

District 16

Oklahoma Toastmasters

Monthly Newsletter

September 2022

What's inside?

District News & Events

Be the Speaker and Leader You Want to Be



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Recognition for Awards Earned in July & August



Get To Know The Trio

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TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS



WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE



Toastmasters International Core Values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Excellence

Greetings from Mike Kirkland

THE NEW DISTRICT 16 DIRECTOR



WHAT GOAL WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR?

I just completed my 10-year anniversary in Toastmasters on August 1, 2022. A personal Toastmasters goal is to obtain Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) on the Pathways format. A collective Toastmasters goal I have for District 16 is two-fold – retention and new growth.



WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT TOASTMASTERS HAS TAUGHT YOU?

This will sound clique – but recently in a Toastmasters training I learned about the platinum rule, “Treat others as they’d like to be treated.” All my life, I have been taught and tried to live by the golden rule, “We treat other people the way we liked to be treated” and knew nothing about the platinum rule. Through discussion and analysis, the Toastmasters’ training gave me an opportunity to learn more about “The Platinum Rule.” This discussion changed how I will do things going forward. It also changed my perspective on being a leader and how I view priorities. I encourage everyone to [click this link](#) to read the article by Eugene Sicat, Program Quality Director from District 42, to learn more about the platinum rule.



WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF TOASTMASTERS?

My personal priorities in life are in this order - God, family, job, and Toastmasters. Like most people, I juggle prioritizing and finding balance in these areas. I love reading the bible, small group discussions, and spending time with my family. We travel a lot supporting my daughter and her soccer teams. It’s so fun, exciting, and at times very stressful. It’s all part of a Soccer dad’s DNA. I also enjoy reading, keeping up to date on information technology, security and usage. And of course, attending Toastmasters events. We live in a fast-paced society where many things demand attention and need to be taken care of. Even though, at times, events for Toastmasters have my focus, effort and move towards the top of my priorities, it’s only for a short time. I work hard to ensure that I keep my big picture prioritized to fit my life and beliefs.

THE VISION

From Our District 16 Director

Retention Goal:

My goal for retention is that each club works hard to retain each and every member they have. Our goal for retention should be 100%. That means keep every member we currently have. Every Toastmaster, in each club can make this happen using a new initiative I named the "Calls of Caring." The "Calls of Caring" work by having each club member make 3 phone calls or meet face-to-face with previous members with lapsed memberships up to 5 years prior. A personal touch is essential in building and keeping relationships alive. We must show that we care about our former members as human beings first and Toastmasters second.



Suggestions for "Calls of Caring":

First, be a good listener. Let them tell you how their life is going - the good, the bad, and the ugly. Next, tell them how we miss their smile, humor, wit and spark, or what they do well. Third, invite them to come back as guests to help the club, its members, and to become a part of our social circle. Finally, after 3-5 meetings if the situation warrants, ask them back as members.



Remember, if you know they are not in a good place - let them know that we value them, ask them to keep coming back, and thank them for being a part of the club. Having a consistent, experienced, knowledgeable person participate in a club meeting does wonders to increase proficiency, excitement, and the quality of a club meeting.

VISION

From Our District 16 Director Continued

Growth Goal:

Because it's the year 2022, my goal for growth within District 16 is to increase by 22 new clubs. Impossible some would say, but I know that it is something we can and will do. In our last three years, we lost 17, 15, and 17 clubs, respectively. But things are turning around! We have leaders and members who are fired up about creating positive change. The dark period is a snapshot of our District 16 history. As such, history is not something we should erase, but something we must learn from. We strive to not repeat the bad and learn from the good to rebuild stronger and better.



Practical Examples:

We can extend the “Calls of Caring” to guests so that they can potentially become new members, and thus contribute to the growth of our district. Our goal is to increase membership by at least 40% across the district. It sounds like a lot, but it is very doable. It is the model used daily by Toastmasters. For example, if a club has 8 members, a 40% increase in membership is 3.2 members. Because we serve whole members, let's say the club adds 4 members. This is an increase of 50% in membership!



Another example is if a club has 20 members, and they would like to increase their membership by 40%, they will add 8 members. If the club achieves this goal, they will also have the added benefit of receiving 2 points towards the Distinguished Club Program!



From Our District 16 Director Continued

Growth for New Clubs Across the District:

People want and need to be a part of something greater than themselves. People want to do good! And when challenged, they step up and meet the challenge head on for things they believe in. For example, during a TLI, I told our Toastmasters about our decreasing membership trends, and the possible and real danger that the long proud heritage of District 16 could come to an end. District 16 could be dissolved and merged with another district if membership continued to decline. I got a resounding response from our members that they wanted District 16 to be its own district and that they would do what it takes to make it happen. The moment was heartwarming and overwhelming! Character is built when we are faced with adversity. We persevere, grow, and move forward.



Hope for the Future:

As a District, we have NEVER faced this kind of adversity in our long history! We must overcome, learn, grow, and do things the right way. When we do this, we will earn and achieve success together. What better way is there for District 16, and our members, then to grow, rebound, and regain our pride together? We will recreate our past successes by helping others to improve their public speaking and leadership skills.



When we help others, we help ourselves to grow, become better teammates, members, leaders and most importantly, better people. Because we are striving to grow new bilingual, tribal, corporate, and community clubs, the future of District 16 looks very bright. As a district, I firmly believe that we are in the right place at the right time. We don't know why things happen sometimes, but we must have faith. We must also believe that the opportunities that present themselves to help, will aid us in becoming better together.



From Our District 16 Director Continued

New Initiative:

We have a new platinum opportunity! I started an initiative to form a partnership with Native American tribes/nations in Oklahoma to help create Toastmasters clubs. The clubs will serve youth, middle-aged and older adults. By being a part of Toastmasters, they will become better speakers, leaders and improve their communication skills. We will create bilingual Native American Toastmasters clubs to help them keep their heritage alive, promote it, and regain their title of “Storytellers.” Each tribe is a part of the “original storytellers.” Storytelling is a skill and art that Toastmasters and tribes can work together to build and enhance.



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As Oklahomans and Toastmasters, we have a duty and obligation to grow Toastmasters clubs. We can also help each tribe in Oklahoma to become a part of Toastmasters so that we can both grow, develop and tell “OUR” story together.

Greetings From Chandra Nandikolla



The New Program Quality Director

Greetings, members of District 16! It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Program Quality Director this year.

I have been a Toastmaster since November 2011. I love Toastmasters because this is one such space where learning happens in a real-time environment. I use Toastmasters' principles - integrity, respect, service, and excellence in all aspects of my life. Toastmasters helped me hone and enhance my skills within a competitive and healthy environment.

I believe the three main competencies of career and personal growth are leadership, public speaking, and communication. In spite of the fact that many schools and colleges strive to teach these competencies, Toastmasters' place is the best teacher of all.

It's all about serving the members! Strong leadership teams are the foundation of vibrant clubs that provide a supportive and positive learning experience for members who want to develop their skills and feel more self-confident.



Using our oral communication skills effectively ensures that our voices will be heard. Now more than ever, this is extremely critical. The nurturing of ourselves, our families, friends, and colleagues creates a network of support that can assist us in overcoming any obstacles we may face. We grow in every aspect of our lives when we achieve our goals and create new ones each time.



Chandra holds a master's degree in computer science from New Jersey Inst. of Technology and is also a graduate student with a Master of Business Administration degree from the Price School of Business at the University of Oklahoma.

Chandra is also a member of the Tulsa Hindu Temple board of trustees and serves as its treasurer. Enjoy your learning experience! We can achieve growth and success in District 16 and let's do it.



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A CLOSER LOOK

Q&A With the New Program Quality Director



WHAT GOAL WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR?

Let's encourage each other to finish the year strong! Keep the Promise. Meet the Challenge. Achieve Distinguished or Select Distinguished District.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT TOASTMASTERS HAS TAUGHT YOU?

Toastmasters has provided me with the skills and confidence to express myself effectively in any situation, as well as helped me to improve my listening abilities.



WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF TOASTMASTERS?

Besides Toastmasters, Chandra reads philosophy books, travels, cruises, listens to soft rock and Indian classical music, watches prominent people interviews, cooks spicy food, plays chess, tennis, and plays with his children.

Greetings from Theodore Ross

The New Club Growth Director

Theodore L. Ross was born and raised in Oklahoma City. He calls Toastmasters the equalizer because he was 49 years old when he joined. Life has been challenging for a lack of confidence in his career and personal life.

Since joining Toastmasters in 2015, he has gained self-confidence and a willingness to grow in other areas that he never considered attempting before Toastmasters. One of his greatest achievements in Toastmasters is the ability to care for others and their interests. Toastmasters is a place where you work on making yourself a better person and then sharing that new person with everyone you come in contact with.



In Toastmasters, Theodore receives life training on communication and leadership. It is not something he does, it is his lifestyle. Being part of an organization that helps improve your skills and abilities, along with the opportunity to give it right back to those who are following you. He is thankful to his Lord and Savior for the opportunity to be a part of such an awesome organization.



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Greetings from _____

The New Education Chair



District 16 Education Committee is focused on the empowerment of our members by providing quality training. Please share your interested topics that will benefit you and your club. We encourage everyone to participate in all the trainings. We look forward to your support and participations.

Praveen Nagarajan _____



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL DISTRICT 16
MEMBERS WHO EARNED AN EDUCATION
AWARD IN JULY & AUGUST 2022!**



*"Understanding comes
through communication, and
through communication we
find the way to peace."*

Ralph C. Smedley
Founder of Toastmasters International

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Educational ACHIEVEMENTS

July 2022

- Aaron Tucker, Leaders Advantage *
- Alina Joaca-Bine, Storytellers Collective
- Ben Newby, Broken Arrow Club *
- Bob Hibbert, Conoma Toastmasters Club
- Brian Hough, Mid-Del Toastmasters Club
- Cheryl Johnson, Second Amendment Toastmasters
- Christina Shults, Early Risers Club
- Darren Lyons, Early Risers Club
- Denise Keys, Conoma Toastmasters Club
- DeWayne Mitchell, Distinguished Toastmasters
- Diana Emerson, Speaking Up
- Don Engle, Second Amendment Toastmasters
- Dwight Yenser, Speaking Up *
- Gary Howell, Conoma Toastmasters Club
- Harmony Branson, Speaking Up
- Jagger Coltharp, Broken Arrow Club *
- Jay Laughlin, Early Risers Club
- Jeffrey J. Halpin, Uptown Toastmasters Club
- Jenifer Randle, Early Risers Club
- John Robertson, Sooner Toastmasters Club *
- John W. Jennings, Tower Club
- Keith Trolinger, Conoma Toastmasters Club
- Kenneth Freeman, Let's Talk Club
- Kristopher Snyder, Speaking Up
- Kyle Roberts, Tower Club
- Michael Phillips, Speaking Up *

*Member Achieved Multiple Awards in July



Educational ACHIEVEMENTS

July 2022

- Molly Van Auken, Broken Arrow Club
- Orsolya Kereszty, Storytellers Collective
- Philip Monhaut, Tower Club
- Randy Schreier, Early Risers Club
- Rebecca Helt, Second Amendment Toastmasters
- Rob Trotter, Sooner Toastmasters Club
- Ronald Mixer, PCBC Toastmasters *
- Sandra Bach, Praxis Toastmasters Club
- Shareca Thompson, Speaking Up *
- Sonya Blackwell, Let's Talk Club
- Susan Phillips, Speaking Up *
- Theodore L. Ross, Conoma Toastmasters Club *
- Theresa Dugan, Jenks America Toastmasters Club
- Tina Streit, Mid-Del Toastmasters Club *
- Tira Moore, Let's Talk Club
- Tonya Smith, Torchlighters Club
- Towana Wadlow, Speaking Up
- Tracey Johnson, Storytellers Collective
- Wiline Stevenson, Let's Talk Club

*Member Achieved Multiple Awards in July



TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Educational ACHIEVEMENTS

August 2022

- Angela Barnes, Let's Talk Club
- Anthony C. Thomas, Uptown Toastmasters Club
- Cheryl Johnson, Second Amendment Toastmasters *
- Curt Maas, Mid-Del Toastmasters Club
- Diana F. Hughes, Mid-Del Toastmasters Club
- Grady Stephens, Broken Arrow Club *
- J.D. Johnson, Distinguished Toastmasters
- James M. Shaffer, Express Masters
- Jessica A. Mack, PCBC Toastmasters
- Karl Wenzel, Professionally Speaking At American Fidelity
- Kathleen Watkins, Let's Talk Club
- Keith Trolinger, Conoma Toastmasters Club
- Kristopher Snyder, Speaking Up
- Olga Hill, Penn Square Toastmasters Club
- Pamela J. Martin, Speaking Up
- Philip Monhaut, Tower Club
- Randy Schreier, Early Risers Club
- Ray Willis, Meinders School of Business Toastmasters *
- Ray Willis, Mid-Del Toastmasters Club
- Sonya Blackwell, Let's Talk Club
- Steve Copeland, Distinguished Toastmasters
- Susan Phillips, Second Amendment Toastmasters
- Terry Burton, Tulsa Club *
- Teva Thomas, Express Masters
- Walter Hansmann, Torchlighters Club
- Wanda Olsen, Tulsa Club *

*Member Achieved Multiple Awards in August

DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM GOALS

EDUCATION

1. Four Level 1 awards achieved
2. Two Level 2 awards achieved
3. Two more Level 2 awards achieved
4. Two Level 3 awards achieved
5. One Level 4, Path Completion, or DTM award achieved
6. One more Level 4, Path Completion, or DTM award achieved

MEMBERSHIP

7. FOUR NEW, DUAL, OR REINSTATING MEMBERS
8. FOUR MORE NEW, DUAL, OR REINSTATING MEMBERS

TRAINING

9. A MINIMUM OF FOUR CLUB OFFICER ROLES TRAINED DURING EACH OF THE TWO TRAINING PERIODS

ADMINISTRATION

10. ON-TIME PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES ACCOMPANIED BY THE NAMES OF EIGHT MEMBERS

(AT LEAST THREE OF WHOM MUST BE RENEWING MEMBERS)

FOR ONE PERIOD AND ON-TIME SUBMISSION OF ONE CLUB OFFICER LIST

TO READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE DCP PROGRAM [CLICK HERE](#)



Smedley Award

Program Dates: August 1 – September 30

Membership Building Program

Details:

The "Smedley Award" membership program is the chance to encourage your members to invite guests and promote the benefits of Toastmasters. Add five new, dual or reinstated members with a join date between August 1 and September 30, and you'll receive a special "Smedley Award" ribbon to display on your club's banner. Qualifying clubs also earn a special discount code for 10-percent off your next club order.

UPCOMING EVENTS



DEC MEETING

Saturday, September 10th from 9:00am-1:00pm

DEC training is for Area Directors and Division Directors to review the District budget and District Success Plan. The DEC is composed of Area Directors, Division Directors, Trio and key District Support Staff. The Zoom information will be emailed soon.

DC MEETING

Saturday, September 24th 9:00am-1:00pm

The District Council meeting is to review and approve District 16's budget to be submitted to TI for approval. All Club Presidents, Vice Presidents, and DEC members are expected to attend. All District 16 Toastmasters are welcomed and encouraged to attend. The Zoom information will be emailed soon.




TOASTMASTERS
PATHWAYS
— learning experience —

TRAINING

Training will be scheduled in September

District 16 is inviting you to join the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience, an exciting, flexible, and interactive way to develop your skills and help others in your club develop theirs. Pathways helps you learn communication and leadership skills.

Friendly Reminders

District Incentives Coming Soon!

#1



#2



Submit your club officer list

Would you like to be included in future newsletters? Please submit your requests to the District 16 education committee. We would love to publish your club's accomplishments or help promote your open houses.

#3

