opportunity for members to raise 100% or a portion of their Spring Conference registration cost. The fundraising will be done through Double Good Popcorn. Double Goods fundraiser requires no money out of pocket. Double Good has an application that supports fundraising for: athletic teams, schools and not-for-profits. Double Good will ship each order to the purchasers and payout 50% of everything raised in each store, directly to the District.

How does it work

Each member that chooses to participate will set up a fundraising store on their social media page and send messages to friends and family. The Virtual fundraiser lasts for 4 days only. Before the fundraiser begins you will know how much you need to raise to get a FREE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION. You will receive step-by-step instructions on how to set up a fundraiser store on your social media page, including graphics. You will be given templates that you can send to friends, family and associates asking them to come support your fundraiser. Each person will need to set up a store, as Double Good provides instant information of how much has been sold per store. Any money raised that exceeds the cost of registration, will be used by the District for additional Club Incentives, Speechcrafts, Youth Leadership Programs and more.

The dates for the fundraiser will be set as soon as the conference budget is approved and we have the actual cost for the conference registration.

A promotional graphic for the Double Good Fundraiser. It features a collection of various popcorn bags and containers in different colors and patterns, including orange, white, and brown. Overlaid on the image are two speech bubbles: a yellow one saying "COMING" and a blue one saying "SOON". To the right of the popcorn, the text "Double Good Fundraiser" is written in a large, bold, black font. Below the popcorn, the text "Four day virtual event" is written in a bold, black font, followed by "More info will be posted on District page" in a smaller, regular black font.

**COMING
SOON**

**Double Good
Fundraiser**

Four day virtual event

More info will be posted on District page

2023 World Championship Speech Contest Finalist

Pamela Rodney, EC4



It has been 22 years since District 8 has had a finalist representing at the TI World Championship. Our very own finalist has never competed in Toastmasters. Not too bad for a first timer. If you missed hearing Pamela's Semifinal and Final speeches from the 2023 International Speech Contest, they are available at the following links: [Pamela Semifinal Video](#) and [Pamela WCPS Video](#)

Let's get to know our finalist.

Toastmaster Rodney is the current Area 6 Director and Immediate Past President of Scott Speakers Association Club on Scott Air Force Base. Pamela has held four of the seven club officer positions. She has been a member of SSA and District 8 for two years and a Toastmaster for nine years. She relocated from Ramstein Air Force Base with her husband and two daughters.

When not doing Toastmaster stuff, Pamela has her hands full with activities in her homeschooling community which include membership in 3 co-ops, teaching 3 classes, Yearbook Editor, Event Coordinator, and Leader for 5-9 year old girls social events. She also leads the children activities for an annual holiday community event that takes place every weekend before Thanksgiving in Lebanon, IL.

Pamela's degrees include a BA Journalism, MA Mass Communication with a focus on Public Speaking, MA certification in Organizational Leadership, MA certification in Organizational Communications. She has overcome the challenge of having a speech impediment to teaching public speaking.

Message from your Program Quality Director

Charice Manor

Hello District 8! We have been moving towards our Destination at ten miles above the speed limit! I am excited as we approach our Fast Five to Distinguished Deadline and I provided a snapshot of our Roadmap on page 14. WAY TO GO!!

If you viewed the Talking Toastmasters Webinar with TI President, Morag Mathieson, Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) and Immediate Past



President, Matt Kinsey, DTM, then you know the information I share next. Pathways will become a new and improved platform. One change is that Pathways will be accessible on mobile devices and much easier to navigate. Second, Vice Presidents of Education's will be happy with this one. There are no double approvals. Once you have approved in Base Camp it will update in Club Central also. For those visually impaired, it will be easier to access. Everyone will be able to share their accomplishment with a click of a button. TI is starting the revamp with six paths initially: Dynamic Leadership, Engaging Humor, Motivational Strategies, Presentation Mastery, Persuasive Influence and Visionary Communication. Existing paths will continue but it will not be in the updated format.

Message from your Program Quality Director

Charice Manor

TI has updated the Level One to include ice breaker, vocal variety and body language, writing a speech with purpose, and evaluation and feedback. TI is also researching an new learning experience called Explorations which will give you more flexibility in what and how you learn. They will consist to target focus on a specific target presented as a small collection of projects The two mentioned by TI Present Morag was an example of Inclusive Leadership and Presenting Yourself Online. These explorations are due to come late 2024. Listen to the full webinar at

<https://emails.toastmasters.org/c/1lvCYhfJBkPygUwLc8qVjWSy1evzyk>

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Please allow me to introduce the education team. These folks have your interest in mind and want to hear from you what you would like to train on. The team is also open to you if you have ideas that will help all of our District become better speakers and leaders. Lawson (Cal) Calhoun, DTM, Lisa Collier, Nathan Randall, and Darren Broderick.





The REST STOP IN-PERSON TLI @ Washington University



The REST STOP TLI (IN-PERSON) will be held on December 9, 2023 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Olin School of Business at Washington University.

We have been cruising since this Toastmaster Year began. A quick break at the RestStop is just what we need to break up the trip. It will be held in the traditional format offering officer training classes for current, upcoming and interested toastmasters and electives designed for guests, officers, and toastmasters to proverbially “stretch our legs” as we are almost halfway to our Destination:Distinguished.

Please keep checking the Toastmaster website for information like registration, list of class and elective times, and more!

NEXT EXIT: REST VIRTUAL TLI



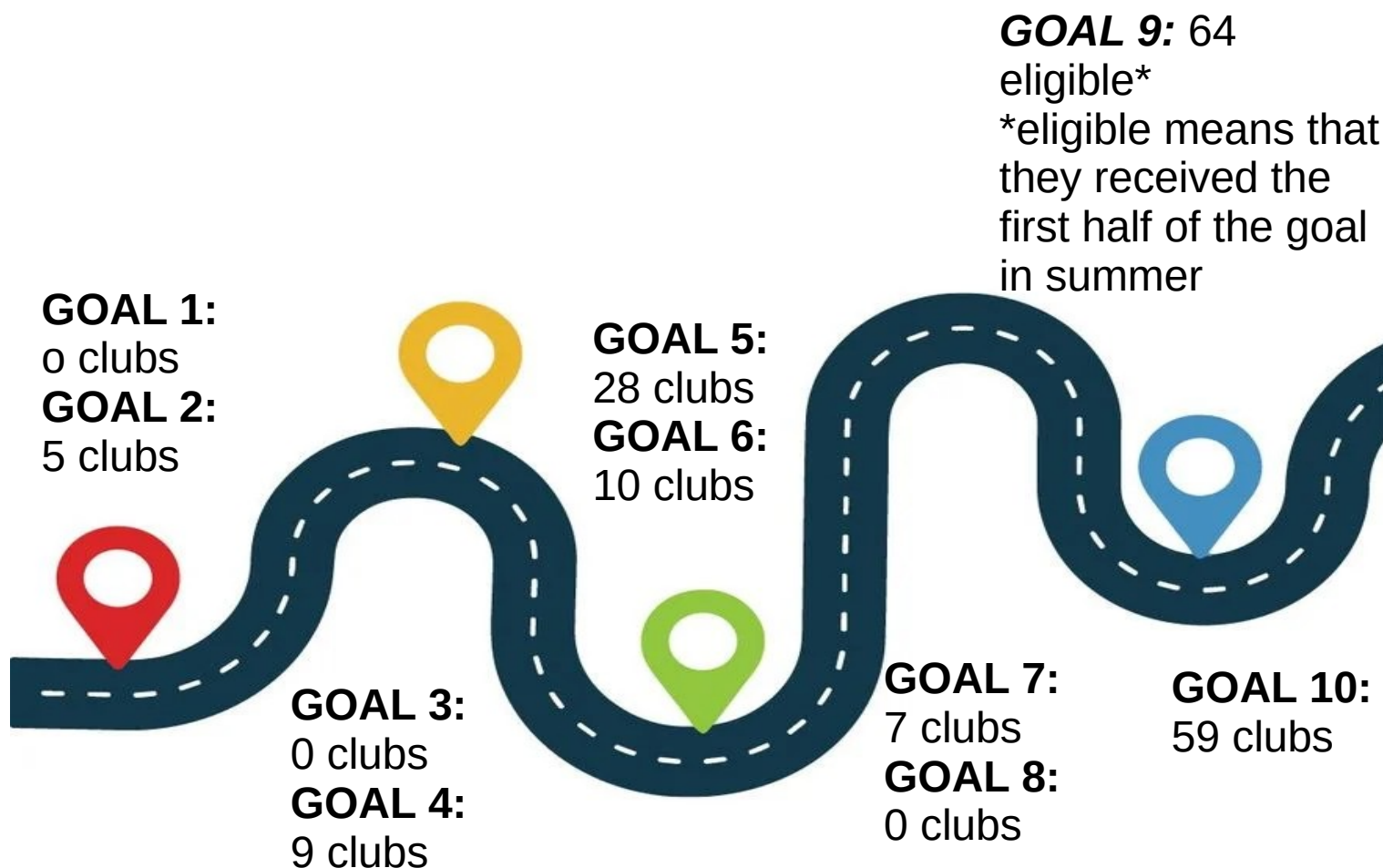
The NEXT EXIT: REST TLI (VIRTUAL)will be held on January 27, 2024 from 9am to 1pm via ZOOM.

We planned two half-way breaks on our journey to becoming a Smedley Distinguished District. The second stop is Next Exit:Rest. At this stop every club has the opportunity to update officer training and energize members with new information/techniques and skills.

Please keep checking the Toastmaster website for information like registration, list of class and elective times, and more!

DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM

GOAL: SMEDLEY DISTINGUISHED DISTRICT
(44 DISTINGUISHED CLUBS OR BETTER OF 79 CLUBS)



DCP GOALS

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Four Level 1 awards |
| 2 | Two Level 2 awards |
| 3 | Two more Level 2 awards |
| 4 | Two Level 3 awards |
| 5 | One Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award |
| 6 | One more Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award |

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 7 | 4 New members |
| 8 | 4 More new members |
| 9 | 4 Officers trained both periods |
| 10 | Dues renewal & officer list on time |

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY:
Remember that your club membership must be 20+ or grow by 3 members for DCP to count

Message from your District Club Growth Director

Patti Howard, DTM

It is great to see many clubs off to a great start in achieving your club administrative goals. Goal #10 is to have officers list turned in to TI by Jul 1, 2023 and to have at least 8 paid members by the start of a dues period. As of this date, 53 clubs out of 78 clubs have achieved goal #10. For clubs that didn't, you still have time to achieve that 2-part goal. For clubs that elect club officers on a semi-annual basis, have your officer list in by Dec 31, 2023 AND have 8 members pay their Apr-Sep dues by Mar 31, 2024.

Area Directors have been busy visiting clubs. During their visits, they meet club members, answer questions and provide feedback to the club on their experience. Overall, 23 Area Director reports were completed before September 30. Hats off to all our Area Directors who have taken the time to visit clubs. A shout out goes to Sam Kloese, Kenny Freeman, and Paula Williams who have completed all their club visits. They will receive a branded TI water bottle as a token of our appreciation.

During the Smedley Award Membership building term Aug 1 to Sep 30, we had 31 new members joined Toastmasters in 12 different clubs. This growth indicates that many are inviting their friends, co-workers and utilizing their social media outlets to let others know how Toastmasters is helping them meet their personal goals.

We are offering Marketing & Memberships Meetings (usually held the 4th Monday of each month). We're learning various marketing tools and a time for general question & answers. We have offered how to utilize several social media tools to enhance your club's visibility on the web. RJ Stratton, DTM and past District Director, is working with clubs using Meetup. Terri Orban, Division B Director, helped clubs set up their Google Business Profile. Both have emphasized Search Engine Optimization (SEO) which gets your club listing to the top in web searches. In the future, Josh Kelahan will be providing us tools utilizing CANVA in order to create attractive flyers for special events or for social media usage and we will look at utilizing LinkedIn and Facebook.

Message from your District Club Growth Director

Patti Howard, DTM

For club excellence, we have several key members who are available to assist. If your club would like a club coach, Andrew Welter is coordinating that endeavor. He is working with those interested in being a club coach. He is helping them to become comfortable in utilizing the various tools that Toastmasters offers to provide club excellence. Jackie Kam-Blackard, is working with New Club Mentors. Club Mentors provide a good foundation in helping new clubs create quality meetings and assist members with meeting their goals. Don Williams, DTM is contacting past leads and new leads about starting new clubs that contact Toastmaster. Tim Scarbrough, Area 8 Director, Speechcraft Coordinator, will help your club offer a Speechcraft. A speechcraft provides basic skills in gaining better communication skills in a condensed 4–6-week timeframe. Many times, those attending Speechcraft become Toastmasters.

I invite you to utilize your skills to help achieve our mission in building new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. We have those opportunities for you to work with new clubs or learn how to build new clubs. We will help you start a Toastmasters group at your workplace, community or special interest. Are you available to help us bolster our LinkedIn or Facebook presence? Maybe your skills lie with the written word and you would help us craft press release templates that all clubs could use in announcing their leadership teams and educational achievements. Would you be an educational speaker for a Speechcraft? If so, please contact me at cgd@dist8tm.org. Your involvement in these areas do allow for a great bridging opportunity to meet Level 4,5 & High-Performance Leadership projects while at the same time, increasing Toastmasters presence within District 8.

There are three incentives that you should check out on the District page: Club Coaching Incentive, New Club Incentive, and Club Lead/Sponsor to Charter a New Club. (www.dist8tm.org)



Division A Director

Karen Dew-Poe



Division B Director

Terri Orban



Division C Director

Dawnella Bowser



Division E Director

Kesha Kent



Division F Director

Colleen Dempsey

BEYOND TOASTMASTERS, WHO ARE YOU?

Our district expands Eastern Missouri and Southwestern Illinois and if you have ever looked at the district map, you'd see that it takes four hours to get from one side of our district to the other side. As we are meeting in person more, there will be opportunities to get to know each other but for some members, in-person may not be an option. Therefore, this tool may be a great way of learning who's who in our district. This is optional and you can share as much or as little as you desire. If you are interested in being a part of our District Directory, copy the following link in your browser and complete <https://forms.gle/CrNS4WT1SyFnfcsL9>.

We will gather information, publish in November, and update the directory as we receive new information.

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates to Remember:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Club Coach Toolbox Training | Oct 11, 2023 |
| Think Problem Solving Differently | Oct 21, 2023 |
| Utilizing CANVA to Create Graphics | Oct 23, 2023 |
| New Club Mentor Training | Oct 18, 2023 |
| Giving Helpful Feedback | Nov 2023 |
| Zoom Master Training | Nov 2023 TBA |
| Conference Fundraiser | Dec. 9, 2023 |
| In-Person TLI/Holiday Celebration | Jan 27, 2024 |
| Virtual TLI | Jan. 2024 Feb. |
| Club Contests Begin | 2024 Mar 2024 |
| Area Contests Begin | Apr 26-27, 2024 |
| Division Contests Begin | |
| Spring Conference/Speech Contest | |



ACCESS TO ALL TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL SESSION VIA www.dist8tm.org

Fast 5 to Distinguished

Any club that completes 5 Distinguished Club Program Goals by December 31, 2023, will receive \$25 in TM Gift Certificates. The certificates will be mailed to the Club President by January 31, 2024.



District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from September 2023

DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTERS

Kesha Kent, DTM

Ascension Health Toastmasters

Karl J. Jalkanen, DTM

Mount Vernon Toastmasters

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| INNOVATIVE PLANNING | IP1 | Kenneth Freeman, DTM | Downtown Toastmasters |
| | IP4 | Raquel DeSouza, IP4 | Capital Toastmasters Club |
| | IP5 | 1061828 | SPEAK UP! Club |
| PERSUASIVE INFLUENCE | PI1 | 67554856 | Rent-A-Toast Club |
| | PI2 | 67554856 | Rent-A-Toast Club |
| | PI2 | 2792605 | Scott Speakers Association |
| | PI3 | 2792605 | Scott Speakers Association |
| | PI4 | 853492 | Talu Toastmasters Club |
| | PI5 | 7168968 | South County Toastmasters Club |
| PRESENTATION MASTERY | PM1 | Johnny Morrison, PM1 | Voices In Unity Club |
| | PM1 | Erica M. Anderson, PM1 | Centene Speaks |
| | PM1 | Rhonda F. Green, DTM | Writers Ink Toastmasters Club |
| | PM2 | Mark M. Strothmann, DTM | SPEAK UP! Club |
| | PM2 | Rhonda F. Green, DTM | Writers Ink Toastmasters Club |
| | PM3 | Justine Smith, PM3 | O'Fallon Toastmasters |
| | PM3 | Nina Riaz, PM3 | Creve Coeur Toastmasters |
| | PM3 | Leigh Kottwitz, DTM | Downtown Toastmasters |
| | PM5 | Donna R. Cannon, DTM | Shalom Church Toastmasters |
| TEAM COLLABORATION | TC1 | Kevin M. Desrosiers, DTM | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |
| | TC2 | Kevin M. Desrosiers, DTM | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |
| | TC3 | Kevin M. Desrosiers, DTM | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |
| | TC4 | Stacey Costin, TC4 | Centene Speaks |
| | TC5 | Patti Howard, DTM | Mount Vernon Toastmasters |
| STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS | SR3 | Ellen Kirchdoerfer, DTM | High-Noon Toastmasters Club |
| | SR4 | Kenneth Freeman, DTM | Downtown Toastmasters |
| | SR5 | Kevin M. Desrosiers, DTM | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |

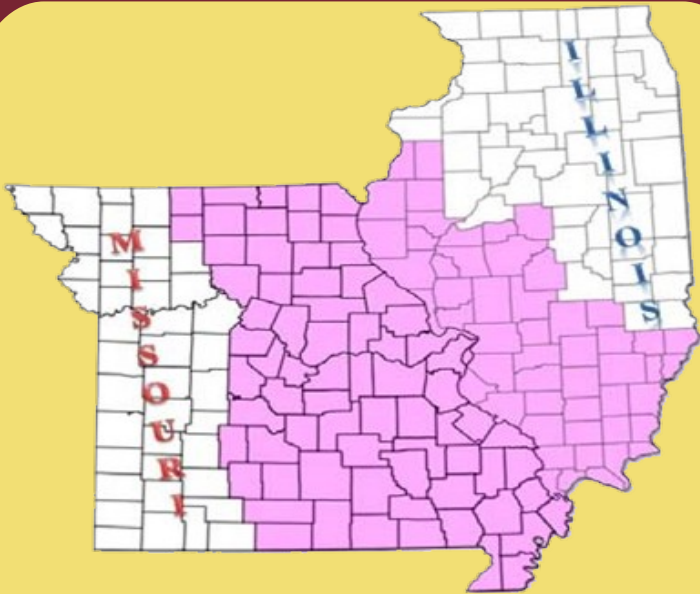
District 8 Members Who Earned Education & Leadership Awards from September 2023

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| VISIONARY COMMUNICATION | VC3 | Richard W. Porter, DTM | SPEAK UP! Club |
| | VC5 | Eboni M. Buckels, VC5 | Speak Easy Toastmasters |
| | VC5 | Linda Mlot, VC5 | Mount Vernon Toastmasters |
| DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP | DL1 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | DL1 | Pamela Davis, DL1 | Ascension Health Toastmasters |
| | DL1 | Josh Kelahan, DL2 | Toast of WU |
| | DL2 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | DL2 | Josh Kelahan, DL2 | Toast of WU |
| | DL3 | Kasey Gibbs, DL3 | Creve Coeur Toastmasters |
| | DL3 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | DL3 | Rhonda F. Green, DTM | Writers Ink Toastmasters Club |
| | DL4 | Joshua Thomas, DL4 | Rent-A-Toast Club |
| | DL4 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | DL4 | Rhonda F. Green, DTM | Writers Ink Toastmasters Club |
| | | | |
| EFFECTIVE COACHING | EC2 | David Kincade, DTM | West County Club |
| | EC2 | Lisa Bianco, EC2 | Cave Springs Toastmasters |
| | EC3 | 415516 | South County Toastmasters Club |
| | EC4 | Keith Jamerson, EC4 | Shalom Church Toastmasters |
| | EH1 | David Woods, EH1 | Cave Springs Toastmasters |
| | EH2 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | EH3 | Alex J. Miller, DL4 | Square Talkers Toastmasters Club |
| | EH3 | Sara R. Dahm, EH3 | Toast of Belleville |
| MOTIVATIONAL STRATEGIES | MS1 | Charice Manor, MS4 | Scott Speakers Association |
| | MS2 | 4154204 | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |
| | MS2 | Charice Manor, MS4 | Scott Speakers Association |
| | MS3 | Aaron S. Huey, MS3 | High-Noon Toastmasters Club |
| | MS3 | 4154204 | Chesterfield Toastmasters Club |
| | MS3 | Charice Manor, MS4 | Scott Speakers Association |
| | MS4 | Charice Manor, MS4 | Scott Speakers Association |

Editor's Note

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

DESTINATION DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



District 8 Mission

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

[Www.Dist8tm.org](http://www.Dist8tm.org)

Editor



Tom Coscia, DTM, PDG

Have something you would like to submit?

Please email Tom at webmaster@dist8tm.org