



DISTRICT 24 DOUBLE DOZEN

NEWSLETTER

District News and Events

District 24

April 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Renew Your Commitment – p 1

Get Your Conference TLC! – p 2

Speechcraft at D24 Conference – p 3

Membership Incentive – p 4

Open House Highlights – p 5-6

Speech Contest Results – p 7-10

Bidding is Open at the D24 Silent Auction! – p 10

In Memoriam – Jennie Kennedy – p. 11

In Memoriam – Dalcyce Ronnau – p 12

Shine the Light on Your Club! – p 13

Educational Awards – p 13

Be sure to check the D24 Events Calendar for upcoming events

Questions? Comments? Submissions? Email newsletter@d24tm.org

Submissions for the May Double Dozen are due on **April 29, 2024**.

For all the latest news and events, visit d24tm.org



Renew Your Toastmasters Commitment

Submitted by Pam Hughes, DTM – District Director

Have you renewed your Toastmasters commitment to yourself? That commitment starts with renewing your membership, of course. I hope that you've done so. If not, the 30-day grace period is open for your convenience. If your club hasn't enabled Self-Pay, talk with your club officers about doing so. With this feature, individual dues renewal can be completed in under five minutes.

Your Toastmasters commitment extends far beyond just paying dues. Think about your commitment to your fellow club members. Are you signing up, in advance, for roles in club meetings? Are you actively working through a Path? Are you contributing to fun and interesting meetings? Are you inviting guests to meetings? Are you volunteering for club officer roles?

How about your commitment to yourself? Each of us joins a Toastmasters club for a purpose or a goal. Are you still pursuing that goal? Moved on to another goal? Applying your speaking or presentation prowess to other activities?

This month please take a few minutes to ask yourself: What do I need to do to renew my commitment to myself in Toastmasters?



Time is Slipping by to Register for the District 24 Conference!

Submitted by Cindy Jenkins, DTM – Program Quality Director



Get your TLC at this year's conference – Teamwork, Leadership, and Communication! Here's the speaker lineup:

- Keynote speaker, Past International President Lark Doley, DTM, PIP – The History of Toastmasters
- Past International President, Dilip Abayasekara, PhD, DTM, PIP, PID, AS – Turning Visitors into Members
- Accredited Speaker, Sheryl Roush, DTM, PDG, AS, CVP – Speechcraft!
- District 24 Member, Bonner Bowden, DTM – Pathways 101
- Toast Talks by District 24 Speakers

Here are the details of this year's conference:

- Date: April 27, 9 am – 4 pm CT
- Format: Hybrid
- Onsite Venue: UNO College of Public Affairs, Room 132D
- Cost – Onsite is \$50, Online is \$20



Onsite registration includes lunch, morning and afternoon snack. Onsite registration closes on April 17 and the cost is \$50. Online registration closes on April 25 and the cost is \$20.

Here is the registration link:

[D24 Conference Registration-100 Years of TLC](#)

Don't miss the chance to meet other Toastmasters in person or online and hear these inspiring speakers! The Toast Talkers are District 24's own Steve Alstrom and Claire Titus, DTM. These Toastmasters will present wonderful and motivational talks to the attendees.

District 24 Speech Contest

The finals are all set for April 26 at 6 pm. Attend via YouTube to see who will be the District 24 champions of the International and Humorous Speech contests. You can view the contest live on this YouTube link:

<https://youtube.com/live/j0LV-kUzwaM>

Please make plans to attend!



*Teamwork, Leadership,
and Communication!*

Learn More about Speechcraft at the District 24 Conference!!

Submitted by Carol Sullivan, DTM – Club Growth Director



Attention! Attention! Hear all about Speechcraft during the District 24 Conference! A Speechcraft class is offered to non-Toastmaster members to become better communicators. It is also an effective way to build the club's membership when Speechcraft participants choose to extend their experience by joining the club. I did Speechcraft many years ago with the old education program. I am looking forward to learning all about the new processes.

There are three main aspects to consider when planning a Speechcraft. The most important point is this: **What do you want to achieve with Speechcraft?** What message do you want to send, and how do you want it to look? For example: increase membership, attract businesses.

The second point to consider is: **The amount of time to complete the Speechcraft.** Will it be a four-week, six-week, or eight-week program? Once you pick the dates, you need to complete the program. Plan accordingly to make sure you have the interest of the client and members so that you have the people available for the dates decided on.

And the last point is: **Be Flexible.** Adjust and adapt. If you realize your Speechcraft members are going to run out of time in their speeches, you can shorten other parts of the meeting to accommodate for effective speeches. Always be prepared for the unexpected.

The Three Key Phases

The first decision the Speechcraft coordinator and club needs to make is how to get interested participants for the Speechcraft. Who is the target audience? When you do a demonstration the first week, pick a topic you know well or are interested in. The more you internalize the subject, the more you can speak comfortably on it. If you have convictions about what you are saying, you can easily persuade your listeners.

Once you have decided on a topic, it is time to focus on three phases:

- 1) **The Preparation Phase:** This consists of getting Speechcraft participants, as well as planning, gathering and organizing the content of the Speechcraft. This can sometimes take a long time depending on the interest. Ask someone to help you.
- 2) **The Actualization Phase:** This is the most exciting step or phase because it is go time. You are now ready for "stage time."
- 3) **Connecting Phase:** Sometime during the Speechcraft ask questions and listen to the answers. By doing this, you can find out if they are interested in joining a club or starting their own club.

Register for the District 24 Conference to learn more about Speechcraft. The various stages are awaiting you...





Have a Club Open House, and D24 Pays the Tab!

Host three guests, sign one new member, and get \$50!!!

Steps for success:

Item	Task	Responsible	Timing
1	Select Date	All Members	8 Weeks Out
All club members must agree to support the Open House date.			
2	Choose "Lead" or Chair	All Members	7 Weeks Out
Lead coordinates all the planning and execution, but does not perform all roles/tasks			
3	Appoint Member for Follow-up	Lead + Club Officers	6 Weeks Out
4	Inform Area Director, PRM, prm@d24tm.org , and Admin. Manager am@d24tm.org	Club President	6 Weeks Out
5	Members Agree to 1+ Guest	All members	4 Weeks Out
6	Agenda Done/All Roles Filled	Lead	3 Weeks Out
7*	Speeches/Table Topics Practice	All members	2 Weeks Out
8*	Guest Packets Ready	Lead + VP Membership	1 Week Out
9	Room/Refreshments Ready	Lead + SAA	1 Hour Before
10	Club Members Arrive 30 min early	All Members	30 Min Before
11	Guests Greeted Individually	All Members	Showtime!
Guest packets are provided at the door or digitally provided to each on-line guest upon arrival.			
12*	Guest Book (Live & Virtual)	Lead+VP Membership	Showtime!
13	Open House Meeting	Toastmaster of the Day	Showtime
14*	Questions Asked & Answered	President	Curtain Time
15*	1st Follow-up	Follow-up Chair	w/in 24 hours
16	2nd Follow-up	Follow-up Chair	

Seek volunteers for all roles.

Important Points

7*	All Table Topics questions are light, fun, or uplifting.
8*	Suggestions: membership application, agenda for the meeting, one page about the club. In-person club guest packet or on-line digital packet.
12*	Collect guest information in either a guestbook or in ZOOM chat (email and phone number).
14*	Guest surveyed for comments and/or question. Schedule ice-breaker?
15*	Next day: thank you for attending, ask for questions, invite to the next meeting with exact date/time. Ask if they want to be on club's mailing list
16*	For guests who do not respond to first follow-up.



The Fine Print

Club Incentives--one per club by June 30, 2024: reimbursement of direct costs up to \$50 or a \$50 Toastmasters International gift certificate which can be used for a Speechcraft module, a customizable meeting sign, ribbons or certificates, a guest book, and more. **Requirements:** submit to cgd@d24tm.org: The Open House Agenda and promotional materials, contact information of at least 3 attendees, and the name of at least 1 attendee who joined the club due to the Open House. The request should specify whether reimbursement of expenses is requested or a \$50 TI certificate is requested.

Primetime Club Celebrates St. Patrick's Day with Themed Meeting



Division A's Primetime Club 8111 gathered for a St. Patrick's Day themed meeting on March 18. Club member Trev Asmus provided humor with his speech about "revenge on his sister" who is afraid of leprechauns.

Table topics participants answered the question: "What do you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?" They shared about enjoyment of parades, beer gardens and some downright good fun! A great time was had by all.



Primetime members gather for St. Patrick's Day themed meeting.

Division D Open House Highlights

Rail Talkers Hopes for Luck in St Patrick's Day Open House

The Rail Talkers club hosted an open house with a theme of St Patrick's Day. Featured speaker Marty Ertz spoke on the importance of making your own luck. Table topics offered members and guests choices of what they thought would be most lucky for them. Green decorations and cupcakes enhanced the fun of the meeting.



Early arrivals prepare for Rail Talkers open house event

(continued on page 6)

Division D Open House Highlights (continued from page 5)

Capitol Ave March Madness Event Draws Multiple Guests, Past Members and New Member(s)

Capitol Avenue Toastmasters embraced the “March Madness” theme with a month-long table topics tournament. Members and past members worked their way through a bracket, answering table topics questions head-to-head until a champion was crowned.

Fun themed slides, multi-meaning basketball related words of the day (like pivot, and turnover) and the renaming of other key roles (such as the “grammarian” as the “referee” and “timer” as the “clock operator”) contributed to the immersive theme. The club shared information about Pathways and Toastmasters membership at the meetings, resulting in at least one new member so far.

Congratulations go out to the tournament champion - Jennifer Christensen - who won the final head-to-head with her response to “How would Toastmasters help a basketball coach?”



Matthew Masek presents award to Jennifer Christensen

Conagra’s Upcoming Open House Welcomes Corporate and Community Members from Multiple Locations

Conagra’s club hopes to convey the Toastmasters benefits of improved interpersonal communication and public speaking skills, as well as team building and improved leadership skills.

Date & Time: Thursday, April 18th from 11:45am to 1:00pm CST

- 11:45am CST: Snacks & Socializing (Light snacks will be provided)
- 12 noon – 1pm CST: Toastmasters Meeting

Three options to attend:

- Omaha: Building 11, Learning Center, Room H
- Chicago: The Mart, CN-120
- Virtual: Available to everyone, regardless of location, via Microsoft Teams

Reach out to Penny Mack, Club President (penny.mack@conagra.com) or Kelly Dawson, VP of Membership & Education (kelly.dawson@conagra.com) for details!



Area and Division Speech Contest Results

The results are in! Congratulations to all of our wonderful speech contestants in District 24's Area and Division Speech Contests! Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the contests possible!

Division A –

Division A Online Speech Contest Success – Area Level

A3 International:

1st Place - Marian Gramlich

A2 Humorous:

1st Place: Melissa Dyslin

A1 Humorous:

1st Place – Aaron Grothe

2nd Place – Chris Czerwinski

A3 Humorous:

1st Place – Aaron Rothenberger

Division A Hybrid Speech Contest Success – Division Level

Division A International:

1st Place – Marian Gramlich

Division A Humorous:

1st Place – Aaron Rothenberger

(in person)

2nd Place – Aaron Grothe (online)

3rd Place – Chris Czerwinski,
(online)



Division A Humorous Speech Contestants (in person): Aaron Rothenberger, 1st place and Melissa Dyslin.

Division C –

Division C Speech Contest Success – Area Level

C21 International:

1st Place – Krishna Muvva

2nd Place – Kent Wolfe

C21 Humorous:

1st Place – George Hutton
(Fairview)

C22 International:

1st Place – George Hutton
(Capital City)

C23 International:

1st Place – Gene Deyoe



Division C Hybrid Speech Contest Success – Division Level



On Saturday, March 30, attendees at the Division C hybrid Speech Contests had the privilege to hear four riveting speeches by three contestants, including (left photo) George Hutton, Humorous – 1st place and International 3rd place (both online); and (right photo) Gene Deyoe, International – 1st place (left) and Krishna Muvva, International – 2nd place (right). Congratulations to all contestants! Gene moves on to compete in the District International Contest and George moves on to compete in the District Humorous Contest.

Division B & D –

Division B Speech Contest Success – Area Level

B11 International:

1st Place – Mark Hjelle

B12 International:

1st Place – Louis Lester

B13 International:

1st Place – Randy Prier

2nd Place – Nathan Jones

B11 Humorous:

1st Place – Yukiko Weinberg

2nd Place – William Targy, Jr.

Division D Speech Contest Success – Area Level

D31 International:

1st Place - Ann Gentle

2nd Place - Frank Wilson

D33 International:

1st Place - Cynthia Coleman

2nd Place - Eamon Maloney

D31 Humorous:

1st Place - Rob Carrera

2nd Place - Alex Daly

3rd Place - Robin Frazier

D32 Humorous:

1st Place - Louis Lester

D33 Humorous:

1st Place - Ron Kroenke

All 1st and 2nd place winners were eligible to compete on April 6. Division results are on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/D24DivisionD) and in the next article.



Pictured are the Humorous contestants and Humorous contest chair.
 Top Row (L to R): Alex Daly - D31 2nd place; Robin Frazier - D31 3rd place; Louis Lester - D32 1st place
 Bottom Row (L to R): Ron Kroenke - D33 1st place, Rob Carrera - D31 1st place; William Radnor - Contest Chair and D33 Area Director

Division B & D Hybrid Speech Contest Success – Division Level

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped make the Division B & D speech contests possible and congratulations to all of the winners. The results are in...

Division B

- Humorous:**
 1st Place: Yukiko Weinberg
- International:**
 1st Place: Randy Prier
 2nd Place: Louis Lester

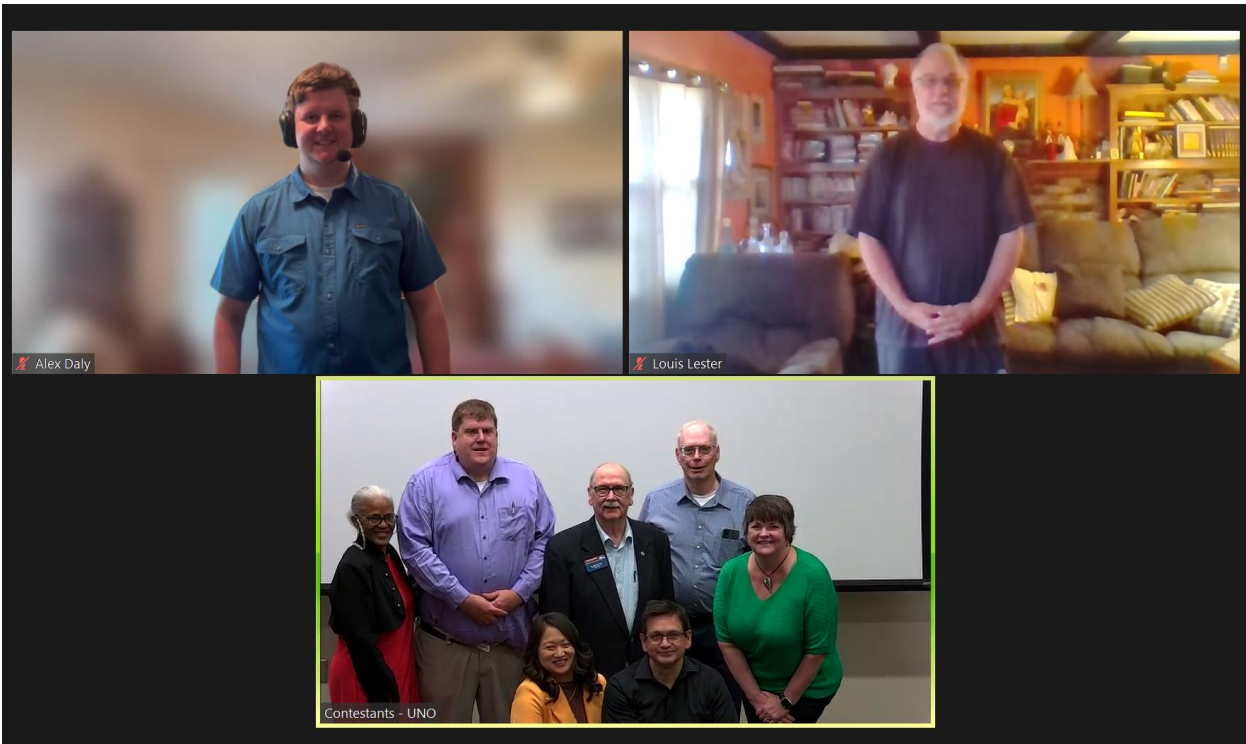
Division D:

- Humorous:**
 1st Place: Rob Carrera
 2nd Place: Louis Lester
 3rd Place: Alex Daly
- International:**
 1st Place: Ann Gentle (Capital City)
 2nd Place: Cynthia Coleman
 3rd Place: Eamon Maloney



Division B & D 1st Place Winners left to right: Yukiko Weinberg (Div B Humorous), Randy Prier (Div B International), Rob Carrera (Div D Humorous), Ann Gentle (Div D International)





Division B and D Speech Contestants (left to right)

Top pictures: Alex Daly, Louis Lester

Bottom picture, top row: Cynthia Coleman, Eamon Maloney, Randy Prier, Frank Wilson, Ann Gentle

Bottom picture, bottom row: Yukiko Weinberg, Rob Carrera

We'll see the first place winners at the **District 24 Toastmasters** speech contests April 26!

Bidding is Open at the D24 Silent Auction!

You can bid now on the two hottest items in recent years. One is for sports fans: a Cornhusker football signed by Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers. The other is for decorators: a custom-made full size patriotic quilt. When these were previously on the auction block, bidding was fierce.

Additional items and services will be put on the block until the D24 Conference on April 27. Check the items and the bidding often using the QR code or URL code below:

https://www.32auctions.com/District24_2024



Jennie Kennedy

1936 - 2024



Jennie Kannedy, DTM, a member of Greater Communicators Toastmasters Club, passed away peacefully in the Northcrest Living Center, Council Bluffs, IA, on March 17, 2024.

Jennie was a member of District 24 for more than 10 years and served a term as Area Governor. She was an avid Toastmaster who frequently helped during Training Leadership Institutes (TLI) and speech contests.

As long as she didn't have to be "up front," Jennie would help with whatever needed to be done. She said she joined Toastmasters because "my coworker always told me how much fun she had the night before at Toastmasters and I wanted to have fun, too."

Jennie was an active member of Optimists as well, holding offices there and always volunteering. She leaves a legacy of service and kindness to others.



Dalyce Ronnau

1934 - 2024



Dalyce F. Ronnau, 89, of Lincoln passed away March 29, 2024. Born June 26, 1934, in Ashland, NE, Dalyce graduated from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. He served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

Dalyce retired after 50 years as an engineer with the Nebraska State Department of Roads. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), American Legion Post #3, and an active member for 55 years with Toastmasters.

Dalyce was a charter member of RoadToasters Toastmasters Club, which was chartered March 19, 1969, and the longest-serving member of District 24. He was a devoted member of the club and the district, providing support and mentoring whenever needed.

Dalyce served in leadership roles and competed in numerous speech contests over the years. His calm and steady approach and encouragement were always appreciated. Dalyce will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate to know him.



Gone, but never forgotten.



Educational Awards, March 2024

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

Congratulations to our D24 Toastmasters who earned Educational Awards in March!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kristen Malek, IP5	IP5	03/08/2024
00659689 - Name Unavailable	PI4	03/11/2024
Kelly Dawson, DTM	TC3	03/11/2024
Linda Wilson, DTM	VC4	03/12/2024
Dwaine Divis, DL4	DL4	03/13/2024
Blake Hendrickson, DL3	DL3	03/15/2024
Ann Kelleher, DL1	DL1	03/16/2024
06651023 - Name Unavailable	PI2	03/20/2024
Norma Gonzalez, DL5	DL5	03/20/2024
Floy Westermeier, DTM, PID	EH2	03/24/2024
Michael Wieger, DTM	PM1	03/26/2024

Shine the Light on Your Club!

Has your club done something to support the community while sharing about Toastmasters? If so, let us know!

Send a photo and brief article, and we will feature your club in a future issue of the Double Dozen!