



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



What Month Is It Anyway?

In case you do not know the answer to the question in the title, it's a month of changes. Yep, March promises to challenge us with changes. If history repeats itself this year, we will experience March heralding in spring one day followed by winter the next. March can start out the day quiet and beautiful only to change to noisy winds with garbage cans rolling all over the neighborhood!

March is a great teacher, teaching us to roll with the punches and take nothing for granted. Teaching us to cherish the good and work through the "not so good", teaching us to persevere and come through stronger.

March will see us reveling in clubs that charter, rejoicing when members renew their membership, and praising those clubs who reach Distinguished before April 1st by qualifying with goals met and members renewed. March will also see us working diligently to help prospective clubs obtain those last few members, holding Open Houses to change guests into members and encouraging our members to complete their goals.

All the efforts we put into helping prospective clubs, the work that goes into those Open Houses and the enjoyment our members receive when they complete a goal will result in rewards for the future.

Let's embrace the many changes March has in store for us, let's M-A-R-C-H on to victory! President's Distinguished awaits us all!

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**



Moving at a Fast Clip

Did you ever chase a moving train at 10,000 feet above sea level? It ain't easy. The lack of oxygen alone gets in the way of moving at a fast clip. But somehow, my husband and I defied the laws of science and caught up with a moving train in Silverton, Colorado. I'm not proud of my shouts of "STOP THE TRAIN" to the conductor. And the conductor was not happy when she pulled the emergency brake to let us hop on the already mobile locomotive. In fact, if looks could kill, we'd be dead in the rail yard dust.

The narrow gauge railroads were hidden gems of the Rocky Mountains. Clacking and screeching around the hairpin curves, the steam engines traveled over mountain summits on their way to essential points of commerce and industry.



Colorado Historical Society, F-3338

General William Jackson Palmer dreamed of uniting the western side of the Continental Divide with the eastern seaboard. Without his efforts to change the current scene, the nascent nation would have not been as connected as before.

Fast forward to now. You and I are connected to every point on the globe through the Internet. We have friends and acquaintances in other hemispheres thousands of miles away.

Pathways Learning Experience is another connection each of us has worldwide. You may think we are moving faster than you can experience comfortably, but I invite you to adapt — and adapt at a fast clip.

Embrace the Clack! Embrace Pathways!



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 Continues

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.) District 26 also offers \$40 and \$75 membership growth incentives here: <https://www.d26toastmasters.org/members/2017-2018-incentives/>

Please continue 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,

Mike Akins, DTM

cgd1718@d26leaders.org



Being Cause Connected

By: Marietta Ferrington, Public Relations Manager

What is your purpose? What brought you to Toastmasters in the first place?
What evolutions has your purpose undergone?

Our purpose is as personal as it is powerful. Connecting and reconnecting with our purpose as it may evolve is vital to our success. Core to the Toastmasters' experience is our journey to becoming a more skilled public speaker. This is essential, yet those two elements alone, purpose and speaking skills, are not enough for us to find success. In my experience it is the network of people / connections that completes the holy trinity of a rewarding Toastmasters journey.

As District 26 PR Manager, my purpose has become networking itself. Specifically, to help our members expand their network and our district improves its connections to the community that surrounds us.

I challenge all of you to know your purpose and whatever manifestation or iteration it is at this very moment and to let it carry you to the doors of the fourth Toastmasters Networking Event. There, you will witness public speaking mastery by Tom Hobbs and Rebecca Barth as they take another step on their public speaking journey while you improve the network that will support your success.

Fourth Toastmasters Networking Event
March 22nd between 5-7PM
Howl at the Moon, 1735 19th St., Denver



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 Achieve Select Distinguished Achieve Distinguished <u>Not Distinguished by March 31st - Second Chance!</u> Reach Distinguished status by May 31 st Achieve President's Distinguished Achieve Select Distinguished Achieve Distinguished PERFECT 10 - All 10 DCP Goals achieved!	\$50 Gift Certificate \$40 Gift Certificate \$30 Gift Certificate \$25 Gift Certificate \$20 Gift Certificate \$15 Gift Certificate \$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 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)	\$75 Gift Certificate \$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) Achieve DTM Award	Triple Crown Pin (awarded during Hall of Fame event) 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 Sponsor 10 Members Sponsor 15 Members	\$10 online Gift Certificate + blue pin from TMI \$25 online Gift Certificate + burgundy pin from TMI \$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
<p>End the year with 50% + 1 of the division's base clubs earning Distinguished Club or better, with no net loss in clubs.</p> <p>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</p>	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>	<p>\$50 Gift certificate</p>
<p>Serve in a meeting role for 10 or more Kick-Off meetings, whether or not in your division.</p>	<p>\$15 Gift Certificate</p>
IF YOU ARE RETENTION CHAIR...	
RECRUITING EFFORTS	YOUR REWARD
<p>Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 30 or more Club Coaches</p>	<p>\$75 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 20-29 Club Coaches</p>	<p>\$50 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Assist Retention Coordinators in recruiting 10-19 Club Coaches</p>	<p>\$25 Gift Certificate</p>
IF YOU ARE A RETENTION COORDINATOR...	
RECRUITING EFFORTS	YOUR REWARD
<p>Recruit Club Coaches for all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach</p>	<p>\$60 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Recruit Club Coaches for 75% of all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach</p>	<p>\$40 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Recruit Club Coaches for 50% of all clubs in your Division who qualify for a Club Coach</p>	<p>\$20 Gift Certificate</p>
IF YOU ARE A CLUB COACH...	
REACHING DISTINGUISHED	YOUR REWARD
<p>Club reaches President's Distinguished</p>	<p>\$75 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Club reaches Select Distinguished</p>	<p>\$50 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Club reaches Distinguished</p>	<p>\$25 Gift Certificate</p>
MEMBERSHIP GROWTH	YOUR REWARD
<p>Club did not achieve Distinguished status but membership improved</p>	
<p>Help club increase membership by net 3 members by June 30, 2018</p>	<p>\$15 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>Help Club increase membership by net 5 members by June 30, 2018</p>	<p>\$25 Gift Certificate</p>

IF YOU ARE A CLUB MENTOR...	
COMPLETING YOUR ASSIGNMENT	YOUR REWARD
Complete Mentor Check List and have Club President's signature on District's check list and WHQ Club Mentor form	\$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.

February Educational Awards (January 31 – February 27)

Competent Communicator

Heather Hans
Kirsten Brauser
Karen Thomas
Marilyn Murphy
Richard Ray
Chris Newman
Leather Bang
Michael Dias
Susan Baum
Francisca Avila Popoca
Chris Dewey
Cassandra Huidobro
Timothy Lawrence
Dolores Stevens
Michael Akins
William Gallup
Brena Davis
Lina Dimberg
Logan Hembrough
Marc April
Greg Jameson
Cedric Nounawon
Marisol Lozano Roman

Advanced Communicator Bronze

Erick Whittier
Colette Smith
Yuan Liu
Ed Archuleta
Ronald Ingram
Kelsey Robb
Danielle Kiaha
Tod Shook

Advanced Communicator Silver

Betsy Clark
Marianne Graham
Xuezheng Wang
Stacy Nickels
Jerome Kirkpatrick
Eric Pollock
Brian Callahan

Advanced Communicator Gold

Richard Barrett
Norman Frickey

Competent Leader

Tod Shook
Phillip Etier
Ryan Fotheringham
Judy Fawcett
Marc April
Leslie Hummer
Stacy Nickels
James Brost
Kristin Sorensen
Heidi Smith

Advanced Leader Bronze

Rhonda Peters
Justin Searles
Alejandro Vera
Beth Ann Baker Owens
Heidi Thomas
Stacy Nickels
Debra Kemp

Advanced Leader Silver

Lori Simpkins

Distinguished Toastmaster

No recipients

Leadership Excellence

Beth Baker Owens
Lori Simpkins
David Mead

Triple Crown

Stacy Nickels, CL, ALB, ACS
Beth Baker Owens, ACB, ALB, LDREXC
Lori Simpkins, LDREXC, ACS, CL

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

- Colorado Springs Toastmasters: 70th
- Front Range Toastmasters: 60th
- TLC Club: 20th
- Evening Stars: 15th
- La Plata County Luminaries: 10th
- Toast-A-Matics: 10th
- Tri-Town Toasters: 10th
- Dam Good Speakers: 5th
- Peak Performers: 5th

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
- Opportunity Talks Toastmasters Club
- S-Peak Leaders
- Thrillspeakers Toastmasters Club
- Thunderbolt Orators Club



Select Distinguished (8)

- Colorado Orators League
- Dawn Yawn
- Golden Speak EZ
- Talking Ideas Toastmasters Club
- Timberline Toastmasters
- Toast of Inverness

Select Distinguished (7)

- Arrowhead Club
- Aurorators Toastmasters Club
- Chemical Weapons Masters
- Cherry Creek Toastmasters Club
- Colorado State University Toastmasters Club
- Downtowners Toastmasters Club
- Earlybird Club
- Eloquent Entrepreneurs
- El Puente Bilingual Toastmasters Club

- Grand Junction Toastmasters Club
- Highlands Ranch Toastmasters Club
- Peterson Toastmasters
- Pikes Peak Toastmasters Club
- Resource Masters
- Rise ‘n Shine Toastmasters
- Solar Speak Club
- South Suburban Toastmasters
- Westminster Communicators Club
- WRY Toast Toastmasters Club

No new clubs have chartered since December 10, 2017.

What's Happening Around the District?

Calling ALL Speakers! **District 26 is seeking Speakers** **for the** **Education break-out sessions at** **the** **2018 Spring Conference.**



Speaker proposals outline the session, should be of timely and relevant topics that capture our Members interest and leave them wanting to know more.

- If selected by the Education Committee you may be showcased in Pre-Conference announcements, the District Dialogue and in the Spring Conference Program.
- Include a brief 1-min. video introducing your session for our Social Media advertisements. Yes, something new! *strictly optional
- Educational Sessions should be in Communication & Leadership Skills, Personal Development, Social Media & Education.
- The 45 minute break out sessions will be held on Saturday May 19th.

To submit your Speakers Proposal:

download the [District 26 Speaker's Proposal Form](#)

Follow the instructions and submit your Session Proposal for consideration no later than March 30th, 2018. *PLEASE NOTE: Only complete proposals will be considered.

Speakers will be notified by April 4th, 2018.

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

PIONEER 97 CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

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

Pioneer 97 Toastmasters Club in Casper, Wyoming, celebrated its 80th Anniversary, February 9, 2018. An Open House was held Saturday, February 24 at the YMCA of Natrona County. Area N2 Director, Mary Ann Hoff, along with the other two Clubs in Casper, Morning Tour and Pathfinder sponsored the event.



Toastmasters, both past and present, were in attendance as well as future members of Toastmasters! John Smith, Pioneer VP of Education shared stories of the history of Pioneer as he knew it. Since no Charter members were available, it was his story and he is sticking to it!!

Pioneer 97 is the oldest club in the District unless someone can dispute that claim!

Pioneer 97 is the 38th oldest Toastmasters Club in the world. Since Ralph Smedley began his quest to start Toastmaster Clubs, some 93 years ago at a YMCA, it was in his honor that this event was held at the YMCA. Rhea Thompson, District Director presented Pioneer with a plaque for their 80 years as a Toastmaster Club. Marcia Wood, Program Quality Director and Janice Haldi, Northern Division Director, were on hand for the celebration.

Congratulations Pioneer 97 on your 80th Anniversary!

Banner Celebration

Congratulations to our new DU Speaks club in Denver.

Their banner and charter certificates were delivered on February 8, 2018.

Celebrating below are club members and Grace Baker, club President and Sponsor (front left).



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



Kids Rule!

By: Pamala Savage

Durango Early Bird Toastmasters sponsors ***Kids Rule!***, which is a 6 - 8 week youth speaking and leadership class offered through the **Durango Gifted and Talented Afterschool Enrichment Program** at **The Liberty School** for gifted, dyslexic and twice-exceptional students.

Various members of the Early Bird Toastmasters Club lead and teach the classes. While gifted and talented (GT) students from 2nd - 7th grade in the Durango area may sign up for classes, Liberty also allows anyone from their school and anyone with a passion for speaking or leading, GT or not, to join the class.

Because many of the students are very young or dyslexic, the Youth Leadership Program manual is too difficult for many of them to read, and speeches can be impossible to write. Therefore, several Early Bird members got together and re-formulated the program to meet the unique needs of these students.

The first 15 minutes of the class is informal. Students play games that encourage them to speak in front of their peers. These games also serve as icebreakers and allow students from outlying schools to arrive without being considered “late.” Next, students move to a different room, set up in a formal Toastmasters style, where they commence the more “serious” part of the meeting. Here, they gradually incorporate the primary Toastmasters roles such as Timer, Grammarian, and Speech Evaluator. All students participate in Table Topics, and older, more experienced students are eventually challenged to give speeches. The class is challenging and fun; they love it!

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>

WANTED: Articles

By: Michelle Mras, DTM, Newsletter Editor

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 are 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.