



## DISTRICT 24 DOUBLE DOZEN

# NEWSLETTER

## District News And Events

### District 24

October 2019

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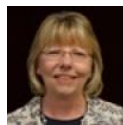
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*Toastmasters from across our District posed for disco-themed photos at the end of year party. Left: Division C. Center: Division A. Right: Road 2 DTM.*



### It's Time to Unite... and Celebrate!

Submitted by Linda M. Wilson, 2019-2020 District 24 Director

October... that mystical, magical, marvelous month! We are treated to the brilliant fall foliage emblazoned in crimsons and golds, to our favorite fall comfort foods, as well as to the spooks and goblins who make their annual arrival on our doorsteps later in the month, on Halloween. This is truly my favorite time of the year! It makes me want to celebrate... ***Toastmasters!***

As the cooler temperatures of fall arrive and our thoughts turn to indoor activities, it is time to unite as we plan for Toastmasters events in our clubs. What can you do to celebrate your club's successes, engage your current members and help them along their Toastmasters journey, as well as entice potential new members? How can you promote your club? ***Hint:*** Now is the perfect time for a special fall-themed educational meeting, open house or membership drive!

Last month, I had the opportunity to join District 24 club members at the End of Year Celebration at Peterson Park in Gretna. It was great to see all the familiar faces, everyone gathered with one focus...to enjoy an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun as we celebrated the achievements of our members and clubs over the past year. (See pages 12-15 for a complete listing of awards.) Yes, there were even costumes, in keeping with the “disco” theme. We were one big Toastmasters family, united with a common cause, and our positive energy permeated the air!

I would love to bottle that energy and send it back to our clubs to release throughout the year as we continuously strive to keep the passion and enthusiasm for our clubs alive so that it is apparent to our guests and potential members. What do they really see when they visit your club? Is your energy and enthusiasm apparent? Are members united in conveying this message? Is it enough to make them want to join?

*Continued on page 2.*

### District Highlights

#### Of the Year Award Winners Named

District 24 gave out 13 “Of the Year” awards at the End of Year Party on September 7. Find out more about the recipients of these prestigious awards on **pages 12-15.**

#### Visiting Toastmasters International HQ

District 24 area directors ‘Tania’ Biswas and Indrajit Basu gained valuable insights into the workings of Toastmasters International after touring their facilities in Denver. Share in their experience on **page 7.**

#### We Love a Parade!

Prime Time Toastmasters Club recently participated in a parade with a fitting theme of “Past and Future”. See how they represented Toastmasters well in the community on **page 5.**

*Linda Wilson, District Director, Continued from page 1.*

Not only is this a great time to celebrate, it is also time to revisit your Club Success Plan and make sure your club is united in its vision and members are prepared to achieve their goals. If you do not have a Success Plan, what are you waiting for?!? Just as you would not go on a road trip without being prepared with information on how to reach your destination, your club must lay out a roadmap for their journey in the year ahead. Club officers work with their clubs to prepare this very important plan. Visit <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/distinguished-club-program-and-club-success-plan-english> to find out how to get started.

As I look around at the clubs in District 24, I appreciate the rich tapestry of club cultures as well as the knowledge and experience our members bring to their clubs. We are an awesome team! When we uncork the bottle of exuberance, energy and enthusiasm, then **unite** in spreading the great news about what Toastmasters has to offer our friends, family, neighbors and co-workers, we can change the world!

In the words of American automobile manufacturer Henry Ford, “Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Staying together is success.”

Let’s unite in achieving success this year as members and in our clubs!

### **Go Team COURAGE... Creating Opportunities, United in Retention, Appreciation, Growth and Education!**

Each month, in the space below, I will spotlight a member or club for their exemplary efforts in one of these aspects of **C.O.U.R.A.G.E.** - **C**reating **O**pportunities, **U**nited in **R**etention, **A**ppreciation, **G**rowth and **E**ducation! If you know someone deserving of this recognition, please send a brief description of their contribution to [LindaWilson.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:LindaWilson.d24tm@gmail.com). Stay tuned, **you** might be featured on this page next month!

### **District 24 Spotlight on Team C.O.U.R.A.G.E.**



Jeffrey Williams (pictured left) is a member of Why Not Speak and Speak Now. He currently works at the Urban League of Nebraska as the Whitney Young Jr. Academy/ S.T.E.A.M. Academy Coordinator. Jeff is also founder of J’s Braintrust Consulting Services Inc., a nonprofit that focuses on teaching middle school/high school students about entrepreneurship and time management skills. “Lighting a path...Seeing the plan...Creating the future” is the motto of the organization. Jeff, along with other key stakeholders and Toastmasters in the community, have introduced events that involve students with working on being better speakers and leaders. Please see page 6 for more information about these events. Jeff has set the bar high as an exemplary member of Team COURAGE!



## The Masks We Wear

Submitted by Mark Fegan, DTM, Program Quality Director

In the 1994 movie *The Mask*, Jim Carrey plays Stanley Ipkiss, a down in the dumps bachelor with basically no life. One day, Ipkiss finds an enchanted mask and, after much hesitation, puts it on. Under the influence of the mask, Ipkiss' personality changes radically. Eventually, Ipkiss consults a psychiatrist, played by Ben Stein, who suggests, "We all wear masks, metaphorically speaking."

Over the years, I have worn a number of masks (metaphorically speaking). These include husband, father, grandfather, teacher, coach, etc. More recently, I've gained the masks of Toastmaster, District Officer, and Trio Member. (Yes, there are others.)

The problem with my multitude of masks is both simple and confusing. Simply put, I decide which mask I am going to wear; unfortunately, others have the power to veto my choice and make me change to a different mask. And, worse yet, they don't tell me they made the change!

Have you ever walked into a room and received an unexpected welcome? Most likely, you were wearing the wrong mask. One of the critical tasks facing a speaker is to determine audience and then make sure the presentation fits with the audience's expectation. The audience will judge you by the mask they see you wearing rather than the mask you think you are wearing.

As a Toastmaster I am constantly aware that I may not be seen as I wish to be seen. In addition to that, I may have strong personal opinions about various aspects of Toastmasters. However, I have a dual responsibility here: as a Toastmaster, I have a responsibility to present Toastmasters in a positive light; as a district officer, I must bear in mind that others, realizing I am a district officer, may think that my opinions represent official Toastmasters policy.

Please, speak up for and about Toastmasters, but be aware of who you are with. Don't be misunderstood. Be aware of the mask you are currently wearing and how that influences how people perceive you. Through that awareness, you can ensure that what you say reflects positively on you and on Toastmasters.



## Membership Campaigns

Submitted by Cindy Jenkins, DTM, Club Growth Director

I've often heard the question: When is the best time to run a club membership campaign? Toastmasters International sponsors three membership campaigns throughout the year: the Smedley Campaign (August – September), Talk Up Toastmasters (January – February), and Beat the Clock (May – June). These are great opportunities to sponsor membership campaigns to add members to your clubs. There are 6 other months in the year when you can run membership campaigns! Anytime is a good time to run a membership campaign.

What type of campaigns can you run to attract new members? One of the best ones is to have current members invite their friends and family members attend a meeting. Plan a special program where your club showcases the benefits of Toastmaster membership. Be sure to have membership brochures and applications available to distribute to your guests. Try to gather contact information from the guests to follow up with them to see if they've made a decision about joining the club. Invite your Area and Division Directors to attend to help add more diversity to group.

Another way to campaign for new members is for several clubs to join forces and show off the differences between the clubs. Choose a venue where there will be many people in attendance like a local festival or fair.

*Continued on page 4*

Club members can be scheduled to work at the table or booth and explain the benefits of Toastmasters. A recent promotion sponsored by several clubs offered small prizes to children who announced their names and answered a question given to them. Make sure to have plenty of membership packets with applications available for anyone interested in joining.

District 24 is making monthly press releases in Strictly Business for the Omaha and Lincoln area. This is another way of promoting the Toastmaster activities in the district. To read the press releases, you can access Strictly Business through this URL: <https://strictlybusinessomaha.com/> for Omaha and <https://strictly-business.com/> for Lincoln. If you have an activity you would like to publicize for District 24, contact the District Public Relations Manager Jessica Codr at <mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com>.

## Recent Events

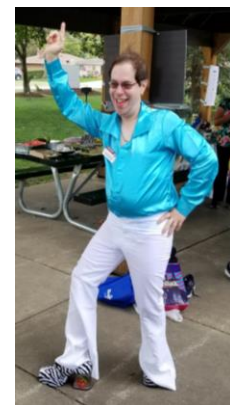
### Greater Communicators Confidently Communicate and Celebrate!



On September 25, Greater Communicators put on a fantastic event about communicating confidently while also celebrating the birthdays of **two** amazing Toastmasters! Happy Birthday to Cynthia Coleman (left candle-blower) and Floy Westermeier (right candle-blower) seen above right blowing out the candles on their cupcakes. Those who attended the event also enjoyed delicious food and learned about how to confidently break the ice, engage in impromptu speaking, and give elevator pitches. Participants practiced their skills one-on-one as seen in the photo above left. The event concluded with a viewing and discussion of the speech that won the 2019 World Championship of Public Speaking.

### District 24 Dances at the Disco!

Thanks to the amazing efforts of event organizer Debbie Rodriguez and her team, the End of Year Party held on September 7 was an amazing success. Immediate Past District Director Glenn Williams (pictured right) embraced the disco spirit as Master of Ceremonies. We enjoyed delicious food, honored the “of the year” award winners (see pages 12-15 for write-ups on these amazing individuals), heard from 2019’s International Speech Contest Region 4 winner Eric Beba, and solved a murder mystery (in which Randy Prier was declared guilty). If you missed the fun or want to relive it, you can find event photos at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/D24TM/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2727791367241620](https://www.facebook.com/pg/D24TM/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2727791367241620).





## Toastmasters Parading in the Community

Submitted by Carol Sullivan, DTM, Division A Director

Norfolk Prime Time Club # 8111 was thrilled to walk in the Oktoberfest Parade on Sept. 21, 2019. The theme of the parade was “Past and Future”, which fit in well with Prime Time’s participation and the vehicle they decorated (see photo below).



The club had grandparents, mothers, and kids walking and handing out candy. The club placed posters on a vehicle that told about the First Toastmaster Meeting held, and when Prime Time was first founded (Past). They had Grandmas walking to represent the Past.

The Future was the poster talking about the New Youth R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Club coming in the year 2020. The six kids who participated are the students who are interested in joining the new club, and they have been talking about what words to use for the acronyms of R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (For example, R is for Responsibility.) The students are excited and loved throwing the candy.



Shawn Johnson and a new Prospective Member for the Prime Time Club filled the buckets with candy from the back of the vehicle and handed off to others on the trailer (see photo left). The Parade Started from the NHS. Everyone involved had a great time sharing the past and future of Prime Time Club.



Have an event you want to share, either upcoming or past? Sent information and photos to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com).

We welcome any new ideas for features and other articles as well!

# Toastmasters Partners with Programs for Youth

Submitted by Jeffrey Williams, DTM

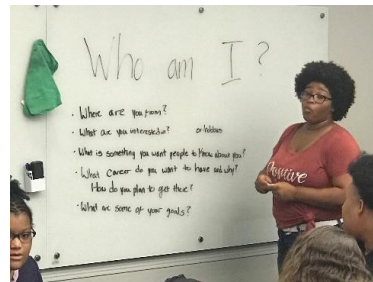


Toastmaster Jeffrey Williams and other key stakeholders and Toastmasters in the community have introduced events that involve students with working on being better speakers and leaders. During the 2018-2019 school year, Jeff was the Assistant Coordinator for the 1st Annual 100 Black Men of Omaha Youth Leadership Program sponsored by Toastmasters International! A huge thank you to Kristina Avant, Program Coordinator, and Maleeque Parker, Program Recruiter / YLP Coordinator for

their leadership! This program was held every other Saturday at Monroe Middle School from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and was completed Saturday, February 16, 2019. The parents were even involved in the final meeting! Pictured to the right, students proudly displayed their certificates of completion along with Toastmasters Jeffrey Williams, George Hast, Floy Westermeier, and Don Hotz.



Another event where students had a chance to work on public speaking and leadership was the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban League of Nebraska Girls' Summer S.T.E.A.M. Academy, which was held at the University of Nebraska of Omaha campus at the Weitz Community Engagement Center from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>. Twenty middle and high school ladies participated in a 6-week program that focused on STEAM activities as well as leadership. On Monday, July 2, 2019, the focus was on public speaking. The students were given 10 minutes to prepare. After that, each student had 1-2 minutes to discuss up to seven things about themselves (see images of some students below). Each class member was then required to ask at least one question for the presenter to answer. Jeff summarized each presenter's answers to show why taking notes and listening was a respectful part of being a fellow classmate and leader, as well as a way to keep track of what a teacher may talk about during a lesson.



Finally, Jeff had a chance to work with Ms. Carol Sullivan, Division A Director, who is working with her club, Prime Time Toastmasters on planning a youth speaking club at one of the middle schools in Norfolk, Nebraska for the 2019-2020 school year. Jeff visited the club in Norfolk on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. This R.E.S.P.E.C.T. club (pictured right) is the same group that participated with Prime Time Toastmasters in the parade mentioned on [page 5](#).



# A Visit to the Toastmasters International Headquarters

Submitted by Saptashati 'Tania' Biswas and Indrajit Basu, Area Directors C24, C23

A work related trip to Denver, Colorado, provided us with the unique opportunity to tour the Toastmasters International World Headquarters (HQ). Our hotel in the Technology Center area at the border of Centennial and Englewood, in the suburbs of Denver, was only minutes away from the HQ. We reserved a tour ahead of time and were warmly welcomed by our host and tour guide, who was an experienced staff member.

Our tour started with a welcome video by the CEO, who reminded us to thank the hardworking staff, who provide constant service to the members worldwide. Next, we enjoyed an extensive tour of their facilities that primarily included offices and conference rooms occupying the entire 4th and part of the 3rd floor of the building. We saw magnificent mountain views through the huge clear glass windowpanes. The modern office spaces were open with cubicle style areas for the employees.

Interestingly, the many conference rooms were named after countries with Toastmasters presence. A larger conference room was named after a country with a larger footprint. One corridor had conference rooms on each side named after all the Asian countries, and another had names of the European countries, while a third represented South American countries. The design of the offices promoted collaboration between teams.

Some of the teams we met included the educational support team, website and IT support, district and zonal support, financial and audit department, human resources, customer care phone and email support, content writing that did the monthly newsletter, and the program development team. Large clocks, showing time zones around the world, adorned the walls of these big offices. As we walked into each section of the office, laid out as a quadrant, the employees warmly greeted us. It was a Friday, and hence the mood was relaxed and festive. A staff member was celebrating baby shower and had a huge table decorated with cakes and treats for the team. In another quadrant, a birthday celebration was in preparation. We also visited their nice cafeteria and mailroom. The huge space provides opportunity for expansion and growth.

Our tour guide kept us engaged throughout the tour by asking trivia questions on history and facts about Toastmasters such as when and where it was founded, number of worldwide members, number of countries and languages represented, highest number of conference attendees, core values of toastmasters, etc. We got the opportunity to ask questions that ranged from pathways to speech contest rules to future collaborations with Rotary (not a merger). We were relieved to know that the speech contest rules for appointing judges did not change for this year as originally planned due to member feedback.

This tour helped us understand that member feedback is highly valued and enables Toastmasters International to develop their action plans and policies. They are continuously making improvements to the pathways program, based on the feedback. After spending almost 90 minutes in the tour, it ended where we had begun: in the magnificent lobby and reception area.

Behind this area was a museum with historical artifacts such as Ralph Smedley's typewriter with his portrait, an old time keeping device, handwritten notes, old publications, trophies, the golden gavel, and a historical timeline of the Toastmasters evolution. As we thanked our host and tour guide, we were presented with a badge and ribbon that read 'World HQ Visitors' (as seen in the photo to the right). We made our way out of the building with fond memories, reflecting on the core values of Toastmasters that was boldly printed on our souvenir HQ bookmarks: Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.



# Upcoming Events

## Become a better leader

Want to inspire and motivate your team? Challenge yourself with Toastmaster's proven education programs. Let us help you grow your strengths and accomplish your goals.

**A Toastmasters membership gives you powerful leadership tools to take charge:**

- ▶ Guide successful teams
- ▶ Enhance your ability to inspire
- ▶ Sharpen your presentation skills
- ▶ Give and get constructive feedback



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

[www.toastmasters.org/membership](http://www.toastmasters.org/membership)



### ADVANCED TOASTMASTERS OF OMAHA

invites YOU  
to EXPLORE Leadership  
OCTOBER 14TH  
6 PM

at  
**1 VALMONT PLAZA, Suite 100**

#### More information

[1282109.toastmastersclubs.org](http://1282109.toastmastersclubs.org)

**Kathy Henvey DTM RSVP by October 10  
(email [kathyhenvey@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhenvey@gmail.com) or 402-650-1579)**



## Toastmasters LIVE! Returns October 19

Don't miss the **free fun** and excitement of Toastmasters LIVE! Ask anyone who attended the event last year, and they will tell you this is something you do not want to miss! At Toastmasters LIVE, you can network with your fellow Toastmasters and meet new friends as you enhance your knowledge and skills. In its second year, this event features:

- **An inspiring keynote** on "Going Through It" by Tina Jenkins of Why Not Speak
- Two rounds of breakout sessions on **Pathways, table topics, contest preparation**, and more
- A fun club-sponsored speaking opportunity where participants receive immediate feedback from multiple **celebrity judges**

To learn more or sign up to participate in the speaking event, visit <https://www.pachunka.com/tmlive2019/>.

 RSVP and **receive an entry in a raffle for fabulous door prizes** at <https://tmlive2019.eventbrite.com>.



Members of Mutual of Omaha Toastmasters had a great time at Toastmasters LIVE last year. Will you join the fun this year?



## Accredited Speaker to Present at Dynamic Speakers October 15

Submitted by Keith Jones, DTM (pictured left)

The Dynamic Speakers Toastmasters Club have had and will have Toastmasters Accredited Speakers making presentations at our meetings. This is a great opportunity for our District members to interact with Toastmasters who have achieved the Accredited Speaker designation.

Michael Bayer, CSP, AS, graced our meeting in September. We thanked Michael for his excellent presentation on starting a speaking career.

For our October Meeting Johnny Campbell CSP, AS, will join us via Zoom. Johnny Campbell, keynote speaker, author and founder of Rise-Up and Win International, helps people turn their personal challenges into breakthroughs, and their products and services into profits.

Johnny gained his expertise in the insurance industry, where he worked as a corporate trainer and participated in leading hundreds of people through massive organizational changes. He is the past president of the National Speaker Association for the state of Illinois, and is an Accredited Speaker, a designation presented by Toastmasters International for excellence in public speaking. It is held by only 75 professional speakers in the world.

Johnny is the bestselling author of the audio series "The Power of Resiliency," and a TEDx speaker. His TED talk is called "How an Enemy Can Improve Your Life." Based on Johnny's sales results, experiences, and his ability to help clients overcome their challenges, as well as succeed in their businesses and life, he is called: "The Transition Man." Johnny's TEDx presentation can be found on his website: [www.riseupandwin.com](http://www.riseupandwin.com).

Johnny will present on how to use LinkedIn for the Dynamic Speakers meeting at the La Vista Nines, 12520 Westport Pkwy, La Vista, on October 15th, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Please join us at our October meeting.

**Find a full listing of all upcoming events at [https://d24tm.org/D24\\_Calendar.html](https://d24tm.org/D24_Calendar.html)**

**CALLING ON ALL DISTRICT 24 MEMBERS in the  
Omaha, Iowa, Lincoln, & Surrounding Areas**

**COME & LEARN  
PATHWAYS**

**IT IS TIME TO RSVP at  
<https://learnpathways.eventbrite.com>**

**By Nov 6, 2019**



**Your Fellow Toastmasters are here to help you learn and feel  
confident to walk your own path in Pathways**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska  
1919 Ak-Sar-Ben Ave  
Omaha, NE 68180  
Nov 9, 2019**

***Training Bonus: Receive Help One on One***

**SIGN IN AT 1PM & TRAINING BEGINS 1:30 PM  
BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP/ iPad  
& your own Snack/Drink if needed**

**Host Clubs: Blue Ah Buster & Why Not Speak**

**Questions contact: TM Cynthia Coleman at:  
[cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com](mailto:cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com)**



## THE SOLUTION TO BORING MINUTES

Submitted by Karen Watson, DTM, District 24 Parliamentarian.

There are many more interesting things to read than 'minutes' of an organization's meetings, especially if the minutes are longer than a page or two. Yet, the solution to boring minutes is *not* to disregard them. The solution is to know *what to look for* in the minutes. Minutes reveal 'why' you are a member.

Minutes in hand, you should be able to identify the information below in just the first two paragraphs. Good minutes contain (prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order):

Name of Organization

Date of meeting, Kind of meeting, Location of meeting

Name of individual who presided/title {president, grand potentate, district director}

Name of individual who recorded proceedings/title {secretary, administrative personnel}

Indication of Notice having been sent for the meeting

Members present at meeting, i.e. roll call (if needed)

Parliamentary authority and meeting rules under which business was conducted

Approval of previous meeting minutes (endorsement of business before this meeting)

Continue to read the bulk of the minutes which reveal the organization's 'health'. Look for:

- What does the organization do with its monetary resources? Read the Treasurer's Report or Profit Loss Statement. (To investigate how the entire year's resources are distributed, read the annual meeting minutes with adoption of the annual budget.)
- Where does the organization put its human resources? Read the Reports of Committees.
- What are new projects the organization wants to pursue? Read the New Business.
- Do the members have integrity and want to follow their bylaws? Look for Points of Order.
- Is the membership willing to listen to input from all members? Look for appeals.

You are hereby challenged. TAKE THIS TEST. ***Before attending the next meeting***, read the most current-dated minutes of your organization. Find the answers to the questions above. Knowing this information, one of two things will result. Either you will find yourself bored and indifferent OR you will discover information you realize is valuable and useful on which to base decisions going forward as a voting member of the organization.

Why does an organization have 'minutes'? To know what they've done in the past. Who cares about what has been done in the past? It projects the future. Minutes of an organization can confirm to you that:

- The objectives of the organization are given priority – or not.
- The leadership is guiding the organization to accomplish its vision and mission – or not.
- Your participation as a member is needed and valued – or not.
- You should continue as a member – or not.

Based on the information in minutes, you'll know whether or not the organization is worth more than just your time spent reading the minutes! The Solution to Boring Minutes? Don't spend your time reading minutes unless it's to find answers. Read the minutes so they reveal and give insight into 'why' you remain a member - regardless if you like reading minutes or not. Keep the lists above to know what to look for.

For any parliamentary information, help, or need, contact: [KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com](mailto:KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com)

## 2018-2019 District 24 “Of the Year” Award Winners

*Congratulations to all our amazing winners, first announced at the End of Year party September 7.*

### SAA of the Year: Michael Dalke



Within just two months of joining CSG’s corporate club, See Us Speak, Michael stepped up to be the club’s sergeant-at-arms. He quickly organized the meeting schedule and secured the meeting room for the remainder Toastmaster year. When he was unable to attend a meeting, he made sure his SAA duties were covered by another club member.

Michael has quickly earned the first three levels of the Presentation Mastery path. He has been a vocal advocate for Toastmasters, explaining to fellow employees of CSG the benefits he’s seen in his short time in the club and encouraging them to visit and learn about Toastmasters. He even took the lead in organizing a “Whose Slide Is It Anyways?” event that became part of a membership drive and taught members and guests how improv works. Thank you, Michael, for your excellent leadership!

### Treasurer of the Year: Cynthia Coleman



As treasurer of Why Not Speak, Cynthia Coleman focused on giving members payment options that ensured they could get dues in on time and remain connected to the club. Her communication about dues was top notch, and she gave options for members to pay dues in installments or all at once. Under Cynthia’s guidance, Why Not Speak maintained their tradition of earning “early bird” recognition for getting dues in more than two weeks before they were due. Cynthia made extra efforts to touch base with members via phone and email to ensure they understood the dues payments and saw the value they were getting from Toastmasters.

Cynthia’s enthusiasm for Toastmasters is clearly seen in her support of Why Not Speak, as well as her active and enthusiastic involvement in other clubs and division and district functions. Cynthia, you are an inspiration!

### Secretary of the Year: Tom Colling



As Secretary of Omaha Toastmasters Club 281, Tom Colling leveraged his vast knowledge of Pathways to ensure all records of members’ progress in the new program were up to date. He assisted the VPE in making sure members were working the program and reminded members to sign up for their next speech to complete levels in Pathways. His efforts contributed to the club earning many awards in the new program.

Tom also set the example in Pathways by earning many educational awards in the program including PM1, PM2, SR1, SR2, SR3, SR4, SR5, and the Pathways Mentoring Program. As of the May sponsorship report, he had sponsored 8 members and continues to promote Toastmasters and Pathways. Well done, Tom!

### VPPR of the Year: Candi Sanders



As Vice President Public Relations for Lincoln Toastmasters Club, Candi maintained a dynamic and frequently updated Facebook page which helped the club gain six new members. She hosted an amazing open house where every single little detail met branding standards. The event was very well planned out and organized. In addition to promoting her club, she supported the entire District as Area C23 Director. Candi has done a fantastic job building public relations for her club and Toastmasters. Congratulation!

## VPM of the Year: Felecia Jones



Felecia Jones achieved success as VPM of Blue Ah Busters by being a “people investor”. She started out by inviting as many people as she could to check out Toastmasters. Whenever someone at Blue Cross mentioned having a hard time speaking, she invited them to the club. Whenever someone visited a meeting, Felecia gave them personal attention and follow-up, including meeting with them to answer questions, discuss Pathways, and share how Toastmasters benefits every aspect of life. She applied the same personal touch to the Speechcraft class the club sponsored, resulting in 8 of the 12 participants becoming club members.

Felecia personally sponsored 15 new members in the 2018-2019 year. Under her guidance, Blue Ah Busters gained 16 new members, which helped the club obtain President’s Distinguished status. Her focus through all of this is on seeing those new members continue to grow in their Toastmasters journey. Excellent work!

## VPE of the Year: Marian Albin Gramlich



As VPE of Road 2 DTM, Marian expertly arranged meeting schedules to provide excellent meeting content while keeping track of all members’ goals and accomplishments. She vigorously promoted the club and was the guiding light in leading them to achieve President’s Distinguished status.

Marian organized a “flash TM meeting” at a local farmers market which gave the club great exposure to the public. She recruited eight new or returning members in the last few months of the Toastmasters year. She expertly represented the club in a forum at the D24 conference. Finally, she was instrumental in implementing teleconferencing with long-distance members and facilitating use of electronic equipment for visual presentations. Thank you, Marian, for helping Road 2 DTM succeed.

## President of the Year: Sandeep Puniya



Since joining Why Not Speak in April 2017, Sandeep has been willing to step up and help out. Sandeep loves the energy and the members of Why Not Speak and carried that love of the club through to his term as Club President. Though his willingness to listen to and implement new ideas, Sandeep gave the club members numerous opportunities to grow and explore. Sandeep’s inspirational leadership and dedication helped club Why Not Speak rock their way to Select Distinguished. Sandeep also served as an Area Director for B14 and Sergeant at Arms for Dynamic Speakers in the 2018-2019 year. Toastmaster Sandeep showed all members that when you step out of your comfort zone, anything is possible. We celebrate Sandeep Puniya with District 24.

## Area Director of the Year: Teresa Hunter



Area Director of the Year, Teresa Hunter, led Area D33 to become the only area in District 24 to achieve Distinguished status in 2018-2019. Teresa worked closely with her clubs throughout the year, and she was so dedicated to them that she even joined **two** of those clubs! One of those clubs was Shelf Talkers, and she worked closely with them to help ensure they got the membership and DCP points needed to become distinguished. Teresa remained focused on helping all her clubs achieve throughout the year. Under her leadership, membership in D33 increased by 1.5% and over 70% of club officers attended training. Teresa even helped recruit a new area director for D31 for the 2019-2020 year.

In addition to leading her area to success, Teresa served her home club (Speak Now) as VP Education and found success herself by earning three educational awards (ACB, ACS, and ALB). Great job, Teresa!

## Division Director of the Year: Gloria Harmon



District 24 is proud to honor 2018-2019 Division B Director Gloria Harmon as Division Director of the Year. As a Division Director, Gloria lived the District mission to “build new clubs and assist all clubs in achieving excellence”. She sponsored a new club, Zachry club, and led Division B to have four clubs that were distinguished or better. Gloria also helped clubs achieve excellence by serving as President and SAA for Small Talkers and VPPR for Dynamic Speakers. As an individual contributor, Gloria earned 4 awards (ALB, ALS, CL, DTM) in the education program. Gloria was always ready to offer a helping hand whenever she could and embodies the Toastmasters values of Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence. Excellent work, Gloria!

## Ann Gold Toastmasters Club of the Year: Omaha Club 281



Congratulations to Omaha Club 281 for winning Toastmasters District 24's Ann Gold Toastmasters Club of the Year award for 2018-2019. Club 281 was a phenomenal example of a club not only working the Toastmasters program but going far above and beyond the goals set by the Distinguished Club Program (DCP).

The DCP challenges a club to gain 8 new members in a year. Club 281 gained **17** new members.

The DCP challenges the club's members to attain a combined total of 8-12 educational awards. Club 281 earned a total of **23** awards divided among 13 members, spanning all levels of Pathways as well as Competent Communicator (CC) and Competent Leader (CL) awards from the legacy program.

The DCP challenges a club to have 4 of 7 officers attend training twice a year. Club 281 had **all seven** officers attend both rounds of training.

The club has set the bar high in terms of achievement within the Toastmasters program and established a great example for all clubs to follow. Well done, Club 281!

## Rookie of the Year: Kari McDermott



District 24 congratulates Kari McDermott as the 2018-2019 Rookie of the Year! Kari has achieved a lot since joining Toastmasters in June 2018. She reached Level 4 in her Team Collaboration path, served in every different meeting role, spoke at Toastmasters LIVE, joined a second club, invited guests who became members, mentored a new member, competed in speech contests, and is now serving secretary of her home club (Mutual of Omaha) and VP Education of her second club (Club 281).

Kari has a goal of speaking publicly about the dangers of drunk driving. She wants to grow her speaking skills so she can speak at schools and other locations on the topic. Her dedication to that cause is part of why she is so excited about improving and sharing her skills.

Kari nearly bubbles over when discussing Toastmasters and is trying to get as far as she can, as fast as she can, in Pathways. She encourages everyone in her clubs and talks up Toastmasters to those around her. Kari's enthusiasm is contagious and adds greatly to the success of her clubs. Well done Kari, and keep it up!

## Ruth M. Kraft Toastmaster of the Year: Mary Ingram



District 24 is excited to present Mary Ann Ingram as the Ruth M. Kraft Toastmaster of the Year for the 2018-2019 program year. Mary Ann served as President for Gateway Club and coach for Yakkity-Yakkers, playing a vital role in the success of both clubs. With her guidance, Yakkity-Yakkers achieved Distinguished status in Toastmasters' Distinguished Club Program and Gateway Club achieved all 10 goals in the program (only falling short of official recognition due to lower membership). Mary Ann personally earned four educational awards: a competent communicator and the first three levels of the Innovative Planning path. She was the driving force behind at least five new members joining Toastmasters. Mary Ann sets a strong example in her leadership, personal achievement, and building of personal connections. Congratulations, Mary Ann!

## Don Smith Toastmaster of the Decade: Brenda Kucera

District 24's Toastmaster of the Decade, Brenda Kucera, DTM, has been a Toastmaster since April 1, 2004. She joined to gain the confidence to speak up more during the virtual meetings she attended for her job, and to learn how to project her voice better. Through her dedication to Toastmasters, Brenda has achieved those goals and more.

Brenda has not only found benefits for herself in Toastmasters but has stepped up to help others. During her time in Toastmasters, she has served District 24 as an area governor three times (2008, 2009, & 2011) and division governor two times (2012 & 2013). Brenda remains active in Toastmasters serving as VPE and secretary for Yakkity-Yakkers. She also served as a club coach for Yakkity-Yakkers. She has earned one DTM and recently completed the requirements for a second. In the 2018-2019 year, she earned 2 CLs and a CC in the legacy program, and in Pathways she earned levels 1 and 2 in Dynamic Leadership.

Brenda enjoys the camaraderie in Toastmasters and mentoring new members. She says, "I firmly believe that we never stop learning, and we can learn a lot from each other. Toastmasters is a good habit. It's something I enjoy that is good for my self-esteem and keeps my confidence level up. I feel that Toastmasters has helped me with communication and leadership skills, making me a better employee and person." Let's all keep learning with Toastmasters like Brenda!

## Member Educational Awards (9/1-9-30)

Awards key at [reports.toastmasters.org/reports/850-EducationAwardsKey.pdf](https://reports.toastmasters.org/reports/850-EducationAwardsKey.pdf)

Smitha Appukuttan **PM1** 09/29

Melinda M. Haag **DTM** 09/05

Aaron Rothenberger **PM2, PM3** 09/15

Cathleen Barry **ACB** 09/30

Robin Hahn **EC1** 09/28

Amber Scalise **LD1, LD2** 09/12

Paul B Bauer **MS2** 09/28

Amy Hense **DL1** 09/19

Nicholas D Siebler **PM1** 09/29

Greg Carlson **ALB** 09/08

Kate High **CC** 09/10

Doni Stoner **MS1, MS2, MS3** 09/19

Lindsay Carroll **TC1** 09/12

Brenda Kucera **LDREXC** 09/23, **CC** 09/25

Ashley M. Sullivan **CC** 09/25

Jessica Codr **TC4** 09/13, **CL** 09/23

Joanne L. Lamb **PM1** 09/28

George B. Volz **MS3** 09/04

Stephen Dawson **PI2** 09/24

Christina C. Matthews **CC** 09/13

Warren Kent Whitacre **CC** 09/26

Marty Ertz **VC1** 09/17

Michael A Meier **VC3** 09/23

Michael Wieger **LDREXC** 09/24, **ALS** 09/26

Rebecca Fegan **PM2** 09/12

Quan Hoang Nguyen **IP1** 09/29

Norma P Gonzalez **CL** 09/19

Edgar Humberto Nieto-Lopez **IP1** 09/04

Sydney M. Grabher **EC1** 09/12

Nicole Rose Grubaugh **LD1** 09/28



## Live the “Dash” *Seeking discomfort to grow as a Toastmaster.*

Submitted by Glenn Williams, 2019-2020 Immediate Past District 24 Director

To truly grow, find that one thing that brings you discomfort and go for it. On one’s obituary it will say the year you were born and the year you died. In between is the ‘dash.’ Why not live the ‘dash’ and expand your skills, energize your life, and make a difference?

### Golden Gavel – Jia Jiang

<https://onlineevent.com/toastmasters/webinars/6000>

Jia Jiang, the 2019 Toastmasters International Golden Gavel recipient, underscores taking a risk of rejection, of a lot of ‘no’ statements from people to live unique experiences. Sometimes those ‘no’ statements surprisingly are ‘yes’ statements. Imagine if we asked several strangers to join our Toastmasters club. The massive amount of ‘no’ statements we expect may instead be more ‘yes’ statements than we ever thought possible. It is all on what you say and how you say it, skills we practice in our Toastmasters presentations.



Jia Jiang, source: [prnewswire.com](http://prnewswire.com)

### The ‘Yes’ Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDxBjRWxclI>

On YouTube, the ‘Yes’ Theory videos show young adult men doing crazy stunt-like activities that stretch them way beyond their comfort zone. I would not recommend 99% of those actions, by the way. Other safer and more doable Toastmasters related actions are well within most of our own personal reaches. Giving a presentation is far safer than sleeping above a canyon on a hammock at night, for example.

Taking secure risks in Toastmasters does tend to encourage me to take other risks. Zip lining myself from a mountain in Alaska to the port at over 60 miles per hour was one of mine a few years ago. It provides great material for future presentations!

Present an educational session to your club, area, division, or to the district. This would take you outside of your comfort zone, encourage you to learn a skill well enough to train others in how to do it, and make a difference in the lives of other people.

Teach people how to read. Adults that had some learning disability or circumstance which prevented them from learning how to read well. Children that are struggling in school, including in how to read. Not only does this make a difference in the lives of others, the overall experience shared in a Toastmasters club presentation would be reliving golden moments.

Do something that you never would have done otherwise. By taking you out of your comfort zone, you may just energize your life. By seeking slight discomfort, you grow the most. If you aced everything always, what is there to learn? Seek that which makes you feel uncomfortable. Toastmasters was initially this for many people. How will you expand on that thought to broaden your future Toastmasters experience? How will you live the ‘dash’?

Thanks for reading! Comments, questions, corrections, or suggestions? Email [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com)

Submissions for each month’s Double Dozen are accepted until the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

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