



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, Extension Chair

Colette Smith, 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, Newsletter Editor

Check the District Calendar

For District Events

www.D26Toastmasters.org

District 26 Dialogue

Serving Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska

A Message from our

District Director

Rhea Thompson, DTM



Raising the Bar – Phase II

We are now into the last half of the Toastmaster year. Our Theme for the year began with thoughts of only these three words “Raising the Bar”, but that did not seem to clarify the vision of how to measure success. What was needed? The Toastmasters Core Values held the answer. Our Core Values are Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.

Whether we realize it or not, we are all leaders. Some are leaders as dads or moms, some are leaders as teachers in our educational system, some are leaders in athletics, some are leaders in corporations, and even children can be leaders by showing compassion to their classmates.

Thus, the byline to “Raising the Bar” became “By Leading with Excellence”. Leading with excellence is measurable in our everyday lives and definitely within Toastmasters. The success of the entire district begins at the club level. We measure “leading with excellence” at the club level by the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). Each point/goal in this program represents members “raising the bar by leading with excellence”. Members giving speeches, members stepping into leadership roles, members showing interest in guests, members who are club officers fulfilling their officer responsibilities and members submitting dues in time.

Let’s all “Raise the Bar by Leading with Excellence” in these next few months to assist our district in becoming President’s Distinguished District. We CAN do it! Lead with excellence, complete a DCP goal OR **start a new Toastmasters club!**

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**



Opportunity Knocks Only Once

There's a proverb that reads, "Opportunity knocks only once." Do you pretend like you're not home? Yeah, I do that sometimes too. But it's time to take a new view. I want you to get excited! When Opportunity knocks, I invite you to open the door!

The Spring Conference will take place on May 18 and 19. The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast, 3155 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO at Parker Road and Interstate 225. Your friends or not-yet-friends will be there. Why not you?



Toastmasters International Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex will be our keynote speaker. As CEO, Daniel Rex leads the Toastmasters World Headquarters team in providing service, resources and support to approximately 360,000 members worldwide. He works closely with the International President and Board of Directors to develop the future of Toastmasters, while creating and executing strategies to reach those

goals. Dan has worked for Toastmasters for 27 years, and has developed an impressive depth of knowledge about the organization. He's moving to the Denver area and will begin working at the New World Headquarters in Englewood, Colorado.

Here's your opportunity. I need volunteers to be conference chairs, contest chairs, room hosts, greeters, etc. Send me a message and I can tell you how you can help or go to the D26 website and look for the TLI tab on the top navigation bar, then click on Volunteers.

See you at the Spring Conference!

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



Talk Up Toastmasters Club Membership Program Has Begun

All Toastmasters clubs need new members. Even though your club may currently enjoy a healthy membership, a few months from now that could change as members move, change jobs or reach their objectives. By adding new members, your club will increase meeting participation and learning opportunities.

The Talk Up Toastmasters Campaign runs from February 1 through March 31. If your club adds five new members in these two months, Toastmasters International will send you a banner ribbon and a code for 10% off your next order at their Web store.

Restrictions apply. See Membership Building Campaigns for Clubs. Log-in to <http://www.toastmasters.org>, then go to Leadership Central / Club Officer Tools / Membership Building / Membership Building Programs for Clubs. District 26 also offers \$40 and \$75 membership growth incentives here: <https://www.d26toastmasters.org/members/2017-2018-incentives/> or view pages 5 through 8 in this newsletter.

Please begin your club's dues renewal process. At least eight members must be paid by 3/31/18, including at least three renewals, for the club to remain in good standing.

I'm concerned about the Pathways rollout timing planned for 3/20/18. During previous District rollouts, Toastmasters International has frozen all website logins for two days to enable Pathways. This could mean that Club Central and Leadership Central would be offline from 3/20 – 3/21/18. Please plan accordingly to renew dues.

Finally, please email me if you are interested in chartering, mentoring or coaching a club. One of these is required to complete your Advanced Leadership Silver (ALS).

Thanks in advance.



Marieta Ferrington
Public Relations
Manager

Third Toastmasters Networking Event We missed You!

Location: Howl at the Moon, Denver, Colorado

The Third Toastmasters Event held on January 25, 2018, is on the books and we are happy that this event series has turned out to be a platform where ideas are shared, connections are made and Toastmasters' spirit thrives. This was one of those special occasions where we experienced a fusion of minds and a synchronization of hearts.

Here are a few moments we'd like to share:

1) A few attendees staying late and enjoying the opportunity to talk and connect with other like-minded people.

2) We were captivated by our Keynote Speaker Mark Ryan, a real networking veteran who shared valuable knowledge & practical experiences.



3) Occasionally we encounter individuals that have that 'little bit of magic'. They make others around them feel inspired and leave positive energy in their wake. Our Special Guest, Michelle Mras is one of those people. Her speech was inspiring and she gifted devices to the audience to empower them to speak courageously and with spirit.



4) The prize for the most active attendee went to our fellow Toastmaster Angela Schnaubelt.

5) Special performance by our fellow Toastmaster May Tran, who did a wonderful impromptu piano performance for all our guests.

We aim to spread the Toastmasters' word through outreach and connections. This event brought networkers, the curious and Toastmasters together. It is clear that this group succeeded in turning participants into brand ambassadors. Stay tuned for the next event coming up in March. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

RAISE THE BAR! District 26 Incentives 2017-2018

IF YOU ARE A CLUB.....

REACH DISTINGUISHED	YOUR REWARD
Membership renewals submitted and DCP Goals achieved to qualify for Distinguished status on March 31 st	
Achieve President's Distinguished	\$50 Gift Certificate
Achieve Select Distinguished	\$40 Gift Certificate
Achieve Distinguished	\$30 Gift Certificate
<u>Not Distinguished by March 31st - Second Chance!</u>	
Reach Distinguished status by May 31 st	
Achieve President's Distinguished	\$25 Gift Certificate
Achieve Select Distinguished	\$20 Gift Certificate
Achieve Distinguished	\$15 Gift Certificate
PERFECT 10 - All 10 DCP Goals achieved!	\$60 Gift Certificate
TRAIN YOUR OFFICERS	YOUR REWARD
All 7 officers trained at either session	\$25 Gift Certificate
GROW MEMBERS	YOUR REWARD
Achieve all three membership building awards - Smedley, Talk Up Toastmasters & Beat the Clock Awards	\$75 Gift Certificate
Achieve any two consecutive membership building awards (Smedley & Talk Up Toastmasters OR Talk Up Toastmasters & Beat the Clock) - exclusive of earning all three membership awards)	\$40 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER...

ATTEND CONFERENCE	YOUR REWARD
Attend Conference for the first time	Where Leaders Are Made Pin
EARN EDUCATIONAL AWARD	YOUR REWARD
Achieve three different Educational Awards (first time achieving this)	Triple Crown Pin (awarded during Hall of Fame event)
Achieve DTM Award	DTM Medallion (awarded during Hall of Fame event)
SPONSOR A MEMBER (MUST PERSONALLY INVITE GUEST WHO LATER BECOMES A MEMBER)	YOUR REWARD
Members must be sponsored within Toastmasters year (July 1-June 30)	
Sponsor 5 members	\$10 online Gift Certificate + blue pin from TMI
Sponsor 10 Members	\$25 online Gift Certificate + burgundy pin from TMI
Sponsor 15 Members	\$50 online Gift Certificate + 25% off next online order

HELP CHARTER A CLUB	YOUR REWARD
Charter a new Club before June 15, 2018	D26 Computer Bag (OR Computer Messenger Bag when inventory of D26 Computer Bag is depleted) + \$50 Gift Certificate
Submit a lead for a new club (member does not charter club) and club charters before June 15, 2018	\$25 Gift Certificate
IF YOU ARE AREA DIRECTOR...	
AREA CLUB VISITS	YOUR REWARD
Submit all Area Club Visit Reports by August 31, 2017 & February 28, 2018	Gold Medallion
Submit all Area Club Visit Reports by September 30, 2017 & March 31, 2018	Silver Medallion
Submit all Area Club Visit Reports by October 31, 2017 & April 30, 2018	Bronze Medallion
Visit all clubs a minimum of three times and have club President's signature on Club Visit Form	\$20 Gift Certificate
IF YOU ARE DIVISION DIRECTOR...	
HEALTHY DIVISION	YOUR REWARD
End the year with 50% + 1 of the division's base clubs earning Distinguished Club or better, with no net loss in clubs. Denver - Base 36; Distinguished Clubs - 19 Eastern - Base 29; Distinguished Clubs - 16 Foothills - Base 39; Distinguished Clubs 21 Metro - Base 28; Distinguished Clubs - 15 Northern - Base 13; Distinguished Clubs - 8 Southern - Base 23; Distinguished Clubs - 13 Urban - Base 20; Distinguished Clubs - 11	Plaque (awarded during Hall of Fame event)
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	YOUR REWARD
All Base Clubs within all Areas have a minimum of eight paid membership dues for October renewal period by October 10, 2017	\$50 Gift Certificate
All Base Clubs within all Areas have a minimum of eight paid membership dues for April renewal period by April 10, 2018	\$50 Gift Certificate
IF YOU ARE EXTENSION CHAIR...	
CHARTERING CLUBS	YOUR REWARD
Assist Extension Coordinators in chartering 25 club	\$75 Gift Certificate
Assist Extension Coordinators in chartering 20 clubs	\$40 Gift Certificate
Assist Extension Coordinators in chartering 15 clubs	\$25 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE AN EXTENSION COORDINATOR...

CHARTERING CLUBS	YOUR REWARD
<p>Charter the number of designated clubs by presiding over the Kick-Off Meeting, Organizational Meeting and assisting with charter forms to charter by June 30, 2018</p> <p>Denver - 3 clubs Eastern - 2 clubs Foothills - 2 clubs Metro - 3 clubs Northern - 1 clubs Southern - 2 clubs Urban - 2 clubs</p>	\$50 Gift certificate
Serve in a meeting role for 10 or more Kick-Off meetings, whether or not in your division.	\$15 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE RETENTION CHAIR...

RECRUITING EFFORTS	YOUR REWARD
Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 30 or more Club Coaches	\$75 Gift Certificate
Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 20-29 Club Coaches	\$50 Gift Certificate
Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 10-19 Club Coaches	\$25 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE A RETENTION COORDINATOR...

RECRUITING EFFORTS	YOUR REWARD
Recruit Club Coaches for all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach	\$60 Gift Certificate
Recruit Club Coaches for 75% of all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach	\$40 Gift Certificate
Recruit Club Coaches for 50% of all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach	\$20 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE A CLUB COACH...

REACHING DISTINGUISHED	YOUR REWARD
Club reaches President's Distinguished	\$75 Gift Certificate
Club reaches Select Distinguished	\$50 Gift Certificate
Club reaches Distinguished	\$25 Gift Certificate
MEMBERSHIP GROWTH	YOUR REWARD
Club did not achieve Distinguished status but membership improved	
Help club increase membership by net 3 members by June 30, 2018	\$15 Gift Certificate
Help Club increase membership by net 5 members by June 30, 2018	\$25 Gift Certificate

IF YOU ARE A CLUB MENTOR...**COMPLETING YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

Complete Mentor Check List and have Club President's signature on District's check list and WHQ Club Mentor form

YOUR REWARD

\$25 Gift Certificate

District 26 Conference

May 18 - 19, 2018



The event location:

**Radisson Hotel Denver
Southeast**

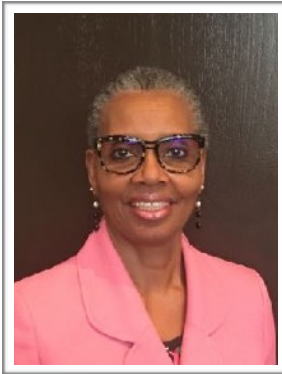
3155 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, Colorado
at Parker Road and Interstate 225

Come support the contestants from
across our District as they compete in:

International Speech Contest

and

Table Topics Speech Contest



Member Recognition Corner

Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager

December Educational Awards

Toastmasters International underwent annual inventory from 12/13/17 thru 01/02/18. No educational award or charter club applications were processed in the interim.

January Educational Awards (December 13 – January 30)

Competent Communicator

Steve Holloway
Ranee Ryan
Brian Hill
Vivian Cobb
Steven Peck
Trixie Hunter-Merrill
Kathy Swigle
Victoria Cox
Phillip Faith
Sarah Kelsey
Stephanie Johnson
Linnaea Sutphin
Paul Desrocher
Keith Horowitz
Boyce Logsdon
John Gies
Andrew Mortenson
Marcia Wood
Kristi Schmidt
Eleni Kistler
Bonnie Smith
Richard Hopkins
Roger Edwards
Phillip Etier
David Lombardi
Nancy Finnegan
Tina Gilbertson
Mike Dunbar
Tanner Wendell
Ray Pezolt
Nik Cimino
Alan Swartz
Meredith Myers
Tanya O'Connor
David Walden
Michelle Mras

Advanced Communicator Bronze

John Haney
William Davis
Eva Fisher
Ann Kerr
Richard Hopkins
Madelyn Sartor
Beth Ann Baker Owens
Kimberly Rein
Jean Kelly
Minh Nguyen
Ray Pezolt
Michael Everson
Marianne Graham
Chelsa Newberg

Advanced Communicator Silver

Paul Queneau
Christopher Tremel
Glenn Bott
Teri Morrison
Nhi Aronheim
Robert Satin
James Dent

Advanced Communicator Gold

Glenn Bott

Competent Leader
Suzanne Muller-Heinz
Heather Horton
Danielle Kramer
Gregory Williams
Sean McGrath
Peggy Evans
Troy Lynette
Mary Franden
Kathy Allendorfer

Competent Leader (continued)

Rebecca Cohen
Katherine Blom
James Dent
Tim Chorley
Stephen Bailey
Bradley Beck

Advanced Leader Bronze

James Owiny
Jennifer Grant
Ceasar Montoya
Tina Sanders
Teri Morrison
Beth Ann Baker Owens
Kelsey Robb

Advanced Leader Silver

Bob Baxter

Distinguished Toastmaster

No Recipients

Leadership Excellence

Suzie Shride
Trixie Hunter-Merrill
Jeanne Ladewig
Michael Everson

Triple Crown

Victoria Cox, ACB, CL, CC
James Owiny, ACS, ALB, CL
Tina Sanders, ACB, CL, ALB
Nhi Aronheim, CL, ACS, ALB
Hopkins, Richard, CC, CC, ACB
Morrison, Teri, ACS, CL, ALB
Tina Sanders, CL, ALB, ACB

Congratulations to the following clubs for reaching a milestone anniversary this month:

Pioneer Toastmasters: 80th

Sweet Talkers Club: 20th

Fabricators of Speech: 20th

Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving the most *Distinguished Club Program* Goals to date:

President's Distinguished (9)

BodyShops Club

Colorado Springs Toastmasters Club

S-Peak Leaders

Select Distinguished (8)

Dawn Yawn:

Simply Speaking Toastmasters Club

Thrillspeakers Toastmasters Club

Thunderbolt Orators Club

Toast of Inverness

Select Distinguished (7)

Aurorators Toastmasters Club

Cherry Creek Toastmasters Club

Colorado Orators League

Downtowners Toastmasters Club

Eloquent Entrepreneurs

El Puente Bilingual Toastmasters Club

Grand Junction Toastmasters Club

Highlands Ranch Toastmasters Club

Peterson Toastmasters

Resource Masters

Rise 'n Shine Toastmasters

Solar Speak Club

Talking Ideas Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters International has not recognize any “charter” clubs since the posting of last month’s newsletter.

What's Happening Around the District?

Holiday Fun at Daybreak Toastmasters

By: Carolyn Conover, Denver Division Director

Fun, fantasy, and whimsy infused a special late December meeting at Daybreak Toastmasters. Santa Claus chose this location to announce his upcoming retirement. Co-workers, family and friends all gathered to share a “roast” or “toast” of dear Santa. Santa’s faithful/long suffering team of reindeer, elves and other North Pole residents shared comments that ranged from high praise to angry reprobation. In addition, some of his eclectic friends, including the Easter Bunny, the St. Patrick’s Day Leprechaun, the North Wind, the Abominable Snowman, the Tooth Fairy, and the Great Pumpkin stopped by to share some interesting stories about Santa. Yes, the jolly fat man has a few skeletons in his closet!

As evidenced in the attached photo, creativity abounded. Following a long-standing tradition, club members organized the special holiday-themed meeting. Then in true Daybreak Toastmasters fashion, the members pulled out all the stops to get into their assigned alter egos, develop their back stories, and prepare hilarious “roasts” and heartwarming “toasts” to share at the meeting.



Santa (outgoing club President, Bob Garth), was deeply moved by the outpouring of emotion and promised to reward each member with a special gift or lump of coal as warranted by the comments shared.

The meeting provided Daybreak Toastmasters a fun and memorable way to close the year.

A Phenomenal Woman of Servanthood

By: Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager

Eastern Division Director May Tran was recently featured in “Asian Avenue Magazine” for earning the “Distinguished Toastmaster Award” last November. I already knew about her genuine love of music and that she’s “honored to use that gift to perform piano recitals at senior centers throughout the area.”

I was, however, awestruck to learn about the other important parts of her life that make her so phenomenal. Born in Vietnam to a Chinese family, she attended a private French school before coming to America in 1979 as a “boat refugee.” Fluent in English, French, Chinese and Vietnamese, she studied classical music at “The Saigon Conservatory” and is a classical pianist.

During her four-year Toastmaster journey, she continues to use her communication and leadership skills and her personal refugee experience to reach out to refugees arriving in Denver, wanting to “ensure their voices are heard and their health issues addressed.” Despite her hectic schedule, she still finds time to serve as a Board Member for “Sisters Enterprise” and the International Liaison for “The Pearl Foundation,” two local nonprofits.



After reading the article, I asked myself, “*How can she be my friend when I know so little about her?*” The answer is simple. It’s because she’s much too humble to boast about overcoming adversity, being successful, touching lives, and leaving her mark on the world.

May Tran is truly an inspiration and undoubtedly embodies “servant leadership” in every aspect of her life. I am blessed and proud to call her “my friend!”

PIONEER 97 CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

Pioneer 97 Toastmasters Club in Casper, Wyoming 80th Anniversary Celebration!

Open House on Saturday, February 24, at 11:30 a.m.

Location: Nerd YMCA of Natrona County, 1611 Casper Mountain Road

Pioneer 97 was the first Club in Wyoming and has continued weekly meetings for 80 years! There are two other clubs in Casper, Wyoming, which were offshoots of Pioneer when Pioneer became too large. One of these clubs, Morning Tour, celebrated 50 years a few years ago. Pioneer 97 is 38th on the longevity list of Toastmaster clubs worldwide.

This is an exciting milestone. Join us for our celebration.

See Facebook <https://morningtour.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Our website is <https://2503.toastmastersclubs.org>.

For more information, contact:

Pioneer President Dave Dawson selfgov2000@gmail.com or
Area N2 Director Mary Ann Hoff at maryannhoff@yahoo.com.

Planning Committee: MaryAnn Hoff - N2 Area Director, Bob Tanner, Mary Cottam, Stephan Parker, Marian Sisnaro, John Smith and Dave Dawson -President of Pioneer97 Toastmasters.



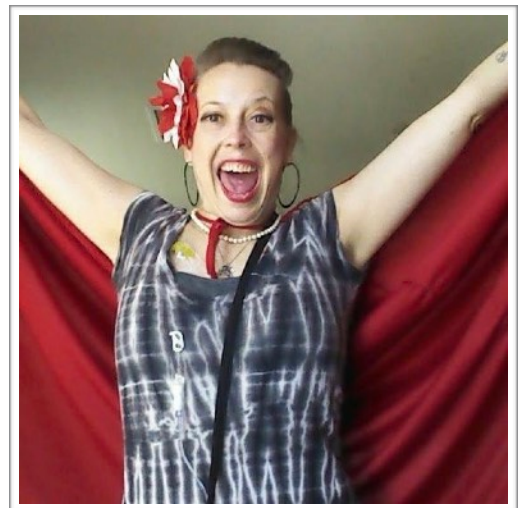
A Family of Support

by: Trixie Hunter-Merrill, D26 Social Media Chair
Eloquent Entrepreneurs Vice President of Public Relations

Thank you so much to Eloquent Entrepreneurs and District 26 for your continued support and encouragement while I was going through chemo for Colon Cancer Stage 3B treatment last year. When the doctors told me that they were concerned because I'm an entrepreneur and had no job, no young children or commitments to make me get up in the morning I told them I already had a plan. "I just joined Toastmasters so I would like to schedule my chemo for Monday morning that way Tuesday morning I would be forced to wake up and go to Toastmasters and be productive." I literally just joined Toastmasters TWO WEEKS before I found out I had Cancer! Talk about Fate!

The Eloquent Entrepreneurs Toastmasters Club gave me rides, checked in on me, and really took care of me. I truly believe if it wasn't for Toastmasters I don't know if I would have made it to right now.

I am pleased and happy to announce that I am now officially in remission from colon cancer! I look forward to an amazing new year with my new normal way of living and to be able to inspire, encourage and hopefully uplift the lives of other Toastmasters this year, my second year in Toastmasters and many more in the future, through leadership, training and skills. Again thank you so much for your support! I couldn't have made it through this year without my Eloquent Entrepreneurs Toastmasters Club and District 26!



Finally finished

By: Victoria Cox, Southern Division Director

I was able to complete my Bachelor of Arts degree on December 18, 2017, in the field of Business Leadership. I was an Area Director when I started school, and I am currently the Southern Division Director. I have been able to utilize the skills I learned to improve my communication with everyone in the district. The most important skill that I feel we all can learn is how to use and understand Emotional Intelligence. The best way to communicate is to approach everyone on their level they know the best. Balancing different skills can help you reach all listeners.



With the new Pathways program coming out in March 2018, it is essential to listen to the concerns of existing members and to be able to explain to new members how we are here to assist them down the path they have chosen.

It has been a great six months for me and all the support I have received from my Area Directors and from my close Toastmaster friends. I am excited to start looking for leaders to take over the next year and to help all of them reach their individual goals.

My seven-year Toastmaster anniversary is next month, and I cannot tell you how much being apart of this wonderful organization has changed my life for the better. My goal is to write a book and to become an inspirational speaker for women. Women have an important part in this world, and we need to stand up and take our place next to the other great leaders of this world.

Banner Celebrations - Welcome new Clubs!



Congratulations to our new Earth Speaks club in Denver. Their banner and charter certificates were delivered on January 18, 2018. Celebrating are club members, James Hou, Club President and Sponsor (front left) and Robin McIntosh, D4 Area Director (front right).



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



Congratulations to our new Spectrum Speakers club in Denver. Their banner and charter certificates were delivered on February 2, 2018. Celebrating are club members, Emily Inman, Club President (middle left) and Vinod Kashid, Sponsor (holding banner).

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-26>



Michelle Mras, DTM
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.

The Benefits of Club Visits

By: Sarah Beasley, ACG, ALB, E4 Area Director



I love checklists and could easily look at being Area Director as a checkbox. Visit my clubs twice. Check. I'm done with my district leadership position. But, should we act like it's just a checkbox? I have visited my clubs multiple times, and here's how we've all benefited.

My clubs know that I am there for them. I'm not a "ghost" who only shows up twice a year and sends out occasional emails when I need something. They know I am supporting them because I am investing myself into their club. I'm showing them that they are important. Because of that, they are more willing to discuss issues in their club and work with me to find a resolution.

Through multiple visits, I have built up strong relationships with the members. I now have an arsenal of folks who are willing to help me out with contests and TLI. In turn, they know I'm not going to disappear after the contest or TLI is over. They know we are working together as a team.

Does it take effort to visit the clubs more than twice? Yes.

Do you have to juggle family and work to get the visits in? Yes.

It is easy? No.

Is it worth it? Every single minute!

May Tran, Eastern Division Director, told me, "Why should the minimum be your maximum?" Don't think of club visits as a checkbox. Think of club visits as an investment in the club, the district, and YOU.



PR Campaign Ideas

By: Angela Schnaubelt, DTM

Urban Retention Coordinator, Club Officer Coach

Here is a list of ideas for how to fulfill an advanced assignment in the Competent Leader manual calling you to organize a PR campaign (Public Relations Campaign).

To run a PR Campaign, work closely with the club's Vice President of PR. You could Chair a Committee such as a Social Media Committee, a Club Special Event Committee, or a Community Outreach Committee.

PR is about promoting the club, getting visibility and positive exposure to the public about Toastmasters in general, and your club in specific. Many people think of press releases when it comes to PR. Nowadays, most people think of social media.

Here are some examples of PR "Campaigns:"

- ✓ Social Media Campaign: Offer to help with your club's meetup.com group, nextdoor.com, or Facebook page for a defined period of time: 6 weeks or 3-5 months.
- ✓ Special Event PR Campaign: PR also includes promoting special events. A major anniversary of the club could be a newsworthy event. Other special events include an Open House, a holiday party, Speechcraft, a Leadership series, or a public debate.
- ✓ Press Release Campaign: Familiarize yourself with HARO (Help A Reporter Out), and submit newsworthy information to them.
- ✓ Community Outreach Campaign: promote a club special event by contacting Human Resource departments nearby by email or in person with a flier.

Work with the VP Membership to promote the club during a Membership Contest period. You are only limited by your imagination. Contact me at angela.schnaubelt@gmail.com for more ideas or questions.

FIRST AID FOR CLUBS EVENT

By: Collette Smith, DTM, Retention Chair



How many of you are hoping for more Guests and Club Members in the last half of this Toastmasters year?

If you are like me it certainly makes Club meetings more vibrant and interesting when you have guests and new members. How can the Retention Team help each of you achieve this in your Club?

District 26 Workshop - First Aid for Clubs

When: **Saturday, February 10, 2018**

Free Event

Time: **11:30AM - 1:30 PM** / Registration: **11:00AM**

Where: **Saint Anthony's Hospital** Rooms: E, F, G

11600 W 2nd Place

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

You will learn about:

- Club Coaches
- Bringing Guests to your Club
- Converting Guests to Members
- Retaining Members

If you are a Club Coach or want to be a Club Coach then this Workshop is for YOU. Club Officers who would like to learn how to help their Clubs in a more dynamic way through reducing turn over and bringing in guests - this workshop is for YOU.

For more information go to the [District Calendar](#) or [contact Pat Condin](#), , Metro Division Retention Coordinator.

Let us help you win the Retention Game.