



District News

April 2026 Edition

District Leadership Nomination

Conference Early Bird Extended

Membership Renewals

PR Committee Benefits

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District 60



District News

April 2026 Edition

From Spark to Spotlight

As the snow banks shrink and the temperatures climb, our city of Toronto is beginning to show signs of spring and renewal. April brings extended sunlight, tulips in gardens and, for us Toastmasters, our Annual Conference. It is a month where Sparks of ideas become brilliant Spotlight moments. With the Conference approaching, it is the perfect time to challenge yourself, complete your membership renewal, take on that Pathways project, and consider running for an elected club official position.

We are moving into the last quarter of the Toastmasters year. You are invited to keep your foot on the gas, mentor a new member, present an evaluation, or take on a role that you have been avoiding all year.

Step Into the Spotlight!

Every Toastmaster has a unique story to tell. Whether it's preparing for a speech competition, stepping into a club officer role, or attending your first conference, April is about taking that leap.

Let's make April a month of spectacular growth!



Dave Bachan, DTM
Club Growth Director



IN MEMORIAM

Janice Howard, DTM

District Director 2018 - 2019



MARCH 28, 2026



Janice Howard, DTM Tribute

District 60

Past District 60 Director, Janice Howard, DTM, passed away on March 28th after a four-year battle with cancer. She began her Toastmasters journey in 2010 and went on to serve District 60 in many leadership roles, culminating as District Director in 2018–2019.

Janice was known for inspiring others to step beyond their comfort zones. She encouraged members to take on new challenges and leadership roles, helping them grow with confidence. Her leadership style was energetic, supportive, and often marked by her signature sense of humour.

She cared deeply about District 60 and challenged both individuals and clubs to think beyond themselves—asking how they could contribute to the broader community. Her vision led to lasting initiatives, including the Workshop Bureau and the founding of Blossoming Voices Toastmasters Club, both of which continue to thrive today.

Janice was also a creative force, bringing fresh ideas to public relations and elevating the District's profile. She held high standards and pushed others to be prepared and purposeful, always in the spirit of growth.

To many, Janice was more than a leader—she was a mentor and a friend. Her warmth, encouragement, and impact will be deeply missed, and her legacy will continue to shape District 60 for years to come.



Wendy Williamson, DTM
Past Region Advisor
Past District 60 Director



District 60

District Leadership Nominations

Congratulations Nominated Candidates for Elected District Leadership Roles in the 2026-2027 Program Year!

The District Leadership Committee has completed its vetting of applicants that expressed an interest in serving District 60 next year and has nominated candidates to stand for election at the Wednesday April 22, 2026 District Council Meeting. The Nominated Candidates are:

District Director: **Yukta**
Program Quality Director: **Dave Bachan**
Club Growth Director: **Yolanda Haywood**
Division A Director: **Rick Bartel**
Division B Director: **Orest Nahacziwec**
Division C Director: **Difei Dong**
Division D Director: **Akarshak Tanwar**
Division E Director: **Jidnyasa Joshi**
Division F Director: **Nawar Alkasseer**

More information about the nominated candidates, including a bio and photo of each nominees, may be found on the District 60 website at <https://www.toastmasters60.com/candidates-corner-2026-27/>.

Note that the District Leadership Committee received only one (1) application for the role of Club Growth Director. Toastmasters International requirements state that a complete report from the District Leadership Committee must include at least two (2) Nominated Candidates for the role of Club Growth Director. Therefore, at the election, it will be possible for a Toastmaster to run from the floor at the election for the role of Club Growth Director, provided that the District Director is notified at least seven (7) days in advance of the election.

Congratulations Nominees!



David Veights, DTM
District Leadership Committee Chair



District Director

District 60

Club Officer Elections

April marks an exciting transition period for clubs as we prepare for upcoming officer elections—a vital opportunity to shape the future of your club and grow as a leader within Toastmasters International.

Why should you serve as a club officer?

Taking on a leadership role allows you to contribute directly to your club's success while building skills that extend far beyond meetings. Whether you serve as President, Vice President Education, or in another role, you'll gain hands-on experience in communication, organization, and team collaboration that will give you a competitive edge in your career and as community leaders.

How does leadership accelerate your growth?

You'll develop confidence, decision-making abilities, and emotional intelligence—skills highly valued in both professional and personal settings. By guiding fellow members, you also reinforce your own learning and expand your network.

April is also the perfect time to explore other leadership opportunities for yourself and identify future leaders within your club. Encourage members to step forward, mentor potential candidates, and ensure a smooth transition for the coming term.

Stepping into a leadership role isn't just about serving your club—it's about unlocking your full potential.

New Member Orientation – April 21, 2026



Our next online New Member Orientation session will be held on Tuesday, April 21, from 7:00–8:00 p.m. EST. This welcoming session introduces new members to the broader Toastmasters experience, highlights opportunities for growth, and shows how to get the most from your journey.

[Click here to register](#)



The Leadership Edge

Thank you to all those who have expressed interest in the Leadership Edge Program! Our next session will be **Saturday April 18**.

If you are interested in being considered for future cohorts, please email "lead@toastmasters60.com".

We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers,

Andrew Mertens, DTM Leadership Engagement Chair
David Veights, DTM District Leadership Committee Chair
Shubha Amba, DTM District Director

District 60

The Leadership Edge
BE YOUR BEST

- Survey**
Survey to be sent December 15
Responses due December 19
- Pilot Cohort Invitation**
Cohort of 10 Leaders
Area & Division Directors invited to participate
- Pilot Program (Jan)**
Pilot cohort helps shape the experience and program design.
- Multi-Cohort Rollout (Jan-May)**
Up to 6 cohorts, each with 10 participants.
- Completion & Recognition**
 - Framed certificate, or
 - Acrylic plaque
- Leadership Edge**
Transferable Skills that Create Impact — In Life, Career, and Community



Program Quality Director

District 60

Division Contests in Full Swing

Division contests across District 60 are bringing out the very best in our speakers, evaluators, and impromptu thinkers. With **Divisions E and F** taking the spotlight on **Saturday April 11**, we are entering the final stretch of an exciting contest season filled with creativity, courage, and community spirit. Each division has worked hard to elevate members, celebrate excellence, and create unforgettable moments. All six divisions will proudly send their champions to the **District-level Table Topics, Evaluation, and International Speech Contests**, where they will represent the heart and talent of District 60.

Attend a division contest this month and cheer on the speakers; you might just spark your own inspiration to compete next year.



Help Your Club Become Distinguished

The Distinguished Club Program (DCP) is more than a scorecard; it's a roadmap to a thriving, supportive, and growth-focused club experience. April is the perfect time for clubs to review their progress and make strategic moves to finish the year strong.

- **Clubs with 20+ members:** Achieving 5 or more DCP goals secures Distinguished status. These clubs are well-positioned; focus on completing educational goals and celebrating member achievements.
- **Clubs with 8–19 members:** Aim to reach 20 members or achieve a +3 net growth. A few well-planned open houses or personal invitations can make all the difference.
- **Clubs with fewer than 8 members:** Reaching 8 members restores good standing and opens the door to rebuilding momentum. Every new member brings fresh energy and possibility.

A strong finish is absolutely within reach when clubs work together, track progress, and celebrate every milestone.

Review your club's DCP dashboard this week and choose one goal your team will complete before the end of April.



★ From Spark to Spotlight

District 60



District 60 Toastmasters Conference

Saturday April 25 and Sunday April 26, 2026
Venue: Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre,
45 Fort York Blvd, Toronto, ON

Early Bird Extended to April 12

The District 60 Annual Conference is where learning, leadership, and celebration come together, and this year's theme, **From Spark to Spotlight**, promises a weekend full of energy and transformation. With the Early Bird rate extended to April 12, members still have a chance to secure discounted tickets for a weekend of workshops, keynote speakers, networking, and the District Speech Contests. Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, connect with leaders, or simply enjoy the magic of Toastmasters, this is the event you don't want to miss.

Conference details and registration: <https://www.d60sparktospotlight.com/>
Register before April 12 and invite fellow members to join you - experiences like this are even better when shared.

- 2 Dynamic Keynote Speakers**
- 8 Engaging Workshops**
- 4 Prestigious "Of-The-Year" Awards**
- 5 Sumptuous Meals**

Several Vibrant Networking Opportunities
Immeasurable Personal and Professional Growth



★ From Spark to Spotlight

District 60

District 60 Toastmasters Conference — Ticket Summary



| Ticket Type | Ticket Price | Summary |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| EARLY BIRD – FULL Conference | \$249.99 | Full in-person access to both conference days. |
| Corporate Ticket (5 People) | \$1,249.95 | Group pass for 5 attendees with corporate perks. |
| International Speech Contest Only | \$49.99 | Access to the District-level International Speech Contest. |
| Table Topics Contest Only | \$39.99 | Access to the District-level Table Topics Contest. |
| Evaluation Contest Only | \$39.99 | Access to the District-level Evaluation Contest. |
| Saturday Only | \$199.99 | Pass for Saturday's contests, workshops, and keynotes. |
| Sunday Only | \$219.99 | Pass for Sunday with Speech Contest and meal. |
| Sponsorship (Including Benefits) | Pay what you can (Min. \$100 for benefits) | Sponsorship with promotional perks and recognition. |
| Sponsorship (Anonymous) | Pay what you can | Anonymous sponsorship with no recognition. |
| Full Price – Full Conference | \$289.99 | Regular full-conference pass for both days. |

[Click here to get your ticket now.](#)

Toastmasters District 60 is proud to recognize **Grand & Toy** as a sponsor of the 2026 Annual Conference.





District 60



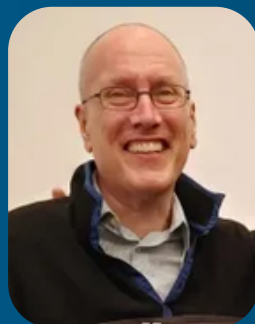
Moving Ahead with Pathways: New Options and Focused Projects Coming Soon

April 14 is the scheduled launch date for two “new” Vintage Paths. You can explore samples here: [About Pathways – District 60 serving Toronto, Canada](#).

Join [Pathways Chair, Stephen Schroeder, DTM](#), at noon on Friday April 10 for a special session, Pathways and Beyond. [Click here to register](#).

- One of the new paths combines the pre-Pathways Competent Communicator (CC) manual (Levels 1 to 3) with two Advanced Manuals (Levels 4 and 5): Storytelling and The Entertaining Speaker.
- The second path is based on Ralph Smedley’s original Basic Training for Toastmasters. It includes 12 speeches along with in-depth meeting role projects. This is a great opportunity to challenge yourself and try something different.
- Both paths are presented in their original format. They do not include electives or upgrades found in the other six paths and are available for [download in PDF format](#).

Also coming soon is Explorations, a Level 2 option that allows you to focus on one advanced elective. The first release, Managing Online Meetings, offers an opportunity to strengthen skills that are essential in today’s evolving environment.



Stephen Schroeder, DTM
Pathways Chair



Club Growth Director

District 60

Membership Renewals

The renewal season is upon us, and it's the perfect time to reflect on why we started this journey. As your Club Growth Director, I continue to renew my membership as my commitment to continue to learn. I renew to continue to build soft skill sets. I renew to positively impact my corporate and community spaces.

New Club Charter

Welcome to newly Charter Club, **TRSM Graduate Toastmasters**. We bring you District tidings and wish your members a successful beginning to your Toastmasters career.



Club Charter Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating Club Charter anniversaries in the month of April:

Grosvenor - **59**

Meridian - **50**

Phoenix-Toronto - **46**

Toastmasters of Cedarbrae, Oratory and Leadership Club - **39**

Operations Orators - **33**

Toast Of CIBC - **32**

Keynote Speakers Advanced - **23**

Supreme TD - **21**

Toastmasters at TD - **21**

Toronto Metropolitan University - **16**

Les Beaux Parleurs - **14**

AIR MILES - **12**

TGIF Advanced - **11**

Albany Club - **10**

Applewood Achievers - **7**





District 60



Club Coaches, Club Mentors and Club Sponsors wanted!

Would you like to share your valuable Toastmasters skillsets with others? There are clubs out there that could use your expertise. Please reach out to Dave Bachan, Club Growth Director, at cgd@toastmasters60.com.

Club Lead Referrals Wanted!

Would your community or workplace benefit from a Toastmasters club? Send us a Lead. If your lead converts to a demo meeting (a step before charter), you and your family of four are eligible for dinner courtesy of District 60.

Please reach out to Dave Bachan, Club Growth Director at cgd@toastmasters60.com.



Has your club hosted a Moments of Truth (MOT) workshop – it's a great way to do a deep dive into the successes and challenges of a club?

The following clubs have recently conducted an MOT: [Humber Lakeshore Toastmasters](#), [Shellbusters](#), [St Clair Public Service Speakers](#), [Scotia MicMasters](#).

Contact your CGD if you would like an MOT conducted at your club:
cgd@toastmasters60.com



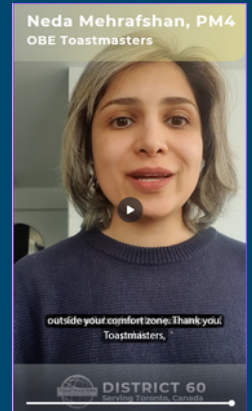
District 60

Let's Get Reel - Toastimonials

- Are you gaining confidence as a speaker?
- Has being a Toastmaster enhanced your career or community opportunities?
- Are you a more accomplished Leader?

We want to feature you on the District's socials. Send us your socials

Reach out to Angelina So, Public Relations Manager at PRM@toastmasters60.com for more information.



Spotlight Your Club on District 60's LinkedIn

District 60 will feature club events on LinkedIn twice this month:

- **April 10** – events happening in April
- **April 20** – events happening in April & May

Want your club featured?

Submit your event poster by 12:00 p.m. on the 9th or 19th

Email: PRM@toastmasters60.com



Public Relations Manager

District 60

Join the District 60 Public Relations Committee for 2026–2027

Shape the Voice of District 60

Every story shared, every achievement celebrated, and every message amplified helps strengthen our Toastmasters community.

The District 60 Public Relations Committee plays a key role in bringing these stories to life. From social media and newsletters to campaigns and member recognition, this team showcases the impact of our members across the District.

What You Could Be Part Of

As part of the District 60 Public Relations Committee, you will have the opportunity to:

- Build real experience in content and digital communications
- Strengthen storytelling that inspires and influences
- Highlight member achievements and District impact
- Develop skills in marketing and audience engagement
- Support clubs and members across the District
- Grow your network with District leaders
- Step into future leadership opportunities, including PR Manager

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 program year, we are looking for members who are curious, creative, and interested in communication, storytelling, and community building. Whether you want to contribute ideas, develop new skills, or explore a future leadership role such as Public Relations Manager, this is an opportunity to get involved.

No prior PR experience is required. What matters most is your willingness to learn, collaborate, and contribute.

If you are interested or simply have questions, please reach out to PRM@toastmasters60.com to start the conversation.



District 60



Shubha Amba
District Director



Yukta
Program Quality Director



Dave Bachan
Club Growth Director



Angelina So
Public Relations Manager

DISTRICT 60

Serving Toronto, Canada



Don't forget, District 60 is here to support you with:

- **Tag District 60's** social media handle on your post! We are your biggest fan
- District-sponsored **Meetup accounts** to boost club visibility
- **WhatsApp groups** for leaders to connect, share, and grow together.



Stay Informed - Follow Us



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[District 60 PR Support](#)

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