



THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPEECH CONTEST
DISTRICT 65 WINNER ADVANCES TO SEMIFINALS
JOSEPH BABCOCK WILL REPRESENT CENTRAL & WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

Joseph Babcock of Ithaca, NY, is preparing to compete in the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking. Babcock recently advanced through the district-level competition and now takes his place among more than 100 speakers from around the world in the semifinal round at the Toastmasters 2018 International Convention on Saturday, August 24, in Chicago, IL.

The competition began with 30,000 participants from 141 countries. They presented five-to-seven-minute timed speeches on topics of their choosing. They're judged on content, organization, gestures and style. Over a six-month period, winning speakers advanced through club, area, division and district competitions. 10 winners from the semifinal round in Chicago will compete in the final round of the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Babcock's winning speech, "The Twelve Are Always Disguised," links themes of friendship, love, tragedy and the lessons learned from life's unexpected challenges. He selected this speech for the competition on the recommendation of local club members who were inspired by its message. "It does seem to be resonating with audiences and I am glad for that. Providing one's audience with something of value is what public speaking is all about," said Babcock.

Joseph Babcock is a native of Oswego, NY. He joined Toastmasters in 2015 and is a member of two clubs: Big Red Toastmasters in Ithaca and Crown City Toastmasters in Cortland. "I joined Toastmasters as I love to inhabit the world of ideas with others and I am consistently amazed and inspired by the wisdom and experience members demonstrate in their speeches," he said.

Babcock will be right at home in an international competition. As both an international business development professional and higher education program manager, Babcock has traveled to 59 countries and these experiences play a central role in his speeches.

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Follow @Toastmasters International on Twitter (#TICov14) or visit <https://www.toastmasters.org/events/2018-international-convention> to track Babcock's progress.

TOASTMASTERS "Where Leaders Are Made"

The first Toastmasters club was formed in 1924 to provide public speaking and leadership training.

Current membership exceeds 352,000 in more than 16,400 clubs in 141 countries.

District 65 includes more than 100 clubs in Central and Western New York.

For more information visit www.toastmasters.org and www.tmdistrict65.org.



