



DISTRICT 65 NEWS

**"Working together we weave a future that's brighter than
any single path."**

-Unknown

Together We Achieve More!

A Look Inside

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**District Leadership
Team**

Thank You for an Outstanding Year

Dear District 65 members,

As I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that our district has achieved together. It has been a

remarkable journey, and none of it would have been possible without your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence and our core values.

Please take pride in all that you personally as a member of Toastmasters and your clubs have accomplished.

We did it!

We are a Distinguished District! This is a huge accomplishment, a level of success we have not seen for the past 11 years. If you attend the Toastmasters International convention in Philadelphia in August, you are all invited to come on stage and cheer together as District 65 is recognized!

**With heartfelt appreciation,
-Avis Brodie, DTM, PDG, IPDD**

It's July, and you know what that means: **a brand-new Toastmasters year is here!** We've hit the reset button, energized by all the amazing work from last year, and now we're geared up for fresh adventure ahead.

- What's in your sights for success this year?
- Are you aiming to complete a Level on your Pathway?
- Stepping into an exciting new role on the Club Executive Committee?
- Or maybe you're just taking your first steps on this incredible Toastmasters journey?

Wherever you are, set your intention and charge ahead! There's a community standing beside you, ready to celebrate your growth. Here, support is not a promise – it's a practice.

To support the District, I'd like to introduce our team leading the charge this year:

District Director – Gillian Sheldon, DTM
Program Quality Director – Scott Schaefer
Club Growth Director – Jeannette Kreher-Heberling, DTM
Finance Manager – Keith Flint
Public Relations Manager – Richard Teel
Administration Manager – Jacqueline Pilon
Immediate Past District Director – Avis Brodie, DTM PDG PDD

Division A – John O'Hare

Area 11 – Erik Schneider
Area 12 – Stephen Nawotniak
Area 13 – Glenn Gordon, DTM
Area 14 – Kara Mather

Division C - Sherry Thompson

Area 31 – Alex Turner, DTM
Area 32 – Cliff Milligan, DTM
Area 33 – Vacant *
Area 34 – Matthew Mack

Division D - Joseph Gwizdaloski

Area 41 – Stefan Minott

Area 42 – Vacant *

Area 43 – Nick Romo

Area 44 – Sam Otto, DTM

Division E – Jerrica Wrate

Area 51 – Micah Trumble

Area 52 – Megan Bushneck

Area 53 – Amber Inglis

Area 54 – Bill Spizuoco, DTM

* If you are interested in any one of these Area Director positions, please email Gillian directly.

To start the year off strong, we've continued the monthly Welcome to Toastmasters & Pathways 101, as well as introducing Level 1 Launchpad sessions – perfect for helping members build a solid foundation on their Toastmasters path. Additionally, there will be additional engaging one-hour make-up sessions for club officer training in July and August, so everyone's set for a winning year.

We're already preparing something special for the Fall Contest! What's in store? Stay tuned - but make sure you circle November 22nd on your calendar for an exciting in-person contest that you won't want to miss!

Make sure you connect with us online to stay in loop on all things District 65 by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). It's the fastest way to catch updates, news, and all the shared successes in real time – along with our monthly newsletter and event emails.

This is your year to step up, stand out, and reach for your star; we are one team, and behind each one of you every step of the way!

"Ours is the only organization I know that is dedicated to the individual. We work together to bring out the best in each of us and then we apply our skills to help others."
– Ralph Smedley

-Gillian Sheldon, DTM
District 65, 2025-26 District Director

A Year to Inspire and Achieve: A Message from your Program Quality Director

Welcome to a new Toastmasters year, District 65! As your Program Quality Director, I'm thrilled to embark on this journey of growth, learning, and excellence with each of you. Our mission this year is simple yet powerful: to elevate the member experience through dynamic education, impactful training,

and inspiring events.

We're kicking off with renewed energy—planning engaging club officer trainings, preparing for top-tier speech contests, and supporting every club in achieving Distinguished status. Whether you're a new member or a seasoned Toastmaster, there is a place for you to shine and grow.

Let's make this year unforgettable by embracing every opportunity to learn, lead, and connect. Together, we'll build stronger clubs and empower each other to reach new heights.

Here's to a year of excellence, achievement, and transformation!

In service,
-Scott Schaefer
District 65, 2025-26 Program Quality Director

Ignite Growth: In Yourself...Your Club...Our District

Growth begins with a spark—an idea, a conversation, a commitment to something great. What ideas can you share with the district to make it stronger? What conversations do you need to have with your network circles to encourage membership? How are YOU going to make a commitment to make our district even stronger?

As members, we each hold the power to inspire change - within ourselves, our clubs, and our district. When we invest in personal development, we become better leaders, communicators, and communities. TOGETHER, let's build on this contagious energy.

As we start this new Toastmasters year, the time is NOW - channel that momentum into club growth. Invite someone new. Share your story. Mentor a future leader.

Start a new club!! Can you find 20 like-minded people that share your passion and want to talk about it? Ideas: movies, gardening, hiking, travel, speech competition (Ted Talks to International stage)?

Let's grow together - building an even stronger District 65!

-Jeannette Kreher Heberling, DTM
District 65, 2025-26 Club Growth Director

“The ability to learn is the most important quality a leader can have.”

— Padmasree Warrior,
Indian American businessperson
and technology executive

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

LEADERSHIP QUOTES

News and Announcements

Attention Club President and Club Secretaries

Proxy Votes at Toastmaster International Annual Business Meeting

An email was sent on 9 July from Toastmasters International with instructions how to assign your club's proxy, visit the [Annual Business Meeting page](#).

Please reach out to the District Director, Gillian Sheldon at district65dd@gmail.com if you need assistance or have any questions.

Evaluate the Newsletter

Let us know what you want to see in the Newsletter by completing the [Google Form](#) survey. We appreciate your feedback to help shape future district communications.

Nominations for D65 Of The Year Awards are now open.

Who do you know who excelled this year?

We award: Toastmaster Of The Year, Club President Of The Year, Area Director Of The Year, Division Director Of The Year, and Club Coach Of The Year.

Email me district65dd@gmail.com with your recommendation by July 31, 2025

and include why they deserve the award. Awards will be presented in person at our annual awards celebration on November 22 in Rochester, NY.

-Gillian Sheldon, DTM
District Director 2025-2026

Annual Awards

Distinguished Awards:
Clubs, Areas, and Divisions

Of The Year awards:
Area Director, Division Director, Club President, Club Coach
Toastmaster of the Year

Pride Cup
Phoenix Award

Awards presented in person at Fall Event



TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Events and Workshops

D65 Events and Workshops

You Don't Want to Miss This! Register Today!

Club Officer Training-Phase 1 (Online)

- **July 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM**
- Club Officer Training Phase 1 equips Toastmasters club officers with essential knowledge and skills to effectively serve their roles, ensuring a successful club experience for all members.
- **Register here:** <https://shorturl.at/y9xRV>

Led by Program Quality Director Scott Schaefer and others

Club Officer Training-Phase 1 (Online)

- **August 7, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

- Club Officer Training Phase 1 equips Toastmasters club officers with essential knowledge and skills to effectively serve their roles, ensuring a successful club experience for all members.
- **Register here:** <https://shorturl.at/DIPso>

Led by Program Quality Director Scott Schaefer and others

Welcome to Toastmasters/ Pathways 101 (Online)

- **August 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM**
- Open to all. Come learn all about Toastmasters, what it has to offer, as well as the Pathways educational program.
- **Register here:** <https://shorturl.at/cQx6e>

Led by Avis Brodie, DTM PDG IPDD



Anniversaries & Achievements

Club Anniversaries

Speak Up - CNY - 2013
Toasted Sage Club - 2004

Educational Achievements

June 2025

Congratulations on your Pathways Education Achievements!

Level 1

Elizabeth Kinney
Jacqueline A. Pilon
Jill K. Peterson
LaRon Rowe
Mary McCarthy
Melissa Forsyth
Paul D. Erickson
Peter Ralyea
Philip Martin
Rachel Dowling

Robert Patterson

Level 2

Grant Lambert
Karen Stewart
Lucas R. Martin
Patricia Bax
Rhea C. Rodrigues
Robert L. Fosdick
Thomas H. DeRoller, Jr.
Warren E. Musselman, DTM
William Spizuoco, DTM

Level 3

Adrian J. Pooley
Rebecca S. Willsey
Sam M. Mehta, DTM
Xavier W. Tarr, DTM

Level 4

Adrienne K. Ma
Anthony L. Astran
David Culbertson
William Spizuoco, DTM

Level 5

Christopher Jackson
Nicole A. Clifton

Pathways Mentor Program

Kathleen McKenna, DTM
Thomas H. DeRoller, Jr

CONGRATULATIONS!

Disclaimer

The District 65 Team recommends using your personal or home electronic devices to access registration links. Some company devices may have restrictions that could interfere with the process.

Thank you for your understanding, and we appreciate your cooperation.

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District 65 YouTube Channel



TMDistrict65.org

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