



Yuriy Ksenidi, VC3

2024-2025 Club Growth Director
District 35
email: warhawkforlife@gmail.com

May 3, 2025

Good afternoon District 35 Toastmasters:

It is hard to believe that we are only eight weeks away from end of the Toastmasters year on June 30. The past ten months have been a flurry of activity, and it can be difficult to put it in perspective. Let me offer a few highlights of where we are as a District as of April 21, 2025:

- 71 out of 79 clubs (our base on July 1, 2024) have at least eight paid members through September
- Eight clubs have 20 or more members.
- 235 new members joined clubs since July 1, 2024 (resulting in 352 new membership payments)
- 32 Clubs gained four members (met DCP Goal #7)
- Of these 32 clubs, nine clubs gained an additional four (or more) members (met DCP Goal #8)
- 15 clubs gained three members and are one member away from meeting DCP Goal #7
- Ten clubs have met the membership requirement to be considered for Distinguished Status

Let me also go beyond the numbers. In my Fall 2024 Club Growth Director Report, I shared with you the idea of learning through leadership: a habit of supporting any organization you are part of, while learning to do things differently and seeking continuous improvement. One example is turning fear into a gift to yourself and then overcoming that fear through practice. Then helping another person to do the same and encouraging them to help the next person.

In the same report, I also shared with you one of my biggest fears: cold calling. Since that day, I have been working to become comfortable with cold calling in the unrelentless quest to build a Toastmasters club. Along the way I improved my creative thinking, relationship building, and active listening skills. I got to meet Club Growth Directors from other Districts in the USA and the world. Likewise, leading the Club Growth team has taught me the importance of timely communication, delegation, and encouraging people to apply their strengths to meet a goal.

Certainly, there have been plenty of bumps in the road. My first lead flamed out 24 hours after the initial conversation happened. Many of the leads I had several conversations with faded away. However, through persistence, research and yes, pure luck, I am happy to report that I have two promising leads that I plan to turn into a club or at least hand off to the next CGD. My goal of having every one of the 72 counties in WI with at least one club is still alive. As I mentioned in the Fall, club building is a long-term project, and together we can make sure there is a Toastmasters club nearby, no matter where a person lives.

There is plenty of time left to give more people the opportunity to realize their potential. I encourage you to keep working toward your goals and support your club for the next eight weeks and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Yuriy Ksenidi
2024-2025 Club Growth Director
District 35