



DISTRICT 8 TOASTMASTERS



WWW.DIST8TM.ORG

June 2024
Volume 22, Issue 2



You are cordially invited to the District 8 2023/2024 Hall of Fame Celebration at the Renaissance Hotel St. Louis Airport Penthouse Ballroom on September 14, 2024, 11:30am to 2:00pm! Register on District 8 page or by clicking here: [REGISTRATION](#)

- 2 Speech Contest Winners
- 3 Retiree - John Mohr
- 5 District Director
- 6 Virtual Charity Run/Walk
- 7 Program Quality Director
- 9 Distinguished Clubs
- 14 Hall of Fame
- 15 Upcoming Training

**50 YEARS OF
TOASTMASTERING
Happy Retirement
John Mohr!**



2024 International Speech Contest Winners

First Place:
Toi Wiley

Second Place:
Brad Adams (left)

Third Place:
David McNeel (right)

2024 Table Topics Speech Contest Winners

First Place:
Arielle Bohnert (left)

Second Place:
Cullen Watkins (top)

Third Place:
Alex Dorton (bottom)

Next year's contests will be
International and Evaluation.



CONGRATULATIONS to each contestant to compete at all levels!

Toastmaster John Mohr – Retired



Toastmaster John Mohr's decided to retire from Toastmasters as of March 31, 2024. John has the second longest tenure in District 8. John joined October 1, 1973, only a one month difference from Vernon Boeckman (O'Fallon).

Attached is the list of his accomplishments.

Year	Event
1973	Joined Toastmasters
1983	Winner District 8 Evaluation Contest
1986	Winner District 8 Table Topics Contest
1988	Winner District 8 Humorous Speech Contest
1989	Runnerup Region 5 Humourous Speech contest
1993	Winner District 8 International Speech Contest
1993	Runnerup Region 5 International Speech Contest

John Mohr – Retired (cont.)

1998 Winner District 8 Humorous Speech Contest

1989 Received District 8 Toastmaster of the Year Award

2001 Earned Distinguished Toastmaster Award

2009 Winner District 8 International Speech Contest

2015 Received District 8 Retired Toastmaster Award

2024. Retired from Toastmasters

As you can see, he held 50 years of TM membership during which he achieved quite remarkable accomplishments. He demonstrated leadership both within the club and outside the club. He is a very likable individual and attracted many people in his own way. Here are some words from his fellow club members who know him many years:

"John Mohr is a person of wit and wisdom. He has been a great leader, mentor, role model and inspiration to keep practicing public speaking. I have fond memories of Toastmaster Christmas dinner parties at his house and enjoyed knowing his family and especially his very supportive wife."

"As you know, Toastmasters meant a lot to John. He held many club and higher level offices. He also hosted many club picnics at his house. John also was very giving of his time to help the club and its members. He was a very dedicated member and it is sad that he is retiring from Toastmasters."

Message from your District Director



Rhonda F Green, DTM, PDD
2023/2024 District 8 Director

It has been my great pleasure to serve as the District 8 Director for the 2023/2024 year. This has been a year of rebirth and revitalization of the District. We have accomplished much as we have left the COVID-19 pandemic behind and once again started having in-person events.

Our strategy was to use the District funds which comes from the membership dues to encourage success within all of our clubs. EVERY Club would have the opportunity to be successful and receive some Toastmasters Gift Certificates. We started with the Smedley Membership Incentive and Low Member Clubs to Active Incentives. We offered a New Chartered Club Incentive, enjoyed the Fast 5 to Distinguished Incentive and others. We are ending with the End of Year Countdown Membership Incentive, the Beat the Clock membership Incentive and the Distinguished Clubs Success Incentive. For renewals we offered drawings for document bags, Duffle bags and custom travel mugs.

I would like to recognize our Program Quality and Club Growth Directors, Charice Manor, DTM and Patti Howard, DTM and each and every one of our Division and Area Directors: Karen Dew, Terri Orban, Dawnella Bowser, Colleen Dempsey, David Kincade, DTM, Sara Dahm, Marquette Wise, DTM, Sam Kloese, DTM, Janet Martin, Henry Green, DTM, Nathaniel Randall, DTM, Pamela Rodney, Linda Leasman, Kenneth Freeman, DTM, Laura Breska,

Timothy Scarbrough, Paula Williams, Bret Nichols and Annie Dunn.

I also thank the following present and past leaders of the District for stepping up to continually support District 8: IPDD/DLC Chair Karen Leingang, LM, Zoom Master and Webmaster Tom Coscia, DTM, Finance Manager Rebecca Jordan, Administration Manager Annetta Works-Salley, DTM, Audit Committee Chair Richard Porter, DTM, Alignment Chair Jackie Kam-Blackard, Elaine Curry, DTM, David Kincade, DTM, Raymond (RJ) Stratton, DTM, Curtis Scroggins, DTM, Tim Spezia, DTM, Kat Mokriakow, DTM, Donoley Williams, DTM, Andrew Welter, Paula Williams, Willie Blue, DTM, Lawson Calhoun, and Jennifer Krupp. If I did not mention you by name, please know that I thank every contribution you made to help build clubs, train educational session, advise and mentor and support our members.

Most importantly I want to thank the members of District 8 for allowing me to serve you to the best of my ability. Being new to this District, I watched as you opened your arms to welcome and support me and my efforts. You even gave me a pass the many times I was addressing the group and said District 16 and had to correct it to District 8, lol. It gets interesting when you are a member of multiple Districts.

I am ready and proud to turn the reins of District 8 to the District 8 Director – Elect, Charice Manor, DTM. I have faith and belief that you will join me in supporting her and District 8 to greater heights. Thank you for working with me to **Achieve Success Together.**

I look forward to seeing you at the **2023/2024 HALL OF FAME and Celebration Event** - September 14, 2024 at the Renaissance St Louis Airport Hotel, from 11:30am – 2:00pm. Every person that attends will receive a **2023/2024 memento** to take into the future. **Who will receive the coveted Toastmaster of the Year Award?**

Thank you for your warm welcome and support: Rhonda Green, DTM, PDD, 2023-2024 District 8 Director – Achieving Success Together.

ALPHA AND TALU TOASTMASTERS NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

This is a MEMBER-HOSTED event to raise funds for the prison clubs of District 8. Come walk or run on July 13, 2024. Race . More information below

VIRTUAL CHARITY
5K RUN/WALK

\$30
per
person



**BEYOND THE
BARS**

Benefits Alpha & Talu

13 JULY 2024

REGISTRATION INCLUDES T-SHIRT,
MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/36K7AYRZ](https://tinyurl.com/36k7ayrz)

Sponsored by God's Gurl

Registration includes T-shirt, medal and certificate of participation.

Register using the QR code in the flyer or via the [link here](https://tinyurl.com/36k7ayrz)

Message from your Program Quality Director

We have had quite the journey! We packed our bags, loaded up with our GPS set to Smedley Distinguished. This goal required us to achieve 43 distinguished clubs. Our packing list included: submit the officer list, attend club officer training, conduct area visits, grow our membership, educational achievement, host speech contests, hold officer elections and have fun along the way. Our route took us through the two Toastmasters Leadership Institutes (TLI) (In-Person), a third TLI (Virtually) and to our 4th Stop was our annual Conference titled, "Are We There yet?"

Networking at our events and getting to know each other was such a highlight to me. We enjoyed hearing from our "2023 International Speech Contest Semi-finalist" Pamela Rodney as she encouraged us to take time for ourselves, played games during the holiday social and mingled during the meet-n-greet.

This year, we are supporting Toi Wiley from St. Clair Toastmasters and eagerly waiting to hear the results of regional semifinals. The results for winners from your region will be announced around early July. **Congratulations to all our District contestants!**

We had a wonderful annual conference which reinvigorated many with ideas for the future in-person events. Friday evening, after the Table Topics contest, some participated in the bingo night fundraiser, which we raised \$626 dollars

for the Alpha and Talu Prison Clubs. On Saturday, we handled the district business and elected new district leaders. Past Regional Director, Rob Christensen encouraged us with his mission focused keynote, follow-on education session as well as performed the leader induction ceremony.

Club leadership elections are complete and newly elected officer must get ready for the upcoming TLI! If you need assistance getting your officer list in, contact cgd@distm.org. Keep checking the district calendar for more education and training opportunities.

Our journey wasn't always smooth sailing, we have some speed bumps, potholes and detours. We set our destination on Distinguished and, although we did not meet that goal as a District, we celebrate the 19 clubs that did and many "almost distinguished" clubs. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.

We have accomplished a lot this year and I applaud you all! It has been a great ride!

Let's pause, rest up and reflect so we are capable to do a little more this coming year. You all are such passionate members who walk-the-walk, share knowledge, give time and are immensely supportive to ensure the 8th Toastmaster District remains strong. It has been my honor to serve as the Program Quality Director.

Message from your Program Quality Director (cont.)

THANK YOU TO EVERY COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LEADER THAT VOLUNTEERED, HOPPED ON A CALL, RETURNED A TEXT, AND/OR SHOWED UP WHEN NEEDED. WE ARE A DISTRICT OF UNITY COMPRISED OF MANY. EACH MEMBER BRINGS THEIR UNIQUENESS AND PERSPECTIVE. THAT IS WHY I AM EXTREMELY HONORED TO PARTICIPATE AND SERVE WITH YOU.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE VALUED AND APPRECIATED!!



2023-2024 DISTINGUISHED CLUBS

PRESIDENTS DISTINGUISHED

Centene Speaks
Jeffco Challengers
Crossroads
Gem City
Talu
Mastertoasters
Cave Springs
Anheuser-Busch
RGA

SELECT DISTINGUISHED

Speak Easy
Aerospace Orators
Techmasters
Noontime

DISTINGUISHED

St Clair
Smedley Hometown Memorial
Midtown Clayton
Webster Groves
Rent-A-Toast
South County

**SELECT
DISTINGUISHED
AREA
AREA 4**

**DISTINGUISHED
AREA
AREA 19**

09/15

DESTINATION TOASTMASTERSLAND
A Preview of Membership for Future Toastmasters
by Rosemary Wilson, DTM (1/9/2024)

This is *what you must pack* to embark on this journey to and through Toastmastersland:

- .Personal goals in taking this self-improvement trip
- .Lifelong learning mindset
- .Improvable status of public speaking, communication, and leadership skills
- .Team spirit
- .Time dedicated to experience new ideas and actively participate
- .Willingness to research abundant organizational abbreviations
- .Willingness to share and invest personal competencies in membership
- .Self-confidence deficit in public speaking and/or leadership
- .Friendliness in the face of diverse faces networking in-person and virtually

. **3 P's:**

- High Priority** for this journey
- Persistence** to maintain focus en route
- Active Participation** everywhere along the route

Here is *what you will use* along your way to, into, and around, Toastmastersland:

- .Passport of expectations in the "Toastmasters Promise"
- .*Toastmaster Magazine* published monthly on line
- .Computer or surrogate with a computer
- .Special accommodations/interventions for English Language Learners
- .Itinerary in 6 virtual Pathway educational programs
- .Tickets purchased in the form of organizational dues
- .Tourist hubs at club website, district website, international website
- .Souvenirs in the form of Pathways milestone badges/certificates
- .Contestant roles
- .Tour guide job description as an officer
- .Cornucopia of content of virtual speaking and leadership educational texts

Once you have been to Toastmastersland for any length of time **remember:**

"If you get out of Toastmasters all there is to get out of Toastmasters, you will never get out of Toastmasters."

Helen Blanchard, DTM & Past International Toastmasters President

Message from **your Club Growth Director**

As your Club Growth Director, my focus has been memberships and club renewals. Hats off to all the clubs and individuals that have reached out in sharing Toastmasters with others. These new members are comprised of family, friends, co-workers or others that responded to personal invitations, public invitations through Face Book postings, Meetup, or flyers shared with the general public. Several reached out and set up table displays at organizations to share about Toastmasters.

Even though several clubs dissolved this past year, your invitations and personal growth that others have seen, have kept the District 8 membership level from significant loss. We created several membership incentives for clubs and individuals this year. Individuals had a chance to receive a Toastmaster Document Bag and TravelMug by renewing their memberships early. Several incentives were designed for clubs. For the Talk Up Toastmasters Membership Drive, two clubs, F.R.B Club (Federal Reserve Bank) and Rent-A-Toast Club (Enterprise) each received \$50 in TI gift certificates by adding 5 new members during February and March in addition to the TI incentives.

Seventy-seven (77) clubs have added members this past year. Of those, fifty-two (52) added four members achieving DCP Goal #7 with eighteen (18) of those clubs adding another 4+ members achieving DCP goal #8. The EOY Club Incentive will give clubs a \$5 TI gift certificates per each member that joins between March 1 – Jun 30 up to five members per each club. So far, fifty-two clubs will be receiving those certificates with a few more days to go. Eleven clubs have already maxed out on the EOY Incentive by adding at least 5 members. They are: Centene Speaks, RGA Toastmasters, Sole Influencers, Speak Easy Toastmasters, Aerospace Orators, Mastertoasters, Techmasters, MilliPoreSigma Toastmasters, Grand Center Club, and Rent-A-Toast Club.

Message from your Club Growth Director (cont.)

Three new clubs have chartered this year. Rhonda Green help to charter Writer's Ink in July 2023 and Charice Manor helped charter STL/Arnold in May 2024. Our third club, Speak Out Pfizer chartered in Oct 2023 with the help of sister clubs in 2 other districts. As we close out this year, 3 other D8 Toastmasters have given us leads for their workplace. Karen Dew and Elaine Curry are busy scheduling meetings and setting up demo meetings. We are hoping that they will charter soon to start the new year off with a bang!

A big thank you to Elaine Curry, Annetta Works Salley, Karen Dew, Lemont Curry, Kesha Kent, Sarah Van Meter, Lawson Calhoun, Jackie Kam Blackard, Trisha Gordon and Burchell McGhee in going with me to introductory meetings. While several have worked in the background to help coach clubs, four stepped up to be official club coaches. A big thanks to Kathy Dieker, Sarah Van Meter, Terri Orban and Charice Manor for working with clubs.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Club Growth Director this past year. I have met many that I would not have met, had I not had this opportunity. I have enjoyed visiting clubs virtually and those in-person club meetings. I look forward to serving you next year as your Program Quality Director. If you have any suggestions that you would like to see incorporated, please reach out and let me know.

Patti



Congratulations!

Division Directors

Division A Director – Sarah Dahm

Division B Director – Paula Williams

Division C Director – Tim Scarbrough

Division E Director – Evelyn Pearman

Division F Director – Burchell McGhee

**We are pleased to
announce the incoming
District 8 leaders!**

District 8 TRIO

**District Director
Charice Manor, DTM**

**Program Quality Director
Patti Howard, DTM**

**Club Growth Director
Karen Dew-Poe**



Upcoming Training



JULY 27, 2024

IN PERSON TLI

Join us Saturday, July 27th at Southwestern Illinois College - Granite City for an in-person hands on training event.

Registration: 8:30-8:55

Classes: 9:00-11:30

- ✓ Achieve Excellence
- ✓ Bring your laptop/tablet
- ✓ Friendly Instructors



4950 Maryville Rd, Granite City, IL
Take 270 to exit 4, turn South



 dist8tm.org/training

Come Celebrate all of our Toastmasters Accomplishments for the Year

Distinguished Toastmasters Awards

Triple Crown Awards

Education Awards Recognition

Distinguished Clubs Recognition

Distinguished Club Success

Incentives Awarded

Gift Certificates Galore

Distinguished Areas

District Leader Recognition

Special Excellence awards:

Support of Club Growth

Support of Program Quality

Support of the District

Retired Toastmaster of the Year

Area Director of the Year

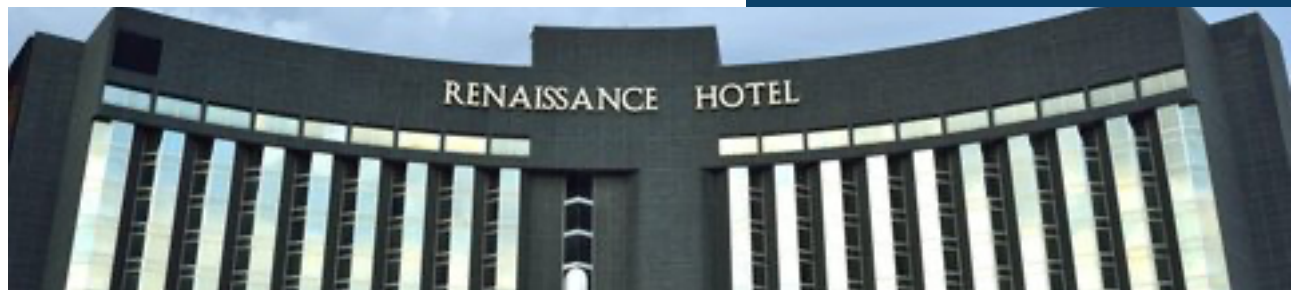
Division Director of the Year

Toastmaster of the Year



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

REGISTRATION IS
\$30 PER PERSON.
REGISTRATION
ENDS ON
SEPTEMBER 4TH,
2024, 11:59PM CST



Happy New Year!

*Thank you to all
members that served
this year to help the
District achieve
success!*
