

Toastmasters International Recognition and Achievement

The Ruth M. Kraft Toastmaster of the Year Award

Selection criteria for this award is determined by Toastmasters International. This award recognizes the District 24 Toastmaster whose dedication, commitment and efforts contributed towards achieving the club, area, division, and district mission.

Distinguished Toastmaster, Ruth M. Kraft was a pioneering leader in the 1970s of the successful effort allowing women to become full-fledged members of Toastmasters International. As Administrative and Educational Lieutenant Governor, she helped lead District 24 to back-to-back Distinguished District Awards in 1976-77 and 1977-78. As District Governor and Immediate Past District Governor, she led District 24 to back-to-back President's Distinguished District Awards in 1978-79 and 1979-80 (to date that is two of only three President's Distinguished District Awards the District has ever won).

In 1980, DTM Ruth M. Kraft won an election to the Toastmasters International Board of Directors as the first female Director from District 24 and Region IV. She was also one of the first female Directors from around the world, serving with distinction and helping set policy and guiding operations of the worldwide organization. After a full and rewarding life of service to her family, her business and volunteer organizations, including continuing service to District 24 and her community, Ruth M. Kraft passed away in the summer of 2012. Following her death, District 24 renamed the annual District 24 Toastmaster of the Year Award in her honor.

Donald Smith, 1971
C.E. Geasland, 1972
David E. Pillar, 1973
Lowell Matheson, 1974
Tom Lewis, 1975
Edgar Kort, 1976
Ruth Kraft, 1977
Jeannie Keller, 1978
Dick Hileman, 1979
Barb Houghton, 1981
Gus LeMaster, 1982
Richard Thoene, 1983
Glenn Porath, 1984
Dana Snyder, 1985
Ray Kosmicki, 1986
Judy Thorson, 1987
Ann Gold, 1988
Ruth Kraft, 1989
Bernie Leick, 1990
Ben Alba, 1991
Connie Pullen, 1992
Jerry Hardesty, 1993
Mary-Lynn Alberry, 1994
Jean Dier, 1995

Sharon Roeber, 1996
Anita Lewandowski, 1997
Sheila Nelson, 1998
Denise Yates, 1999
Connie Klabunde, 2001
Don Schmidt, 2004
Jean Dier, 2005
Louis Lester, 2007
JoAnn McClelland, 2008
Dave Hayden, 2009
Heidi Guggisberg-Connors, 2010
Tom Colling, 2011
Marilyn Champoux, 2012
Marian Albin Gramlich, 2013
Cynthia & Anthony Coleman, 2014
Angela Peterson, 2015
Jeffrey Williams, 2016
Carol Sullivan, 2017
Claire Titus, 2018
Mary Ingram, 2019
Keith Jones, 2020
Jacob Lawson, 2021
Andrew Wang, 2022
Claire Titus, 2023

President's Distinguished District

1974, 1979, 1980

Select Distinguished District

Distinguished District

1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014

International Directors

Ralph S. Lowe, 1950
Hugh E. McEvoy, 1952
Dr. Leo Anderson, 1962
Richard F. Martin, 1965
George Ireland, 1970
Ruth Kraft, 1982
Doug Couto, 1994
Floy Westermeier, 2000
Randy Prier, 2003
Pat Hannan, 2014

Region IV Conference Chair

Dick Hileman, 1973
Jean Dier, 1999
Anita Lewandowski Brown, 2006

Presidential Citation

Dick Hileman, 1980
Jean Dier, 1990
Dick Brazis, 1997
Floy Westermeier, 2006
Randy Prier, 2006

President's Membership Retention

Mark Fegan, 2021

Excellence in Leadership

Robert Glaze 1992
Randy Prier, 1993
George Volz, 2011

Excellence in Education & Training

Anita Lewandowski Brown, 2000
Robert Stahn, 2001
Jolene Boshart, 2002
Patt Harper, 2003
Melinda Haag, 2004
Capiz Greene, 2005
Sheila Hoffert, 2006
Chris Czerwinski, 2007
Connie Klabunde, 2008
Elden Plettner, 2009
George Volz, 2010
LuAnn Anglo, 2011
Sheri Wells-Chesley, 2012
Kathy Henvey, 2013
Shellie Pointer, 2014

Excellence in Marketing

Robert Stahn, 2000
Sheila Hoffert, 2005
George Volz, 2009
LuAnn Anglo, 2010
Sheri Wells-Chesley, 2011
Shellie Pointer, 2013
Sunny Faronbi, 2014

District 24 Recognition and Achievement

The Don Smith Toastmaster of the Decade Award

This award is unique to District 24 and Distinguished Toastmaster, Don Smith was the District 24 Toastmaster of the Year for 1970/71 and District 24 Governor in 1973/74. He was a member of the Greater Communicators Toastmasters Club in Council Bluffs.

Sometime in the late 1970s (the exact date has been lost to memory), Don was giving a speech at a meeting of the Greater Communicators when he suffered a heart attack and passed away. In effect, he “died with his boots on.” The District 24 Toastmaster of the Decade Award was thereafter named in his honor. It is usually awarded at the discretion of the District Governor/Director annually to a member of the District who has been a Toastmaster for 10 years or more and who has continued at a high level of personal Toastmaster achievement or sustained meritorious service to the mission of District 24.

*(The term “Toastmaster of the Decade” is a misnomer since recipients are not named for any specified period of years or decade. Rather the term refers to the specification that the recipient must have been a Toastmaster for at least 10 years.)

John Paul Arias, 2013
Keith Jones, 2014
Bill Cashell, 2015
Patricia Hannan, 2016
Sheri Wells-Chesley, 2017
Roy and Sharon Smith, 2018
Brenda Kucera, 2019
Ann Gentle, 2020
Melinda Haag, 2021
Floy Westermeier, 2022
Tom Colling, 2023

The Rookie of the Year Award

This award is unique to District 24 and is designed to honor a newer member of Toastmasters for their enthusiasm and achievement. It was first awarded in the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year.

Kari McDermott, 2019

Azhar Bux, 2020

Aayushi Laliwala, 2021

Morgan Young, 2022

not awarded in 2023

The Ann Gold Toastmaster Club of the Year Award

Distinguished Toastmaster, Ann Gold was the District 24 Toastmaster of the Year and District 24 Governor in 1987/88. Ann had a special talent for forming new clubs and helping troubled, low-member clubs recover their strength. Unfortunately, shortly after her year as District Governor, Ann suffered a heart attack and passed away in her home.

The Ann Gold Toastmaster Club of the Year Award was named in her honor and is awarded annually to the outstanding District 24 Club in the previous year based upon criteria established by the District Trio and the District Awards Committee. Such criteria would include things like whether or not the club earned Distinguished Club recognition, membership retention and growth, number of educational awards earned, and the degree of club participation in Districtwide activities and programs.

Ann Gold Club of the Year

Blue Ah-Busters, 1991
Ameritas, 1992
NPPD Toastmasters Club, 1993
Lincoln 403, 1994
Loup Valley 5468, 1995
Sunrise 2788, 1996
Lincoln 403, 1997
Toastmasters at Principal, 1999
Small Talkers, 2003
Kearney Toastmasters, 2004
OPPD, 2007
Blue Ah-Busters, 2008
OPPD, 2009
NPPD Toastmasters Club, 2010

ConAgra Foods - Jam-N-Toasters, 2011
OPPD, 2012
Southeast Toasters, 2013
Heartland Toastmasters, 2014
ConAgra Foods - One Voice, 2015
Innovators, 2016
Roadtoasters Toastmasters, 2017
Omaha Toastmasters Club 281, 2018
Omaha Toastmasters Club 281, 2019
Mutual of Omaha Toastmasters Club, 2020
Why Not Speak, 2021
Upgrade Virtually, 2022
Upgrade Virtually, 2023

The District 24 Circle of Honor Award

This award was adopted by the District upon the recommendation of Past District Governor Dick Brazis. It is intended to be awarded at the discretion of the District Governor/Director to a District 24 member who has given meritorious and continuing service to the mission and programs of the district over a number of years, but who has not been an elected district officer, speech contest winner, or the recipient of other awards such as the Toastmaster of the Year Award. In other words, this award is intended for those quiet “soldiers in the trenches” who may not have been otherwise recognized.

Circle of Honor

Dan Evans, 1995

Mary Haven, 1995

Harry Herrington, 1995

Maurice Lungren, 1995

J. D. Scamehorn, 1995

Paul Schneinost, 1995

Lance & Faye Ray, 1996

Dan Sullivan, 1996

Madeline Meigs, 1997

Daniel P. Monroy, 2002

Floy Westermeier, 2006

Randy Prier, 2007

Bruce Gilmore, 2010

Evelyn Labode, 2011

Ruth Kraft, 2012

Leo Allen, 2012

George Carter, 2012

Harold Wheeler, 2013

Phil Rooney, 2015

Carol Sullivan, 2016

Jean Kolar, 2017

Premlatha Nataraj Goundar, 2018

Mike Laughlin, 2019

George Hast, 2020

Don Hotz, 2023

The District 24 Communication & Leadership Award

At the discretion of the District Director, the Communication and Leadership Award is presented by the district to a person in the community who is an outstanding communicator or leader. This may honor a media person, state or local politician, or businessperson.

Communication and Leadership Award

Dudleyt Bobbit, 1978
Kermit Hansen, 1979
Bob Law, 1981
Fr. John Prachar, 1981
Joanne Minarcini, 1981
Judge Warren K. Urbom, 1982
Thomas Henning, 1991
Tim Rouse, 1983
Dr. Donald Clifton, 1984
Lynn Elgert, 1984
Sen. Vard Johnson, 1985
Dr. Bernice Dodd, 1985
Dr. William Lepley, 1986
Keith Barret, 1986
Mayor Larry Marik, 1987
Robert L. Kriz, 1987
William E Ramsey, 1988
Robert Wadman, 1988
Wayne Anderson, 1989
Dr. Richard Votta, 1989
Tom Bevacqua, 1990
Edwin Loutzenheiser, Jr., 1990
Mayor P.J. Morgan, 1991
Thomas Henning, 1991

Fr. Val Peter, 1992
Sen. Jennie Robak, 1992
Mayor Mike Johanss, 1993
Larry Hiers, 1993
Kathy Nelson, 1994
Joan Burney, 1994
Sen. Dave Landis, 1995
Chris Everhardt, 1995
Robert Armstrong, 1996
Donald S. Lewenburg, 1997
Dr. Norbert Schuerman, 1997
Bryce Neidig, 1998
David Berens, 1998
Laureen Riedesel, 2008
Dan Naranjo, 2009
Kathy Tooker, 2010
Mayor Tom Hanafan, 2011
Bill & Evonne Williams, 2012
Dan Kolar, 2015
Teresa Paulsen, 2016
Karen Rooney, 2017
Dr. Tom Osborne, 2020

Area Director of the Year, District 24*

Eunice Hendricks, 1983
Don Maas, 1984
Ray Kosmicki, 1985
John Garbers, 1986
Dick Brazis, 1987
Leland Poppe, 1988
Mark Dana, 1989
Pat Hiller, 1991
Kirk Johnson, 1991
Joe Neal, 1992
B.J. Axthelm, 1993
Connie Pullen, 1994
Kathy Baugh, 1995
Wayne Schmaderer, 1996
Robert Stahn, 1997
Jolene Boshart, 1998
Bonner Bowden, 1999
Chris Czerwinski, 2003

Colleen Bozarth, 2004
Pat Hannan, 2005
Louis Lester, 2008
Jolene Allen, 2010
Tom Garvey, 2011
Amie Carnahan, 2012
Sunny Faronbi, 2013
Steve Dawkins, 2014
Jeffrey Williams, 2015
Cindy Jenkins, 2016
Scott Pachunka, 2017
Kaylee Erlbacher, 2018
Teresa Hunter, 2019
Tom Colling, 2020
Cynthia Coleman, 2021
Don Hotz, 2022
not awarded in 2023



* *Area Governor was renamed Area Director in 2015-2016*

Assistant Area Director of the year

Meg Barr, 2020

Frank Wilson, 2021

Wanda Peterson, 2022

not awarded in 2023

Club Coach of the year

Indrajit Basu & S. "Tania" Biswas, 2020

not awarded in 2023

Club Mentors of the year

Cynthia Coleman and Angelina Ford, 2020

not awarded in 2023

Division Director of the Year, District 24*

Jens Norgaard, 1983
Dana Snyder, 1984
Gail Davis, 1985
Carol Hermanson, 1986
Marie Carman, 1987
Bill Gude, 1988
Bob Beardsley, 1989
Del Krieger, 1990
Gail Berke, 1991
Renee Micklin, 1992
Gene Deyoe, 1993
Walt Bauman, 1994
Connie Pullen, 1995
Linda Cone, 1996
Wayne Schmaderer, 1997
Bob Stahn, 1998
Sheila Hoffert, 1999

Capiz Greene, 2004
Joyce Keel, 2005
Garry Martin, 2008
Sheri Wells-Chesley, 2010
Lisa McFarland, 2011
Sheila Nelson, 2012
Linda Wilson, 2013
John Paul Arias, 2014
Bob Schapp, 2015
Diana Behrends, 2016
Pamela Hogan, 2017
Jessica Codr, 2018
Gloria Harmon, 2019
Carol Sullivan, 2020
Claire Titus, 2021
Amy Hense, 2022
not awarded in 2023



* *Division Governor was renamed Division Director in 2015-2016*

Club Officers of the Year, District 24

President

Christina Hicks, 2011
Tim Johnson, 2012
Jonathan Gardner, 2013
Sandy Yager, 2014
Cynthia Coleman, 2015
Robin Storer, 2016
Linda Wilson, 2017
Pam Hogan, 2018
Sandeep Puniya, 2019
Jacob Lawson, 2020
Prasi Bala, 2021
Madan Nirmalraj, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Vice President of Education

Tim Johnson, 2011
Pat Miller, 2012
Thomas Colling, 2013
Amanda Fintel, 2014
Ann Gentle, 2015
Anita Lewandowski Brown, 2016
Gloria Harmon, 2017
Evelyn Mosley, 2018
Marian Albin Gramlich, 2019
Candi Sanders, 2020
Nicki Poort, 2021
Kari Wood, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Vice President of Membership

Brenda Davenport, 2011
Jean Kolar, 2012
Cindy Kaliff, 2013
Denise Masek, 2014
Monie Paro, 2015
Robert Friedman, 2016
Devan Martin, 2017
Jean Kolar, 2018
Felecia Jones, 2019
Titania Jones, 2020
Tina Jenkins, 2021
Rick Jensen, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Vice President of Public Relations

Vincent Peri, 2011
Lisa McFarland, 2012
Tim Glover, 2013

Chris Johnson, 2014
Jolene Allen, 2015
Thomas Colling, 2016
Annie Green, 2017
Prakruthi Vishwanath, 2018
Candi Sanders, 2019
George Volz, 2020
Bev Patterson, 2021
Calvin Custard, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Secretary

Norma Perkins-Bailey, 2011
Kim Hooock, 2012
Karla Moore, 2013
Susie Powell, 2014
Kim Dewitt, 2015
Ferdinand Osayande, 2016
Kaylee Erlbacher, 2017
Tom Colling, 2018
Tom Colling, 2019
Jan Ortmeier, 2020
Felecia Jones, 2021
Tim Pabian, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Treasurer

Kevin Fustos, 2011
Darin Glenn, 2012
Matt Binderup, 2013
Hilda Akati, 2014
George Volz, 2016
Janine Jernigan, 2017
Gail Pashchenko, 2015
Angi McAndrew Fairview, 2018
Cynthia Coleman, 2019
Ron Miller, 2020
Debbie Rodriguez, 2021
Pete Hines, 2022
not awarded in 2023

Sergeant At Arms

Kristy Sutton, 2011
Barb Gay, 2012
Pat Koehler, 2013
Elizabeth Humphrey, 2014
Justin Duster, 2015
Michael Wieger, 2016
Ted Bellin, 2017

Gloria Harmon, 2018
Michael Dalke, 2019
Anthony Coleman, 2020

Evelyn Mosley, 2021
Anthony Coleman, 2022
not awarded in 2023

District Director, District 24*

Hugh E. McEvoy, 1949
Miles W. Johnstone, 1950
Charles A. Nye, 1951
Ralph S. Lowe, 1952
Edward Wiedman, 1953
Arthur E. Stadler, 1954
Phil M. Negley, 1955
Henry Gibson, 1956
Paul W. Lycan, 1957
Dr. Larry G. Lefler, 1958
Wayne W. Falk, 1959
Dr. Leo Anderson, 1960
Paul E. Quinlan, 1961
John Nixon, Jr., 1962
Richard F. Martin, 1963
William W. Graham, 1964
James T. Hansen, 1965
Richard L. Torczon, 1966
George Ireland, 1967
Harlan Vogt, 1968
Norman F. Buddecke, 1969
S. Scott Miller, 1970
Dick Hileman, 1971
Carl O'Neal, 1972
Elmer T. Straube, 1973
Donald Smith, 1974
Gary Shipley, 1975
Allen Coburn, 1976
Lowell Matheson, 1977
Phillip E. Morrison, 1978
Ruth Kraft, 1979
Kay Peterson, 1980
Gus LeMaster, 1981
Jeanie Nosek, 1982
Glenn Porath, 1983
Dan Evans, 1984
Jean Dier, 1985
Skip Oster, 1986

Beth MacArthur, 1987
Ann Gold, 1988
Bernie Leick, 1989
Doug Couto, 1990
Richard Brazis, 1991
Robert Glaze, 1992
Randy Prier, 1993
Del Krieger, 1994
Gene Deyoe, Jr, 1995
Paula Williams, 1996
Leo Allen, 1997
Jackie Gfeller, 1998
Linda Cone, 1999
Connie Wanek Zimmerman, 2000
Anita Lewandowski Brown, 2001
J. Robert Stahn, 2002
Jolene Boshart, 2003
Patt Harper, 2004
Melinda Haag, 2005
Capiz Greene, 2006
Sheila Hoffert, 2007
Chris Czerwinski, 2008
Pat Hannan, 2009
Elden Plettner, 2010
George Volz, 2011
LuAnn Anglo, 2012
Sheri Wells-Chesley, 2013
Kathy Henvey, 2014
Shellie Pointer, 2015
Sunny Faronbi, 2016
Marian Albin Gramlich, 2017
George Volz, 2018
Glenn Williams, 2019
Linda Wilson, 2020
Mark Fegan, 2021
Cindy Jenkins, 2022
Keith Jones, 2023
Pam Hughes, 2024



* District Governor was renamed District Director in 2015-2016

District 24 Speech Contest Winners

International

Diane Walkoviak, 1988
Diane Walkoviak, 1989
Dana Snyder, 1990
Mary-Lynne Alberry, 1991
Paula Williams, 1992
Jim Otto, 1993
Jim Otto, 1994
Jim Otto, 1995
Jack Wesch, 1996
Bill Cashell, 1997
Bill Cashell, 1998
Mary-Lynne Alberry, 1999
Bill Cashell, 2000
Bill Cashell, 2002
Connie Klabunde, 2003
Bill Cashell, 2004
Tony Dean, 2005
Jim Otto, 2007
Rick Meyer, 2008
Amy Holmes, 2010
John Coffey, 2011
Amy Holmes, 2012
Andy Allen, 2013
Gene Deyoe, 2014
Eric Beba, 2015
Ann Gentle, 2016
John Ryan, 2017
Matt Prose, 2018
Eric Beba, 2019
Ash Banaszek, 2020
Tremale Berger, 2021
Ann Gentle, 2022
Lisa Lopez, 2023

Humorous

Del Krieger, 1987
Steve Kirby, 1988
Bill Palmer, 1989
Ron Grobeck, 1990
Keith Jones, 1991
Tim Arant, 1992
Alan Anderson, 1993
Kristal Platt, 1994
Gregory Jensen, 1995

Jill Duris, 1996
Keith Jones, 1997
Melanie Schepers, 1998
Mary-Lynne Alberry, 1999
Constance Turner, 2004
Jim McGee, 2007
Colleen Bozarth, 2008
George Hametis, 2009
Randy Prier, 2010
Ann Gentle, 2011
Mark White, 2012
Ann Gentle, 2013
William Wehrs, 2014
Randy Prier, 2015
Eric Beba, 2016
Jessica Codr, 2021

Evaluation

Mona Eigbrett, 2004
George Madsen, 2007
Jeanne Schieffer, 2008
Rick Jensen, 2010
Karen Lofgren-Anderson, 2011
Karen Lofgren-Anderson, 2013
Keith Jones, 2014
Robert Friedman, 2016
Rebecca Fegan, 2022

Table Topics

John Michael De Bartolo, 2007
Michelle Feit, 2008
Steve Brewer, 2011
Carol Tschampl-Diesing, 2012
Jonathan Gardner, 2013
Eric Beba, 2015
Melanie Lewis, 2016
Kaleema Kerbs, 2018
Lisa Lopez, 2023

Tall Tales

Sam Reimer, 2005
Karissa Johnson, 2010
Steve Brewer, 2012
Keith Jones, 2014
John Paul Arias, 2015
Keith Jones, 2017
Calvin Custard, 2020