

Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2020



District 10 News

Message from Our District 10 Director



District Director

Sravanthi Vallampati, DTM
districtdirector@district10.org

STAYING THE COURSE

Your show of grace, grit, and gratitude continue to inspire me.

These past few weeks have not been easy by any stretch of imagination. We have been pulled in many directions, and our energies have been distributed between our loved ones at home, work, clubs, and communities, yet, our faith in the ultimate triumph of our endeavor has remained resolute. We have overcome hesitation by day and fear by night. We have relied on the unrelenting support of our families more than we ever have before. One such family for me is the one of which you are part: Toastmasters. In your steps forward, I find my stride, and in your encouragement, the lift. I say this because I have

witnessed firsthand how you have rallied behind overcoming the COVID-19 situation. It's not easy to look within while lending a virtual hand to those who are still coping, and I thank you for that. The silver lining is that it's forcing us to model for ourselves constructs that are reliable, repeatable, and relatable to anything the future might have in store.

As I reflect further, I realize how the notion of **staying the course** has taken on a whole new meaning for me, as I imagine it has for you. It has pushed us to accept change and adapt quickly, and in doing so get accustomed to thinking forward as one and inventing ways to stay the course in determined and daring ways. If the boundless commitment, outreach, and leadership I am witnessing are any evidence, I am convinced we are headed in the right direction. I understand that for some of us, circumstances have been less than favorable in many ways. It's where the family I mentioned above comes in. **If I know anything about Toastmasters, I know this: they help you find (practical) ways to cope with the unexpected; they strengthen your spirit.** Please reach out and ask for help. I am here. We are all here. Our leaders at Toastmasters International continue to explore ways in which to support the continent of membership around the world, and we are confident that their direction will help us focus on what's right for our membership.

As you share conversations and connections, and come together as a community for online meetings, contests, conferences, and support activities, I want you to **remember your Why**. The reason you joined Toastmasters, and the solace and support you have gained through the gifts of friendships it has afforded you. I urge you to find that happy place that lies somewhere in between reaching out and recoiling, and extend it to others; show them what an enduring experience Toastmasters can be.

Finally, we must believe that this too shall pass, and until such time as it does, we must stay together and rely on one another because we are a family. :)

My best wishes to you and all your loved ones,
Sravanthi

Program Quality Spotlight



Program Quality Director

Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM
programquality@district10.org

"Luck occurs when preparation and opportunity meet."

~Seneca

Bravo to ALL **Club Leaders** and **Club Members District-Wide** for your *resilience* and *fortitude* to **RISE!** Our transition from "in-person" meetings to "online" meetings has been phenomenal!

Despite today's social distancing, the majority of our clubs are keeping connections,

meeting online, lifting up members, and achieving goals by becoming proficient and productive in online platforms.

Special Recognition...

- Kudos to **Fedorators Toastmasters Club** for having 40 Active Members!
- Congratulations to the **9 District 10 clubs** that have achieved **Distinguished Status or better**:

Club Name	Active Members	Goals Met	Distinguished Club Program Status
Colorful Communicators Club	31	10	President's Distinguished
Progressive Messengers	26	10	President's Distinguished
The Toastmasters of National Interstate	21	9	President's Distinguished
Warren Toastmasters	25	7	Select Distinguished
Medina Toastmasters Club	24	7	Select Distinguished
Parker SpeakEasies Club	20	7	Select Distinguished
Ariel Toastmasters 1	21	6	Distinguished
Ariel Toastmasters 2	22	6	Distinguished
FedOrators	40	5	Distinguished

TRAINING...

We want you to know that Training is on-going. Even if you are challenged by technology there are so many opportunities to start from the beginning — the TIME is Now!

We are here to help you get started...

- Follow the District 10 Upcoming Events [calendar](#) to see what's next.
- Fill out this short "5 question" survey and TELL us what help you need! <https://bit.ly/3cDfIR1>

D10 Training Team Leaders

For their ongoing contributions to developing content, conducting training and troubleshooting technology for the zoom client platform and online contest training through live presentations in support of our members — Thank you!

- Program Quality Director, Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM
- Southern Director, Lenroy Jones, VC2

- Area 54 Director, Sandra Orland, DL4, EC1
- DTM Chair & Zoom Manager, Dan Minder, ACS, ALS
- Zoom Trainer, Aziz Radwan, DTM
- Eastern Director, Rayshawn Eatmon, DTM
- Chardon Toastmasters President, Robbie McKee, PM4 [pathways trainer]

D10 Training Team - Even More Trainers and Content Contributors!

- District Director, Sravanthi Vallampati, DTM
- Western Director, Ines Jimenez, DTM
- Northern Director, Wendi Polman, PM4
- Central Director, Norberto Flores, ACG, ALB
- Area 13 Director & Zoom Trainer Keith Wilhelm, CC
- Club Web Admin, Daniel Spearman, DL2

While we cannot do many things we are used to doing right now, let's shift the focus to What we CAN do. I'm excited to see our district launch **5 online Division Contests** and also our **District Contest** held at our *"first ever"* **Virtual Conference!**

To join the program quality team, contact Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM
programquality@district10.org.

Pathways Education Chair Updates



Pathways Education Chair

Bill Simpson, DTM, PDG
pathwayschair@district10.org

PATHWAYS MENTOR PROGRAM

As we approach the end of the Traditional Education Program, this is the time to focus on the **Pathways Mentor Program** in Pathways. Although this program is open to anyone who has completed two levels in a path, it does not appear that many members are participating in it. Perhaps this is because completion of it does not help completion of a path or receipt of an education award.

It is important that members complete this program so that they can help mentor new members or members who have been in Toastmasters for some time but are new in participating in Pathways or who desire a skill for which you could help. Completion of this project as well as completion of one path are required for a member to be

designated as a **Pathways Mentor**.

There are **three key aspects** to completion of this program:

1. The first step is to do a self-assessment of your potential as a mentor and discuss that with your club Vice President Education.
2. The second step is to serve as a mentor to your protégé on a short term project.
3. The final step is to serve as a mentor for a six-month term. It is not required that your protégé for this six-month term be a Toastmaster. For example, you can mentor a co-worker.

Currently, there isn't a way to view progress or completion of the Pathways Mentor Program. If you are working on or have completed the program, please email Bill Simpson, DTM at pathwayschair@district10.org.

Learn about **Becoming a Pathways Mentor** with this training video by Chardon Toastmasters President Robbie McKee, PM4 and Program Quality Director Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM:

"Becoming a Pathways Mentor" Training Video

DTM Chair Update



DTM Chair

Dan Minder, ACS, ALS
dtmchair@district10.org

Congratulations to the 18 Toastmasters who have finished their Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award(s) so far this year. We are now tied with the number of participants from last year's minting ceremony. Well Done!

Needless to say, this year's celebration will be a bit different than those of past years. While we cannot celebrate in person, we would still like to recognize our awardees' zeal and fortitude. **We plan to recognize this year's DTM class during the District 10 Conference on Saturday, May 16.** *Please note that this is not intended to replace the traditional minting ceremony, which we plan to hold at a later date.*

Are you planning to earn your DTM before June 30? Please contact DTM Chair Dan Minder, ACS, ALS at dtmchair@district10.org.

Speech Contest Corner

Check out the Online Contests Rules and Guidelines
on the District 10 website!

Visit the D10 Contest
Page

Spring Conference Updates



2020 Conference
Committee Chairs

Mark Meisner & Ines Jimenez
conference@district10.org

DISTRICT 10 VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE NOW A FREE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE May 15 - 17, 2020

District 10 through its District Executive Committee (DEC) has approved the holding of an online District Conference.

This year's conference will be held on **May 15, 16 & 17, 2020**.

Join us **Friday** night with a virtual kickoff with keynote Speaker International Director, Dr. Carol Prahinski, club recognitions, and networking.

The event continues **Saturday** with the District Business Meeting, keynote Accredited Speaker Dr. Paul Artale, various education sessions and DTM recognition.

Culminating on **Sunday** reserved exclusively for the District 10 Speech Contest.

Online Registration will be available **Monday, April 20**, free of charge.

Volunteers with virtual meeting experience willing to serve as Sergeant at Arms/Room Moderators as "Co-host" and Timers are needed. If you are interested in becoming part of the team, or want more information email the Conference Committee Chairs at conference@district10.org.

Finance Manager Updates



Finance Manager

Rachun Caldwell, ACB, ALB
finance@district10.org

With all the uncertainty surrounding us daily, it is quite natural for our priorities to be ever-changing; as well as, some things get moved to the top of the list, others move to the bottom and some just slip through the cracks.

The District wants to provide a reminder of the upcoming renewals deadline as we do not want to lose one club or member from our District 10 community due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, to help counter its impact, Toastmasters International's Board of Directors voted to **extend the renewals due date** from April 1 to **April 30, 2020**. From a district perspective, a majority of our clubs have transitioned from in-person meetings to a virtual club setting and are holding their own. In the midst of it all, District 10 is still here.

Our goal is to keep our D10 community and activities (meetings, trainings, contests, etc.) intact throughout these challenging times. In order to do that we need our members to remain in good standing. We all learn from each other, share with one another and grow together. You have had an impact on someone, even if you may not be aware, and your continued presence is valued and needed.

Below are some important things to know regarding how unpaid dues can affect both the individual member and club:

- ***What impact does unpaid dues have on contests?***

In order for a member to be eligible to compete in any official Toastmasters speech contest, a member must be a paid member of a club in the area, division, and district in which he or she is competing. The club must also be in good standing (8 paid members). Additionally, volunteers will need to be in good standing to participate in a contest.

- ***When does my club have to pay the minimum renewal requirement to remain***

in good standing?

In light of the widespread impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the renewal deadline has been extended. A club will be a paid club and remain in good standing if they meet the minimum renewal requirement for April 2020 renewals by April 30.

- ***What is the impact to my club if it does not meet the requirements to remain in good standing?***

If the club does not meet the April 2020 renewal requirement by April 30, their status will change from Active to a status of Low or Ineligible.

Clubs not in good standing are ineligible to cast a vote at district council meetings and the Annual Business Meeting and are not included in quorum.

- ***What is the minimum renewal requirement for clubs?***

Per Policy 2.0: Club and Membership Eligibility, the minimum renewal requirement is eight paid members – at least three of whom were members of the club during the previous renewal period.

- ***What is the impact to my individual membership if I am not a member in good standing?***

You must be a paid member to maintain access to Base Camp. However, in light of the widespread impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the deadline to submit your April - September 2020 renewal payment has been extended to April 30. You will retain access to all member services as long as you are a paid member for the October 2019 - March 2020 renewal period and pay your dues by April 30.

We encourage Club Officers to work with their members and for members to seek out Club Officers to initiate payment for the upcoming deadline to ensure that both the club and its members remain in good standing as of April 30th. For additional questions or help with club membership renewals, please contact Rachun Caldwell, ACB, ALB at finance@district10.org.



Monthly Member Spotlight



February 2020



March 2020



April 2020

[READ MORE](#)[READ MORE](#)[DETAILS COMING SOON!](#)

In Memory of George Pastor

Brecksville-Nordonia Gavaliers



George Pastor was a founding member of the Toastmasters International Club 912, the Brecksville/Nordonia Gavaliers. Over the last 35 plus years he led the club in every position of responsibility, gave speeches, participated in speech contests and mentored so many people in the art of public speaking and leadership. He insisted on maintaining his current membership just so he can give back to others because Toastmasters gave him so much.

Of all his hobbies his favorite was ballroom dancing. The majority of his dance partners often commented on how comfortable he made them and his dance style made it easy for them to follow his lead on the dance floor.

He was the original "help-aholic." His energy was contagious in all phases of his life and his devotion deep. He worked hard at the bettering of himself. His ego did not get in the way of learning lessons and his trial and error became the wisdom he shared with us.



George had the ability to extract the best out of everyone. Every meeting was memorable due to his participation. He handed me the application and pen on August 1, 1999. He asked me, "Can I help you become a better communicator?" I was at a loss for words for a few minutes. It was the physical push for my first Table Topics, which by the way, took 8-minutes to complete. That served as the catalyst to ease the pressure to get in front of others. My stuttering would start to vanish.

His two memorable phrases were "*Once a Toastmaster ---Always a Toastmaster,*" and "*Unlike milk, Toastmasters doesn't have an expiration date.*" I can still hear him talk about Las Vegas and sing the Blue Skirt Waltz.

I could never muster the words of thanks for his help. I miss my first mentor dearly. Wishing George a safe journey to the stars.

Greg Danko, DTM



On January 14, 2020, District 10 lost an extraordinary member. For me, this was personal. I loss my dear friend and mentor. George F. Pastor was a charter member of the first club I joined as a new member of Toastmasters. The Brecksville-Nordonia Hills Gaveliers was on a 10+ year roll of being a distinguished or better club and was the epitome of what clubs should do to be successful and attract and keep members. When I walked into the club meeting, the first ones to greet me were Greg Danko and George Pastor.

Mr. Pastor, as I called him, did not like for me to address him in such a formal manner, and always wanted me to call him George. He, Dick Kluge, and Richard Johnson were the "Three Musketeers" of our club, and the senior members. They were impressed, yet annoyed with me being formal with them. Explaining my upbringing to them, Mr. Pastor said, "Your parents raised you right... but tell them I gave you permission to call me George." Because of his warm nature and sense of humor, our club saw continued growth under his leadership and mentoring. Mr. Pastor was an encourager, and had a unique way of getting you to do something outside the box... he would volun-tell you to

do it. When it took me eight months after joining our club to do my ice breaker speech, Mr. Pastor “volun-told” me that I was doing my speech. 89 um’s, 107 ah’s, and 14 minutes of an ice breaker speech later, he told me it was the best speech he ever heard and to keep speaking.

In my leadership journey, it was George Pastor who approached the late Past District Governor Ron Grusy about appointing me as an Area Governor in 2009. Not knowing what my next steps would be as a Toastmaster, Mr. Pastor kind of laid out the path for me to take. His words: “You are going to be our District Governor one day.” I am glad that I was able to fulfill his goals and wishes for my journey. When I was down and out and wanted to quit Toastmasters, Mr. Pastor would call or send me an email saying he sensed I was down. He was that kind of encourager and mentor. Our club members learned a lot from him as well. He was about order and following protocol. Now you may understand why I am the same way.

George Pastor left a huge legacy with his passing. He reminded me that real leaders create better leaders. If you are leading in your club and at the district level, your successor should be more successful and a better leader than you were in that position. He taught us how to set the next generation up for success. He made me believe in what we do as Toastmasters and leaders. Because of him, I am in this organization.

Mr. Pastor, Thank you for everything. You will always have a special place in my heart. Rest easy my friend, and please say hello to Daddy for me.

Deonna Moore Taylor, DTM, PDG



Public Relations Manager

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