



District News

July 2025 Edition

District 60





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District 60



Immediate Past District Director

**Thank you for a great 2024-2025 Toastmasters Year!
(We were almost a Distinguished District!)**



David Veights, IPDD

What an incredible year that just concluded! We almost achieved Distinguished District Status. The District is measured by three metrics: Distinguished Clubs, Paid Clubs and Member Payments. Our results are as follows:

	Goal	Actual	Percentage	Achievement
Distinguished Clubs	42	50	119%	Yes!
Paid Clubs	104	104	100%	Yes!
Member Payments	4393	4344	99%	So Close!

District 60 continued its tradition of being one of the best Districts in Toastmasters, and especially in Region 5 (which includes District 60 and eleven neighboring Districts). Of these twelve Districts, two became Distinguished, and District 60 would have been the third.

District 60 also had three Distinguished Divisions and ten Distinguished Areas:

- Division A
- Division C
- Division F



District 60

Throughout the year we also had a fabulous 2025 Annual Conference, fantastic Contests, meaningful Training Sessions, and strong club support (both in the form of chartering new clubs and helping struggling clubs to become in good standing).

All of this was possible through the hard work of our volunteer Toastmasters like yourselves - Our Region Advisor, District Leaders, Club Officers, and especially, our Club Members. Space limitations in this newsletter do not allow me to name everyone individually, but know that **I am forever grateful for your work and leadership.**

I leave my role pleased that we were **Transforming Tomorrow Together... Today!** throughout the year. Your work made a difference! Without you, none of this would have been possible.

All the best in 2025-2026! District 60 has a great Team in place and will continue to be in the forefront of Toastmasters Districts. Onward and upward!



District Director

A Legacy of Service: A Chapter Concludes

Before we take flight into a new chapter, let us pause to honor the wind beneath our wings—the dedicated team who made this journey possible. Your dedication, passion, and tireless efforts have shaped a year of growth, learning, and accomplishment during my term as Program Quality Director for District 60.



Shubha Amba, DD

To the leaders and contributors who made this journey remarkable:

- **Conference Committee Chair:** Andrew Mertens and his incredible team
- **Contest Chair:** Gin Aldeguer
- **Stagetime Chair:** Suneet Singh
- **Youth Leadership Program Chair:** Janet Heidker
- **Strategy Steering Committee:** Andrew Mertens (Chair), Janice Law, Nicola Liu
- **Division and Area Directors**
- **Club Officer Trainers**
- **Workshop Presenters**

Your steadfast support and unwavering commitment elevated our district. Together, we reached new heights - including a notable achievement for 2024–2025: **50 clubs attained Distinguished status, propelling District 60 into the “Select Distinguished”** category for Distinguished Clubs.

This milestone is not just a number; it is a reflection of your dedication and leadership.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Here's to continued success and even greater horizons ahead.



Empowered to Soar: A New Chapter Unfolds

With arms stretched wide and shining eyes lifted skyward, we stand together on our tiptoes at the edge of a new beginning—ready to soar once more into the limitless skies of empowerment. We recognize that glint in your eyes and are committed to supporting your journey. That's the heart of the District 60 vision:

A community where every member feels personally empowered to become the best version of themselves—Competent. Confident. Complete.

To bring this vision to life, the District has embraced a three-pronged focus:

- **Promoting Pathways**
- **Supporting members through a healthy club experience**
- **Encouraging leadership**

Together, let's inspire **competency** in speaking by fully engaging with the educational program, **confidence** by celebrating each other's milestones, and above all, **completeness** by stepping into leadership—because leadership offers the chance to speak with purpose, influence others positively, and ultimately become the best speakers we can be. And truly, isn't that why you're here?



Year-at-a-Glance: 2025–2026 District Calendar Now Available

To support planning for the upcoming District year, the 2025–2026 District Calendar has been updated to include key events:

- Division Club Officer Training (COT) – Round 1
- Monthly Newsletter
- Monthly New Member Welcome Sessions
- District Executive Council Meetings
- District Council Meetings
- Contest Windows
- Annual Conference

Please note that all calendar updates are highlighted in red. The calendar will be updated continuously as additional dates are finalized. These updates will also be reflected on the District Events Calendar throughout the year.

You can access the calendar here: [**D60 2025/26 Full Year Calendar**](#)



Congratulations to the Torchbearers

Here to light the way are our six Division Directors and their Area Directors:



Yolanda Haywood
Division A Director

Area Directors

A11 Karen Knights
A12 Alyn Moosabhoy
A13 Lanson Van Dyke
A14 Rick Bartel



Jen Tse
Division B Director

Area Directors

B21 Fanar Hakami
B22 Atefeh Zare
B23 Orest
Nahacziwec
B24 Amandeep
Khurana



Sethu Kotharamath
Division C Director

Area Directors

C31 Gin Aldeguer
C32 Michelle Allick
C33 Louise Bark
C34 Akarshak
Tanwar



Frankie Law
Division D Director

Area Directors

D41 Annika Lepik
D42 Angella Gooden
D43 Hilary Anne
Dwyer
D44 Andrew Jeeves



Pandora Chung
Division E Director

Area Directors

E51 Danuta
Starowicz
E52 Opportunity
Available
E53 Jidnyasa Joshi
E54 Brandon Lee
Pack



Defie Dong
Division F Director

Area Directors

F61 Wendy Chappel
F62 Kirsteen
Donachie
F63 Thomas Bernard
F64 Anvesh Saxena

One Area Director role opportunities are still available. If interested, please contact me at dd@toastmasters60.com



District 60



Angelina So
Public Relations
Manager



Oyu O'Leary
Finance Manager



Neysa Shaji
Administration
Manager



Bibi Annief
Alignment Chair



Ved Singal
Audit Committee
Chair



Angela Ho
Logistics Manager



Timothy Sulizs
Parliamentarian



Andrew Mertens
Leadership Engagement Chair,
Strategic Steering Committee
Chair



Program Quality Director

On July 1, I stepped into the role of Program Quality Director for District 60. Thank you for your trust and support, which means the world to me. I believe this confidence stems from our shared success during my time as Club Growth Director.

What I will cherish most from this journey this past year are the relationships we built along the way. I was blessed with an incredible Club Growth Team who made it all possible.



[Yukta, PQD](#)



Stephen Schroeder

Club Retention Chair (2024-25)



Dave Bachan

Club Extension Chair (2024-25)



Elda Dakli

Club Growth and Retention Analyst (2024-25)



Laverne Brown

Club Retention Champion (2024-25)

Together, we achieved great milestones: club retention, extension, and meeting the requirements for a Distinguished District with **104/104 paid clubs, 980+ new members, and ~200 charter members across 8 new clubs.**

Now, as the new year begins, so do new goals. The incoming team is excited to work with you, because District 60 grows stronger when each one of us plays a part.

District 60



Club & Member Experience

Want to elevate your club's atmosphere or member engagement? Our Club & Member Experience duo is here to support you with ideas and strategy.

[Connect with them.](#)



Anvesh Saxena

Club and Member
Experience Chair



Helen Du

Club and Member
Experience Co-Chair

Club Officer Training (COT)

Training is essential for club success! Our COT Chairs are ready to support new officers. See the training schedule in the next section and encourage your club leaders to attend.



David Cheung

Club Officer Training Chair



Andrew Varden

Club Officer Training Co-Chair

Pathways Progress

Keep your personal growth on track! Continue your Pathways journey or begin a new one.

[Learn more about Pathways](#) Need support? We're here to help your club navigate and thrive in Pathways.



Stephen Schroeder

Pathways Chair

District 60



Workshops & Learning Opportunities

We're curating insightful workshops throughout the year. Keep an eye out for announcements, and feel free to connect with our [Workshop Chair](#) if your club would like to host or suggest a topic.



Ezra Liu
Workshop Chair

Stagetime Opportunities

Looking for speaking slots at other clubs? Or need guest speakers for your club meetings? Our [Stagetime Chair](#) is your go-to person. Stay connected and expand your stage time!



Larry St. Aubin
Stagetime Chair

Contests

Get ready for another exciting contest season! Watch out for updates from your Area Directors on upcoming club-level contests.



Gin Aldeguer
Contest Chair (continuing from 2024-25)

District 60



Your DTM Journey Awaits!

Dream big and aim for the top - Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) is the highest honor Toastmasters International awards. Take the leap, your DTM legacy starts this year!



Nicole Galang

DTM Chair

Youth Leadership Program (YLP)

Know someone aged 14–18 interested in developing communication and leadership skills? Refer them to our YLP Chair for more information on how to participate or host a Youth Leadership Program.



Janet Heidker

Youth Leadership Program Chair
(Continuing from 2024-25)

District Conference 2025–26

Big dreams need big planners! If you're interested in helping organize next year's District Conference, reach out to our Conference Chairs. Be part of something impactful!



Sabrina Loc

Conference Co-Chair



Brandon Lee Pack

Conference Co-Chair

Let's stay connected and make this year one of high energy, strategic growth, and joyful collaboration. I look forward to celebrating your successes throughout the year! Reach out to us on pqd@toastmasters60.com



Club Growth Director

I am thrilled, excited and quite frankly a little nervous to be stepping into the Club Growth Director. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve you in this capacity over the coming year. We began building the Club Growth team over the past few weeks and I am thoroughly excited to introduce this very balanced team for the coming year:



[Dave Bachan, CGD](#)



Carrie Webster
Club Extension Chair



Jean Niravong
Club Retention Chair



Elda Dakli
Data Management Chair

We are currently looking for Club Sponsors, Club Mentors and Club Coaches. If you wish to join this exciting team kindly forward a communication to CGD@toastmasters60.com

Wishing you all an exciting 2025/26 Toastmasters year.



Important News

You are invited: Club Officer Training - Round 1 (June - August)

All club officers are encouraged to attend one of our upcoming **Club Officer Training** sessions to gain valuable insights, share best practices, and set your club up for a successful term. Please choose the date and time that works best for you from the options below and register using the corresponding link:

- **July 14 (Mon), 11:30am – 1:00pm** – [Register Here](#)
- **July 22 (Tue), 6:30pm – 8:00pm** – [Register Here](#)
- **July 26 (Sat), 10:00am – Noon – Hybrid Session**
 - [In-Person Registration Here](#) (limited seats)
 - [Virtual Session Registration Here](#)
- **Aug 6 (Wed), 11:30am – 1:00pm** – [Register Here](#)
- **Aug 14 (Thurs), 11:30am – 1:00pm** – [Register Here](#)
- **Aug 23 (Sat), 1:00pm – 5:00pm** – [Register Here](#)
- **Aug 28 (Thurs), 6:30pm – 8:00pm** – [Register Here](#)

District 60



Important News

Provincial Tax on Toastmasters Membership Dues

Please note the following important information:

1. Effective **August 4, 2025**, all sales transactions—including membership dues, new member fees, new paths, charter fees, all other digitally delivered items, and tangible goods will be subject to the applicable sales tax rate. Notably, as a result, Toastmasters membership dues will be taxed based on the member's province of residence. Please check your inbox for an email from TI dated June 18 that outlines this change in detail.
2. TI will collect the applicable tax at the time of membership dues payment and remit it to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Clubs that collect dues directly from their members should review their current dues structure and make any necessary adjustments to account for the tax.
3. At this time, according to TI:
 - **Canada:** Taxes will be applied as of August 4, 2025, based on the province in which the member resides.
 - **United States:** Some states already have tax applied. The TI system accounts for this.
 - **Other Countries:** TI does not currently charge tax for members in other countries because either the sales thresholds haven't been met or there is no tax compliance requirement at this time.

PLEASE NOTE:

To **avoid being charged tax** on the upcoming membership dues in September:

- If members pay the **full 12-month dues** (October 2025 – September 2026) **before August 4, 2025**, **no tax** will be applied for that period.
- If members only pay for **6 months** (October 2025 – March 2026) before August 4, **no tax** will apply to that payment. However, tax **will be charged** on the next renewal (April – September 2026), as it will occur after the effective date.

We encourage all clubs to consider collecting dues for the full 12 months in advance, if possible, to avoid the additional tax charges and remit to TI before August 4, 2025.



Important News

Distinguished Club Program (DCP) Updates

Club Officers, please take note of the following important changes to the Distinguished Club Program (DCP):

- **New Requirement:** Clubs must complete and submit their Club Success Plan by September 30 to qualify for DCP recognition. Here is the link to the Club Success Plan template: [Toastrasters International -1111A Club Success Plan](#)

Requirements			
Level	Club Success Plan	Membership as of June 30	Goals
Distinguished	Submitted by September 30*	20 total members or net growth of 3**	5
Select Distinguished	Submitted by September 30*	20 total members or net growth of 5**	7
President's Distinguished	Submitted by September 30*	20 total members**	9
Smedley Distinguished	Submitted by September 30*	25 total members**	10

*For newly chartered clubs, the due date is 90 days after charter date. Clubs that charter after April 1 will automatically receive credit for submitting the Club Success Plan for their charter program year.

**Total member count consists of renewing, dual, new, charter, and reinstated members. Transfer members do not count toward this total.

- **New Recognition Level:** Introducing the Smedley Distinguished Club awarded to clubs that:
 - Maintain 25 or more members, and
 - Achieve all 10 DCP goals.

Please review the updated DCP requirements in the table above for additional changes.





Important News

Proxy Assignment: Help Shape the future of Toastmasters

Did you know that each Toastmasters Club President and Secretary holds a vote in the upcoming Annual Business Meeting on August 22, 2025? This is your opportunity to make an impact on the future of our organization.

On June 13, all Toastmasters members received an email from Toastmasters International World Headquarters (TI WHQ) regarding proxy assignment. Proxy assignment opens by July 10, 2025 and closes on August 15, 2025. More detailed information will be shared directly with Club Presidents and Secretaries later this month by WHQ. Stay tuned and make your voice count!

District 60



Events & Initiatives

New Member Welcome Monthly Sessions – Discover What's Possible!

Welcome to District 60! Whether you've just joined Toastmasters or recently transferred into our District, we're excited to have you with us. Join us for a fast-paced, 50-minute online Welcome Session designed to help you hit the ground running and make the most of your Toastmasters journey.

We'll walk you through:

- The hidden gems on our **District 60 website**
- How to navigate and thrive in Pathways
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities beyond the club level
- District events that support your personal and professional growth

Next Session: Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 PM ET

District 60



Events & Initiatives

Voices of Success: TD Toastmasters' Journey to Membership Growth

By Chloe Chi, President, Toastmasters at TD



This year, our Toastmasters at TD club has doubled its membership by actively expanding our presence and engagement within the organization. As one of the internal clubs dedicated to employee development, we focused on raising awareness and showcasing the value of Toastmasters. We launched a dedicated internal social media page to share club news, member achievements, and communication tips from seasoned members—sparking interest and making it easy for curious employees to connect. We also collaborated with internal groups like the Black Employee Committee to introduce how Toastmasters supports career growth through communication and leadership skills. To further broaden our reach, we hosted engaging workshops and open houses every quarter featuring dynamic external speakers on topics like persuasive speaking and effective speech preparation, and even invited retired founding members to share their inspiring journeys. These combined efforts have not only enriched our community but also significantly increased participation and membership.



Events & Initiatives

From Renewal to Revival: A Journey of Connection and Growth

By Mari Haruno, VP Membership, Inspiring Women Toastmasters



When I became Vice President Membership at Inspiring Women Toastmasters on July 1, 2024, our club had dwindled to just 13 members. Determined to reverse that trend, I focused on making every meeting welcoming, safe and inspiring. Today, we're 32 members strong—a testament not only to my efforts but to every member who shows up week after week.

Between March and May 2025, we averaged ten inquiries per month. Of those, four guests attended a meeting and one joined—an impressive 25 percent conversion rate. I attribute this to consistency, clarity and care: I reply to inquiries within hours, follow up with new visitors within two hours, and reach out personally (often via WhatsApp) to nurture promising connections.

But true membership goes beyond recruitment. I regularly check in with members about their lives, dreams and challenges—not just their roles or speaking assignments. My goal is for members to feel seen, heard and supported. When renewal season arrives, I want them to choose to stay naturally, because they feel valued and connected.

This journey has taught me that membership isn't about headcounts—it's about building relationships. As we move forward, I'm confident our club will keep growing, not only in numbers but in heart.

District 60



Public Relations Manager



[Angelina So, PRM](#)

I'm honoured to serve as the Public Relations Manager for District 60. A proud member of Inspiring Voices Toastmasters Club since 2022, I've experienced how Toastmasters empowers individuals to grow as communicators and leaders. I look forward to working alongside the dedicated leaders in our district to share the Toastmasters mission and reach those seeking to build confidence, leadership, and a stronger voice.



[Anvesh Saxena, PRM](#)

Together, we've achieved remarkable growth—1250% interaction increase, 340% follower growth, and 198K impressions. Our monthly info sessions engaged 340 prospective members while our newsletter maintained an outstanding 61% open rate (21% higher than industry average). Thank you for embracing these PR initiatives. Wishing our incoming PRM and leadership team continued success in connecting and growing our Toastmasters community! - *Anvesh Saxena*
Signing off

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



[District 60 LinkedIn](#)



[District 60 Instagram](#)



[District 60 Facebook](#)



[District 60 Twitter](#)



[District 60 Website](#)



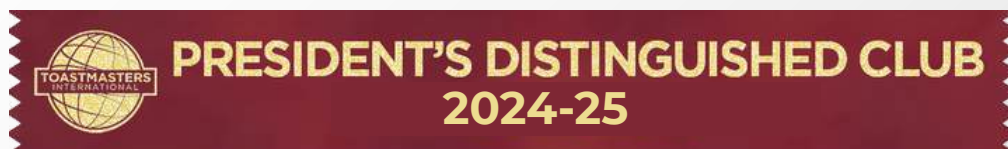
[District 60 PR Support](#)



Celebrations & Recognitions

Club Achievements

Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving Distinguished Club status:



- Applewood Achievers Toastmasters Club
- ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters
- Bay Bloor Speakers
- Bay Street Breakfast Toastmasters Club
- Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures Toastmasters Club
- CHAAT Toastmasters Club
- D60 Advanced Leadership Toastmasters
- Ebony Toastmasters Club
- Eglinton-Yonge Toastmasters
- Gavel and Glass Toastmasters Club
- High Park Speakers
- Inspiring Voices Toastmasters Club
- Inspiring Women Toastmasters
- Keynote Speakers Advanced Toastmasters Club
- Liberty Leaders Toastmasters
- Liberty Village Toastmasters
- NBC Toastmasters
- OBE Toastmasters
- Roncesvalles Speakers Circle
- St. Vladimir Toastmasters Club
- Talk Of Mackenzie Toastmasters Club
- TGIF Advanced Toastmasters
- Toronto #1 Toastmasters
- Toronto Go-Getters
- Z3roDay Cybernauts Toastmasters Club

District 60



Celebrations & Recognitions

Club Achievements

Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving Distinguished Club status:



SELECT DISTINGUISHED CLUB 2024-25

- Beaches Speeches Toastmasters Club
- Brainwave Speakers
- Danforth-Pape Toastmasters
- Goodyear Toastmasters Club
- Humber Shores Club
- Manulife Toronto Toastmasters Club
- Orange Nation
- Plaza Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Project Managers United Toastmasters
- Speak Up at TD
- Speakpreneur
- Toast To Your Health



DISTINGUISHED CLUB 2024-25

- 20 Bay PROS of PROSE
- Blossoming Voices Toastmasters Club
- Grosvenor Toastmasters
- Meridian Toastmasters
- Royal Lunch'N'Learn
- Sun Life Speakers Corner Club
- Supreme TD Toastmasters Club
- Toast Of CIBC Toastmasters Club
- Toastmasters at TD
- Toastmasters of Cedarbrae, Oratory and Leadership Club
- Toronto Business Toastmasters Club
- Toronto Liberty Village Speakers
- WaterPark Speakers Toastmasters Club

District 60



Celebrations & Recognitions

Member Achievements

A Hearty Congratulations to the following members for their amazing accomplishment in June:



DTM Award

- Caitlin Posner



Triple Crown Award

- Adam Patel
- Angelina S
- Brian Brenie
- Caitlin Posner
- David Gomez Caro
- Farah Rahaman
- Lanson Van Dyke
- Morgan M. Dandie
- Nigel Noronha
- Rissa Kintanar
- Rita Burke
- Sabrina Vashistha

District 60



Celebrations & Recognitions

Club Anniversaries

District 60 celebrates the success of its clubs that are completing another year of helping people hone their communication and leadership skills, and enriching the lives of their members. Click on the clubs' names to know more about them.



- [Sun Life Speakers Corner](#) turns 28 on 1 July
- [SALUT-Speech And Leadership UofT](#) turns 14 on 8 July
- [IO Speaks](#) turns 10 on 9 July
- [Uptown Toastmasters](#) turns 22 on 16 July
- [Finesse at TD Toastmasters Club](#) turns 12 on 16 July
- [O-Toastmasters](#) turns 2 on 22 July
- [Project Managers United Toastmasters](#) turns 7 on 26 July
- [Filibusters](#) turns 11 on 31 July
- [Klick Toasties](#) turns 1 on 31 July

Share Your Stories!

We want to hear about your club's triumphs and member successes. Let's celebrate and motivate each other across the district. Send your stories and highlights to prm@toastmasters60.com—your journey could inspire others!



District 60