



Volume 43, Issues 3 / September 2016

DISTRICT 26

DIALOGUE

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Serving Colorado, Wyoming, and western Nebraska

Dues Increase and Change in Policy

Grace Period Dates

ELIMINATED

Attention all members of District 26, we have a new deadline for collecting dues going forward. October 1 and April 1 are no longer the deadlines for submission of dues. These dates now signify the end of the grace period. To be considered an active member, all members of every club must now have their dues paid to Toastmasters International and received by September 30 and March 31.

If a member does not pay dues on time, he or she cannot compete in any contest; receive any award, or get credit for any duty performed. This is new. Dues are still a major component of the Distinguished Club Program. It is imperative that this is communicated to all members in District 26 right away. We need to change our culture to reflect on the invoices the new dates to meet the new deadline imposed.

FALL CONFERENCE – EXPANDING OUR REACH

by Laura Burns, Fall Conference 2016 Co-Chair

Did you know that the Fall Conference is just right around the corner? I have humbly stepped up to the plate to create a memorable experience for every Toastmaster and guest in District 26. Okay maybe not humbly for those of you that know me out there, but I step into this role with great enthusiasm!



And, it is not just me, but Eric Pollock of Thrill Speakers will be co-chairing the event, because we know that no one person can do this alone. And, furthermore, we do not want to do this alone! We need you. We need your enthusiasm. We need your support and skills to make it a resounding success.

We are honored to have Past International President and Distinguished Toastmaster, Pat Johnson as our keynote speaker. We are adding an additional five breakout educational sessions to enhance your experience. The cornerstone of the Fall Conference will be the Tall Tales and Evaluation contest, where we get to celebrate our Division winners as they compete for their titles. I am so looking forward to the personal enrichment for me, for you, and the ways we can all improve our leadership and communication abilities.

The entertainment and fun, is a given and will be an essential part of this great package we want for you. If you would like to join the team, contact Laura or Eric at d26fallconference@gmail.com.

So members of District 26, mark your calendars for November 11-12, 2016. We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2016 Fall Conference! Additional information will be posted on the District 26 website at d26toastmasters.org ([Fall Conference](#)). The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Denver Tech Center Hotel, 7801 East Orchard Road, in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

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Begin Dues Collection

September 30, 2016 last day for collection.

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

Kathy Schneebeck Dulnoan, Club Extension Chair

Greg Harris, Webmaster

Alexander Pyle, Technology Lead

Kelsey Robb, Clancy Taylor, Speakers Bureau Chairs

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



CALL FOR SPEAKERS FOR FALL CONFERENCE

by Lori High, District Quality Events Chair

Have you thought of sharing your best practices, something innovative, or some intriguing change you or your club have made with other Toastmasters? Have you've mastered a technique that helped take your own personal experience to that next level? The Fall Conference provides an opportunity for you to share your ideas with your fellow Toastmasters!



We are seeking speakers who will Entertain, Educate, and Enrich the members attending the Fall Conference. The focus of the education sessions should be in the area of communication, personal growth, and leadership skills. You have a captured audience to share a 45-minute presentation to help our members Expand Their Reach in their own personal lives, their communities, and in all they do.

Each session can be used as a speech or leadership manual project. If you believe you have session to share, submit your proposal via e-mail by September 30, 2016 to: proposals@d26leaders.org. The Proposal forms are under the Speaker Forms tab on d26toastmasters.org.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Educational Committee and the District Trio. Submissions will be graded on content, focus on Toastmasters enrichment, and frequency. We are always looking for new ideas and new presenters to bring fresh innovative ideas to our members.

If you submit a speakers' proposal be sure to complete all of the forms requested. Incomplete forms/proposals will be rejected, so please follow the instructions carefully.

TALL TALES AND EVALUATION CONTEST DATES

By now most clubs have scheduled their contests and are gearing up for the Fall contest season culminating in the Tall Tales and Evaluation contest on the District stage November 11-12, 2016. The DoubleTree by Hilton in Greenwood Village will again host the two-day event.

On the [calendar](#), all Toastmasters in District 26 can access the date, time, and location of the Area and Division contest. Each Area and Division Director depends on the support of the clubs in their area to help each contest become a success.

So if you are looking for a High Performance Leadership opportunity or just completing your Competent Leadership manual, chairing a contest is a way to receive this credit.

Contestants spend many hours working hard to take their skill to the next level and to show your support or simply to cheer your club on, Area and Division contests need the support of all members to be successful.

Expanding Our Reach is the theme and many of these contestants are stepping up for the first time, so let us support our contestants, Area and Division Directors in achieving excellence.



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

EXPANDING OUR REACH – THE HUNGER FOR EXCELLENCE

At the end of my term as Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, I had a taste of what excellence looked like, felt like and smelled like as District 26 stood on the International Convention stage to be recognized for outstanding achievement during that term, reaching Distinguished District.

During the 2015-2016 term, we worked diligently to reach our marks for Distinguished. When we did not achieve our goals, we felt crushed. What we learned from that experience strengthened our resolve to be more than “good enough”. It started when we returned to the International Convention to see others walk the stage including a District that achieved President’s Distinguished District for the first time in 33 years. That District found the hunger for excellence and got fed.

We do not want District 26 to be sitting on the sidelines anymore while other Districts are being recognized. Our vision rests in becoming the very best District we can be. This past year, District 26 was ranked #45 out of 109 Districts worldwide.

For me, that is not where we belong. District 26 belongs at the very top with all of the best Districts in the world, but we have got to want it, hunger for it, and take our place among the best in Toastmasters. Let us start on this journey together and demand the very best out of ourselves. Let us grow to new heights as leaders, give our all as communicators by expanding our reach, and achieve our targeted goals within our clubs and throughout the District. Our time has come to be the very best the Toastmasters organization has to offer.

Let us get hungry for excellence because it is time for District 26 to once again get fed!

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



ARE YOU READY TO WIN?

The Olympics has finally ended with the United States placing first among the medal winners. The American Olympic team achieved 121 medals in all; 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze medals, well ahead of second place winner, China, with 67 medals.

The athletes who earned these medals spent years in training, working long hours every day to improve their skills and bring them to championship level. Many had no idea they would one day compete in the Olympics when they first began their journey; however as they got better and better in their sport, way down deep inside a fire began to burn within them. The thoughts drive the athlete: “What if I can one day be an Olympian?” “What if one day I can win the gold!”

Just as athletes must keep their focus on training to reach their goal, so must we, as members of District 26, keep our focus on our District reaching its’ goals. Who makes this happen? Is it only the District leaders?

No, it is each and every one of us taking ownership for the part we play in reaching our own goals, which in turn helps the District reach its goals.

Our District's goal for 2016-2017 is to become a President's Distinguished District. District 26 members, do you have that fire burning deep inside you? Are you ready to win?

Let the completion begin!

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



TOASTING THE POSSIBILITIES

Imagine standing in front of a cheering crowd of 2,000 people. Imagine that you will be on stage at the Toastmasters International Convention next year in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the year after that in Chicago, Illinois, and finally, at the International Convention right here in Denver, Colorado, in 2019. Yes, this can be us—you and me—and all District 26 Toastmasters leaders and members. Walking across the stage.

Returning from the 2016 International Convention in Washington, DC, I am astonished by the enthusiasm of our organization, the youth and vitality of our new leaders and speakers, and the endurance and wisdom of our seasoned veterans. We have much to be thankful for, and much to look forward to.

Shout it out, loud and proud! Toastmasters will never again be a well-kept secret!

If you want to know how you can assist your very own District 26 in becoming President's Distinguished and walk across the stage of glory, all you need to do is contact the District 26 Trio: District Director Darryle Brown, Program Quality Director Rhea Thompson, and Marcia Wood, Club Growth Director.



CALLING ALL COACHES

by Colette Smith, DTM

What makes a fantastic Club Coach? The biggest gift Club Coaches need when embarking on the amazing experience of helping a club succeed is ENTHUSIASM! When walking through the door of the club you hope to coach; the leadership team and its members may be tired, frustrated, and might feel hopeless. A positive attitude combined with concrete goals is the formula for club coaching success.



Coaching Keys:

1. *Listening:* It is extremely important. Listen for “Where does the club currently stand? Where do they want to be in order to view themselves as successful?”
2. *Developing a Plan:* Identifying the areas needing improvement and quickly acting on a plan will ensure success. Organization and quick results build momentum, enthusiasm, and fire in the belly.
3. *Planning for new members:* Hold an Open House and have a plan for integrating new members. Ask these questions “How will they be educated on the TM program? How will they be mentored? Will the club plan a new membership orientation? “
4. *Developing future Club Leaders:* Evaluate the leaders and determine “How quickly can new leaders be identified and developed? “ Having a plan for relieving the tired and overburdened team is crucial to moving forward long term.

Are you working on your Advanced Leadership Silver award? Consider reaching out to anyone on Team G! You can find Team G’s information on the D26 website under Contact Us 2016-2017. Look under Retention if you want to be a Club Coach. With a few well executed steps a club can go from zero to hero in a matter of months. TEAM G NEEDS YOU!

SUCCESSFUL MENTORING

by Linda Brotman-Evans ACB, ALB, E6 Area Director

When mentoring is mentioned, many people are confused about what it means. A mentor becomes a guide by listening, observing, and providing ways to enhance a mentee’s development. Once the relationship is formed, the mentor can analyze member or club issues, hopes, fears, ideas, goals, and perspectives.

Initially mentoring can work in different ways. The process can be for an individual member or a specific club. A member can seek out a mentor from club members or clubs will be assigned a mentor. In either case, the member or club works with a mentor for a successful outcome.



Mentoring is beneficial. It encourages engagement to enhance leadership development. Mentors provide experience and support to expand communication skills. Mentoring helps members and clubs become active, maximize their visibility, and build on their strengths. The mentor relationship is inherently flexible and varies tremendously, depending on the needs of the member and the time and effort of the mentor.

The long-term goal of mentoring is to establish connections between members (as mentors) and other members (as mentees), thereby maintaining strong membership growth and retention. Mentoring has proven to support and sustain the quality of the Toastmasters' experience in an engaging way, creating a social and professional network within clubs. When successful, both mentees and mentors grow from the experience.

BE GREAT – TELL STORIES (PART 1 OF 3)

by Mitch Krayton, DTM

Remember as a child, how your parents would read you a story when you went to bed? You would do your best to stay awake until your eyes got so heavy and you drifted off to sleep.



Remember your favorite story from a great novel or movie? Those characters came to life in a most memorable way.

Remember how your grandparents told you endless stories of where they came from and about relatives you never met? The images sparked new ideas about where you came from.

Remember how your friends would tell you the stories of their latest adventure or romance? Sometimes it was gossip and sometimes it was a heart-wrenching tale that moved you to tears.



Can you recall your favorite hero? The hero's journey is one of the most powerful ways to inspire us.

It is the power of the story that we remember. As important as we think words and gestures are, few people will recall them once your speech is over. They will, however, remember your stories.

In Toastmasters we learn how to deliver a speech. Techniques do matter so we have to master those first. Why? Because they provide the context to help us remember the stories we hear. I am certain you can recall heart-felt or humorous stories that you have heard in your club or at a District event.

The very first speech everyone does in Toastmasters is the Icebreaker. It is a story about us, about who we are, so that others can learn about us. Many times we forget that when presenting a speech, the story, is the key. Emotion, gestures, and body movement all enhance a speech, but the story is the core to any speech we give. *(part 2 next month)*

WHAT'S A CLUB PRESIDENT TO DO?

by Robert Case, SCB, SCL, D2 Area Director

This is an actual event from when Robert Case was President of Cherry Creek Toastmasters.

Thursday morning, 6:55 am. Almost time for our weekly Toastmasters meeting to begin. Time for members and guests to take their seats. Time for the pledge of allegiance. But, not this Thursday.



Instead of the usual coming together as a club, 30 individuals stand outside the building of our backup meeting place, milling around on the sidewalk. The lease for our meeting room space requires that in early June, the club find a different venue.

We thought we had a backup plan in place. Clearly, the security system at this new location did not know about our plan. Fortunately, the air was comfortably warm. The sun is cresting the trees and filling the green lawn with long shadows and early morning light.

There were rumblings starting about cancelling the meeting. Our past president is on the phone, trying to contact someone with a key. Several members suggest alternative locations: a nearby park, a private home, or a convenient breakfast place with a big meeting room, almost large enough for all of us.

And that was the kicker. I knew that if we decided to go for our cars and regroup somewhere else, only about half of the assembled membership would appear at the improvised location for a delayed meeting.

Besides, the Toastmaster for the day is on time and ready to go. She looks at me with an uncertain smile. We have speakers, prepared and ready to go. They are looking to me for direction. How many supplies did we really need to hold a quality meeting?

I asked the group since it is a glorious day, we have the expanse of this beautiful place, let us just hold our meeting right here. They agreed.



Without walls and only grass for a floor, we wrapped ourselves in the familiar structure of the Toastmasters meeting agenda. Thirty individuals collectively wondering if they should leave or not, morphed into a flexible assembly committed to a common purpose – to gather as a club and hold our weekly meeting. The club tapped into an unknown reservoir of adaptive energy that morning, finding the vitality to go forward and hold our meeting in the clear morning air – even without coffee or tea!

And so, I challenge all District 26 Toastmasters to discover the unplanned satisfactions of leadership by becoming an officer in your club.

IF YOU CAN SPEAK, YOU CAN WRITE

by Dr. Steven Visentin, D.C.

This is part two of the article from the July-August 2016 District Dialogue

BENEFITS OF WRITING AN ARTICLE

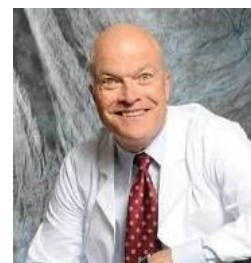
When people see your name in print consistently, you will become a recognized voice and may be contacted to speak. There is such a great thrill in seeing your name as an author for that first time. Your voice, your thoughts, your name will reach tens of thousands even in small magazines providing you opportunities to leverage yourself.

Stepping up, you may wish to work with online writing for magazines and their websites. Many times, these two avenues of communication are different and each requires a specific style to reach the reader. In both cases, it is the genesis of short speech writing that is the basis of communication.

Personally, friends and colleagues have come across an article I have written for magazines online and in print. To my amazement their response was one of not knowing that I could write. I accept their kind words, but do not divulge my secret, which is Toastmasters and the ability to write a speech.

Writing is not exactly like speaking, but many of the skills we learn as speakers help and give confidence. You can develop your point of view about a particular topic then, create the introduction or hypothesis, content and conclusion. Inclusion of interesting or riveting original stories will support your point of view and strengthen your article; however research and documentation is a necessity for editors. Having a point of view and opinion is one thing; having the facts to back it up is another.

So the next time you are writing a speech, think about taking it a step further and writing a story. Magazines and websites divulge their criteria for unsolicited stories, so all you have to do is read and follow their protocols and one day you may see your name emblazoned on the Internet.



SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

It is never too early to begin planning for the Fall Conference silent auction. This side event of the Fall Conference was created for two specific reasons. The first is to let each club participate in the Fall Conference by donating a basket or item. The second is the money raised from the Silent Auction goes directly to cutting the cost of the conference for those attendees.



In the past we have raised in excess of \$2,000 some conferences. This money allowed us to increase the quality of the conference for the attendees without charging the attendee.

This year, let us all work together to see what great tangible items we can bring to the event. Personal services are discouraged since they rarely sell. Prizes will be awarded to participants in several categories. Even if your club members may not be attending, your Area Director can take your basket for the club.

PAT JOHNSON, DTM, PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Pat Johnson, DTM, is the Past International President for Toastmasters International serving from 2010-2011 and will be the keynote speaker for the Fall Conference for District 26. She is a seasoned executive who has been a leader in corporate, government, not-for-profit and entrepreneurial industries.



A resident of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Pat offers the Toastmasters organization more than 30 years of experience in working in policy, career development and strategic planning. She has international experience as a speaker and trainer and is skilled in conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation.

In addition, her work experience includes organizational development and delivery and evaluation of programs in adult education. Pat credits Toastmasters with helping her learn how to support others and become a cheerleader for their projects. She adds, "I am a better community member, parent, employee, leader, friend and manager because of what I have learned in Toastmasters."

TALKIN' DISH CELEBRATION

On July 28, 2016, the charter party for Talkin' Dish took place celebrating our newest club. Attending the celebration were Mike Osolinski, club mentor, Melissa Butler, M7 Area Director, and Marcia Wood, Club Growth Director.



FORTHCOMING

District 26 will soon be welcoming Suitetalkers with their charter and banner celebration.

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.

RECOGNITION CORNER

CAROL PACE, D8 AREA DIRECTOR

Carol Pace, Denver Area Director (D8), has successfully visited and completed the Area club visit reports for all six of the clubs in her Area. Carol completed all six reports between July 1 and the first week in August. Her reports were thorough and provided valuable information about the health and vitality of each of her Clubs. She has indeed gone above and beyond with the early completion of her reports.



Equally important, this is not the end of her club interaction, she plans to continue regular visits with each and provide assistance and guidance to clubs as needed. Carol Pace's diligence and commitment is indeed much appreciated and deserves recognition.

DISTRICT 26 FALL CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Laura Burns and Eric Pollock welcome you to see what they have planned for the Fall Conference. With the theme Expanding Our Reach, let us all work together to make this event a resounding success. The highlights are:

November 11, 2016 -- Friday Evening Highlights

- Registration and Credentials Open
- First Timers Gathering
- Silent Auction
- Dinner
- Special Program
- Social Gathering

November 12, 2016, Saturday Highlights

- Contest Briefings
- Registration and Credentials Open
- First Timers Gathering
- Silent Auction
- Opening Session
- Keynote Speaker Pat Johnson, DTM, PIP
- Evaluation Contest
- Communication and Leadership Luncheon
- Educational Sessions
- Banner Parade
- Business Meeting
- Dinner
- Tall Tales Contest
- Social Gathering

Check the Districts website ([Fall Conference](#)) for pricing updates and early bird specials.