



District Director Report

September 20, 2015

You've heard about some of the challenges that exist across our District and you've heard about some significant changes coming down the road, and you've approved our budget so we have additional tools to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. There's a lot going on, but I want to help each of you focus on the main thing.

The main thing is helping each member of each club reach their goals.

In general, most of us want to communicate better. And to that end, it means scheduling and giving speeches, and receiving actionable feedback. Developing new communication skills doesn't happen by writing a check or hitting self-pay buttons. It happens by signing up on the agenda, writing and practicing your speech, and giving it in your club. And that skill typically has a shelf life. If you aren't practicing the presentation skills we develop, they're going to atrophy, and you may not show yourselves in your best light if you're not maintaining these skills. Give a speech every six months. Give speeches and update your Pathways. Take credit for your work.

Those skills don't develop from writing checks or hitting the self-pay button, but without paying dues, clubs lose access to Toastmasters tools, the education program, the support of area, division and trio members, incentives and networking events, and much more. All dues, renewals and new members, should be paid by September 30. You're on your computer right now, click over to Toastmasters.org and get that off your list. The third part is to support your club. Take roles in the meeting before your VPE begs. Bring in guests. Invite people in. As District Council members, the people on this call skew experienced, so consider mentoring a new member or a club officer. Make that connection. Use one of the bigger projects in level 4 or 5 to support your club. Poll your members and complete your club success plan. 10 days!

So: Do speeches, pay dues, support your club. Those are the main thing for pretty much everyone.

But what exactly are your goals? Do you want to network and meet people in different industries? Do you want to build skills for your next job and you want to lead? Do you want to feel the accomplishment of completing a large project – and get support and mentoring to get it done? That's where Toastmasters comes in. We are a great place to practice. We are built on bringing in people to try new things.

For networking, we will have in person and virtual events to make those connections to people in your part of the state or people who share your focus. Attend an in person division event, the Fall TLI, one of the virtual training sessions, a demo meeting or your area council. Toastmasters self selects people who place self-improvement and empathy for others in their core – not a bad place to find new friends and teammates.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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If you want to help with a project, support a club in excellence, or try new skills like managing a part of public relations or developing training, we want you on the team. Please reach out to us, or schedule a calendly with me. I'd love to brainstorm.

If you want to practice leadership but you don't want to dive in the deep end, we have some great opportunities over the next few months to dip your toes in the wading pool before saying YES next spring. Reach out to your division director or me – again, Calendly – and let's talk about what options are available near you!

Over the next months we will introduce incentives regarding ways to publicize your club and opportunities for you to develop new skills and network, so please watch the incentives page. MeetUp, club business cards, more club events, Moments of Truth, open houses and stepping up outside the club are all coming up! We'll make announcements and offer training and support. PLEASE use these incentives – we just approved the budget!

As we move forward this year, keep the main thing the main thing, and try something new.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Flynn, DTM
District Director 2025-2026
https://calendly.com/tfflynn_d35