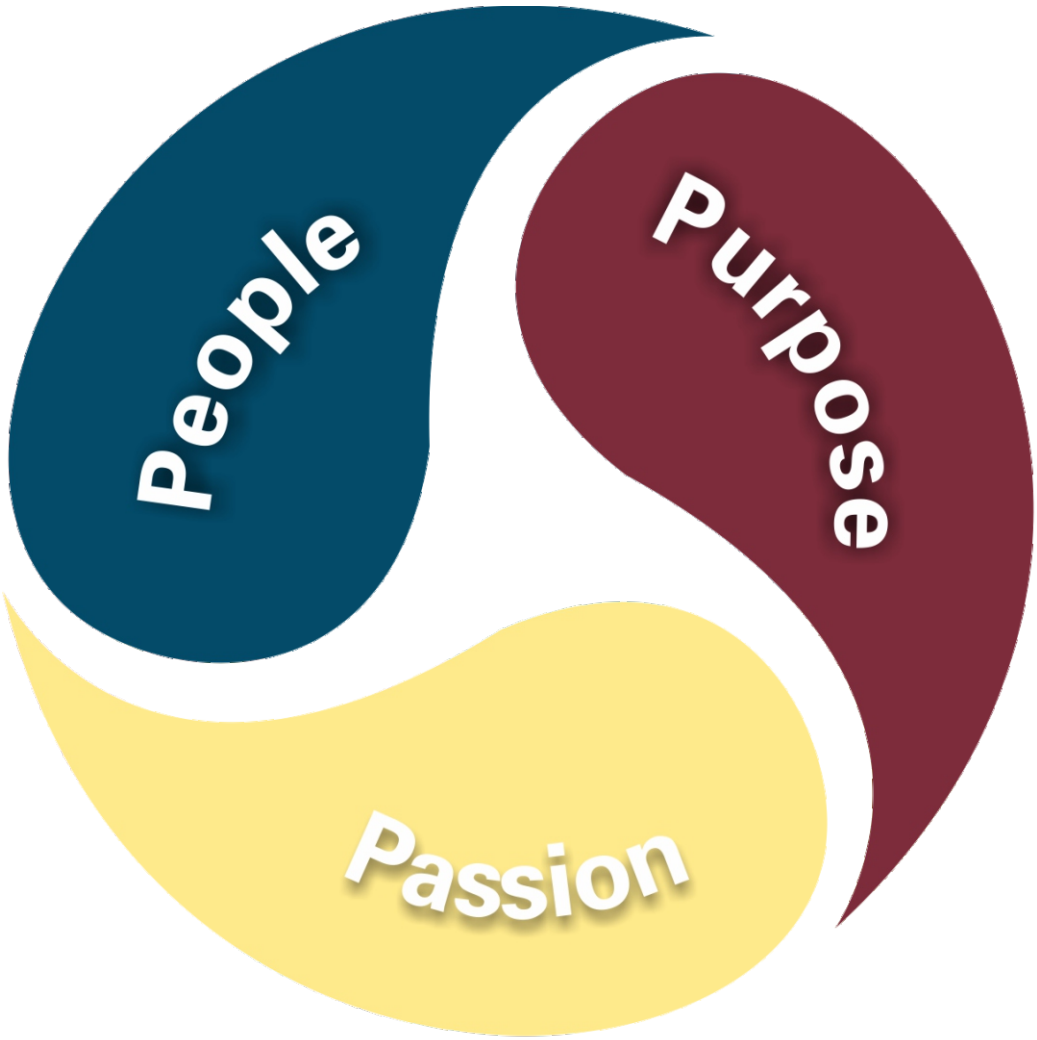


THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Distinguished Toastmasters Program

District 10 Conference 2020

May 15 - 17, 2020, Virtual Conference

CONGRATULATIONS!

To all District 10 DTMs!

Did you know:

- Toastmasters International (TI) has 358,000 members, in over 143 countries, with over 16,800 clubs
- According to TI, as of April 2020, *fewer than 3% of all members ever achieve their DTM*

It takes the following to achieve a Distinguished Toastmaster award (DTM):

Traditional Program Requirements:

- 42 Speeches
- 4 Educational Presentations
- 1 Success/Leadership, Success/Communication, or Youth Leadership Workshop
- 6 Months as a club officer
- 1 Year as a district officer
- Serve as a club sponsor, mentor, or coach
- Complete a High Performance Leadership Project

Pathways Program Requirements:

- 2 learning paths (35-40 Speeches)
- 1 year as a club officer
- 1 year as a district officer
- Serve as a club mentor or coach
- Serve as a club sponsor, conduct a Speechcraft, or conduct a Youth Leadership program
- Complete the DTM project

Manu Adhen, DTM

Home Club:
Swagelok OFC Breakfast Club

Why did I join Toastmasters?
My fear of public speaking and desire to grow as a professional.

Who pushed me to new heights?
My wife, Preet, supported my journey as she made herself available for our son, Ronnik.

Home club: Swagelok OFC Breakfast Club

Challenging experience: Retention of the seasoned Toastmasters in my home club.

Rewarding experience: Leading 25 clubs in the Eastern Division as a Division Director to President Distinguished status.

Richard A. Brandenburg, DTM

Home Club: Downtown Toastmasters #1894

My most challenging experience and the one that gave me the greatest feeling of belonging to a team in Toastmasters was serving as Finance Manager for District 10. Vicky Nann, the District Director at the time, and other members of the leadership team, were always very supportive and driven to make a difference for the members of District 10. Their drive rubbed off on me, and I began to see volunteering as an essential part of life. Right after my term, I ran for Councilman in my town where I live, and I won. Now, I am serving the Residents and helping to meet their needs. Who knows what may come next. I am looking forward to the journey!

Shout outs: Michele LaBasi from the club that I helped to co-found, Thursday Night Toastmasters in Green. Michele has a tremendous drive to help others and see Toastmasters thrive! She is very inspiring and helped to keep my fire for DTM burning when I was bogged down with so many other things. With Michele's enthusiasm, I kept going to finish the course!

Larry Griffin, Rich Roberts and Logan Page, DTM, from my home club, Downtown Toastmasters #1894, were also great inspirations. They helped me with my leadership project, and I could always count on them to come to meetings and add value to me. They really helped me to keep going when I thought to back off and coast. I am a better speaker and leader as a result!

Robert J. Churilla, DTM

Bob holds a Ph.D in conflict resolution, and is a mediator, coach, and trainer.

Bob Co-chaired the 2018 District 10 Spring Conference, and he was as an Education Session Presenter at the 2019 District 10 Spring Conference, where he presented on handling conflicts like a superhero!

Bob's vision for the DTM program is to provide a supportive environment for future DTM candidates. This includes providing coaching and mentoring. He would strive to help candidates connect with opportunities to complete their DTM requirements.

Bob's next goal is to bring the Toastmasters International Convention back to Cleveland.

Rayshawn Eatmon, DTM

Home Club: Progressive Messengers

Toastmasters has been a great opportunity to learn and grow in leadership both inside and outside of Toastmasters.

I've been able to lead my YMCA basketball team to a championship title within 3 seasons by mentoring and staying positive. All key leadership skills learned in Toastmasters.

I would like to thank my girlfriend Lindsay Miller and cousin Jeff Eatmon for supporting my efforts toward DTM and inspiring me to deliver speeches when I had "speaker's block."

Also, I want to thank Toastmaster Wendi Polman for collaborating and making a pact to take on the challenge together to move toward our DTM award in Pathways.

Shout out to my home club Progressive Messengers for always being encouraging.

Larry L. Goldsmith, DTM

Earned Two DTM Awards this year!

Larry has a background in theatre and joined Toastmasters to balance out the technical aspect of his career with creativity and fun.

His very first Table Topics question before he was even a member required him to answer as Dracula – perfect for his passion in theatre! He joined that day.

He started at the Nationwide Insurance Toastmasters club 753 in Downtown Columbus (District 40) in April, 2004.

Larry is currently serving a third term as Area 30 Director in District 10.

Highlights and Accomplishments:
Larry has earned 15 Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) awards, including 2 in Pathways!

He has completed 6 paths in Pathways.

Larry uses his Toastmasters' skills to help judge youth speech competitions for the North South Foundation.

Larry has attended 3 International Conventions – Las Vegas (2011), Orlando (2012) and Cincinnati (2013). At the Orlando Convention, he had the opportunity to speak to the general assembly to promote the International Convention in Cincinnati the following year. While he would have rather been in contention for the World Champion of Public Speaking, the moment was stressful enough.

Working with Toastmasters in Correctional Facilities:
Larry joined one of the two correctional institution clubs in Area 30 to handle their finances and helped the club become President's Distinguished in 2018-2019.

Members in correctional facilities gain communication skills to:
- Tell their stories to troubled teens
- Help youth of tomorrow avoid the same mistakes
- Apply for and get a good job upon their release
- Speak more intelligently

In addition to regular club meetings, the clubs hold unofficial speech contests and debate competitions which he has been happy to join and participate.

Fast Track to Earning DTM Awards:
Larry earned his first DTM award 18 months after joining Toastmasters.

He attributes his success to having a great mentor who powered him with information and opportunities having been a former District Director in District 40.

He spoke as a target speaker at several contests before becoming a competitor and winning multiple contests.

He became an Area Director after only being a member for 3 months – Being a last minute appointment, he learned on the fly!

He served in multiple Area Director roles at once and got credit for each one. He loves the advantages of working with different clubs, seeing their best ideas and taking that knowledge into other struggling clubs. He encourages members to serve as district leaders.

Motivation for Staying in Toastmasters after 15 DTMs:
Larry is still learning and growing. He meets fascinating people with fascinating stories and is inspired by them! Toastmasters is definitely where leaders are made.

Marilyn Harman, DTM

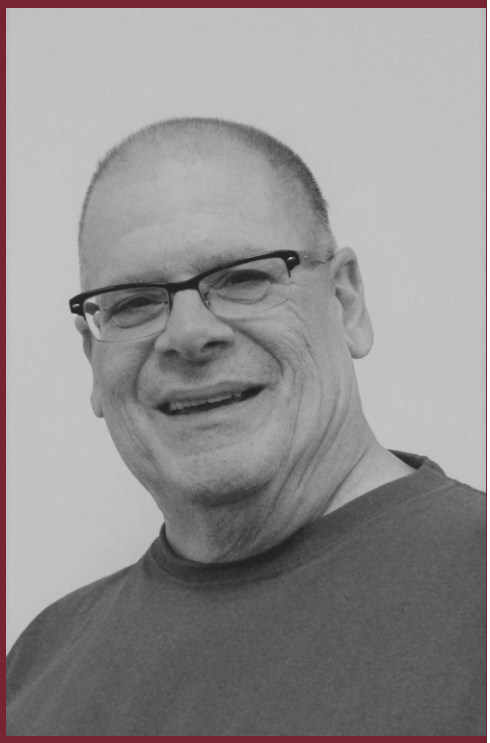
I pursued Toastmasters to see if I had anything useful to share that comes out of me alone.

I saw the DTM journey as one worth doing twice in order to travel with confidence.

I am more willing to take chances with Pathways and Zoom because I have been encouraged by all of you Toastmasters.

Congratulations!

John Kavouras, DTM



It would be difficult to thank only one person. Many club members from Independently Speaking Toastmasters (ISTM) helped and encouraged me to become a better speaker and a better leader.

However, I have to highlight Denny Chamberlin. Like many of us, I had a lot going on with life and work, and I wasn't sure I should put in the time to finish DTM. Denny said: "Why not?" He said the words I needed to hear.

Thanks to my wife, and now fellow Toastmaster, Kathi Kavouras. I couldn't do any of it without her.

I've given Toastmasters a lot, but I've gotten more back. It has made me a better at almost everything I do. I discovered my ability to speak and to lead. One of those leadership opportunities was to mentor a new club: Thank you, Medina Leaders Speak Toastmasters.

David Liao, DTM

David started his Toastmaster journey in Texas and then moved to Ohio where he earned his DTM.

His home club is Transformative Toastmasters.

He plans to finish Pathways, and earn another DTM.

David hopes to help other Toastmasters to achieve DTM by providing them the needed information and guidance along the path.

Anant B. Mathur, DTM

Anant has been a member of Stark Community Toastmasters since 2011 and also a member of Hall of Fame Advanced Club.

When not speaking or competing, Anant sings Indian Karaoke, and plays with new technology.

A graduate of The Ohio State University, he is proud that both of his daughters are also going to be Buckeyes. He looks forward to enjoying football Saturdays cheering together.

Daniel J. Minder, DTM

Joining Toastmasters is one of the best decisions that Dan has ever made. By staying active in his home club, and by serving District 10, he has found brand new skills, and sharpened existing ones.

Outside of Toastmasters, Dan enjoys backpacking and touring America's baseball parks.

Dan is honored to serve as the DTM chair, as well as a district Zoom Manager.

Dan says, "The Toastmasters Education Program gave me speaking and leadership opportunities that pushed me beyond what I thought possible. I've earned my DTM thanks to guidance and encouragement of so many people.

I would like to thank my home club, Stark State Toastmasters, especially my mentors Trevis Brown and John David.

A big thank you to the folks at Akron Toastmasters #151 and Hall of Fame Advanced TM.

Thank you to District 10 Toastmasters Michele LaBasi, Dave Wiley, and District Director Sravanthi Vallampati. Most especially, much appreciation to my DTM mentor, Program Quality Director, Alicia Smith-Kirk who provided guidance, opportunities, and occasional therapy.

Finally, I wish to thank my better half, Megan Koehler, for her continued patience and love.

Future DTMs, everything you need will come your way if you help others. Simply help others."

Aziz Radwan, DTM

Aziz's favorite Advanced Communication manual is Storytelling, and his favorite club meeting role is Speech Evaluator.

He particularly enjoyed serving as Vice President of Education.

He hopes to serves as a Division Director in the future.

Monica R. Reusser, DTM

Monica joined Toastmasters in January 2010.

Her first club was Word Warriors, then Westside Advanced, and finally FedOrators at her workplace.

She has two children, now 23 and 25, and believes that pushing her limits in Toastmasters has inspired them.

She joined Toastmasters to enhance her communications skills, but has experienced the most growth by serving as a club and district officer.

Dale Sagen, DTM

Home Club:
Mid-Day Toastmasters

A word of thanks to a special Toastmaster who pushed me to new heights:
Dameka Lee, DTM, who was the area governor, encouraged me to be an area director and try to work through the entire DTM program.

I thank my Wife Hallie Sagen for being understanding when I would have meetings, trainings, or contests on nights or weekends. It is challenging with 3 children, yet she supported me during this mission.

A shout-out to my home club: Mid-Day Toastmasters

Best Experience as a Toastmaster:
Seeing fellow members of my club prepare and compete in contests. Seeing the few who have won is a great feeling.

Most Challenging Experience as a Toastmaster:
Being President of a corporate club when the corporation/team stopped supporting us.

Some of the rewards I've reaped from the education program:
Learning to work through challenging meetings in Toastmasters has helped me transfer those skills to my career. Advancing in my career is a fantastic reward that I attribute to my Toastmasters education.

Eugene R. Schnell, DTM

Eugene Schnell wishes to thank those who have had a critical impact on his Toastmasters journey, especially:

- Yan Jie Lee
- Aziz Radwan
- Marcus Phillips
- Tony Green
- Alicia Smith-Kirk

He would also like to express gratitude to district officers and club members who have provided him their support over the years.

Laura Simon, DTM

Laura's first club was Toastmasters in Green. She is now a member of Thursday Night Toastmasters, also in Green.

Her favorite project was learning about her leadership style. When speaking, she loves to use props and visual aids!

Looking forward, she hopes to find the communication style that works best for her.

She says that her family has been her rock, and that she feels that she can be herself in their presence.

Laura says "This picture was taken 11 years ago when I discovered my contract with myself... "I am a free, great and powerful woman."

Donald (Don) A. T. Smith, DTM

Home Club:
Rocky River Toastmasters

Don says, “I want to express my sincere and heart-felt gratitude to current District 10 Web Master, David Caban, along with Greg Danko, and other Toastmasters who consistently compiled lists of Toastmasters who accepted and fulfilled leadership roles throughout District 10’s history. Without their archival history file, I wouldn’t have been able to produce the documentation to prove my year of District 10 service as the 1981-1982 District Treasurer to earn my Advanced Leader Silver award from Toastmasters International.

Both my son, Joe, and my daughter, Judy, followed in my footsteps and became Toastmasters themselves. Joe earned his Competent Toastmaster, CTM, in 1990, and led Area 7 to become Distinguished in 1996-1997 as Area Governor. Judy earned her Distinguished Toastmaster, DTM, in 2017, and led District 40’s Area 31 to become President’s Distinguished in 2010-2011 as Area Governor. Judy’s perseverance to achieve her DTM spurred me on to finally complete my goal of earning my DTM myself, at age 91! Thanks for your inspiration. To other Toastmasters who are striving toward their DTMs, it’s never too late to complete the educational program.

I spent my 32+ year Toastmasters career in Club 2606, originally West Side Toastmasters, and re-named Rocky River Toastmasters in 2011. Thanks to all my former and current club members who helped motivate me along my journey. A special thanks to current Vice President Education, Mark Meisner, who submitted my awards this year to help me earn my DTM in 2020!

It warms my heart to think that by sharing my love of Toastmasters with my children that two of them joined this self-development organization and utilized the skills they developed and honed through Toastmasters to advance during their own careers in the education and information technology fields.

As for myself, Toastmasters afforded me the opportunity to meet and network with many talented people over the years and helped me put my best foot forward to successfully transition from a long career as a hospital comptroller for several Cleveland area hospitals to comptroller at John Carroll University from where I retired. Thanks for all the Table Topics questions which helped prepare me for my job interviews over my career!”

William Tarter, DTM

Will's role models include his late great-grandfather, Dr. Ulysses S. Tarter, the late Judge Jean Murrell Capers, and the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Will is an avid player of Ultimate Frisbee and enjoys playing cards.

Will would like to write a book and eventually pursue a Ph.D.

Deonna Moore Taylor, DTM

Deonna has been a Toastmaster since April, 2008. Her home club is CCAC Toastmasters, located at the Cleveland Clinic Administration Campus.

Her favorite education program project is High Performance Leadership.

Her future plans include publishing book #4; continue speaking across the country; and launching a new ministry.

As for her future Toastmasters plans, she wishes to remain a “POT (Plain Ole Toastmaster).”

Lenard Taylor, DTM

Lenard's mentors include Distinguished Toastmasters Deonna Moore-Taylor and Tony Green.

So far, he has completed two paths in PATHWAYS:

- Visionary Communication
- Persuasive Influence

Lenard's milestones include hosting some quarterly debates and designing a Speechcraft program.

He is pursuing an Accredited Speaker Designation.

Janet Wasserman, DTM

Janet says that she has learned from all of the projects, even the longer, more time-involved ones that she didn't want to do!

She found Toastmasters to be a life-changing experience that she is happy to have embarked upon, and that no one can take away.

As for meeting roles, she feels that there is no bad Theme, Word Of The Day, or Table Topics. Everything has a take-away.

After it is all said and done, she feels nothing but Gratitude to Toastmasters!

Janet’s words of wisdom: “I may be the turtle, but turtles finish too!”