



News from Southern Division



by David Mead, Southern Division Director

The Southern Division is committed to help our Toastmaster members find their voices and achieve their personal aspirations through a club culture of care and excellence. As we head into 2017 and prepare for our Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), this upcoming Saturday, January 7, 2017 in Colorado Springs, and for the new Pathways, which is the biggest and most exciting change ever introduced by Toastmasters, I would like to take a moment to look back at our last six months in Southern Division.

One of the first developments we created in Southern Division was to set up a Division Council. I deeply appreciate my superb team lead by Assistant Division Director, Deb Horowitz; S1 Area Director, Sunitha Mushini; S2 Area Director, Raji Muthukumarasamy; S3 Area Director, Ken Norwood; S4 Area Director, Dave Wheeler; S5 Area Director, Anil Dewan; S6 Area Director, Rusty Stephens; and Southern Division Retention Coordinator, Patty Saunders. Together the synergic efforts of the Council as well as other proactive Toastmaster leaders and volunteers have led to wonderful results:

- 92% of our clubs had four or more officers trained last summer.
- 100% of our clubs maintained their good standing by paying dues on time*
- Tall Tales and Evaluation contest season was a rousing success
- 96% of Club Visit reports were submitted on time
- All Areas are on track to earn at least distinguished status

*Coaching opportunities have increased this year as four clubs are now eligible for coaches and our Southern Division Toastmasters can use this opportunity to achieve another goal to their personal Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) award.

Starting with the New Year we are now looking forward to our greatest challenge in the liftoff of the new Toastmasters Pathways. Granted, it will not begin until Summer; however, the preparation begins in earnest in the next quarter. It will profoundly impact every club and officer throughout District 26. Pathways will eventually replace the current educational program and for the next 18 months, members will begin migrating into the new system. To prepare clubs and members for this transition, our TLI, this Saturday, January 7, 2017, will have a major focus on Pathways. Everyone in Southern Division is invited to learn how we will be here to support you as you make your personal journey through Toastmasters!

To further serve our clubs and members during this transition, we will use our Synergy Group, which is open to all Southern Division Toastmasters to identify and recruit Pathway Guides. Pathway Guides are critical to the implementation and are needed to be the liaison for the clubs. Our ideal goal is to have one Pathway Guide per Area. Additionally, we will utilize our advanced club members, S-Peak Leaders, to vet and mentor members working hard to achieve their DTM under the current program within the next two years. We want everyone to succeed as we navigate our way into the future! As in 2016, we will work together in 2017 to reach our goals and grow!

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Dues Due

March 31, 2017

Larry Scantland, Dialogue Editor

D26 LEADERS

Darryle Brown, District Director
Rhea Thompson, Program Quality Director
Marcia Wood, Club Growth Director
David Johnson, Public Relations Officer
Jennifer Costello, Administration Manager
Brenda Uitts, Finance Manager
Chyrese Exline, Club Coach Chair
OPEN, Club Extension Chair
Greg Harris, Webmaster
Alexander Pyle, Technology Lead
Kelsey Robb, Clancy Taylor, Speakers Bureau Chairs
Lori High, Quality Events Chair

DIVISION DIRECTORS

listed alphabetically by Division

Jacqueline Smith, Denver
John Withrow, Eastern
Clare Kennelly, Foothills
Tom Marrs, Metro
Dana Morgan Barnes, Northern
David Mead, Southern

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 member are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

d26toastmasters.org / facebook.com/d26toastmasters



Toastmaster Leadership Institutes – Free Training

Have you ever wondered what the Toastmaster Leadership Institutes (TLIs) are for? Are you one of those people that believe it is just an excuse to be forced to attend something you do not want to go to? Or, are you one of those people that view it as the opportunity to enrich other people's lives and their journey into Toastmasters by stepping up and making sure to offer the best training possible?

Whatever the case, TLIs have been a stalwart of Toastmasters to ensure that club officers get the training needed to continue the success of their clubs and to take their club and fellow members to the next level.

This year, District 26 is having four TLIs and one officer training session throughout Colorado and Wyoming to support our clubs and its members. The first is this upcoming Saturday, January 7, 2017, in Colorado Springs. Hosted by Southern Division Director, Dave Mead and his team, they will kick off the training.

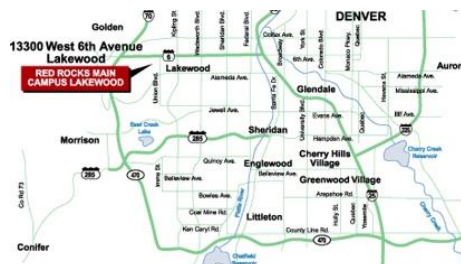
The following week, January 14, 2017, the Denver-Metro TLI will take place at Red Rocks Community College. The chair for the event is Denver Division Director, Jacqueline Smith. She and her team have been working hard to ensure the session's success will leave members' wanting more.

January 21, 2017, finds the District 26 leadership team at the Eastern Division TLI, and January 28, 2017, they will travel to Grand Junction for an officer training session, before heading north on February 4, 2017, to attend the Cheyenne TLI.

Each of these TLIs offers opportunities for fellow Toastmasters to present, volunteer, and attend at no cost. It is the best value in Toastmasters. While you are there you will meet others and learn new thoughts and ideas that you can bring back to your club.

Toastmasters get out of Toastmasters what they are willing to put into it, so this is an opportunity to not only get all of your officers for your club trained, but an opportunity for you to see what you may want to do in June 2017.

All TLI information is housed on the District 26 [calendar](http://d26.toastmasters.org/calendar), at d26.toastmasters.org/calendar.





A message from your District Director, Darryle Brown, MBA, DTM

EXPANDING OUR REACH – EMPOWERMENT TO WIN

As we embark upon the New Year and the second half of the Toastmasters' year; a plethora of opportunities await us as a District to make our Toastmasters experience better than it has ever been. How would you like to achieve more development as a communicator and leader? It is time for you to make a commitment to yourself in the New Year to empower yourself to win as a Toastmaster by doing the following three things:

1. **Get more involved within and beyond your local club.** There are events such as membership building open houses, speech contests, speaking opportunities inside and outside Toastmasters including TLI educational sessions and test speaker for example; waiting for you to explore.
2. **Run for higher office.** Toastmasters leadership is more than what you do in the club, there are numerous District 26-wide positions available. They include Area Director, District Officer positions such as Administration Manager, Financial Manager, and Public Relations Manager as well as several appointed positions that could be what you are looking for. The transferable leadership skills you acquire enable you to further your growth as a leader on the job and other environments, all the while, opening a lot of doors for you in the future.
3. **Complete every single goal you have set for yourself.** There is no greater reward to accomplishing what you came to Toastmasters for the day you joined than by checking off a goal. Your first ten speeches, your first contest appearance, and your time as a club officer, are just a few that are set and can easily be achieved. The biggest motivator in making your experience exciting is knowing you are empowered to win and you get it done!

Those three things will enrich your Toastmasters experience in a way that will have you hungry for more. Take them and run with them as there are no obstacles. We are here to help and guide you as well as standing ready at the finish line to cheer you on as you start your New Year empowered to WIN!

A message from your Program Quality Director, Rhea Thompson, DTM



CHANGE

C-H-A-N-G-E! The very word strikes terror in the heart of many. For others it is not terror, but the thought of leaving the arms of comfort.

We have all experienced change many times in our life, and we will experience it many times in the future. Some change is necessary and some is just down right annoying. Necessary change may happen when one is diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes and must learn to eat more nutritious, healthy foods. Down-right-

annoying changes happen when one has found the perfect fitting piece of apparel, whether it is our favorite shoes or our favorite pair of jeans, and after years of buying that brand suddenly they disappear from the shelves!

Any change requires us to stretch. But everyone knows stretching is good for our body! If physical stretching is good for our body, why do we resist mental stretching, which is what most change requires? Change can actually be quite exciting! Buying a new home is change but something most find exciting. How about trading in that old car for a new one? Ah, the new “car smell” – now that’s exciting.

Why all this talk about change? TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS, coming to a club near you in the next few months! Actually, coming to EVERY club in District 26 within the next few months. TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS, an exciting, improved, up-to date new educational program! TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS, your path to applying new skills to your every-day life.

My challenge to you; be the FIRST in your club to choose a path to your destiny.

A Message from your Club Growth Director, Marcia Wood, DTM



YOU ARE HALFWAY THERE, END WELL DONE!

Ah, the New Year. What do you look forward to? I excitedly scan my 2017 calendar. In January, I look forward to the National Western Stock Show, with rodeos, dancing, music, lambs, and llamas. I also anticipate the fun of celebrating the Chinese New Year with fireworks, wontons, and poppers to chase the bad spirits away.

We also celebrate the birthdays of two unique leaders in our United States history, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Benjamin Franklin. As you know, King galvanized our nation during a turbulent era with his inspirational messages. He was a dynamic speaker who shared his dream while commanding his audience’s attention. Franklin was a scholarly statesman and diplomat during the formation of the republic, also a time of strife. He wrote, “Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.”

It is time to review what you have accomplished in the last six months and celebrate your achievements! Did you volunteer for club office? Congratulations! Remember all club officers need to attend officer training at one of the TLIs. We have strategically set up TLIs throughout District 26 over the next five Saturdays, so please visit the District 26 [calendar](http://d26toastmasters.org/calendar) at d26toastmasters.org/calendar.

You are halfway there. How will you end the program year? Will you continue your journey to DTM by volunteering to be a club sponsor, mentor, or coach? Do not squander your remaining time. Dream first, then form your plan. Challenge yourself to end the year with a shout of “Well Done!”

BECOME A CLUB COACH

by Cynthia Schuller, Metro Club Extension Coordinator



Have you ever visited a club where its membership is 12 or less? Are you working on your Advanced Leader Silver (ALS)? Well, under our current educational program you can achieve your ALS by coaching or mentoring a club.

Throughout District 26 we have several clubs that meet the criteria to have a club coach and mentor. In some cases, there may be as few as five members regularly attending a club meeting. If you look at the roles based on what Toastmasters International suggests, you will see that the number of roles far outnumber the members. This is a great opportunity for you to bring in your skill set and provide new ideas and guidance as well as spark the energy back into the club.

Did you count the number of suggested roles? There could be as many as twenty. For instance, have you ever tried to count filler words, while timing and then also provide a quality speech evaluation all in the same meeting? It is not a pretty sight. Somewhere along the way, what you are getting from the meeting is not what you expected. Performing multiple roles is exhausting and it does not send a good message to potential members or guests. When you have multiple roles assigned to individual Toastmasters, it translates into a meeting where the quality suffers.

When members are outnumbered by the roles, certain roles are just not assigned; however each club has its own culture, so discover what they currently offer and suggest ideas on how to manage more effectively.

The ultimate goal of any Toastmasters meeting is to provide a quality time for those who have given their time to attend. If you are part of a club with a lot of members, you know that. Now is your chance to become the hero. You have the opportunity to help the club revitalize and it helps you achieve your personal goal of ALS.

Bring your positive energy to the club; remembering you are there to guide, not dictate, so the club will find its roots again and begin to blossom into a vibrant club.

You have the tools, you have the knowledge, and we have the opportunities to get the ball rolling. So, please contact any member of Team G to help get you started. This is a new year. You can provide the new hope. Our contact information is located on the District's website at d26toastmasters.org.

STEPPING UP

The District has many opportunities throughout the next few months for members to step up and volunteer as Contest Chairs, TLI Chairs, Conference Chairs, and other roles associated with these events. In many cases they can translate to achieved goals in the current manuals such as Competent Leadership, High Performance Leadership, Advanced Leadership Bronze, Silver, and Gold, so contact your Area or Division Director or any member of the Trio to see how stepping up can take you to the next level in your educational and leadership goals.

DAYBREAK TOASTMASTERS

by Carolyn Conover, D3 Area Director

Food, fellowship, and fun are key components of all Daybreak Toastmasters meetings. Therefore, when it came time to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary, club members made sure these important elements made it to the party.

The food (which was delicious and in ample quantity) was provided by Piccolo's Restaurant in southeast Denver. The fellowship flowed as over 30 members, former members, spouses, significant others, and friends gathered to share Daybreak memories and spend time together. The fun was provided by club member Ken Beazer who led a group of audience members through an Improv session that re-created the very first Daybreak Toastmasters club meeting.



Long-time club member (20+ years) and current Club President, Brian Rowland, kicked off the evening's festivities with his favorite memories from his years with the club. He says the thing that keeps him coming back to meetings week after week is that he "loves hearing new people speaking and becoming more confident, better speakers."

District Director Darryle Brown provided an inspiring keynote address. He commended the club members on their commitment to Toastmasters and to making the club successful.

Another long-time member of the club, Scott Robbins (28 years), shared his heart-felt tribute to the club and provided examples of the positive impact Daybreak Toastmasters has on its members.

Today, Daybreak Toastmasters continues the tradition of providing members plenty of fun, fellowship and food (yes, we have snacks!) every Friday morning at 7:00 am! Here's to another 60 years!

HOW TO FILL YOUR MEETING AGENDA

by Angela Schnaubelt, Coach

At times many Toastmaster clubs may have trouble filling all roles in the agenda. I would like to pass onto you some ideas on how to still have a quality schedule.

- Provide round robin or panel evaluation based on number of speakers
- Increase number of participants or time, will beef up Table Topics
- Hold educational modules like Better Speaker, Successful Club, or Leadership Excellence series
- Invite fellow Toastmasters as guest speakers or provide educational extra
- Change the format of your meeting such as an Open House, Interactive Workshop, Formal Debate, Potluck Party, or any other idea from your club members
- Follow-up personally with members to confirm status

Remember a meeting is always a quality meeting and it is always about those who are in attendance and not those who have not shown up.

HEADS UP DISTRICT 26

Charter Celebrations

Congratulations to District 26's newest clubs as they celebrated their Charter parties during November and December 2016.

Elevator's Toastmasters



Terumo BCT



Speakers Alliance



DIALOGUE SUBMISSION PROTOCOLS

The Dialogue is open to any Toastmaster in District 26 to submit an article. Remember this is your newsletter; however please limit your word count to 250 words. We would also like a picture of either you or the event. The deadline for the February issue will be January 15, 2017.

WHAT MAKES AN EXEMPLARY CLUB

The Solar Speak story by Frank DeDominics, F3 Area Governor



Whenever clubs edify, honor each guest and member, club success is almost effortless. This is the story of Solar Speak over the past few years in how we took our club and transformed it into a vibrant, entertaining, and safe place for our members and our guests.

On June 30, 2014, five minutes before Solar Speak's nomination session, President Rich Hopkins asked me to become his successor. I accepted an uncontested nomination despite his slick salesmanship, giving a limited-time only offer with his promise of mentorship as a bonus.

Rich nurtured a small, cozy, family-style Solar Speak club. My 2014-15 term became renowned for "fun, leadership, and mentorship" as we saw our membership triple. During my term we achieved President's Distinguished level, the first time in over a decade.

The following Toastmaster year, 2015-16 President Pati Scamacca continue the path in boosting our club growth, by introducing a weekly "New & Good" members' report on real world wins. I stepped into the role of Foothills Division F3 Area Director and saw this area reach "Distinguished" level. Pati inspired her executives to hit "Presidents' Distinguished" qualification three months earlier than the 2014-15 team.

This Toastmaster year, 2016-17 President Liz Malagisi accelerated momentum. Half of our annual vital signs were achieved first quarter. Solar Speak contributes two Foothills Division area directors; routinely participates and contends in area contests. Our guests have described the club's climate as "safe, mutually-supportive, really caring connections by good people, always entertaining, educational, and fun."

Solar Speak has become a shining star by passing the torch for creating a fun, creative learning space. A conscious sensitivity to "relationships first" in helping to overcome obstacles with aplomb through shared respect, integrity, support, encouragement, and with Solar Speak add "loving bonds of friendship."

It is my hope that reading this you will see how working with your successor and involving them early can really affect change.

SCHEDULE YOUR CONTEST

Can you believe it? The first step to becoming the World Champion of Public Speaking begins today. Toastmasters throughout the world have ideas, dreams, and goals to reach that coveted spot on the International Convention stage. So, it is important that the clubs begin scheduling their contests.

All Division Contest dates have been set and are located on the [calendar](#). Additional information will be added once it has been finalized.

April 15, 2017	Denver 8:00 am / Metro 1:00 pm
April 22, 2017	Southern 1:00 pm
April 29, 2017	Eastern 8:00 am / Foothills 1:00 pm
May 6, 2017	Northern 10:00 am

Additionally, many Areas have already set their contest dates, so Club officers please visit the District's [calendar](#) to check out the date of your Area's contest to ensure your winners can participate.