

District 45 Toastmasters Newsletter

# CAN-AM LINK



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**DISTRICT 45 IN THE PANDEMIC – HOW WE’VE GROWN**

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR JONATHAN BOHM, DTM**



How our world has changed. It’s been almost a year since Toastmasters went online. Did we imagine then that a year later we would still be

meeting online -- and with no timeline for when in-person meetings might resume? I remember naively thinking last March that surely we have our conference in person, in Moncton. Now we are planning for our second online annual conference.

Abigail Adams, former First Lady of the United States, wrote: “Great necessities call out great virtues.” Indeed, our District has risen to the occasion. Clubs that chose to go online grabbed the new virtual venue with gusto. Our contests have had greater and more enthusiastic participation. And online TLIs seem to be very popular.

However, most of our clubs took a membership hit in April last year, and again in October. Many are still struggling. Yet over 20% of our District 45 clubs have increased membership this year. One club has added 6 new members. Yes, we **can** bring in new members in this online environment. We have to accept that we will probably be meeting online until the fall or even perhaps the start of 2020. Don’t wait for that time when you resume in-person meetings.

The most effective way to bring in new members has always been one-on-one recruiting. This is just as true in these online times. In fact, it may be easier to bring a guest to a Zoom meeting than arranging the logistics of coming to an in-person meeting. No travel, no traffic, no parking problems.

District 45 has embraced change with gusto. We were first in the world in Pathways enrollments. The District’s first ever online TLIs were well received and well attended. It is time to meet this new challenge with that energy and the pursuit of excellence.

I encourage you to look at the incentives in the January newsletter and on the D45 website. There is a plethora of awards to reward membership growth and educational achievement. Decide which of these incentives will fit your goals. Go forth with full enthusiasm, striving for the success that is yours to meet.

Zoom meetings present a new range of opportunity. So many people are now working online and Toastmasters Zoom meetings are a great place to learn the subtleties and intricacies of succeeding in the virtual world. These valuable skills are attracting guests and new members who want to develop and enhance their online presence.

## Club Growth Tip

### COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE

Communicate in all directions. Communicate to club members, to other clubs, to Area Directors, volunteers, and District officers. Ensure that members know about upcoming district events. Make sure your Area Director knows about club activities. Let your Area Director know about the Open House you are holding for the Smedley award. (You are holding an open house in September, aren't you?)

Club leaders must keep club members informed of important activities. Go beyond filling the agenda. Let your club know about upcoming activities. Humans tend to think that everyone knows what we know. The reality is that most of us need to hear information several times before we recognize its relevance. Don't just pass on a message. Describe why it is important to your audience. This is a skill you practice with every speech. Use this skill when communicating information to your fellow Toastmasters.

When you communicate in all directions, your team will work better. When you repeat information, your team will remember more. When you use your Toastmaster communication skills, your club will grow.

*Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## What's Your Excuse?

As of the middle of January, there have been 408 educational designations. These designations came from 79 clubs which is almost 75% of our clubs with one or more designation. The designations represented 234 members which is only about 18% of our District's membership. Each member should plan to achieve at least one Level in a Path. That is no more than 3 to 4 speeches in a year which should be achievable. What's your excuse for not achieving one Level?

Over 100 members have achieved more than one designation with three members completing 10 or more Levels. In some cases, members complete multiple Levels because of belonging to more than one club. In other cases, members may have held their achievements and submitted many Levels at one time. However, if 234 members can achieve at least one Level, what's your excuse?

It seems that some more experienced members are reluctant to give speeches on Zoom. Some members (although very few) are still struggling with Pathways. Some say they are "too old" to learn the new technology or to learn Pathways. Let's look at one club – the George Burton club in Division D. This is a club where most of the members are in their 70s, 80s and 90s. Six of the nine members have achieved a designation and in total, they have ten designations. They are using Zoom and they are working in Pathways. If they can do it, what's your excuse?

For those who have not yet completed a Level, make your plans to do so and tell yourself "I have no excuse".

## District Leader Nominations



I so very much respect our club leaders who work to provide a stellar, respectful learning environment for their members. People join our clubs and become members. Members are then empowered to become more effective communicators and

leaders primarily by their engagement in their club. Our club leaders deserve accolades for their efforts to support their members and the club mission.

Beyond the club, serving as an Area Director (AD) is the first step into higher leadership in Toastmasters. The Area Director role exists to support club leaders and assist clubs to develop their environments for the benefit of their members. Toastmasters International recommends that District Directors appoint their Area Directors, so while District Leadership Committees do not nominate Area Directors, your DLC members are available to chat if you are interested to serve in 2021-2022 or in a future year.

Area Directors conduct club visits twice a year within their respective areas. An AD is also responsible to arrange area contests for those members who choose to compete in speech contests. Area Directors are expected to attend the Area Director training and attend District meetings as scheduled.

I vaguely remember my first visit to a club when I served as an Area Director back in the mid-1990s. For my first visit as an AD, I was nervous and wasn't sure what I would say to the club members, most of whom I hadn't met. I was received warmly and I gave a short speech during their meeting promoting upcoming district events, and complimenting them on being a warm, welcoming group. I'll note that if an AD wants to suggest an opportunity for improvement, that should be done privately with the club executive.

If you have interest in serving as an AD in the future please email me at [jimkokocki@gmail.com](mailto:jimkokocki@gmail.com) and we can arrange to talk. I also suggest you speak with your current or past Area Director.

This article from The Toastmaster magazine also provides a great description of the role and benefits <https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2017/dec2017/area-director>

## Public Relations Tip

### CREATING YOUR OWN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Are you creating your own materials for promotional purposes? Perhaps you are promoting your club meetings or celebrating the achievement of a member? Maybe you are hosting an open house and want to advertise that.

We encourage you to be creative, but it is important to maintain consistency of the Toastmasters brand. The best way to attract new people is to present professional looking materials. A strong brand will help people feel good about the product we have to offer.

One way to present a strong brand is to follow the Toastmaster's International branding guidelines. How can you ensure that you stay within the branding guidelines? Here are some quick tips:

- Use professional images from the Toastmasters International website – these are high quality graphics available for your use
- Download logos, wordmarks and lockups provided
- Use the stationery templates provided
- Use the marketing tools provided
- If you are unsure – reach out for help!

While creating promotional materials allows you to be creative, staying within the branding guidelines is required. Plus, why re-invent the wheel when you can save time and just tweak the materials available to meet your needs? There are online fliers available from TI for both prospects and members which can be found at

<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/news%20and%20announcements/online%20meetings>.

Visit

<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/brand-portal> for information and templates to use for a variety of occasions. By educating yourself on the branding guidelines, you will be sure to communicate a consistent and professional message!

## It's Speech Contest Season – What to Do?

It's contest season and many fellow toastmasters are deciding whether to compete or not. Allow me to give you three pieces of advice to help you with that decision:

1. Competition is not about your fellow competitors; although, you can learn valuable ways to becoming a better speaker by observing great communicators. The real competition is with yourself. You will become a better speaker after you compete whether you win or lose. The lessons you learn about yourself as a person and as a speaker far outweigh any trophy.
2. You don't have to do it alone. There are many people within your toastmaster family who are more than willing to help you reach for the stars. All you have to do is ask. There is truth in ***two heads are better than one***. The key is to find mentors who have more knowledge and experience than you and who are willing to tell you the truth in a loving way. Jim Rohn once said, ***you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with***. Choose those five people wisely.
3. Put your ego in park. There will be contests where you will lose and there will be contests where you will win. It's easy to win but when you lose, it will be easy to place blame on others instead of yourself. That is when your ego takes over. We all have one so don't feel bad. Don't allow your ego to get in the way of the lessons you need to learn to becoming a great speaker. If you want to move forward, take ownership for your successes and failure so you can uncover the gems hidden underneath your ego.

It's speech contest season; what to do? My advice; DO IT! You won't regret it. Remember to compete against yourself, don't do it alone, and park your ego.

Joe Grondin (DTM AS)  
VPPR – Spotlight Toastmasters



# Around the World with Toastmasters

The Civil Speakers Club in Fredericton, NB has embarked on a journey to travel *Around the World* – Toastmasters-style! In January, the club executive introduced a new strategic initiative in support of better meetings and membership growth. It launched a new award called ***Around the World***, which will be awarded to members who take on each meeting role - at least once – between now and June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Club meeting data, compiled in the first half of the Toastmasters year, showed that a whopping 80% of our membership had evaluated a speech, but only 30% had served as meeting chair; 50% of members had completed a speech, meaning 50% had not presented a speech in the first half of the year. Regardless of tenure, from new recruits to seasoned members, there was a tendency for members to gravitate toward certain roles due to inexperience or personal preference for those roles.

“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.” - Albert Einstein

At each of our regular bi-weekly meetings, there are thirteen opportunities to sign-up for speaking roles – a chance to learn and enhance our communication and leadership skills.

The meeting roles are not only important because they make the club experience enjoyable, they are key to our member’s success. They help build and improve not only public speaking skills but time management, critical thinking, facilitation skills and many, many more.

There are several benefits to be gained from going outside one’s comfort zone on a personal and club level. It promotes member growth, it promotes member and club success and as an added bonus, it can make life easier for the Vice President of Education!

Particularly for new members, it can be intimidating or overwhelming to take on a brand-new role – but our club’s ***Around the World*** award provides the motivation for every member to step up. For anyone unfamiliar with a role, Toastmasters has some terrific guidance various meeting roles, such as the *Toastmaster Wears Many Hats* manual on the TM website.

Have you travelled *Around the World* lately? This year, members of Civil Speakers Toastmasters are going ***Around the World*** for greater personal growth and club success. Maybe it’s an award your club will want to try too!

Jennifer Bishop, TC1  
Secretary, Civil Speakers

## Civil Speakers – Around the World Award



## Pathways Tips

Did you know that Base Camp Managers (President, VPE, Secretary) are the only ones who can approve a Level in Base Camp? However, ANY club officer can submit a Level through Club Central. This step needs to be done before the club gets credit for it. Although you can approve your own Level in Base Camp (best to have someone else do it), you CANNOT submit your own level in Club Central. It must be one of the other club officers who submits it for you.

If a member in your club is a dual member in one or more other clubs, it is good practice to check with that member before submitting the award through Club Central. It does not matter which club approves the Level in Base Camp but the member may want a particular club to receive credit in Club Central.

A suggestion for all members is to look ahead at the projects within your Path. Some of the Pathways projects require you to assemble a team and manage a project. The project you manage does not have to be in Toastmasters. Often, you may be asked to lead a project at work which would fit with one of your Pathways projects. This is a great way to connect Toastmasters and your work. The information contained in your Pathways project can help you better organize and manage your project at work. By looking ahead at the Pathways projects, it provides you with the opportunity to take advantage of projects that may come your way at work or in your community.

## Webinars

Before you know it, it will be time for club elections. Club elections should be held at your first meeting of May (or first business meeting if not held the first meeting of the month). It is important to hold your club elections as early as possible in May so incoming officers can be made aware of the June TLIs. You need to prepare for these elections. The February 28<sup>th</sup> webinar will provide you with information on how to effectively prepare for these elections. Watch your email for more information on the session and on the presenter(s).

It is not known at this time if there will be a webinar on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Watch your email for more information from the Program Quality Director on a possible webinar on that date. Since it's Valentine's Day, perhaps there could be a webinar on "Showing Love to Your Club Officers" 😊

Starting in March, webinars will be held on the second Friday of each month and the fourth Sunday of each month. This means that the March webinars will be March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>. This change is to allow those who are otherwise occupied on Sunday evenings to be able to attend one webinar a month. Fridays were chosen since no clubs currently meet on Friday evenings.



The following awards are the awards presented to clubs or individuals at the annual conference in May. Plan now for how your club or a member in your club might achieve one (or more) of these awards.

### **AWARDS FOR WHICH A SUBMISSION MUST BE MADE**

***Dave Rosvall Award*** – an award presented to a District 45 Toastmaster who has demonstrated long-term and meritorious service to the District above the club level. This can be for someone who has conducted Speechcraft or Youth Leadership programs, helped with sample meetings for a new club, has been a club sponsor, mentor or coach, served as a District leader at any level or for other activities beyond the club level. The recipient is determined each year by the Past District Governors and Directors. The recipient must have been a D45 Toastmaster for at least 10 years and must be planning to attend the conference. District Governors must have been out of office for at least 5 years before receiving the award. Although the award is chosen by PDGs/PDDs, if you know of a member you feel is eligible for this award, send the name along with the reasons why this person should receive the award to the Immediate Past District Director.

***Toastmaster of the Year award*** – given to a member who best exemplifies Toastmasters International values in supporting the District and club missions. The Toastmaster of the Year is expected to excel in a variety of leadership and communication; educational; and marketing and public relations activities. The time frame covered will be the previous May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Form 1113 Outstanding Toastmaster Guidelines (attached) must be completed and sent to your Area and Division Director as well as the District Director by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

***Shirley Kelly Memorial award*** – presented to a member who exemplifies the mission and values of a Toastmaster and empowers fellow Toastmasters to be successful by sharing the spotlight. Nominees must be a DTM, served on the District Executive, have been a Toastmaster for at least 5 years, and served the District in various capacities. Nominations can be made by any member; however, recipients must be nominated by at least two Toastmasters. A Selection Committee, comprised of a representative from each province/state, and a family member (if available) will select the recipient. The Selection Committee is chaired by a Division Director.

***MultiMedia Omnipresence award*** - presented to the club judged to use all aspects of public relations to the best advantage of their club. Included could be: newspaper, newsletters, website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Clubs (usually the President or Vice President of Public Relations) submit a portfolio of 8-10 samples of their public relations efforts to the District Public Relations Manager covering the time frame July 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for submission: April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Public Relations Manager and a team comprised of Vice Presidents of Public Relations would review and decide on the winner.

### **AWARDS CALCULATED BY THE DISTRICT**

***Excellence in Education Award*** - awarded to any club that has achieved any of the first four (4) education points in the Distinguished Club Program for the past three (3) years

***Excellence in Leadership Award*** – awarded to any club that has achieved points 5 and 6 of the Distinguished Club Program and has had at least four (4) officers trained in each TLI period for the past three (3) years.

District Awards cont'd

**Trailblazer Award** – presented to individual members who achieve any 4 levels in Pathways during one Toastmaster year. The 4 levels do not have to be in the same path. First- time recipients receive a binder in which to store their certificates and a Trailblazer pin. Repeat recipients receive a certificate and a small gift. Only one Trailblazer award can be earned in one year.

**Distinguished by April 30th Award** –presented to any club that has achieved 5 or 6 points in the Distinguished Club Plan by April 30<sup>th</sup> and has the requisite number of members to qualify for Distinguished.

**Select Distinguished by April 30th Award** – presented to any club that has achieved 7 or 8 points in the Distinguished Club Plan by April 30<sup>th</sup> and has the requisite number of members to qualify for Distinguished.

**President's Distinguished by April 30th Award** –presented to any club that has achieved 9 or 10 points in the Distinguished Club Plan by April 30<sup>th</sup> and has the requisite number of members to qualify for Distinguished.

**Terry Chinnery Award** – presented to the club with the greatest percentage increase in members from the previous April.

**Ted Nichols Award** – presented to the club with the greatest membership retention. The base membership on July 1 is the starting point and is compared to the membership after the April renewals with new members being taken into account. A club must have a minimum membership number of 20 to qualify.

**Wendy Harding Award for Member Engagement** – given to clubs that have 70% or more of their base membership achieve an educational award. The award is based on the number of members achieving Levels, not on the number of Levels achieved. Achievements by new members count.



**Marion Taylor, DTM** joined in March 2009. She belongs to 6 clubs, River Valley in Woodstock, Rise and Shine Advanced in Fredericton, Civil Speakers in Fredericton, Riverside Toastmasters in Fredericton, Beyond Toastmasters Advanced in Fredericton, and The Maine Thing Advanced Toastmasters in Augusta, Marine. For her District service for this DTM, Marion served as Area 19 Director. Her High Performance Leadership (HPL) project was to organize and host the Division C Speech Contest on Zoom. Marion said this was the perfect project for an HPL as a committee is needed to help with the planning and hosting and her committee was amazing. Marion says that one of the main lessons she has learned with her Toastmasters journey is that you are

never alone, you have friends out there that you may have not met yet, but they are there when you need them and during the pandemic, it is even more important to know you are not alone.

New DTM



## Why become a member of more than one club?



At Toastmasters we now have the chance to visit any club we want in any place in the world. In that way the pandemic gave us that chance. Being member in more than one club gives

you the opportunity to:

- Complete your program more rapidly
- Practice more roles during meetings
- Have more opportunities for being part of the club's officers
- Learn new ways of making your meeting more fun
- Learn from different speeches and different customs
- Make more friends for life
- Have new places to visit after the pandemic is over

The Acadian Peninsula's Toastmasters Clubs wish to invite you to any of our club's meetings. In our club you will meet welcoming Acadians and you will feel part of the group in one of our 2 francophone clubs from the Acadian Peninsula, either in Caraquet or Tracadie, New Brunswick.

If you are francophone in surrounded by English people, just come see us and you can speak French with fellow Toastmasters. We are here for you. Are you Anglophone and bilingual and want to learn more French? We're just the right place for that.

Info:

- Arcadie du Grand Caraquet, meetings are: Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. from 19h to 20h30, Please email: [tmarcadievped@gmail.com](mailto:tmarcadievped@gmail.com)  
ComMuniqueAcadie, meetings are: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, from 19h to 20h30, please email: [tmcommuniquaeacadie.pres@gmail.com](mailto:tmcommuniquaeacadie.pres@gmail.com)

Pierrette Haché, DTM, VPed Arcadie du Grand Caraquet--- Secretary ComMuniqueAcadie

## Things to Remember

Club elections should be held the first business meeting in May. The Chair of the Nominating Committee is usually the Immediate Past President. It's time to start thinking about succession and who will be on the executive for 2021 - 2022.

Talk to members to find out what officer positions they might be interested in. Find out if there are any barriers keeping them from offering for an executive position. Perhaps they feel they are too new. Look at what skills they bring from their work or from another organization that will be applicable to one of the officer roles.

Encourage members to take the challenge of becoming an officer. Talk to them about the benefits of being an officer and what they will learn. Offer to be a mentor to them.

Don't minimize the role. Let them know there are expectations for the role and it requires some commitment outside of the club meeting. Executive meetings and TLIs are two examples. Don't stop looking just because you have one candidate. Think how exciting the election would be if each position had two or more candidates!

After your election, submit the names of the new officers to TI. Also, send the names to your current Division Director. They need this to publicize the TLI as names are not available through TI until the end of July. Successful elections will start the club off on the right foot for the new year.

## TALK UP TOASTMASTERS

**Talk Up Toastmasters** begins today (February 1) and runs to March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are incentives offered by TI if you add 5 new, dual or reinstated members. District 45 is offering incentives in addition to those offered by TI. Those incentives are:

- ✓ \$25 District Dollars for clubs that gain 1 or 2 new members via a drawing. (6 winners).
- ✓ \$50 District Dollars for clubs that gain 3 or 4 new members via a drawing (6 winners).
- ✓ \$75 District Dollars for clubs that gain 5 or more new members via a drawing (6 winners).
- ✓ Membership Increase January to end of March - Clubs that increase their net membership (from the October dues) by 10% (rounded to the nearest full number) between January 1 and March 31 (with dues paid by March 31) will be awarded \$25 District Dollars.

## INCENTIVES

In the January newsletter, under incentives, it was announced that the District would pay up to \$25 for boosting an Open House event. It is up to you to determine what constitutes an Open House. The main thing is that you invite non-Toastmasters and ensure they are informed about the Toastmasters program during this event.

## ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

Please note that the newsletter is not a means for advertising your club. If you have a special event coming up, you can ask for a notice of this to be put in as an Upcoming Event. For advertising your club, you should use your own Facebook page and your Division Facebook page. If you want to tell us about something special your club did or tell us about a member of your club, submit it for the Around the District section and keep it relatively short.

## FREE SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING TO ALL TOASTMASTER MEMBERS

Our District 45 Marketing Chair, Micheal Pacitto will be hosting a series of 5 membership building training sessions beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The main purpose of the sessions is to focus on membership growth in your club without having to "sell".

***This is perfectly timed to help clubs achieve success in combination with the annual 'Talk Up Toastmasters' Membership Contest running from February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.***

As the CEO of a Digital Marketing Agency, Micheal will use his many years of experience to teach members how to use member achievements and club culture to grow their clubs.

The sessions WILL be recorded, but you will not want to miss the 'in person experience' in his highly interactive workshop sessions. There is a *valuable prize* draw for attendees! The recordings will all be shared in the Facebook group and on District 45's website.

To ask questions about social media and Club Growth, [CLICK HERE to join the membership growth Facebook group](#) where you will receive answers to all your membership growth questions, view others' questions and share best practices.

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have anything you would like to say about the newsletter or if you have any questions on the content, please send an email to [d45.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d45.newsletter@gmail.com). We also welcome articles for the newsletter. If your article relates to communication, leadership or the Toastmasters program, please submit it to [d45.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d45.newsletter@gmail.com). If you are submitting an article, please also send us a picture, preferable a headshot. We reserve the right to include the article in any issue of the newsletter and to edit as needed.

Concord Toastmasters held its club International Speech contest on January 8 with six contestants! Competing were members Sylvie Couture, Ingrid Dinter, Rick Dymont, Donna Moore, Viju Natarjan, and Paul Coddington. Speeches ranged from remembrance of life lessons passed on from elders to what we are missing during the pandemic. The winning speech, by Sylvie Couture, was titled “A Dog and His Boy” and recounted her son’s desire to buy the dog of his dreams. This is an amazing feat by Sylvie as she has recently returned to the Toastmasters program after a several-year hiatus. We are proud to have her represent the club at the upcoming area contest.

Many visitors have found the Concord Toastmasters’ weekly meeting time of 7 AM to be a hurdle to participation. This seems the right time to recognize the exceptional commitment of a member from two time zones away. Debby Adair, through the magic of technology and will power, logs in at 5 AM to be an active participant of the club. With (almost) no grumbling she joins us from Utah and continues to serve as an inspiration. Thank you Debby!

Concord Toastmasters has two upcoming contests - Evaluation Contest on February 5, and the Tall Tales Contest on March 12. We ALWAYS welcome guests!



Club International Speech winner, Sylvie Couture



Debby Adair

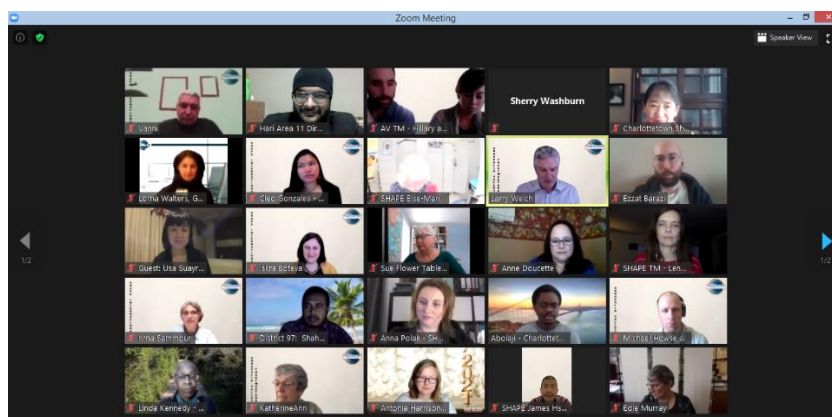
On Monday, January 18, 2021, Division A, Area 12 held an area-wide Toastmaster meeting. This was an opportunity to meet members from other clubs, share ideas, and have fun! The theme of the meeting was “What Have You Been Reading?” Members enjoyed it so much, they plan do it again! These folks hail from Horseshoe Pond TM, Capital TM, Pleasant Street TM, Karner Blue TM, and Spellbinders chartered in Concord, New Hampshire.



The international cooperative meet with four different club, including one from Belgium, went well today. We had many participants from Europe, Asia and North America. All expressed positive vibes through their experience. Thanks to the club officers who pulled this together. The following clubs were part of the joint meet.

1. SHAPE Toastmasters (Mons, Belgium)
2. Annapolis Valley Toastmasters
3. Charlottetown Toastmasters
4. Dal Toastmasters.

There was one speaker from each club. Abolaji Ogunmola from Charlottetown Toastmasters spoke from the Persuasive Speaking project of Level 3 of Presentation Mastery. The speech was *How to Stay Positive in an Unpleasant Situation*. James Hsiao from SHAPE Toastmasters in Belgium gave an Icebreaker from the Effective Coaching Path. His speech was *E Pluribus Unum*. The third speaker was Carrie May from Annapolis Valley Toastmasters. Carrie spoke from Level 2 of the Dynamic Leadership Path. Her speech, *The Magic of One*, was for the Introduction to Mentoring project. The final speaker was Ahmad Almallah from Dal Toastmasters. Ahmad presented an elective project, Connect with Storytelling, from Level 3 of the Motivational Strategies Path. His speech was titled *Different People, Different Journeys*.



Tic Talkers #9307 will be holding an Open House on February 24. Having not met for six months after the start of Covid-19, the club has resumed meetings and is in the rebuilding process. Tic Talkers meets at noon Atlantic time every Wednesday. The club would appreciate you letting anyone who is interested in a noon time meeting about the Open House. Check the club website at [tictalkers.ca](http://tictalkers.ca).



## Around the District – Division G

In December, Savvy Speakers Club, based in Barre, Vermont, celebrated this milestone. District Director Jonathan Bohm joined us as well as a few other guests. Margaret has been involved at the club, area, division and district levels helping with TLIs, conferences, and most importantly with this club since 1995! Margaret served as a District officer and was a great help with the District 45 conference held in Montpelier, VT in 2008. At that conference, Margaret was awarded the Dave Rosvall award for long-term, meritorious service to the District above the club level. Thank you, and Congratulations, Margaret, and here's to another 25!



## DISTRICT 45 IN THE PANDEMIC – HOW WE’ VE GROWN

Toastmasters International? Now members can visit clubs around the world and welcome visitors from around the world. Some members have even judged contests in another part of the world. As you take advantage of this opportunity, you will be exposed to new ideas you can bring back to your club. Realizing that the world is small broadens our experience and makes us better world citizens, and all this can be had from your own desk.

Online meetings can be more efficient, too. Evaluators and speakers can't rely on a few rushed words before an in-person meeting, forcing advanced communication and greater clarity. While we all miss the social camaraderie of meeting face-to-face, many clubs are opening their meetings half an hour earlier, or staying after the meeting adjourns, for some online chat.

We have all grown, individually and collectively during this strange and unsettling time. I am sure that we will continue to grow, to thrive, and ultimately blossom, for in the words of the Indian author Amit Ray, "Life throws challenges and every challenge comes with rainbows and lights to conquer it."

Anniversaries



Of the 1,300 members in our District, only 29.5% have been a member for at least 5 years, 15.5% have been a member for at least 10 years and almost 8% have been a member for 15 years or more. Each month we will celebrate those members who celebrating an anniversary in that month. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> etc. anniversaries will be recognized. The following are celebrating their anniversary with the club noted in **February**.

Name	Club	# of Years
Ralph Miller	Capital Toastmasters, Horseshoe Pond	20
Moranda Van Geest	Sussex Toastmasters Club	20
Catherine Lawrence	Civil Speakers Club	15
Brenda Saunders/Todd	Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters	15
Lindsey Liezert	Sears-Halifax Club, Successfully Speaking Women	15
Claudette Joseph	Speech Afire Advanced Toastmasters	15
Diane Winter	Penmen Toastmasters	10
Evan Clinton	Lakes Region Toastmasters	10
Carol Dixon	Riverside Toastmasters	10
Mavis Oliva Rodriguez	Hub City Toastmasters	10
Bruce Overton	Millyard Toastmasters	5
Linda Nutter-Krantz	TM of Manchester Club	5
Janine Talbot	Blueberry Hill Club	5
Nancy Munroe	Blueberry Hill Club	5
Cito Cruz	Kennebec Valley Toastmasters	5
Devansh Bavishi	Mid Day Toastmasters	5
Lorri Menard	Merrimasters, Nashua-Hudson, Souhegan Speakers and Leadership Club	5
Patricia Henderson	Merrimasters Toastmasters	5
Warren Coolidge	Champ Masters, TM of Greater Burlington	5
Cynthia Lee	Champ Masters, Green Mountain, Savvy Speakers	5



Clubs celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their club charter are recognized. Once a club has reached the **half-century mark**, every anniversary is included and celebrated. The following clubs are celebrating significant anniversaries in the month of **FEBRUARY**.

**Sears-Halifax #1555** of Halifax, NS chartered **65** years ago on February 1, 1956

**Annapolis Valley #8104** of Greenwood, NS chartered **30** years ago on February 1, 1991

**Lakes Region #142183** of Moultonboro, NH chartered **10** years ago on February 24, 2011

Every month, members who have achieved designations Pathways are recognized. Some members, however, are not getting the recognition they deserve because of the privacy settings they have chosen. If you are not sure what you have chosen, log in and go to your profile. Click on privacy and consent. The final item says "Your Name on Public Reports". If you have indicated no to this setting, only your member number and club shows on the reports indicating any achievement you may have earned. This means you can't be recognized publicly by the District. Get the recognition you deserve. Change your setting to this consent to YES. There are currently 30 achievements not recognized because consent has not been given.

## Level 1 – January 2021

Name	Club	Designation
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	IP1
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PI1
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM1
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	VC1
Ahmad Almallah	Dal Toastmasters	MS1
Manuelle Beaudry-Sylvestre	Dal Toastmasters	PM1
Jennifer Bryson	Premiere Toastmasters	DL1
Hoang Bui	Millyard Toastmasters	PM1
Henry Chung	MDI Toastmasters	PM1
Paul Coddington	Concord Toastmasters	VC1
Denise Colon	2211 Toastmasters	PI1
Horace Crozier	Speak-Easy Toastmasters	LD1
John Paul Cyr	East Hants Toastmasters	LD1
Jeffrey Doucet	Beyond Toastmasters	PM1
Loretta Dutill	Ecotoasters Club	DL1
Tracy Gatis	Sears-Halifax Club	VC1
Laural Gay	Dynamic Speakers Club	EC1
Gordon Green.	River Valley Toastmasters	EC1
Aidan Gregory	Kennebec Valley Toastmasters	SR1
JoAnn Hollingsworth	Dynamic Speakers Club	EC1
Julie Johnston	Toast Of The Valley Club	PM1
Robert Lee.	Rising Tide Toastmasters	EC1
Shirley Li	Charlottetown Toastmasters Breakfast Club	DL1
Sheila Oranch	White Mountain Toastmasters	VC1
Joseph Reid P	White Mountain Toastmasters	IP1
Cynthia Sarvai	Millyard Toastmasters	PM1
William Shaw	MDI Toastmasters	PM1
David Stonehouse	Saint John Club	VC1
Tom Waddell	Kennebec Valley Toastmasters	PM1
JoAnne Wood	MDI Toastmasters	PM1

## Level 2 – January 2021

Name	Club	Designation
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	IP2
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PI2
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM2
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	VC2
Ahmad Almallah	Dal Toastmasters	MS2
Wendell Barney	Dynamic Speakers Club	PM2
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM2
Ronald Crawford	River Valley Toastmasters	LD2
Ito Damola-Aina	Premiere Toastmasters	IP2
Hariprashanth Deivasigamani	Dal Toastmasters	EH2
Jeremy DeMerchant	Beyond Toastmasters	PM2
Richard Dymant	Concord Toastmasters	PM@
Joseph Grondin	True Blue Toastmasters	EH2
Denise Haché	ComMunique Acadie	EC2
Joseph Hui	Schooner Toastmasters	IP2
Julie Johnston	Toast Of The Valley Club	PM2
Deborah Kumpf	Lakes Region Toastmasters	EH2
Joseph Reid	White Mountain Toastmasters Club	IP2

## Trailblazer Award – January 2021

Name	Club
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters
Anne Doucette	Spotlight Toastmasters
Robert Maguire	Lakes Region Toastmasters
Ruth Omodayo	Provincially Speaking Toastmasters
Cynthia Sarvai	Millyard Toastmasters

## Mentoring Path Completion – January 2021

Name	Club
Bob Bechtold	MDI Toastmasters

## Legacy Awards – January 2021

Name	Club
Marion Taylor (ALS and DTM)	Riverside Toastmasters



## Member Awards

## Level 3 – January 2021

Name	Club	Designation
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	IP3
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM3
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	VC3
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM3
Bob Bechtold	MDI Toastmasters	IP3
Betsy Black	Concord Toastmasters Club	EH3
Sallie Boggs.	MDI Toastmasters	IP3
Vanessa Buys	MDI Toastmasters	PM3
Colt Cash	River Talkers Toastmasters	DL3
Roni Davis	Cape Breton Toastmasters	EC3
Jeremy DeMerchant	Beyond Toastmasters	PM3
Anne Doucette.	Spotlight Toastmasters Club	MS3
Carl Duivenvoorden	Civil Speakers Club	EC3
John Durfee	Dynamic Speakers Club	IP3
Kevin Faux	Cole Harbour Toastmasters	PM3
Denise Haché	ComMunique Acadie	EC3
Scott MacMillan	Provincially Speaking Toastmasters	IP3
Robert Maguire	Lakes Region Toastmasters	PM3
Cynthia Sarvai	Millyard Toastmasters	MS3
Patricia Saucier	The Maine Thing Advanced Toastmasters	MS3
Donna Tasker.	Blueberry Hill Club	MS3
Elise Thorsen	Savvy Speakers	IP3

## Level 4 – January 2021

Name	Club	Designation
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	IP4
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM4
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	VC4
Bob Bechtold	MDI Toastmasters	IP4
Andrea Jeffs	Provincially Speaking Toastmasters	IP4
Thom Lessard	2211 Toastmasters	IP4
Ruth Omodayo	Provincially Speaking Toastmasters	PM4

## Level 5 – January 2021

Name	Club	Designation
Ezzat Al Barazi	Dal Toastmasters	PM5
Manju Basnet	Beyond Toastmasters	MS5
Bob Bechtold	MDI Toastmasters	IP5
Jennifer Bryson	Premiere Toastmasters Club	LD5
Christopher Solarski	Cole Harbour Toastmasters	MS5
Beverly Stoddart	Winning Speakers	PM5

## Upcoming Events – Sharing Stories

**Sharing Stories** is the theme for the 2021 District 45 Annual Conference. Presenters will have the opportunity to share stories and their knowledge through formal presentations. Watch for information on some presenters in the March issue of the newsletter. You will have the opportunity to share your stories through the various networking events that will be held. In addition to the hospitality gatherings, there will be breakout rooms where you can go to connect with other members in attendance.

As usual, there will be the three speech contests. Who will rise to the top in Humorous and Evaluation? Who will represent the District in the Region quarter-finals? These contests are events you don't want to miss.

Last year, for the first time, we held a Candidate's Showcase. This will be held again this year but with a slightly different format. Each candidate will be asked questions that they will not have in advance. All candidates for a given office will be asked the same questions. However, the questions may differ for each office. This is a great way to get to know the candidates better and help you with your decision at election time on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are currently searching for a keynote speaker. We had thought that our International Director Stefano McGhee would be our keynote speaker. Unfortunately, that will not be able to happen. It might be a Past International President or it might be a World Championship of Public Speaking. Stay tuned to the newsletter, the Facebook page and the website for an announcement of our keynote speaker. The excitement is building.

To make this online conference a success, we need **your** help. We want this conference to be innovative, engaging and educational. We are looking for committee chairs and volunteers for the various committees. The committees are:

### **Public Relations Chair**

Promotes conference through newsletter articles, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as occasion Constant Contact emails

### **Technical Chair**

Responsible for coordinating technical aspects of awards, engagement, speech contests, etc.

### **Artistic Chair**

Works with technical chair and conference chair to develop an overall "look" for the conference

### **Registration Chair**

Coordinates registration including acknowledging registrations and informing Finance Manager of amount collected

### **Engagement Chair**

Develops ways to engage members between sessions through networking and games

If you are interested in serving or chairing one of these committees, please contact the conference chair [Candice Buell](#).

## DISTRICT 45 WINTER TLIs FEBRUARY 2021

### What is a TLI?

The Toastmasters Leadership Institute is training for Toastmasters. While it is designed to help officers learn the skills needed to lead their club, all Toastmasters will benefit from attending. These training opportunities will energize you and arm you with the tools needed to continue to lead your club to reaching their goals! Club officers are required to attend one full session (a and b). You can mix and match the sessions. For example, you could attend Session 1a and 3b or any other mix. You **MUST** attend all required breakouts plus one optional breakout to qualify as being trained. If you hold more than one club office, you must attend the officer breakout training for each office to get credit for that office. When 4 or more officers attend both the summer and winter training sessions, clubs receive credit toward the Distinguished Club Program.

### Why should you attend?

This is a **FREE** event that you can attend from the comfort of your own home. Join us virtually for topics and inspiration that you can take back to re-energize your clubs. Hear from talented speakers on topics that will help you learn and grow and will put you in a better position to support the members of your club. Attending a TLI is a great way to network and share ideas! Hear what others from across the District are doing and share your own success stories.

### Sessions

Session 1 was held in January. The dates for the upcoming sessions in February are as follows:

Session 3a: February 6, 2021 (9:00 am ET / 10:00 am AT)

Session 3b: February 6, 2021 (12:00 pm ET / 1 pm AT)

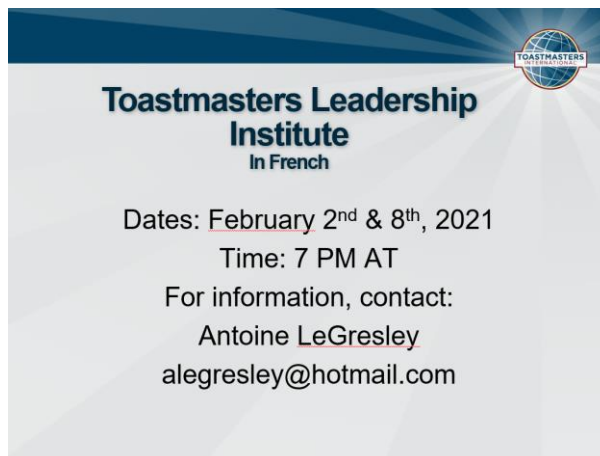
Session 4a: February 13, 2021 (9:00 am ET / 10:00 am AT)

Session 4b: February 13, 2021 (12:00 pm ET / 1 pm AT)

Session 5a: February 14, 2021 (6:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm AT)

Session 5b: February 18, 2021 ((6:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm AT)

More details will be forthcoming. Check the website often and watch for Constant Contact emails from the District.



**Toastmasters Leadership  
Institute**  
In French

Dates: February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Time: 7 PM AT  
For information, contact:  
Antoine LeGresley  
alegresley@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events – Facebook Live

**FACEBOOK LIVE**

Speech Afire Advanced Toastmasters was founded in 2018 as a hybrid club where some members were in Moncton, NB and others were remote. It was an incredible experience and very different skills were developed since presenting to people in person is different from presenting to people online and even more so, presenting to people in person and online!

Obviously with the current situation, we meet online using Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 am Atlantic / 9:30 am Eastern. Our meetings last until 12 pm.

Please read our member profiles and won't you consider attending one of our meetings? If you're thinking of pushing yourself to become a great speaker and leader, we are the club for you!! The meetings on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and Feb 27<sup>th</sup> will be on Facebook Live. People can go to the club's Facebook page for the event (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/speechafiretm>).

Website: [Speechafire.toastmastersclubs.org](http://Speechafire.toastmastersclubs.org).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SpeechAfire](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SpeechAfire)

Email: [SpeechAfire@gmail.com](mailto:SpeechAfire@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**65 YEARS AND GOING STRONG**

For 65 years, Sears-Halifax Toastmasters has empowered individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders through integrity, respect, service, and excellence. We have provided a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills.

This is how we have stayed strong for 65 years!

Register through the link & join us for our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! <http://bit.ly/2KuukEn>



# District Calendar

## February Events

- 6<sup>th</sup> – TLI Session 3a and 3b, 9 am ET / 10 am AT
  - 13<sup>th</sup> – TLI Session 4a and 4b, 9 am ET / 10 am AT
  - 16<sup>th</sup> – TLI Session 5a, 6:30 pm ET / 7:30 pm AT
  - 18<sup>th</sup> - TLI Session 5b, 6:30 pm ET / 7:30 pm AT
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – Division E Humorous Speech Contest, 10 am AT
  - 28<sup>th</sup> – Preparing for Club Elections webinar, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
- Second Round Area Directors visits continue

## March Events

- 6<sup>th</sup> – Area 2 Evaluation and International Speech Contests, 10 am ET
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
  - 13<sup>th</sup> – Area 18 contests, 10 am AT
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – Area 21 contests, 10 am AT
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – Area 9 contests, 10 am AT
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – Joint Area 7 and 25 contests, Time TBD
  - 21<sup>st</sup> – Area 11 contests, 10 am AT
  - 27<sup>th</sup> – Area 1 contests, 10 am AT
  - 28<sup>th</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
- Second Round Area Directors visits continue

## April Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Division C International Speech Contest
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Division B, International Speech and Evaluation contests, 10 am ET
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – Fireside Chat, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
  - 16<sup>th</sup> – Division D Humorous and Evaluation contests, 7 pm AT
  - 17<sup>th</sup> – Division E Evaluation and International Speech Contests, 10 am AT
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> – Division D International Speech Contest, 7 pm AT
  - 24<sup>th</sup> – Division G contests, 10 am ET
  - 28<sup>th</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
- Second Round Area Directors visits completed

## May Events

- May 13 – 16, District 45 Annual Conference including District Council meeting, Humorous Speech Contest, Evaluation contest and International Speech Contest
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT

## June Events

- 11<sup>th</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT
- 27<sup>th</sup> – District webinar TBD, 7 pm ET / 8 pm AT

For Updated Events and Times, go to the District Calendar at <https://d45toastmasters.org/>

Newsletter Publisher – Jonathan Bohm, DTM  
[d45.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d45.newsletter@gmail.com)