



# DISTRICT 24 DOUBLE DOZEN NEWSLETTER

## District News And Events

June 2022

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### District Highlights

#### **Puzzle Challenge! P 4**

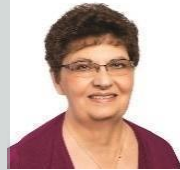
#### **“Of the Year” Nomination Forms Due July 31**

#### **Time to vote for club officers**

*Questions? Comments?  
Submissions? Email  
[newsletter@d24tm.org](mailto:newsletter@d24tm.org)*

Submissions for each month's  
Double Dozen are due on the  
**last Monday of the previous  
month.**

For all the latest news and  
events, visit [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org)



### **As This Toastmaster Year Comes to a Close**

Submitted by Cindy Jenkins, DTM, District Director

This Toastmaster year is quickly coming to a close. As I look back, I will never forget visiting all of you at your club meetings. You are what make this organization so special. I learned so much about each of the clubs, their traditions, and why each meeting has such a different personality. I also appreciated the warm welcome I received from each club. If you ever get the chance to visit another club, do it! You will continue to see how fantastic this organization really is and maybe pick up a few ideas to energize your club meetings.

I especially thank all of the members of the District Executive Committee for the time they have spent helping the district this year. District 24 is in a strong position because of their dedication to Toastmasters. No one person can achieve as much as a dedicated team of determined Toastmasters.

As my year as District Director winds down, I know I am leaving District 24 in good hands. Keith Jones, Pam Hughes, and Brenda Kucera will ensure the district stays strong throughout the next year. If you give them the same support that you have given me, the district will be unstoppable. Thank you again for all your support. I will be here to serve you however I can.

### **Of the Year Awards!**

This is the time of year to think about recognizing Toastmasters for their efforts over the last year. The Of the Year awards are given to those Toastmaster members who have gone above and beyond the duties of their office. The categories are:

- Club Officer of the Year
- Rookie of the Year
- Area Director of the Year
- Assistant Area Director of the Year
- Division Director of the Year
- Club Of the Year
- Toastmaster of the Year
- Toastmaster of the Decade

Nomination forms are available on [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org), Public Download section in the Awards and Recognition folder with specific criteria for each award in the nomination forms. Nomination forms are due on July 31 to Cindy Jenkins (email – [cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.jenkins18020@gmail.com), or mail- 12624 Bartels Dr, Omaha, NE 68137).



## Leadership!

Submitted by Keith Jones, DTM  
Program Quality Director

*“If you can't communicate and talk to other people and get across your ideas, you're giving up your potential.”  
–Warren Buffett*

## Leadership

Are you giving up your potential? What is your potential? How do you step out of your comfort zone?

I have always said, “Toastmasters is the best place to practice your communication and leadership skills.”

Where else can you learn communication and leadership skills and get positive feedback on how you are doing?

District 24 needs you to step out, step up, and step in. Step out of your club and step out of your comfort zone. Step up to a District Leadership role. Step in by becoming a District leader.

Our trio is set for this next year. I, Keith Jones, will be the District Director. Pamela Hughes will be the Program Quality Director. Brenda Kucera will be the Club Growth Director.

Our Division Directors are as follows: Division A Director, Gary Schroeder; Division B Director, Janel Asche; Division C Director, Krishna Muvva; and Division D Director, Eamon Maloney.

These Division Directors are in need of people to become Area Directors. Our Area Directors are the liaison between the clubs and the district. By completing a year as Area Director, you will earn the credit necessary for Distinguished Toastmaster. Please consider becoming an Area Director.

If you are interested in becoming an Area Director or want more information, please contact the Keith Jones at [pqd@d24tm.org](mailto:pqd@d24tm.org).

**Step Out! Step Up! Step In!**

Check out what it takes to be an Area Director—or other District Officer via

[Toastmasters International -District Leader Tools](#)

Then, contact **Keith Jones** at [pqd@gmail.com](mailto:pqd@gmail.com) to tell him you're ready to reach your potential!



## Membership Growth

Submitted by Pam Hughes, DTM, Club Growth Director

### **Toastmasters,**

Have you ever wondered what a week in the life of a District 24 Trio member looks like? Perhaps not! This time of the year there is a lot of anticipation to finish out one Toastmaster Year and begin another.

It starts with a weekly Trio meeting on Tuesday evenings. The District Director, Program Quality Director, and Club Growth Director discuss issues and upcoming events, both at the International and District level. We're transitioning from one set of Trio members to another and helping our successors move into new roles.

At this writing, for the current week, a team of Toastmasters, which includes me, is hosting a Demonstration Meeting for a local, large employer. They are interested in starting a Toastmaster club for their employees' development. I hope we've got very good news to share with you next month.

We are planning two sets of training: the first for Division and Area Directors and the second for new Club Officers. We've lined up a lively set of facilitators for the Club Officer training, so if you have been elected to a club leadership position, please plan to attend one of the three offerings. You should have already received registration information, which is also available on our District website: [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org). The three offerings are:

Saturday, June 18, 9-11am

Monday, July 11, 7-9 pm

Wednesday, July 20, 7-9 pm

Finally, later this week, and continuing throughout June, we will be interviewing a number of candidates for the International Board. It is a pleasure to talk with them, understand their perspectives and why they want to represent their Regions or represent all of us in the Board Executive roles. It helps the Trio determine where to place our District 24 votes that you permit us to vote on your behalf.

Pam Hughes, [phughes.d24tm@gmail.com](mailto:phughes.d24tm@gmail.com)

## Winners Announced in Toastmasters District 24 Speech Contests

Omaha, NE, May 1, 2022 — Omaha resident Ann Gentle and Bellevue resident Rebecca Fegan placed first in the District 24 International and Evaluation speech contests, respectively, held online April 22 & 23. Each advanced through three prior levels of competition to reach this District-level event where they competed against participants from across the state of Nebraska.

Gentle finished first in the International Speech Contest with her speech titled "Revolution." In the International speech contest, each competitor delivers an original 5-7 minute inspirational speech and is judged on content, delivery, and language. With her win on April 23, Gentle advances to the

region quarterfinals with Toastmasters International. At this next level, a video recording of Gentle's presentation will be judged against other contestants' speeches from across the Midwest Region, which includes eight other districts, some of which are in central Canada. A first- or second-place finish in that contest would advance her to the International Speech Contest Semifinals, one step below the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Ann Gentle works for Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha. She joined Toastmasters in 2010 and is a current member of Union Pacific's Rail Talkers Toastmasters club. In addition to competing in the speech contest, Ann has filled several leadership positions in the club and is currently the club's VP Education.

Fegan finished first in the Evaluation contest on April 22. Fegan and fellow competitors listened to a presentation by a test speaker and were judged on their ability to deliver an effective evaluation of the speech. The Evaluation contest ends at District (state) level.

Rebecca Fegan joined Toastmasters in 2008 and is currently a member of four Toastmasters clubs, two community clubs (NMC Voices For Change and River City Speakers) and two advanced clubs (Dynamic Speakers and Road 2 DTM). Fegan has filled various leadership positions in her clubs and is currently serving as President, Secretary, and Treasurer in different clubs.

#### About Toastmasters District 24

District 24 is a grouping of 60 Toastmasters clubs and over 700 members from Kearney, NE to Council Bluffs, IA. Learn more about District 24 and upcoming meetings and events by visiting [d24tm.org](http://d24tm.org), [www.facebook.com/D24TM/](https://www.facebook.com/D24TM/), or [www.meetup.com/District-24-Toastmasters-Meetup/](https://www.meetup.com/District-24-Toastmasters-Meetup/).

#### About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 364,000 in more than 16,200 clubs in 145 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.

**Solve this puzzle: If  $DivD = 4AD$  and  $AD = 4C$ , what does  $AD$  equal?**

**The answer is  $AD = U$**

**Division Directors typically serve 4 areas and Area Directors typically serve 4 clubs**

**And YOU could be an AD.**

**Check it out on: [Toastmasters International -District Leader Tools](#)**

**Then, tell Keith Jones at [pqd@gmail.com](mailto:pqd@gmail.com) you've done the math and are ready to solve the puzzle!**

## Member Educational Awards (05/01/2022 – 05/31/2022)

See awards key at <http://reports.toastmasters.org/reports/850-EducationAwardsKey.pdf>

Amber Underwood **PM2** 5/30  
Devon Anderson **LD1,EC5** 5/30  
Glenn Williams **EH1** 5/25  
Janel Asche **EH1** 5/24  
Jean Kirch-Holliday **DL5** 5/30  
Joanne Sprott **PM2** 5/24

Linda Wilson **PM2, PM3** 5/25  
Malathi Balu **DL1** 5/25  
Marlene Woracek **VC1** 5/24  
Pete Hines **MS2, MS3, PM4, PM5** 5/24  
Richard Kirch **EC5** 5/24

## A Bittersweet Farewell

On May 18<sup>th</sup> the Greater Communicators bade a fond farewell to one of the most active and amiable Toastmasters in District 24. Floy Westermeier has moved to Florida to be closer to family. Throughout her many years in District 24, Floy has served in an abundance of roles and conducted innumerable training sessions. We have been blessed by her cheery demeanor and clever humor and will dearly miss both. Don't despair, though. You can still catch sight of her at the Greater Communicator meetings. One good reason to go club-visiting.

We will miss you, Floy!



Immediate Past District Director Mark Fegan and Rebecca Fegan present Floy with plaque for D24 Outstanding Contribution, Club Magnet at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Greater Communicators club





Greater Communicators: Speaker Steve Alstrom with guitar



Don Hotz congratulates Floy



Floy addresses the Greater Communicators club

 For the Latest District Events: [http://d24tm.org/D24\\_Calendar.html](http://d24tm.org/D24_Calendar.html) 



## Eighty Years and Going Strong!

Submitted by Jessica Codr, Conference Chair

On May 23, I attended a celebration of a Toastmasters club that has existed for 80 years! I was so happy to see our Club 229 members, District leaders, and guests from other clubs join us in the celebration. We had many people attending in person and a few online.

What keeps a Toastmasters club going for 80 years? I can't answer that definitively, but based on my experience with Club 229, it seems to come down to members wanting to spend time together. With this particular club, the majority of members attend every week, and even those who cannot attend weekly attend more often than not. I love seeing my friends and fellow Toastmasters when I attend the meetings of this club. From watching videos shared at the 80th anniversary party, it seems that past members felt the same.

All Toastmasters clubs offer an opportunity to grow skills. The ones that last seem to offer more than that: a welcoming environment, a community of encouraging individuals, and friendship throughout the learning experience. I hope that Club 229, and many other Toastmasters clubs, continue with this feeling of community and friendship for 80+ years to come.



Let them eat cake...to celebrate the big 8-0!





Club 229 members: Back left to right: Eamon Maloney, Mark Fegan (former member), Steve Everitt  
 Middle: Rhonda Eby, Brian Williard, Jessica Codr  
 Front: Carly Thomsen, Ron Kroenke, Dona Rosales, Jay Narayanan



Ron Kroenke and Dona Rosales  
 as Mr and Mrs Ralph Smedley



Club 229 anniversary celebration



**Looking for leadership experience to beef up your resume?**

**Working to earn your DTM?**

**Here's just what you need! Volunteer for one of the open positions below!**

**But wait...what are they like? Here's one way of thinking about them:**

**Area Director – Conduit between clubs and division/district directors**

**Administration Manager – District secretary**

**Finance Manager – District treasurer**

**Logistics Manager – District Sergeant at Arms**

**Parliamentarian – Meeting rules master**

**You can find role and responsibility descriptions here:**

**[https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=District Officer Positions.docx](https://www.d24tm.org/jdownload.cgi?action=download&path=District_Officer_Positions.docx)**

**Contact Keith Jones for more information at [pqd@gmail.com](mailto:pqd@gmail.com)**

## **Her Name Was Dorothy**

By Pat Hannan, DTM, PID, Past Region IV Advisor, ILC Member 2020-22

How do you use the skills that you have learned in Toastmasters? We encourage people to join to get better at listening, speaking, providing feedback, managing time and even nailing those impromptu questions. But how do you turn that into practical life-changing action?

Most of us know who our parents, our family and in many cases our “pedigree” of ancestors are, but for some people, they have no idea who they look like, have never spoken to a biologically-related relative and have no idea what medical inheritances would help them manage their health issues.

Consumer DNA tests took a foothold in the US about 2011. Being a genealogy buff, I took my first test and was baffled by the results. It took six years to learn the possible relationships based on shared chromosomes, learning the importance of the “X match” for men and developing genetic groups. Sound technical? It is. But that knowledge can be life changing.

The first case that I solved for an adoptee was for a woman whose name was meant to be Dorothy. She was born at Booth Memorial Hospital in St Louis, MO, and was a genetic match for one of my best friends, Debbie. Debbie had a mystery in her family; I took that as a challenge and solved the mystery. Debbie knew her parents and wasn't adopted, but the mystery was tied to her dad's heritage. Dorothy belonged in that genetic circle.

I wrote a short note to “Dorothy,” whose screen name was actually Lori. “Hi Lori, I see that you are a second cousin match to my friend, Debbie, and you are on her Garland side of the family.”

The reply was quick and short, “I’m adopted. I don’t know who I am.” It took a week of non-stop research time until I discovered that Lori’s birth name was Dorothy. More importantly, both her biological parents were living.

The anxiety was “off the scales” for Lori. But she was a breast cancer survivor and riddled with other health issues that needed answers. Her mother was living, so I decided to make the call to her. It is very important to understand that not all mothers want to be found.

My house is full of activity, noise, grandkids, you name it. I made the call on a Saturday morning from my friend’s home office. It was quiet. I prepared my notes (a well written speech). I had to get her attention immediately, with a great opening, so she knew I wasn’t a scammer. Most importantly, I had to speak from a position of knowledge, empathy and understanding.

Like all good speeches, I had a call to action. “Hello, my name is Pat, I’m a genealogy researcher. I am helping a friend who is adopted and born on (date), I am looking for (Name). Have I found the right person?”

“You are speaking to her mother.” GASP. I didn’t put in my elevator speech how to respond, and this was the first of many phone calls that I have made over the years to birth families. The birth mother drilled me. “How did you find me?” “Where is my daughter?” “Who are you and how are we related?”

Imagine Table Topics on steroids! After what felt like a long police interrogation, I provided Lori’s birth mother with a phone number and the two women connected. It was the first time Lori (born Dorothy) had ever spoken to a family member to whom she was biologically-related.

How many of the skills that we promote in Toastmasters were used in this interaction?

- I wrote a speech. It had an opening, a middle and an end. I reached my objective.
- I listened to Lori both before the call and during my research, as she expressed her concerns about her health issues and about the fear of rejection.
- I answered questions about my role in this discovery, the process that I used to find the birth mother, and in the end felt like I had just won the “The World Championship of Table Topics.”
- I listened with my heart, remained calm, and forever changed the lives of not just Lori and her biological mother, but their extended family as well.
- I managed my time in a manner to go from “hello” to “this is her phone number” in a manner that delivered on my promise to Lori that I’d do the best that I could do for her.

I have many ideas on what led me to develop this skillset and why I decided to keep helping people find the “rest of their personal story,” but I truly would not be able to deliver without the many skills that I have learned in Toastmasters and have put into practical use. It is great to talk about the skills we can build, but the real action item is “how do we put those skills to use?”

I solve adoption mysteries. I change people lives. I answer questions that some people never thought they could answer and, in the end, I help heal hearts.

# # #

Pat Hannan is a member and club officer of Strictly Speaking Toastmasters, an advanced speaking club that meets online on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. She invites you to visit a club meeting and experience firsthand how this advanced club can help you in your leadership and communication development within and outside Toastmasters.

For more information, go to [strictlyspeakinglincoln.toastmastersclubs.org/](http://strictlyspeakinglincoln.toastmastersclubs.org/), or contact Pat at [quilterpatray@gmail.com](mailto:quilterpatray@gmail.com) or any club officer.

## **Missed a recent event?**

### **Check out these recordings:**

Base Camp Managers & Club Central Training:

<https://youtu.be/qEbvMJWnGog>

Pathways Training:

<https://youtu.be/n6bk7nliBpQ>

Club Officer Training Videos:

Club Success Plan—<https://youtu.be/d148czwquH8>

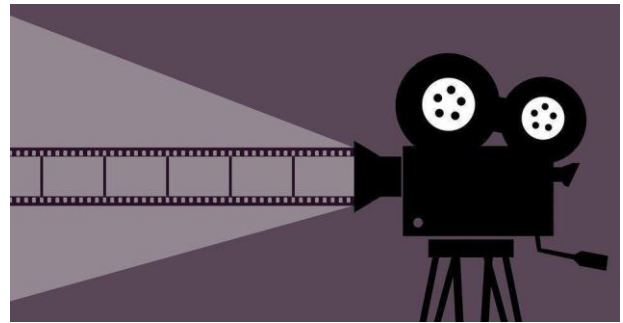
Marketing Your Club—[https://youtu.be/25TNbC\\_0188](https://youtu.be/25TNbC_0188)

[https://youtu.be/VWp\\_a1sioQQ](https://youtu.be/VWp_a1sioQQ)

Social Media Marketing—<https://youtu.be/-heEe53EwNA>

New & Potential Members—<https://youtu.be/IFGh27csys0>

Retaining Members—<https://youtu.be/O0VbShhspi0>



**Are you a new officer looking for more information about your role? Check here:**

**[Toastmasters International -Club Officer Tools](#)**

**New Area Director or Division Director? Check here:**

**[Toastmasters International -District Leader Tools](#)**

**If you're toying with the idea of becoming an Area Director, check out the details above.**

**When the toying is done, contact **Keith Jones** at [pqd@gmail.com](mailto:pqd@gmail.com).**

**Tell him you're ready for the challenge!**