



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

OPEN, 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

Turning Challenges into Opportunities for Growth

Ahhh, a day with no challenges! This seems to be something most of us wish would be our everyday life. However, it rarely happens. We are challenged by many things; what to eat, what to wear, how to deal with heavy traffic on the way to work, which project do I work on next when they all have the same high priority, and how do I balance my home life and work?

These are all challenges we can deal with because they are under our own control. But what about those challenges over which we have no control? Do we react or act? Reacting is often emotionally driven and spontaneous, while acting involves developing a plan to address the issue with the purpose to overcome obstacles.

Growing as a leader does not come when everything runs smoothly. We develop leadership skills when faced with challenges and learning how best to overcome those challenges. When faced with a challenge we might like to consider the following:

- Take a deep breath
- Allow time for our emotions to calm
- Avoid blame
- “Own” the challenge
- Examine the challenge, look for the positives
- Ask ourselves, “What can I learn from this?”

Not all challenges work out the way we would like. The importance is in the “learning”. Learning is the glue to growing as a leader.

Let’s **“raise the bar”** by accepting challenges as an opportunity for growth!

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**



Attitude of Gratitude

As I walked briskly to the Blenz coffee shop near the Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver British Columbia, I passed a traffic manager speaking on his two-way radio to the dispatcher. The manager was saying, "It's perfect weather!" I had to agree with him. The sunny autumn morning was composed of seagulls flying in a blue sky, tugboats and sailboats churning the harbor waters, and tourists snapping photos. The temperature was a delightful 62 degrees F, but the residents of Vancouver called it 16 degrees C.



Cup of coffee in my hand, I started to ponder my observation as I headed to my first event at the Convention Center. Wouldn't it always be "perfect weather" if we had the right attitude? I am referring to an attitude of gratitude. If we had an attitude of gratitude, it would always be the perfect opportunity or the perfect meeting, training session, contest, or whatever we see or do. If we appreciate our surroundings in the moment, adopting an attitude of gratitude, and if we acknowledge the power of positive thinking, the possibilities are endless. Of course, there is always room for improvement. We can, and should, analyze the events, discussions, interactions and behaviors, and learn how to make the next event or interaction better.



I feel honored to be at a convention where there is no concern about the difference in people's backgrounds, heritage, geographic location, politics or religion. Because we are all Toastmasters, we share a commonality, and we are all friends.

I am grateful for a year of challenges and opportunities to grow in character and wisdom. I want to thank the many volunteers in District 26 who worked hard to achieve Distinguished District status. Out of 102 districts, only 30 in the world (21 in the United States) were distinguished or better. The work was difficult at times, sometimes easy. But always, the work was rewarding.

The next time you are frustrated or upset about something that happened, or something that someone did or said that made you angry, I challenge you to look for commonality, adopt an attitude of gratitude, and be grateful for the lessons you are learning and the circumstances you are experiencing. Then reflect and make a mental note to improve the next experience. I would be grateful if you would do that.

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 our outgoing Club Growth Director Mark Krekeler, ACG, ALB



Say, YES!

Last month I discussed Club Officer Training. How new Toastmaster members can experience growth in leadership by taking an officer role in their club - who does not enjoy a spirited officer training?

This time of year the focus begins to shift to speech contests. I have fond memories, most of them were while I was an Area Director. Helping to steer clubs on how to hold a contest, while learning along with them along the way. Involving those club members who were nervous or having doubts if they were capable of being a Contest Chair, or a Toastmaster (my favorite), a Judge, or any role in a contest.

It is a great joy for me to see club members get involved for the first time, at a club contest, realize they can do it, and then becoming involved at the Area, Division, and then ultimately the District level. I have personally mentored two new members of my On Broadway club to play the big role of Toastmaster; did I say it is my favorite role? Unfortunately, I don't get to do that role anymore. I miss participating at the contests. If you ask those who do participate, they will tell you it was a memorable, leadership advancing, risk taking personal development experience they are glad they said, "yes".

Which comes full circle to my most best / fun scenario - when you are asked to be the contest chair, or Toastmaster, of judge, or timer...

Say, "YES" and let your journey unfold!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mike Akins, DTM, has accepted the role of Club Growth Director effective August 17, 2017. Please welcome Mike to our team as he continues the work began by Mark Krekeler, who stepped down because of personal reasons.

Mark remains an important member of District 26 and you can expect to see him at events throughout the district. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Mark for his service to District 26.





**A Message from
our newly appointed
Club Growth Director
Mike Akins, DTM**

Change Is In The Air

Hello fellow Toastmasters,

I look forward to serving you as the new District 26 Club Growth Director (CGD) and 'Raising the bar'. Please contact me at cgd1718@d26toastmasters.org, mikeakinsdtm@gmail.com or call 303-552-5890 with suggestions or concerns.

Convention. I wish more District 26 members experienced last week's International Convention. The Vancouver location, training sessions, key-note speakers, speech contests and networking activities were all amazing! I exchanged business cards with Toastmasters from all corners of the world, some traveling 24 straight hours to attend this event. Please mark your calendars now to attend next year in Chicago, and Denver in 2019.

Background. Since 2003, I've been a Talking Ideas club member in Westminster, CO, Foothills Division. I served as an Area Governor in 2005-06 when Joyce Feustel, DTM was our District Governor. So, I've been roaming these halls for a while and know many leaders throughout our great District. I decided this would be the year to help around the District which prompted me to run for CGD at our May District conference. I love process improvement, systems, project planning and financial analysis to accomplish longer-term goals.

Call to action. Our Club Growth team needs your help, please contact me quickly if you're passionate and experienced in one of these areas:

Help charter new clubs (Extension team) **Assisting clubs that need revitalization** (Retention team)

I look forward to meeting you soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ August 1-September 30, 2017: Smedley Award Members Campaign - Recruit five new members
- ◆ September 21, 2017: Toastmasters Networking Event, page 6
- ◆ September 30, 2017: Deadline for Member dues
- ◆ November 10-11, 2017: D26 Fall Conference - Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests

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

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_UyC0xa_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

It's Official: Michelle Mras, DTM has accepted the position of District Newsletter Editor. Michelle brings a variety of talents to this role. Michelle is an inspirational speaker, corporate trainer, International coach and author. She joined Toastmasters in Feb 2010 and has sought growth with every opportunity within Toastmasters; from club officer roles, area governor, Southern Division governor, speech competitions, club mentor, club coach and now, newsletter editor. She has used her Toastmaster skills to make it onto the National Public Radio stage multiple times and the TEDx stage. Michelle loves to serve people, especially her Toastmaster family. Please welcome Michelle to our team and let her know how much you enjoy the District 26 Dialogue!

DIALOGUE SUBMISSION PROTOCOLS

When there are awesome celebrations occurring in your area, write an article 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" in the subject line.

Expand Your Reach Through Networking

By Marieta Ferrington, Public Relations Manager



Following Simon Sinek’s idea that ‘People don’t buy what you do; they buy why you do it’, I’ll tell you why we started organizing Toastmasters Networking Events.

Our goal is to create an environment where fellow Toastmasters and Non-Toastmasters meet, connect & learn about new ideas and opportunities. A place where people exchange best practices, experience and knowledge that will help them grow personally & professionally, and expand their reach.

In order to do this we’ll start our first event with speed networking which will be led by Phil Pelto, Entrepreneur, Connector and Relationship Builder. Our goal is to help you make the most connections with people in the shortest amount of time. It’s a fun and fast paced way for you to meet other cool people attending the event and see what they are up to. In this format, you will talk for 90 seconds, then listen for 90 seconds, then switch partners and repeat. Our Special Guest will be Joyce Feustel, Social Media Trainer, Tutor & Former District 26 Governor who will tell us “How to Use LinkedIn to Enhance Your Face to Face Networking”.

If you want to be part of this fun event, RSVP at PRM1718@D26Leaders.org , bring your business cards and don’t forget,

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

Toastedmasters Networking Event

You are invited

Date: September 21st, 2017
 Time: 5PM – 6:30PM
 Place: “Howl at the Moon”
 1735, 19th st., Denver, CO 80202
 Free Admission / Cash Bar
 RSVP: PRM1718@D26Leaders.org

Sponsored by District 26 Toastmasters

Presenters:

FIRESTORM

Networking Social Media
Simple
Easy
Fun

Random Acts of Kindness

On Saturday, June 24, 2017 at Fields Foundation Center, Toastmasters & Sisters Betty Funderburke, DTM and Elinora Reynolds, DTM of Sisters Enterprise presented their 2017 CENTENARIAN AWARD to 103 year old Lieutenant Jim Downing (2nd oldest Pearl Harbor Survivor) at their “13th Annual Random Acts of Kindness Award Program.”

While entertaining a 125+ audience, gifted and talented Mistresses of Ceremony (Toastmasters Michelle BIRES & Joyce FORD) saluted ten exceptional RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS (RAOK) honorees and introduced Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cenece Dixon, recipient of President Obama’s Lifetime Achievement Award. The program included a stunning fashion show featuring Toastmaster May Tran, Jeannine Montgomerie (Ms. Senior Colorado), et al.

Sisters Enterprise has recognized 140 RAKtivists (RAOK Activists) including 25 current and past Toastmasters since their founding in 2004. The following Toastmasters have been recognized with the distinguished RAOK award: Lenora Alexander; Gil Antero; Shirley Armstrong; Marilyn Benzel; Michelle Bires, DTM; Monica Brown; Paul Clark; GiGi deGala; the late Dr. Kathy Fortune, MD; Gail Hamilton; Michael Herold; Pamela Hertzog, DTM; Annie Howard; Kenneth Jorensen; Dana Morgan-Barnes, DTM; Donald Murphy; Dr. John Potts; Michael Richardson; the late Robin Robinson; Heath Rost; Dr. Annette Sills-Brown; Mike Thompson; Carl Thornton; May Tran; and Flora Young.

Always promoting random acts of kindness, Betty and Elinora encourage Toastmasters and others to become a RAKtivist by inspiring hope, generosity and goodwill. These biological sisters founded the Aurora-based Absolutely Articulate Toastmasters, club #1272692 in 2009.



2017 Centenarian

Lieutenant Jim Downing
Date of Birth
22 August 1913

Random Acts of Kindness Honorees:

Kathleen Hancock,
Sandra Bea, Harvey
McWhorter, Joe Gilliom,
Glenn Younger

Dr. Cenece Dixon
(Keynote Speaker),
Juanita Montoya, Karen
Gonzales, Sheila
Robinson Heath Rost,
Andrew Thang

Immediate Past District Director Darryle Brown's Northern Division Adventure!

By: Darryle Brown, MBA, DTM

Through the wild, windy Wyoming weather, Immediate Past District Director Darryle Brown took a remarkable journey through the Northern Division of District 26. On the first day, the visits consisted of two clubs, Distinguished club High Noon Toastmasters in Cheyenne and the small, but mighty Pathfinder Toastmasters Club in Casper. The second day, began in the morning with Distinguished club Energy Capital Toastmasters in Gillette. At noon, the visit continued with District 26's oldest active club Pioneer Toastmasters Club #97 in Casper and the final stop was with President's Distinguished Club Cheyenne Toastmasters.

While the trip was 800 miles overall and all of Wyoming's great clubs could not be visited, it was well worth the trip. Northern Division has some amazing and fun clubs for which the District can be proud. Maybe next time on the adventure, perhaps a cowboy hat would complete the look (and maybe a horse). Special thanks to the warm welcome received from all the clubs throughout the trip.



High Noon Toastmasters



Pathfinder Toastmasters Club



Energy Capital Toastmasters



Pioneer Toastmasters Club



Cheyenne Toastmasters

The forecast is hot and sunny, with a chance of fear.

By: Marcia Wood, Program Quality Director

It's August 12, 2017 at Elitch's Theme Park in Denver where the 2016/17 District 26 Trio, District Director Darryle Brown, Program Quality Director Rhea Thompson, and myself, Club Growth Director Marcia Wood, have a date with destiny.

I'm supposed to be celebrating the amazing achievement of Distinguished District, but the closer we get to our celebratory goal, the closer I feel the umbra of dread.

Accompanied by 2015/16 M1 Area Director, Cynthia Schuller, plus Darryle's wife, Lesley Brown, the intrepid Trio strolls jovially toward the Mount Everest of Doom called the Twister II Roller Coaster.



Toastmasters: Where Shriekers Are Made.

Once in line, I realize there's no turning back. At the top of the precarious stairs, Darryle looks at us and says, "If this turns out bad, I want you to know it was a pleasure serving with both of you."



Lesley records our grinning faces as we're strapped in, just in case she needs it for the memorial service.

Rounding the first curve, the chain drags the train up the incline.

Let's just say, panic does not become me.

Time stops. We all gasp—and we hurtle to the bottom of this swirling vortex of steely doom.

A wise man once said, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Just call me stronger, OK?

Club Recognition Corner

By: Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager

July Educational Awards

Competent Communicator

Herb Conley
Nancy Puga
Kevin Schei
Tara Broghammer
Darryle Brown
Sandra Oliver
Diana Thompson
Teresa Marie Seggerman
Johnathan James
Joseph Chiefari
Erinn Riney
Nancy Howard Thomson
Amanda Matthews
Amanda Baushke
Coral Heyl
Paul Soroka
Will Robinson
Deborah Frauenfelder
Jeremy Levy
Stacy Simons
Christian Michael
Kevin Trice
Cindy Vanders
Lydia Popovski
Jeffrey Vargas
Alejandro Vera
Jessica Olmstad

Advanced Communicator Bronze

Michael Wilmot
Victoria Cox
Alan Wong
Michael Akins
Paula Collins
Mark Reagan
Richard Patterson
Eric Hansen
James MacLennan
Keith Horowitz
Sarah Elshof

Advanced Communicator Silver

Bruce Denton
Jim Urban
Neetu Agarwal

Advanced Communicator Gold

Carol Pace
Michael Pierson

Competent Leader

Linda Fellon
Frances Thomas
Bill Bartlett
Carol Pace
Todd Fenner
Nhi Aronheim
Thomas Marrs x2
Cynthia Schuller
Richard Patterson
Jaime Schunk
Michael Hahn
Victoria Cox
Keith Horowitz
Victor Valks
Pauline Herbert-Allen

Advanced Leader

Bronze
Danielle Kiaha
Heather Wuollet
Darryle Brown
Wendy Johnson
Kevin Haase
Keith Horowitz
Gini Horner
Megan Smith
Christopher Tremel
Cynthia Cunningham
Sarah Elshof

Advanced Leader Silver

John Donnellton
Patricia Moore
Maura Thompson

Advanced Leadership

Gold
No Recipients

Distinguished

Toastmaster
John Donnellton
Amber Clark

Leadership Excellence

No Recipients

Triple Crown

Keith Horowitz, ACB,
CL, ALB
Cynthia Schuller, CL,
ACG, ACG

August Educational Awards

Competent Communicator

Mark Prior
Tina Kaiser
Gordon Savage
Renzo Amaya
Kenneth Buckey
Jayakrishn Chintala
David Velentinelli
Jeffrey Szudy
Luis Lipchak
Collin Ruiz
Yao Hao
Michael Bradley Benson
David R. Johnson
Matt Potts
Russell Lee Agnew
Santosh Veda
Mark Defee
Keith Horowitz
Denise Marie Honaker
Joe Kovach
Desiree Lovato
Whitney Churchill
Troy Lynette
Melanie Belshe

Advanced Communicator Bronze

Patricia Ellen Coffey
Tina Sanders
Pam Devore
Kathy Harris
Timothy Lenz
Julie Formby

Advanced Communicator Silver

James Owiny
Katrina Johnson
Marni Myers
Michael Conklin
Angela Lee Schnaubelt

Advanced Communicator Gold

Cynthia Schuller x 2
David Wheeler

Competent Leader

Gordon Savage
Carol Baum
Kim Brokling
Gretchen Vaughn

Jean Kelly
Jeb Brant
Liz Malagisi
Collin Ruiz
Teresa Ann Beemer
Manuel Solis
Amber Irvin
Kathy Harris
Anthony Reick
Glenn Knight
Valerie Cassano
Angela Giles Klock

Advanced Leader

Bronze
Rajita Shrestha
Renzo Amaya
Nancy Denninston
Ajvish Varatharaj
Manuel Solis
Dinesh Weerapurage
Angela Giles Klock
Marni Myers

Advanced Leader Silver

David R. Johnson
Howard Levine
Cynthia Schuller

Advanced Leadership

Gold
No Recipients

Distinguished Toastmaster

Howard Levine
Cynthia Schuller
David R. Johnson

Leadership Excellence

David R. Johnson
Joe Schneckenburger
Katrina Johnson
Robert Laborde
Michael Pierson

Triple Crown

Keith Horowitz, ALB,
ACB, CL,
CC
David R. Johnson,
LDREXC, ALS,
DTM, CC
Cynthia Schuller, CL,
ALS, DTM,
ACG x 2

District 26 Performance
Distinguished

CONGRATULATIONS, DISTINGUISHED DISTRICT 26! YOU EXPANDED YOUR REACH TO EXCELLENCE!

Toastmasters International Convention 2017

By Rhea Thompson
District Director

It doesn't seem possible that several days have passed since the culmination of a magnificent convention in Vancouver, British Columbia! For the TRIO, it was eight days of learning, growing in our leadership skills, networking with Toastmasters throughout the world and reveling in the beauty of Vancouver.

A few events that took place during the convention included:

- Members from District 26 storming the stage to be recognized as one of the elite Districts in the world who earned the honor of being Distinguished District or above. Congratulations District 26, let's do it again next year!
- The Golden Gavel Award presented to Erin Gruwell for her work with teens who had no hopes or dreams because of crime, death and the environment in which they lived. Through Erin's determination, these teens learned that communication is the door to a better life. The teens' journey can be viewed in the movie entitled "The Freedom Writers Journey".
- Selection of The World Champion of Public Speaking, Manoj Vasudevan, from District 80, Singapore. Second year in a row for this country to represent our World Champion of Public Speaking!
- Business Meeting – all seven Proposals were passed. **Of special note: Proposal G is a step in eliminating "paper membership". District 26 fully supports this Proposal. Fall conferences have been eliminated along with speech contests!**
- Scattered among the above events were many enticing presentations to appeal to the desires of everyone. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to attend them all.

If you missed this convention, plan now to join us in Chicago next year. Once you attend one convention, you will be hooked!

