



# DISTRICT 24 DOUBLE DOZEN NEWSLETTER

## District News and Events

### District 24

May 2020

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#### District Speech Contests

Our April 18 contests were amazing! See the results right here on page 1 →

#### District Elections

Congratulations to the newly elected 2020-2021 Trio and Division Directors on page 2.

#### Digital Travel & Events

How would you like to visit a club in Denver, Seattle, or even London? Online meetings let us travel the world! Read about one member's experience on p 6. Find more chances to engage and learn online on page 8.

## Ash Banaszek and Calvin Custard Are Declared Winners in District Online Speech Contests

Ash Banaszek and Calvin Custard placed first in their respective categories during the District 24 Speech Contests held online April 18.



Ash Banaszek (pictured left) finished first in the International speech contest. Ash's speech entitled "I Raise My Hand" challenged audience members to consider when to ask questions and the consequences of doing so. She will advance to the Regional level with Toastmasters International.

A video recording of Ash's presentation will be judged against other speeches from across the Midwest and central Canada. A first- or second-place finish in that contest would advance her to the International Speech Contest Semifinals, just one step below the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Ash is a User Experience professional at Union Pacific in Omaha, NE. She joined Toastmasters in August 2013 and is a member of Rail Talkers and Club 229.

Calvin Custard (pictured right) finished first in his category of "Tall Tales" with a speech entitled "The Tallest of Tales." Calvin held audiences spellbound with his original story of his surprise encounter with Shaq that took him from being 5' 6" to 6' 6 1/2" tall. Calvin joined Toastmasters in August 2019 and is Club President of West Dodgers. The Tall Tales contest ends at District level.



A press release on these contest wins can be [downloaded](#) from [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org).

District 24 congratulates all our amazing District contestants! Left to right, we also had in Tall Tales: Marty Ertz (2<sup>nd</sup>), Debra Morton-Chale (3<sup>rd</sup>), Mike Meier; and in International: Kristin Malek (2<sup>nd</sup>), Rand Prier (3<sup>rd</sup>), Mitch Nickerson (not pictured).



For all the latest news and events, visit [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/D24TM/>.  
Comments, questions, suggestions or corrections? Email [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com)

## Election Results for 2020-2021 Toastmaster Year

Your District Council elected the next Trio and Division Directors in a District Council Meeting held on April 18. The elected leadership team for District 24's year running July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 is:

**District Director:** Mark Fegan of Bellevue, NE

**Program Quality Director:** Cindy Jenkins of Omaha, NE

**Club Growth Director:** Keith Jones of Omaha, NE

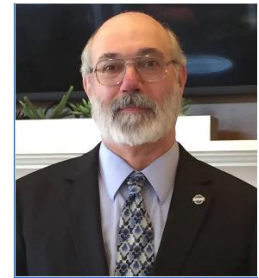
**Division Directors:** Sandy Yager of Grand Island, NE; Pam Hogan of Omaha, NE; Claire Titus of Lincoln, NE; Daniel Lyle of Omaha, NE



Mark Fegan, DD-elect



Cindy Jenkins, PQD-elect



Keith Jones, CGD-elect



Sandy Yager, Div A



Pam Hogan, Div B



Claire Titus, Div C



Daniel Lyle, Div D

**District Director-elect** Mark Fegan will oversee operations of Toastmasters and support clubs, members, and other leaders across the entire District. **Program Quality Director-elect** Cindy Jenkins will manage the leadership and educational program, including speech contests. In addition, she will help members identify and achieve their goals. **Club Growth Director-elect** Keith Jones and his team will work to build clubs by working with corporations looking to enhance their training programs and individuals within communities wanting to improve their communication and leadership skills. The **Division Directors** will provide support to a subset of clubs and other leaders within the District.

District 24 congratulates these newly elected District officers on their new leadership positions and thanks **current District Director Linda Wilson** for her leadership this past year.

A press release on these election results can be [downloaded](#) and found at [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org).

*Note: The District Alignment approval was also on the April 18 agenda, but was tabled until a May 16, 2020 District Council meeting. See page 12 for the alignment proposal that will be voted on.*



## Make May Memorable with COURAGE!

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

As the old saying goes “April showers bring May flowers.” Our members and clubs have withstood the showers and storms of COVID-19, responding with resilience and resolve, and we are now ready for the sweet scent of success in May!

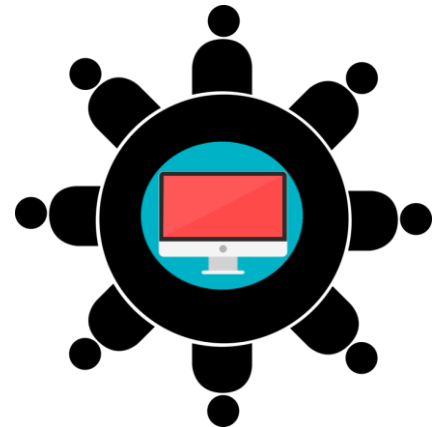
Granted, it will not be a “bed of roses,” as challenges and uncertainty still lie ahead for our friends and family, but I have seen the rainbow after the showers! I am proud of the “can-do” spirit that I have observed in our District over the past month. When faced with adversity, our members came through with shining colors!

On April 18, we had our *first-ever virtual* District Council meeting and *first-ever virtual* District Speech Contests! Both events were outstanding, thanks to the amazing efforts of our talented and dedicated teams, meeting participants and contestants!

During our Council meeting, we **elected District officers** for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021: Mark Fegan, District Director-elect; Cindy Jenkins, Program Quality Director-elect; Keith Jones, Club Growth Director-elect; Sandy Yager, Division A Director-elect; Pam Hogan, Division B Director-elect; Claire Titus, Division C Director-elect; and Daniel Lyle, Division D Director-elect. Congratulations to our new District leadership team, and I look forward to a smooth transition!

The virtual **District 24 Speech Contests** featured outstanding speakers! Kudos to Ash Banaszek who placed first in the International Speech Contest and will represent District 24 in the Region 4 Quarterfinals. Kudos also to Calvin Custard, who placed first in the Tall Tales Contest. A big “thank you” to all who competed whether at club, area, division or district contests...You are all winners!

**Get ready for another “first” on May 16 at 9:30 a.m....our first-ever virtual Special District Council meeting!** A quorum is essential, as we will be voting on the District alignment, which was postponed from the April meeting. District Executive Committee (DEC) members, club presidents and vice presidents of education - **your vote matters!** As a special treat, immediately after the voting, International Director Larry Marik, DTM, will lead a roundtable discussion. **All members are welcome!** More details on page 8.



Our District leaders continue to offer free use of their Zoom accounts and it has been great to see more clubs holding online meetings. Some of our clubs have even shared stories of having online guests from unexpected locales...even other countries! Also, several members have taken the opportunity to “go outside their club” to visit other clubs, both near and far!

I am inspired by the resiliency of our members and clubs over the past month. It makes me so proud to be a part of District 24! Thank you for your continued efforts to support each other through this time of challenge and opportunity. We have made it through the April showers and now it is time to enjoy the May flowers...We will get through this together!

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

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

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



If you are looking for someone to step up to help make a Toastmasters event a success, look no further than Ann Gentle. When we had to move our speech contests online, Ann didn't bat an eye at the change in format. She volunteered to be the Toastmasters for **all** of the Division speech contests, and then volunteered again for the District speech contests! Ann was one of many who helped make the contests a fantastic success.

Ann's willingness to step up is no different in her home club of Rail Talkers, where she is always willing to give a speech, even last minute, or fill a vacant role. She chooses fun meeting themes and gives engaging presentations. She has helped lead the club's Speechcraft classes for several years. Ann has jumped right into Pathways and is excitedly nearing completion of her second path! She has also embraced our online meeting format, finding excitement in the opportunity to invite friends from all over to join Rail Talkers meetings! The next time you see Ann online, thank her for her passion and willingness to serve.



### It's Time to Get Down to Membership Business!

Submitted by Cindy Jenkins, DTM, 2019-2020 Club Growth Director

There are less than two months left in this Toastmaster year. This year has gone by so quickly and has been filled with never-before happenings. I am so proud of how quickly all of you have adapted to the challenge of meeting online. It is truly a testament to the flexibility and adaptability of Toastmasters!

Now I am giving you a new challenge. It is time to BEAT THE CLOCK! This is the yearly Toastmasters campaign to add membership in May and June. Many of you have told me about former members joining your meetings because they are now online. If they will join as guests, why not rejoin the club and join the meeting as members. We have all heard about the meeting time commitment. Virtual meetings definitely cut down on the commute time to and from the meetings.



Look down your club roster to find those members who have not renewed their membership and reach out to them. Let them know about meeting virtually and see if they are interested in joining a meeting just to see what it's like. In this stay-at-home situation we are all in, this is a way they can interact with others without leaving their homes and improve their communication and leadership skills at the same time.

Remember, you are not limited to just the people in your immediate area. Since you are meeting virtually, you can recruit new members from almost anywhere. I have heard about Toastmasters who have left the area rejoining their clubs just because the club is now meeting virtually. Virtual meetings give these Toastmasters a chance to reconnect with their friends. You can also recruit family members, coworkers, and friends living outside the immediate area and give them a chance to experience Toastmasters with people they know.

Be creative in attracting new members to your club and resolve to BEAT THE CLOCK! Please let me know about your efforts. My email address is [cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com).



## The (Toastmasters) Road Less Traveled

Submitted by Mark Fegan, DTM, 2019-2020 Program Quality Director

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  
-Robert Frost*



When I first joined Toastmasters back in 2009; my home club was (5779, River City Speakers. I received my first two manuals (*Competent Communication* and *Competent Leadership*) and started my journey to building a better you!

At that time, the education program consisted of two paths: Communication and Leadership. I followed both paths, although my progress on the Leadership path tended to lag behind the Communications path. As I moved along the two paths, I slowly discovered a third, hidden, path. This is the (*Toastmasters*) *Road Less Traveled!*

I first discovered this path about a year after I joined River City Speakers. I was elected Vice President of Membership. Being a club officer wasn't in any of my manuals! Not only that, our club President insisted that I attend something called Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI). In Lincoln! On a Saturday morning!

Fellow Toastmasters, that TLI, all those years ago, represented my first tentative steps on the (*Toastmasters*) *Road Less Traveled*. Before that TLI, I was working the manuals; after that TLI I started to better appreciate everything that Toastmasters offers **outside the manuals**. This is that (*Toastmasters*) *Road Less Traveled*.

As we are approaching the end of the 2019-2020 Toastmasters year among unprecedented challenges: the new Education Program; COVID-19; virtual Contests; virtual District Council; the move to virtual club meetings. I am proud to report that District 24 has seen these events not as obstacles but as opportunities. Much of our success has been due to individual members stepping up and accepting these opportunities.

You may be wondering **“How do I find this other road?”**



Look beyond your club and your manuals or presentations.

Visit another club; you can do this from the comfort of your favorite chair.

Become involved in leadership outside your club. You can do this by contacting any of the current district officers.

My challenge to you this month: Take time and discover the (*Toastmasters*) *Road Less Traveled!*

Stay well and be safe, but find the (*Toastmasters*) *Road Less Traveled!*

# Go Outside Your Club... And Outside Your State!

Submitted by Cynthia Coleman, DTM

I began my “Go Outside your Club” challenge aka journey on Jan 27, 2020 and enjoyed visiting in person the several clubs I attended over the first few months. Then the pandemic hit Nebraska. Nooo!!! Now what?

I visited my last face-to-face club on March 10<sup>th</sup>. I knew that most clubs, including my home club Why Not Speak, had only been face to face. We began to scramble as we did not even know what Zoom was about, but were willing to do whatever was needed. After all, Toastmasters are resilient.

I now see Zoom as a chance to visit new clubs and welcome new guests. Why Not Speak had a visitor from New Hampshire: David and his fiancé’ are going to as many states as they can. That gave me an idea; my first out-of-state visit happened on April 19<sup>th</sup>. My goal is to remotely visit at least 25 of 50 states. As of May 2<sup>nd</sup>,



I have visited clubs in 10 states. Left is a picture I took while visiting Mukilteo Early Bird Toastmasters in Washington State on April 29<sup>th</sup>. I was also challenged to go outside the country. Going outside of my club has been a great chance to meet my fellow Toastmasters around the US, and perhaps soon, around the world.

This is an opportunity to see what other clubs are doing and maybe even to incorporate new ideas in my home club. I challenge each of you to go outside your club whether it is within Nebraska/Iowa, in our surrounding states, or around the world. It has been a great Zoom experience.

Who is ready to “Zoom” with me?

## How do I find clubs to visit?

<https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=ClubsMeetingOnlineWithTimes.pdf> has a listing of open District 24 clubs known to be meeting online. Contact each club for their meeting details. You can search for a specific club at <https://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club>

When searching for clubs at <https://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club>, you can select the “Online Attendance” box under search options to find clubs listed as meeting online. Try searching other states or countries to find clubs. When you visit other clubs, tell us about it! Email [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com) or post on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/D24TM/> to share your experience.

## How do I get tips and resources for meeting online?

Toastmasters International has great resources at <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/news-and-announcements/online-meetings>. District 24’s has videos and resources from our “Toastmasters Online” event about online meetings. Presentations are at [youtu.be/T9Y3\\_Im3G4w](https://youtu.be/T9Y3_Im3G4w) and Q & A is at [youtu.be/FC\\_Vomb5lVw](https://youtu.be/FC_Vomb5lVw). Resources are at [https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Zooming\\_into\\_Zoom.pdf](https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Zooming_into_Zoom.pdf) and [https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Promoting\\_Online\\_Meetings.pdf](https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Promoting_Online_Meetings.pdf). Some Zoom tools tips are also included on the next page of this newsletter. If you need to book an online meeting, visit [https://d24tm.org/Zoom\\_Booking.html](https://d24tm.org/Zoom_Booking.html).

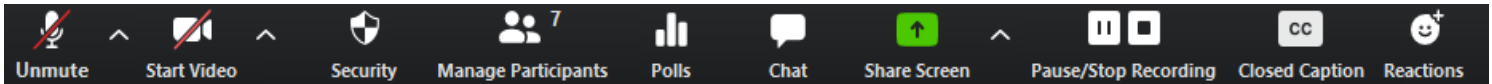


## Zoom Video Tools

### *Useful Tools for Zoom online club meetings*

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

There are many tools in Zoom that can be enabled for your meetings. Some of these may or may not be there if the meeting host or the Zoom account administrator has enabled or disabled them. Feel free to contact me at [glennlw@gmail.com](mailto:glennlw@gmail.com) for more details about these and other Zoom options.



Refer to the image above as we review some options:

- **Mute/Unmute** – Click to turn your microphone on or off.
  - o **Choose Audio source** is the up arrow or carat (^) that is to the right of the **Unmute** button. It lets you specify what device or part of your device should capture your audio.
- **Start/Stop Video** – Click to hide or show your image to others.
  - **Choose Video source** is the up arrow or carat (^) that is to the right of the **Start Video** button. It lets you control what camera is used to capture your image.
  - **Choose Background** is also found when you click up arrow or carat (^) that is to the right of Start Video. Below the Select a camera is an option called “Choose Virtual Background”. From there you can choose from the provided backgrounds or upload your own image files, like those from <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/zoom-virtual-background>.
- **Security**- Only seen by meeting host. They can use this to:
  1. Lock Meeting
  2. Enable Waiting Room
  3. Allow participants to:
    - a. Share screen
    - b. Chat
    - c. Rename Themselves
- **Participants/Manage Participants** – See a list of everyone in the meeting. You may also have “Yes” and “No” buttons that show up that you can use for informal voting.
- **Polls** – The host of the meeting can use this to send a poll question to all participants. This is one way that voting for best table topics speaker or other meeting roles can be done.
- **Share Screen / Annotation** - Annotation allows participants to share or markup a shared screen. This is turned off for the District Zoom account.
- **Record meetings** – This is available only if the host of the meeting or Zoom account admin has enabled this. This feature is how we captured the winning speech for our International Speech contest. Recording can also provide speakers a way to review their presentation. Only record with the speaker’s permission.
- **Reactions** – Participants can give a “Thumbs Up” or “Clap.”
- **Breakout Rooms** - The host of the meeting can create and open breakout rooms to allow private meetings within the larger meeting. This is how we handled briefings in our contests.

Look for more Zoom features in future articles, or refer to the guide George Volz put together at [https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Zooming\\_into\\_Zoom.pdf](https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=Zooming_into_Zoom.pdf). *NOTE: As Zoom continues to upgrade, some features may vary from what you see.*

# Upcoming District and Club Events

See also: [https://d24tm.org/D24\\_Calendar.html](https://d24tm.org/D24_Calendar.html)

## Leadership Roundtable with International Director – May 16



Following the May 16 District Council Meeting, International Directory Region 4 Larry Marik will host a roundtable discussion open to all District 24 members. Larry and other International Directors work together to develop and support policies and procedure that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission. The topics of the roundtable will focus on District leadership, but Larry is open to addressing any questions you have. If possible, send your questions in advance to District Director Linda Wilson at [dd@d24tm.org](mailto:dd@d24tm.org). The roundtable will immediately follow the 9:30am District Council meeting. Join at

<https://zoom.us/j/715198853?pwd=NmtVemNJQXVkrRHlxQTF1VzE2SIRrZz09>.

**Leadership Bonus:** Later on May 16, 2-3:30pm, Road 2 DTM is hosting a session on **Leadership in the Team Environment**. Visit <https://road2dtmclub.toastmastersclubs.org> to contact the club for the meeting link.

## World Champions of Public Speaking – May 7, May 14, May 21

District 24 members have been invited to an event series hosted by Eastside Toastmasters, a club in the Seattle area. Every Thursday for the next three weeks, they will have a World Champion of Public Speaking as an invited speaker at 8:30pm Central. They had their first session on April 30 with Jock Elliott of Australia, and it was excellent. Join them at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/789371114> (password 725226).

## Why Not Speak and Omaha 281 Hosting Joint Speakathons – May 11 & May 23

Toastmasters International has authorized multiple club Speakathons to provide an additional opportunity for speakers to make progress towards completing education awards by June 30th. Omaha Toastmasters Club 281 and Why Not Speak will offer sessions on Monday, May 11, 5:30 to 6:30 PM and on Saturday, May 23, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The May 23rd session will feature "**How to Conduct Productive Meetings**" presented by Mike Wieger. The clubs will offer additional sessions as needed to help members achieve their goals. More details at [281.toastmastersclubs.org/Speakathon.html](http://281.toastmastersclubs.org/Speakathon.html). To receive the link to the Zoom meeting, email [contact-281@toastmastersclubs.org](mailto:contact-281@toastmastersclubs.org) or [cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com](mailto:cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com).



## Pathways Training – May 30

"Zoom" in to get small group or one-on-one help with Pathways! **YES - ZOOM TRAINING IS POSSIBLE!** Training will be available from 11:30am-2pm. **RSVP at <http://d24maypathways.eventbrite.com/>**

*Do you need help navigating? Do you feel overwhelmed? Do you just need help?*

*Do you hate the idea of a new program? Do you think you can't?*

*Are you in Pathways but unsure what to do next?*

*Come and let us help you with what you need. We will calm those doubts and fears with*

## **One-on-One Pathways Training**



**Approved by District 24**

**CONTACT: Cynthia Coleman**

**Email: [cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com](mailto:cc4ynotspeak@gmail.com)**



## Current Standings in the Distinguished Club Program (DCP)

Now that April dues renewals are being counted, we are starting to see clubs that are officially listed as Distinguished or better! We have **five** such clubs in District 24 as of May 3. ***Congratulations to the following clubs for this outstanding accomplishment!***

- **Advanced Traveling Toastmasters**, Area A02 - 8 points, **Select Distinguished**
- **Toast of the Town**, Area C22 - 10 points, **President's distinguished**
- **Rail Talkers**, Area D31 - 9 points, **President's distinguished**
- **Mutual of Omaha**, Area D33 -7 points, **Select distinguished level**
- **Omaha Toastmasters Club 281**, Area D34 - 10 points, **President's distinguished**

Other District 24 clubs are so close to Distinguished! They just need a few more paid members:

- Tally Ho Toastmasters, Area A02, 6 points, need 3 more members
- Prime Time Toastmasters, Area A02, 6 points, need 3 more members
- West Dodgers, Area B11, 8 points, need 7 more members
- Ameritoasters, Area B12, 8 points, **need 2 more members**
- Greater Communicators, Area B14, 7 points, **need 2 more members**
- Road 2 DTM, Area B15, 8 points, need 7 more members
- Fairview Toastmasters Club, Area C21, 7 points, need 5 more members
- Strictly Speaking, Area C21, 9 points, **need 2 more members**
- Southeast Toasters, Area C23, 5 points, need 4 more members
- E.C. Speakers, Area C23, 8 points, need 7 more members
- International Friends, Area C23, 9 points, need 5 more members
- Capitol Voices, Area C24, **10 points, need 1 more member**
- OPPD Toastmasters, Area D31, 6 points, need 3 more members
- Conagra Brands – One Voice, Area D31, 5 points, need 7 more members
- Pacific Life Whale Talkers, Area D32, 5 points, **need 1 more member**
- Speak First, Area D33, 5 points, **need 2 more members**
- Why Not Speak, Area D33, 6 points, need 6 more members
- Toastmasters Club 229, 9 points, need 7 more members

*If your club is not listed above, it means you either have fewer than five (5) DCP points or need more than seven (7) additional paid members to qualify for DCP.*

**See the details on how your club is doing in the Distinguished Club Program at <http://dashboards.toastmasters.org/Club.aspx?id=24>**

## Member Educational Awards (4/1/2020-4/30/2020)

Janel M. Asche **PM1** 4/24

Cathleen M. Barry **LDREXC** 4/15

Amelia Elanor Bowen **ACG** 4/27

Azhar Bux **PM1** 4/29

Vinson Champ **CL, ALB** 4/22

Jessica M. Codr **EH4** 4/29

Ginger Colton **MS3** 4/15

Nicole F. Creamer **ALS** 4/4, **ACS** 4/20

Angeline Ford **ACS** 4/20

Ann K. Gentle **VC3** 4/15, **VC4** 4/24

Marian Albin Gramlich **MS5** 4/8

Melinda M. Haag **PI1** 4/9, **PI2** 4/17

Valerie Bree Haschke **EC1** 4/15

Michael A. Hasenkamp **ACG** 4/29

Laurie L. Klosterboer **ALB** 4/17

Molly N Mayhew **IP1** 4/23

Mitchell Nickerson **CC** 4/6

Doni Stoner **CL** 4/17

Ashley M. Sullivan **VC3** 4/1

Carol Sullivan **EC5** 4/22

Cynric Whitaker **VC1** 4/27

Sandy Yager **PI1, DL1, DL2, DL3** 4/9, **DL4** 4/16

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

## Member and Club Incentives

In addition to recognizing educational awards and Distinguished Club Program progress, Toastmasters International and District 24 offer additional incentives for members and clubs. Some of these include:

**Beat the Clock** – as mentioned on page 4, gain 5 new members in May and June and your club gets a ribbon and a discount coupon to toastmasters.org's store!

**Best Club Website** – Now that we are meeting online, drawing people in with your club's website is more important than ever. Submit a link to your club's website to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com) and you could win a \$15 prize! And perhaps working on your website will win you an even bigger prize of more guests and new members!

**Best Promotional Flyer** - Submit a digital copy of a brand-compliant flyer to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com) with subject line "Best Promotional Flyer" and your club could win a \$15 prize! Which club will have the best flyer? Post your flyer to your website or social media **and** send it in to win!

**Earn a New Club Banner** – One day, we will meet again in person, and your club will want a shiny new banner to show off, right? If your club does **not** already have a current banner, send an email to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com) with subject "Earn a New Club Banner" and provide a brief (500 words or less) proposal for why your club would like a new banner and how you would use it to promote the Toastmasters mission or core values of Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence

**Go Outside Your Club** – Mentioned by Cynthia on page 6, the "Go Outside Your Club" program is still going strong! Now you can get credit for visiting clubs across the state, country, and world! Keep a record of all the clubs you visit and send it to [prm.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:prm.d24tm@gmail.com) at the end of this Toastmasters year.

**For a full listing of incentives for the 2019-2020 Toastmasters year, see [d24tm.org/Awards\\_and\\_Recognition.html](https://d24tm.org/Awards_and_Recognition.html)**

**EMBRACE A NEW IDEA WITH EASE**  
(Resolving Confusion with a Reference Committee)  
By Karen Watson, DTM

When a member makes a new, main motion in a regular (in-person) club meeting, it is relatively easy because of a small room, fewer members, and spontaneous recognition from the President. But in a convention or an online annual meeting, a new, main motion can be confusing and even stressful because of the complication of using the technology of an online meeting platform, having a ‘lag-time’ in recognition to speak which can be a challenge for the presiding officer, and having a larger attendance of members who need to understand what is being introduced which can result in time-consuming debate. The use of a Reference Committee can reduce, if not resolve, these difficulties.<sup>1</sup>

A Reference Committee is beneficial for at least three reasons. First, members have the *opportunity* to influence the convention body in a pre-determined method that is clear. Second, the Presiding Officer has *time to prepare* for the motion, write the script, and determine the voting requirement without the stress-in-the-moment of the meeting. Third, and perhaps most important, the *democratic process* is enhanced because prior notice of the motion allows members to research the intent and apparent consequences of what is being proposed, then formulate lucid points for debate.

A Reference Committee can be authorized in the organization’s bylaws as a standing committee or be authorized as a special committee in convention meeting rules. The charge of the Reference Committee is to receive and ‘screen’ motions that delegates want to propose for consideration and action at convention; i.e., the committee ensures that no proposed motion conflicts with organization’s bylaws or other rules, places submitted motions in a logical, sequential order to be called upon during New Business.<sup>2</sup> The committee may also suggest provisos as to when it will be appropriate for the motion to go into effect. The committee ensures copies of the submitted motions are distributed to delegates before the meeting (usually sent by the secretary with the notice of the meeting.)

The rules for establishing a Reference Committee determine whether the committee may or may not alter wording of a motion with or without permission of the maker, and if additional motions may be offered on the convention floor.

During New Business, the Chair announces consideration of the motions submitted to the Reference Committee. The proposer is recognized and moves the adoption of his or her proposed motion. The resolution must then be seconded or dies for lack of a second. Motions should be visually formatted for presentation at the meeting.

To introduce new, main motions with efficiency during any annual meeting, *especially under the difficult conditions of online meetings*, implement a Reference Committee.

For more information on Reference of Resolutions Committees or any parliamentary procedure, please contact: D24 Parliamentarian Karen at 402-310-6946 or email: [KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com](mailto:KarenWatsonLincoln@gmail.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Very similar are Resolutions (deals with new, main motions) and Bylaw Committees (deals with bylaw amendments.)

<sup>2</sup> The committee may also suggest provisos as to when it will be appropriate for the motion to go into effect.

# Updated Alignment Proposal for District Council Members

If you are a Club President, VP Education, or member of the District Executive Council, then you are a member of the "District Council" and are entitled to vote on the District Alignment at the District Council Meeting May 16 at 9:30am. Listed below is the **updated** District Alignment proposal. The changes from the previous proposal are:

- Advanced Traveling Toastmasters moved from A2 to A1
- Lib'Orators moved from A1 to A2
- Not So Bland moved from B13 to B12

## District 24 Alignment Proposal for Vote at May 16 District Council Meeting

NOTE: "Toastmasters" is abbreviated as "TM" for many clubs listed below and "Club" or "TM" may be dropped from some names.

### Division A

1	2	3
Beatrice TM Club	NPPD TM Club	Gateway Club
Tri-State Club	Tally Ho TM Club	Kearney TM Club
Advanced Traveling TM	Prime Time TM Club	Yakkity-Yakkers Club
Excelorators TM Club	Lib'Orators TM Club	Flatrock TM

### Division B

11	12	13
West Dodgers	Realtalkers Club	Noonshiners Club
Advanced TM of Omaha	A Toast of Home	Roman Forum TM
See Us Speak	Ameritoasters	West O! Toastmasters
Tenaska Nebraska TM	Not So Bland TM Club	NEI Global Relocation
	<i>Zachry TM suspended</i>	
14	15	
Greater Communicators TM	Big Red Talkers	
Offutt Toastmasters	On Time Delivery	
River City Speakers Club	Road 2 DTM	
Sarpy County Chamber TM	Dynamic Speakers	

### Division C

21	22	23	24
Capital City TM Club	Roadtoasters TM	Lincoln TM Club	Capitol Voices Club
Fairview TM Club	Southwest TM Club	Southeast Toasters	Sunrise TM Club
Innovators TM Club	Toast of the Town	E.C. Speakers TM	FirsTier Club
Strictly Speaking Club	Government Gabbers	International Friends	NU Toasters

### Division D

31	32	33	34
OPPD TM Club	HDR Omaha TM Club	Speak - First Club	TM Club Omaha 229
Rail Talkers Club	A-Rousers TM Club	Shelf Talkers Club	Omaha TM Club 281
Capitol Avenue TM	Blue Ah Busters Club	Mutual of Omaha TM	Revelliers Club
Conagra Brands - One Voice	Club Oradores TM	Why Not Speak TM	Ad-Libbers Club
	Pacific Life Whale Talkers	Speak Now	NMC Voices For Change