



District 26 Dialogue

Serving Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

D26 LEADERS

Rhea Thompson, District Director

Marcia Wood, Program Quality Director

Mike Akins, Club Growth Director

Darryle Brown, Immediate Past District Director

Marieta Ferrington, Public Relations Manager

Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager

Katrina Johnson, Finance Manager

OPEN, District Extension Chair

Colette Smith, District Retention Chair

Alexander Pyle, Technology Lead

Greg Harris, Webmaster

Trixie Hunter-Merrill, Social Media Chair

Ray Mohr, Speakers Bureau Chair

Lori High, Quality Events Chair

Michelle Mras, Dialogue Editor

Check the District Calendar

For District Events

www.D26Toastmasters.org



A Message from our

District Director

Rhea Thompson, DTM

Springtime and Summer

I like to think of the first quarter of the Toastmasters year in relation to the second quarter of the calendar year. Although the Toastmasters year begins on July 1st of each year, it really is springtime for Toastmasters.

Spring is the time to begin planting the seeds for harvest later. Clubs begin to work on their Club Success Plan, planting the seeds in preparation for reaching distinguished status in June. Members begin to set goals to complete their communication and leadership awards, planting the seeds for personal growth throughout the year. District officers are trained, planting the seeds for Area and Division Directors to feel empowered to lead their teams.

The seeds have been planted and we are now entering the second season of the Toastmasters year, summer. Have we planted the best seeds possible? Did we take time to choose healthy seeds? Did we plant these seeds with enough space to allow for growth?

October 1st begins our summer. We now water, and nourish those seeds. And we'll need to weed! Did I say, "weed"? Yes, unfortunately unwelcome weeds will take root in fertile soil. A few of these unwelcome weeds are self-doubt, discouragement, and complaining.

It might be difficult to recognize one of these unwelcome weeds when they first raise their ugly head above the soil. But, if left unchecked, they will take over and suffocate the promising seeds.

As summer gets underway, "raise the bar" by daily watching to see no weeds sprout among your seeds. If they do, get out your trusted hoe and eradicate them!

Division Directors

Denver, **Carolyn Conover**
 Eastern, **May Tran**
 Foothills, **Laria Lovec**
 Metro, **Howard Levine**
 Northern, **Janice Haldi**
 Southern, **Victoria Cox**
 Urban, **Joy Davidson**

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A Message from our Program Quality Director Marcia Wood, DTM



Fall Contests Sizzle with Energy

Did you ever get excited about a project or a goal? Do these projects consume you like a fire does a pile of wood? When you get excited, do you generate enthusiasm and energy?

When I get excited, I burn. (After all, my last name is Wood.) I'm so excited about Fall Contests that I am *currently* generating serious sizzle!

In all this season's area contests, I have never heard *funnier* stories! The audience gets warmed up by the test speaker for the Speech Evaluation contest, and by the end of the Humorous Speech contest, people are emitting some enormous *volts* of energy!



I am reminded of the time when Mike Storkey visited District 26 in the Fall of 2014. He was at that time the Second Vice President of Toastmasters International, and today, he's Immediate Past International President. He and his wife, Leslie Storkey, traveled from North Queensland, Australia. Mike and Leslie were astonished at the quality of funny stories in our Humorous Speech contest. They had never experienced before six amazingly qualified contestants. With the addition of the Urban Division this year, you can hear seven contestants' funny stories!

Want to know when can you experience the next Humorous Speech Contest? Check out the District 26 [Calendar](#) to view details for future Division Contests. Then register for the [Fall Conference](#) to be present for the District 26 Speech Evaluation and Humorous Speech Contests Friday and Saturday evenings, November 10 and 11, 2017. The Humor — It Sizzles!

Mission Statements

Toastmasters

International Mission:

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

District Mission:

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

Club Mission:

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Check the District Calendar

For District Events

www.D26Toastmasters.org

Facebook/

D26Toastmasters

Twitter@D26Toastmasters

A Message from Club Growth Director Mike Akins, DTM



New Clubs Create Opportunities to Serve

Great news, please welcome our newest **chartered clubs!**

Speak and Influence [#6656872](#), Closed, Level 3
Communications, Broomfield, CO
Chartered 9/20/17 by Troy Lynette and Jiejun Burke

Twin Peaks Toasters [#6649041](#), Open, Longmont, CO
Chartered 9/28/17 by Sarah Beasley and Ashley Pyle

Interested in joining another club? These clubs have completed their Kickoff/Demo meetings, but need a few members to put them over 20 required to charter. Contact me for more information.

- CA Technologies #TBD, Open, Boulder, CO
- Gunbarrel #6639075, Open, Longmont, CO
- Qualcomm #6523680, Closed, Boulder, CO
- S&P Global #TBD, Closed, Centennial, CO
- Wheat Toast #6672751, Open, Wheat Ridge, CO
- Highlander Toastmasters, #5989844, Open, Denver, CO

We have 20 more clubs in their **Start-up Phase**. If you have a passion to help these clubs get off the ground, please email me at cgd1718@d26leaders.org for Sponsor and Mentor roles, which satisfy an ALS requirement. We need your help!

By the time you read this, the **dues renewal deadline** of 9/30/17 will have passed. Club Treasurers and Presidents, please verify that WHQ has processed your renewals correctly by viewing [this report](#) or logging into Leadership Central > Club Central > [Club Roster](#). Per eligibility rules, Fall speech contestants and their clubs must be renewed. Clubs have a two month grace period to submit member payments or the member will be deactivated.

I look forward to serving your club and membership needs.



Expand Your Reach Through Toastmasters and Networking

September 21, 2017 at Howl at the Moon, Denver, Colorado

Guest Speakers: Joyce Feustel and Philip Pelto.

By: Marieta Ferrington, Public Relations Manager



“What a useful and informative event. I can now say I have successfully attended a speed networking event and survived it! In fact it was fun and well organized!”

- Jane Grogan, guest

**Photo Credit
Randy Ellis
Photography**



Our Special Guest, Joyce Feustel telling us, "How to Use LinkedIn to enhance your face to face networking".

Our Speaker, Philip Pelto giving us insight about the speed networking session.

“It was a terrific event, and I’m glad we are having another one again at the end of November.” - Patty Graner, guest

“That was so useful and I met so many people. Splendid work! I can't thank you enough for this.”
- Krishna Chaitanya, Littleton Toastmasters

SAVE THE DATE
November 16, 2017, 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Howl at the Moon, 1735 19th Street, Denver, Colorado
Guest Speakers: Joan Janis and Daniel Schrader

“It’s great to spend time at a networking event with someone you know and like. But, that’s not what you’re here for. Your goal is to expand your network by meeting new people.”
Beth Ramsay

What's Happening Around the District?

Toastmasters is more than Speaking!

By: Laria Lovec, Foothills Division Director

“Where Leaders are Made” is a phrase which is near-and-dear to every Toastmaster. Even though our journey begins with one speech, it frequently morphs into a foundation of a strong Leader. Where have you used your Leadership skills?



One of the things I enjoy most about Toastmasters is watching people use their leadership skills outside of their clubs. I have been a member of Toastmasters since 2010 and have watched many people grow over the years. Linda, my first mentor, is described as a “poor speaker,” yet, she successfully led the local Chamber of Commerce. Her leadership skills attracted new businesses to join the Chamber; increased networking events in the community; and made progress towards revitalizing the JCs.

Locally, Rick Barrett, F-6 Area Director, has returned from his latest fire assignment. Rick is a member of an Interagency Incident Management Team and has gone to large fires in Montana, Oregon, and other states during this fire season. His leadership has helped firefighters protect thousands of acres of public and private lands during this extreme fire season. During the few days he has been home, he has continued to complete his duties as Area Director.

These are two examples of the people I have watched grow as a result of Toastmasters. Personally, I have used my skills in my professional life and as a Division Director. I encourage you to use your skills and encourage fellow club members to use theirs both within Toastmasters and outside of the club!

My Second DTM Journey By: John Donnellon, DTM

My first DTM was awarded to me in 2006. However, due to my overseas employment, I could not pursue my affiliation with Toastmasters. So, my official journey for my second DTM, started at the Liberty Toastmasters club in Denver on 23 January 2016. Liberty was a great club, but since I had to work on Saturdays, and the Liberty club met on Saturday, I had to find another club.



That club was Parker, #4881. The Parker club allowed me to speak at every meeting. During that time, Darryle Brown, DTM, District 26 Director appointed me the M4 Area Director. Eric Dunham, DTM, President of Parker #4881, appointed me the club's Sergeant - At - Arms. Valerie Cassano, the Parker club's VP for Education, kept me focused on my DTM goal. On 24 July 2017, I received in the mail a handsome plaque, noting that I had received DTM status. The time that it took for me to make my second DTM was one year and six months - the exact time I have been a member of Parker #4881. I am very thankful for the support and guidance, that Tom Marrs, the Metro Division Director gave me. I truly would not have persevered without the support team, my employer and my wonderful family.

Grand Junction Youth Leadership Program - 6-weeks of Fun!

by: Mary Watson, Foothills 2 Area Director



YOUTH GRADUATES FROM SPRING 2017:

Back Row: Elijah Rubick; Palmer Meyers; Edak Bishop; Jordan Hanzl; Jack Wade; Carson Duran; Alejandro Huerta;

Front Row: Alyssa Breeden; Julia Simoes; Jonathan Wernke; Sabrina Frantz; Corbin Kent; Tava Johnson; Megan Rubalcaba; Jonathan Simoes; Adianna Bishop

Since 2013 Grand Junction Toastmaster Clubs mentors Youth Leaders (for teens 13-17) Program (YLP) challenges students to sharpen public speaking skills. This annual YLP was taught by alumni students – Megan Rubalcaba and Palmer Meyers – both have attended the program for years. Megan & Palmer stepped up and took over the 6-week program, they developed valuable leadership skills. Twenty-five students were required to present five minute speeches and weekly evaluations. In addition to making impromptu speeches – their favorite, Table Topics.

The program is supported by the Mesa County Libraries (Teen Program) which supplies snacks and copied materials. This was the first year 95+% of youth completed the entire program. All youth participants were winners, it took a great deal of courage for them to stand up and deliver a five minute speech and be critiqued. Each week the Youth voted on which person they felt was best speaker and best evaluator for an award and weekly bragging rights. All students who completed all 6 weeks program were gifted monetary awards from our local Youth Sponsor *Visiting Angels* who have been tremendously generous to the youth program for years. We are preparing for our 2017 Fall YLP which starts October 10, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm (MDT) at Mesa County Libraries.

To register call 970.243.4442 or visit the event calendar online at www.mesacountylibraries.org/teens.



Books Can Spark Dreams

A Glimpse Into the Life of Fall Conference Keynote Speaker Pres Vasilev
2013 World Champion of Public Speaking

When he was a small boy back in Bulgaria, Pres Vasilev read a book that sparked his dream to come to America. In 2002, his dream came true. Pres came alone, but he brought big goals, bold dreams, and a sexy accent.

Yes, the first question he faced was always, “Where’re you from?” He struggled with English, but sharing his story helped him win friends fast and quickly cope with the culture shock.

In 2005, Pres was due for another adventure. He took the job that changed his life – selling children’s books door to door. From house to house, Pres pedaled his bike and peddled his books.

When people asked him, “Where’re you from?” Pres told them his story. Swayed by the power of books to spark dreams, many became his customers, turning him into a top producer. For more than a decade, Pres studied, researched, written, and spoken on self-improvement, speaking, storytelling, and selling.



After competing in countless speech contests, Pres rose above 30,000 contestants from 122 countries to become the 2013 World Champion of Public Speaking.

Since then, Pres has helped hundreds of people from around the world deliver compelling presentations and win speech contests.

Pres speaks to corporate and public audiences on the subject of **Successful Selling with Storytelling™**. He combines his insights from the sales trenches with his storytelling expertise to equip his audiences with practical strategies for instant influence and sales success.

His professional sales training program equips sales teams with strategic storytelling skills so they can connect with prospects better, convert them to customers faster, and close more sales. Pres also provides one-on-one coaching to busy executives, professional and aspiring speakers so they can confidently deliver presentations that influence and inspire.

Pres speaks four languages and loves traveling around the world. He lives in Chicago, and when he is not speaking or coaching, Pres practices his listening skills with his girlfriend, Sara.

Calling all Trainers and Speakers!

Would you like to lead a Breakout Session at the Fall Conference?

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Time is running out - Submit your proposal today!

Submit your Speaker proposal for the D26 Fall Conference at the DoubleTree Greenwood Village for consideration, **no later than midnight on October 10, 2017.**

Speakers will be notified by October 14, 2017, if their proposal has been accepted.

The 45 minute sessions will be held Saturday afternoon, November 11th.

All Speakers must be Registered for the Fall Conference in some way.

* Registration options will be offered if you are unable to attend the entire conference.*

Education Sessions should be in the areas of: Communication, Leadership and Presentation Skills, Personal Development, Social Media or Education.

Your chosen topic can be Toastmaster specific or general in nature; timely, relevant, motivational or inspirational, let your expertise shine!

The theme for the 2017 Fall Conference is:

Raising the Bar by Leading With Excellence!

Download the Speaker Proposal form here: [District 26 Speaker's Proposal Form](#).

Follow the instructions and submit your proposal no later than midnight on October 10, 2017 .

Questions? e-mail us at: Proposals@D26leaders.org

Please note: ONLY complete proposals will be considered.

Thank you for sharing your expertise with our Members, we hope to see you ALL at the Conference!



Message from our Conference Chair, Trixie Hunter-Merrill

I love Fall. I love the leaves changing and the crispness in the air. I love how the seasons change and offer us a fresh start and a new chance again. Fall Conference is much of the same. We put away things of the past and allow new things, new lessons and new ideas to come forth.

This year our theme is:

Raising the Bar by Leading with Excellence.

This is the time for growth. This is the time to Raise the Bar. Step out of your comfort zones. Stretch yourself, and your clubs. Reach for goals you never thought attainable. Learn new things. Explore new ideas. Soar to new heights.

We each can lead with excellence. We each can make a difference in our Club, our Area and our Division. It is up to us to reach for those higher bars of life by challenging ourselves to do so and the Fall conference will allow you to do just that.

Each of us can take part in making this the

BEST, LAST

Fall conference ever.

Let's raise the bar by growing our attendance.

Raise the bar by volunteering and helping out.

Let's raise the bar by attending workshops and classes we may not normally attend.

Let's raise the bar by attending all the events and by not just being there, but being there on time, with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts for this great event and a fabulous experience.

I can't wait to see you there!

Silence Auction Baskets for Fall Conference Just What will you think of next?

From Fairy Gardens, to Brew Tours, to money salads! Each year we have been impressed with the creativity that members have shown in designing “Themed” baskets for the Silent Auction. YES, it’s that time of year again Folks!

D26 is currently seeking donations for the Silent Auction that will be held at the *very last* and **VERY BEST** Fall Conference on November 10–11, 2017 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Greenwood Village.

The funds raised by the silent auction help keep registration fees low for everyone by defraying some of the expense of the conference *AND* there is an added bonus – It’s FUN to shop and bid on these colorful and interesting baskets during the event!



We invite you or your Club to develop a basket that reflects your creativity and donate it to the Fall Conference Silent Auction. You can make it a Club project where people donate specific items and have a crafty person assemble the basket and place it into a clear gift bag for an appealing display. Suggestions for the themed baskets - think; wine, chocolate, coffee, tickets to sporting events or whatever your hearts desire! Baskets up to \$75 in value get the most bids, if you get up around \$100 in value, consider splitting it into 2 baskets. The possibilities are endless!

If you can’t attend the conference, but would still like to support the Silent Auction with a donation, contact us at: DQEC@d26leaders.org and we will help make arrangements to ensure your donation can be transported to the Conference.

Thank you for supporting the Silent Auction and District 26 Toastmasters!

UPCOMING EVENT: Register Now!

November 10-11, 2017: D26 Fall Conference
Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests
Reservation Phone: 1-800-327-2242

<http://group.doubletree.com/toastmastersinternational>

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 7801 E Orchard Road
Greenwood Village, Colorado

Member Recognition Corner

By: Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager

September Educational Awards

Competent Communicator

Liz Colter (8/30)
Deedee Lake
Ray Burgien
Don Heins
Marilyn Watson
Lauren Sawyer
Ryan Duve
Linda Marsolek
Nick Rizzi
Dean Micheletto
Stephane Wallace x 2
Nicholas Massey
Andrea Mortenson
Elaine Logan
Michael To

Advanced Communicator Bronze

Kristin Sorensen
Jay Irwin
Rita Bean
Robert Bowen

Advanced Communicator - Silver

Laura Clemens (8/30)

Advanced Communicator Gold

John Stephens (8/31)
Hae Bolduc
Nicole Johnson
Angela Schnaubelt

Competent Leader

Laura Amundson (8/30)
John Stephens (8/31)
Don Brent
Albert Woolums
Linnaea Sutphin
Upasana Sharma
Tom Hobbs
Jeff Ruiz
Julie Ulstrup
Katiuska Vergith
David Johnson
Minh Nguyen
Jacqueline Baker
Teri Morrison
Glenda O'Neill
Steve Holloway

Advanced Leader Bronze

Allison (Rosie) Suerdieck
Alison Miller
Nhi Aronheim

Advanced Leader Silver

Michael Pierson
Robert Laborde
Kathy Barrett

Advanced Leadership Gold

No Recipients

Distinguished Toastmaster

Michael Pierson
Robert Laborde
Kathy Barrett

Leadership Excellence

John Stephens

Triple Crown

John Stephens, LDREXC, CL, ACG
David Johnson, CC, CL
LDREXC, ALS, DTM,
Michael Pierson, ACG, LDREXC, ALS, DTM



Anniversaries, Achievements and Charters

Congratulations to the following clubs for reaching milestone anniversaries this quarter:

July

COW Toastmasters: 15th

August

Columbine Communicator Club: 25th

Speakers Alliance: 1st

September

Toast of Greenwood Village: 10th

Professional Presenters Toastmasters: 5th

ThriveMasters: 5th

Elevator's Toastmasters: 1st

Western Slope Liberty Toastmasters: 1st

Terumo BCT: 1st

Steamboat Toastmasters: 1st

October

None

Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving the most educational awards in a single month:

July

BodyShops Club: 3

Greeley Early Risers Toastmasters: 3

South Suburban Toastmasters: 3

EntSpirational Speakers Club: 3

S-Peak Leaders: 3

5250 Toastmasters: 3

August

Thrillspeakers Toastmasters Club: 3

Timberline Toastmasters: 3

Highlands Ranch Toastmasters Club: 3

September

Peterson Toastmasters: 6

Congratulations to the following clubs that chartered this quarter:

Speak & Influence (9/20)

Twin Peak Toasters (9/28)

Keep Our District Connected

If you are not following us on Social Media, please do. This is the best way for the District to keep you aware and keep us aware of what is going on in our District so that we may best support it.

The links are below:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/D26Toastmasters/>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/D26Toastmasters?lang=en>
- LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/390685/>
- Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/district26toastmasters/>
- You Tube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRAAnj3Sg3NT7Z_UyCoxa_A
- Best way to keep track of these in your clubs is www.Buffer.com - Give it a try!



If you have information for Social Media that you would like us to share on one or more of the D26 Social Media pages please email me at :

Trixie Hunter-Merrill, Social Media Chair

D26SocialMedia1718@D26Leaders.org

More info about Guidelines and what to share can be found at

<http://www.d26toastmasters.org/members/social-media-and-district-26I>



Michelle Mras
Newsletter Editor

WANTED: Articles

Hello fellow Toastmasters. The entire District would love the opportunity to celebrate with you. What's going on in your Club, Area or Division? Write an article and share a photo. See below for the submission protocol and send it to me. If you need help writing, let me know and I will help you develop it. Let's share and raise the bar throughout District 26!

DIALOGUE SUBMISSION PROTOCOLS

Articles limited to 250 words or less along with a photo of yourself or a representation of the event. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Send articles and photos to the editor

newsletter@d26leaders.org.

Please state "D26 newsletter/ month / Title" in the subject line.