Welcome to the new Toastmasters year. I look forward to meeting with many of you during our time together as we all have much to learn from one another. The 2017-18 theme for District 65 Toastmasters is: “Make Toastmasters Part of Your Story.” While we want to succeed as a district, what matters more is that we all have much to learn and gain as members and officers within District 65.

As you start this year’s Toastmasters journey, you will find some important changes to note:

• Nearly 100% of this year’s District Executive Committee (DEC) were trained during sessions held in June. While District 65 asks clubs to train their leaders, we feel it’s equally important for the District 65 leadership team to set the precedent by completing their own training, as well.

• District 65 has elected to move out the club contest date to September 15 to ensure that all clubs have two additional weeks to finish the Fall contests. Our hope is to have more participation and by extending the date, this can be accomplished. To accommodate this change, the area contests will be shortened to a two-week timeframe, as well as the division contests. Please work with your area and division directors and identify members who will be able to serve as judges and other contest functionaries.

• To address the frequency (or lack of) email correspondence from District 65 leadership, beginning this month, the D65 Team will publish a single newsletter monthly. The newsletter will have key dates and news that should interest many of you – information will also be available on the D65 website.

• The D65 Team is evaluating current incentive programs and hopes to have new incentives ready to rollout soon. I will also identify the criteria for winning the District Pride Cup.

• Pathways will be rolling out during the 2017-18 Toastmasters year. While the date is identified as “Coming Soon,” Toastmasters International has assured us that the program is almost here. According to districts who have gotten a sneak peek, it will be worth the wait!

Below, please find a link to the letter from Mike Storkey, our Toastmasters International President. This contains important information about completing a proxy-holder for you to cast your ballots at the Toastmasters International Business meeting to be held in August.

Click here to read the letter!
(Press Release)
Jonathan Brooks, of Rochester, NY is one step closer to the title of World Champion of Public Speaking. Brooks recently took first place at the District 65 International Speech Contest where more than 1,000 local participants competed to win the district-level completion of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. Brooks will participate in the World Championship of Public Speaking to be held August 23-26 in Vancouver, BC.

Brooks stated, “I entered the completion because it was uncomfortable and therefore I knew it would be a growing experience.” His goal in joining Toastmasters was never to win contests, but to grow personally and professionally. Brooks expressed that people need to do uncomfortable things in order to grow and improve. The competition was a new challenge to come up with an inspirational speech. Each level of the contest had encouraged Brooks to improve different nuances of public speaking, from vocal variety to humor and speech structure.

Brooks is employed at Xerox, Webster, NY, attended Houghton College, and has been a member of Postprandial Toastmasters Club of Rochester for two years. Brook stated, “My father was a Toastmaster and I was aware of the organization from a young age. Toastmasters was one of those things I knew I should probably join, but I never considered joining until I went through a series of interviews. I found myself struggling to articulate myself well and lacking the confidence to speak up. That was the moment I knew I needed to join.

When Brooks was asked why he joined Toastmasters he replied, “I joined Postprandial because of the people. Truthfully, I have never been around such a group of supportive individuals who genuinely want to see you improve and are willing to come alongside you. As a young professional, I am able to receive feedback and encouragement from accomplished speakers, lawyers, judges, professors, engineers and business people. Where else do can you get such a diverse group of people willing to help?”

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest is the world’s largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 122 countries. Toastmasters is an organization focusing on building confident speakers and strong leaders. Members will find a supportive learn-by-doing environment that allows them to achieve their goals at their own pace. Learn how Toastmasters has changed the lives of members.

District 65 is one of 91 districts, which comprises more than 90 corporate and community clubs in Central and Western New York.
District 65 – A Year In Review: 2016-17 by Sam Mehta, DTM, PDG

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

Every new year is an opportunity to strive for improvement. The best way to do this is to take a look at the year that has just finished and review all the great accomplishments.

Your District 65 Trio and the entire district council are reviewing these reports to assess the district's strengths and weaknesses. They will then develop a strategic action plan to make improvements for our members, clubs and the district...

To continue reading, click: A Year in Review

**District Incentives**

Here is where you will learn about special District Challenges.

**COMING SOON**

**FUN Meeting Ideas**

by Keith Maderer, DTM – Club Growth Director

One of the most important ways to build a great club is by having fun, inclusive and engaging meetings. While every club’s personality is different, the most successful clubs have a nice balance between structure and laughter. Every month we will try to share a different idea on how you can add some FUN to your meetings.

**COMICAL COURTROOM CAPER MEETING:** Try to allow 1-3 weeks preparation for this meeting to assign roles and give details of the topic and proceedings.

Choose a member to be the defendant, real or imagined, and assign a crime to them. One of the members portrays the character on trial. The meeting can be fun if the charges are something funny. For example, they could be charged with stealing the cookies from the cookie jar, Santa Claus damaging a roof, or Popeye selling steroid enriched spinach...

To view the rest of this article, click: Fun Meeting Ideas!

Tips From Our Past

Each month we would like to share some great tips from our PAST District 65 Governors and Directors. They have been there, in the trenches, both locally, regionally and internationally. We can all learn from their experience and wisdom.

**Club Success: It Can be Yours!**

by Linda Lathrop, DTM
Past District Governor 2012-13

Your success and the success of your club is determined by your vision of the possibilities but you must also have a plan. Realistically you should review what happened during the past Toastmaster year 2016-2017 and evaluate what worked and what needs to be improved upon, what changes are needed, and what exciting new ideas can you implement. Involve all of your club members.

A few years ago I was the president of a struggling club and we set a goal to reach twenty members and be a distinguished club. The club officers worked together to develop the club success plan using the manual provided by Toastmasters. Each time the club met I spoke about our plan giving updates on our progress. We celebrated as new members joined, we celebrated when education awards were achieved, and we charted our progress. As a result we became a select distinguished club!

What you can do...

To continue reading, click: Tips From Our Past

Do you have something that you would like to see in the next edition of the scoop?

Submissions are due no later than the 15th of each month.

Please email any contributions or ideas to KeithMadererDTM@gmail.com