



# District 60

# District News

March 2025 Edition





# District 60

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# District Director

**Success is not measured by results, it is measured by trying.**

Those are words that I have paraphrased from the keynote delivered by Verity Price, the 2021 World Champion of Public Speaking, at the Round 2 Toastmasters Leadership Institute/Club Officer Training – Part 2 held on Saturday, February 22, 2025. They are words to consider whenever we find ourselves in situations that are challenging and could prevent us from taking a step forward.



**David Veights, DD**

If we focus our thoughts on the tasks ahead of us less so on the outcome, we take the pressure off, which will allow us to enjoy the path forward. At the end of the task, the result may not be quite the same as we envisioned but nonetheless, we will have grown through the experience.

This holds true with our volunteer efforts in Toastmasters. We are all taking steps to growth in new areas of our life journeys, and volunteering at Toastmasters is one of those opportunities to grow in a positive and learning environment that provides a safe space for trying. When the opportunity arises to consider supporting District 60 through a volunteer role, consider it! Remember, we support each other; the outcome is not solely on the shoulders of an individual.

When faced with a challenge, consider the process more than the outcome. You will find yourself much happier!

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TIME TO RENEW

## March Renewals!

Toastmasters! March renewals are here! Remember to submit your dues payments to Toastmasters International before **March 31, 2025** to maintain your current membership. Submit sooner than the due date to avoid any issues with payments being collected on time.

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## Of the Year Award Nomination Deadline Extended!



**Johanne Von Zubon**  
Of the Year Awards  
Chair

One more time! Do you know that special Toastmaster that worked tirelessly to support our Clubs and our District in 2023-24? We have extended the deadline to nominate that special Toastmaster to March 22, 2025. Go to the [Of the Year Award \(OTYA\) Page](#) on the D60 Website and nominate that special Toastmaster.

If you have any questions please contact Johanne Von Zubon at [otya@toastmasters60.com](mailto:otya@toastmasters60.com).

Let's recognize excellence!



**district 60**

# Program Quality Director

## District 60 Centennial Celebrations Highlights

A memorable hour filled with feasting, networking, and fun!

The celebrations, organized by Marilyn Garshowitz, and supported by Roman Smolak, created an atmosphere brimming with energy and laughter. Guests enjoyed exciting quizzes and team games that kept everyone engaged.



**Shubha Amba, PQD**





# District 60



The lucky winners of the Wheel of Names were Anne Jefferson from NBC Toastmasters and Lei Liu from Manulife Toronto Toastmasters. The online quiz winner was Ken Weinberg from 20 Bay PROS of PROSE. Congratulations to all! Thank you Marilyn and Roman for bringing us this unforgettable event!



## Two Amazing Guest Speakers

We were privileged to hear from Verity Price, the 2021 World Champion of Public Speaking, who joined us from South Africa. Verity shared profound lessons embodied in one simple, yet powerful word: YES! This word, which opened doors in her life, has the power to transform opportunities. Verity also surprised us with a grand reveal of the mystery guest. Lance Miller, the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, who was her mentor throughout her Championship journey joined us from California.



While Verity inspired us with her leadership journey in Toastmasters, Lance shared invaluable insights on how to keep clubs strong. Two World Champions, both true Toastmasters at heart, left us with powerful messages and lasting inspiration.

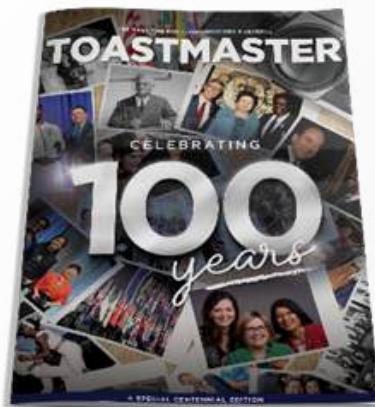
## Vibrant Club Officer Training Sessions

New and emerging leaders energized the Club Officer Training sessions, which focused on vital topics such as Pathways engagement, member retention, and leadership development. These sessions provided key learnings to help clubs thrive.

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## Winners of the COT Round 2 raffle!



Jennifer Mah	University of Toronto Toastmasters
Victor Figueroa	Rainbow Club
Greg Burns	Speak Up Toastmasters
Anastasiia Teslenko	Toastmasters at TD
Uchechi Omenkukwu	Humber Lakeshores Toastmasters
Lei Liu	Manulife Toronto Toastmasters

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### Training Credit Update

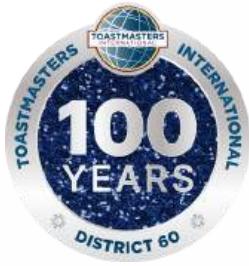
As I write this, I'm enroute to India for a vacation, but I will update Toastmasters International with credit for attendance upon my return on March 21st. Thank you for your patience, and please remember that we have until May 31st to apply for credit. I will take care of it as soon as I'm back!



**Gin Aldeguer, DTM**  
Contest Chair

### International Speech Contest

Contest season is currently on with Area and Division contests underway. Contests are an excellent opportunity to learn how to run an event and build your confidence as a leader. When you are asked to serve as a contest official, please say YES! It's a valuable experience that will help you grow and enhance your skills in event management.



# District 60 Annual Conference

## Transforming Tomorrow Together - Today!



### District 60

Annual Conference April 26-27, 2025

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Registration is now open!!

Early bird registration is now open for D60's 2025 Annual Conference! And we have been able to keep the early bird ticket prices the same as they were in 2019!

Register now for the full conference and enjoy:

- A choice of 2 workshops on leadership, communications, personal and career development led by subject matter experts
- Keynote and plenary workshop by Lance Miller, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking
- International Speech, Evaluation and Table Topics Contests
- Opening Ceremony and Parade of Banners
- Communication and Leadership Award Lunch
- George Keenan Award Lunch
- DTM Ceremony
- District Director's Dinner
- Hall of Fame celebrating educational and leadership accomplishments
- Two hot breakfasts, two buffet lunches, one plated dinner, 3 coffee breaks



**Andrew Mertens DTM,  
Conference Chair**

**When?** Saturday April 26 from 7:30am to 10pm and Sunday April 27 from 8am to 2pm.

**Where?** At Glendon College, York University at Lawrence Ave E and Bayview Ave

Early Bird Price? \$249 until the end of March.

To register, please click [here](#) and follow the instructions.

Looking forward to seeing you at the conference where we will be **Transforming Tomorrow Together Today!**



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## Stagetime

Stagetime hit a double century. We have created 200 speaker / evaluator opportunities for D60 members. We encourage you to participate in this initiative - maybe as a speaker or evaluator or maybe as a club and host a Stagetime speaker. See below a testimonial from Richard T (Simcoe Speakers) on how Stagetime has helped his club.



**Suneet Singh**  
Stagetime Chair

“ —

*Because of the size of our club, it was usually the same people delivering speeches or not having speeches at all, only to have prolonged Table Topics sessions. Stagetime has helped our club continue to deliver successful productive meetings.*

*Our club has been very satisfied with the Stagetime program and the quality of speakers/speeches. The speakers are reliable and haven't disappointed delivering their projects. It gives us the opportunity to hear speakers from other clubs while building our membership. We also appreciate the feedback that they have provided.*

*With regard to your lead, since being introduced to Stagetime, you have been proactive in securing speakers for our meetings and you have followed up to see how things went.*

*I would recommend that any club looking for speakers use this resource.*

**-Richard Tyrrell, Simcoe Speakers Toastmasters**

— ”



# Club Growth Director

## Embracing the Final Stretch: Growth, Learning & Leadership



As we step into **March**, we've now completed **8 out of the 12 months** of this Toastmasters year!

Together, we have **accomplished so much**—from chartering new clubs to revitalizing existing ones, from strengthening our leadership skills to expanding our Toastmasters community.

[Yukta, CGD](#)

But the journey isn't over yet! **There are still incredible opportunities ahead for learning, growing, and making an impact before July 2025, when we welcome a new Toastmasters year.**

**Starting new clubs** has been a **powerful learning experience** for many of our members who stepped up as **Club Sponsors** and played key roles in **Demo Meetings**. They have **sharpened their presentation, networking, and leadership skills** while helping organizations embrace the power of Toastmasters.

**Mentoring newly chartered clubs** has been a **refreshing leadership journey** for many. Supporting a club from its inception—helping it establish independent operations, guiding members, and ensuring its long-term success—is a **rewarding challenge**. It's also an **excellent experience to add to your resume** and talk about in your workplace as a **valuable leadership accomplishment**.

**Our Club Coaches** have been working **tirelessly** alongside struggling clubs, guiding them to **rebuild, regain momentum, and thrive again**. Their dedication is making a significant impact, helping clubs **re-engage members, enhance meeting quality, and reach Distinguished status**.

**If you'd like to expand your horizons, join us in this journey. Do you know an organization that could benefit from a Toastmasters club?** Now is the perfect time to bring us your leads! You'll not only help expand the Toastmasters community but also **earn credits and incentives** for your contribution.

Let's make these final four months count! Reach out to me at [cgd@toastmasters60.com](mailto:cgd@toastmasters60.com) to explore how you can get involved in club growth, mentorship, and coaching.

**Together, let's keep building, learning, and leading!**



## Proud Moment: 4th Club Chartered!



We are thrilled to announce that Colas Toastmasters Club has officially chartered, marking the 4th new club of the 2024-25 year! This corporate club, with **Colas Canada**, is ready to embark on its Toastmasters journey.

A huge shoutout to Caroline Nguyen and Neysa Shaji for their incredible dedication as Club Sponsors since September 2024 in making this club a reality. Special thanks to Neysa Shaji, who continues to guide the club as a Mentor, joined by Bruce Laing, whose vast experience will be invaluable in shaping the club's success.

This milestone is a testament to our district's growth, and we look forward to seeing Colas Toastmasters thrive!

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## Join the Demo Meeting Team!

We have a **pipeline of strong leads** to establish new corporate Toastmasters clubs across **tech and finance industries**—and we need **YOU!**

Being part of a **demo meeting team** allows you to:

- Refine public speaking skills
- Enhance leadership & presentation abilities
- Expand your professional network
- Promote Toastmasters to new audiences

Whether you'd like to **speak, take a role, or support as an organizer**, this is an excellent opportunity to grow your skills while helping Toastmasters expand.

Interested? Reach out to **Stephen Schroeder, Club Extension Chair** or **me, Yukta**, to get involved!





## Celebrating Our Dedicated Club Coaches!

A thriving Toastmasters club is built on mentorship, support, and leadership, and our Club Coaches exemplify these qualities through their dedication and commitment. They have stepped up to guide struggling clubs, working closely with members to rebuild momentum, strengthen club meetings, and foster growth.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our incredible Club Coaches!

- Colin Brathwaite, DL4 (Speaking from Experience Advanced Toastmasters Club)
- Fiona Bruce, EC4, PI3, EH3 (Royal Lunch'N'Learn)
- Larry M. St. Aubin, PM5 (Phoenix-Toronto Toastmasters)
- Ken S. Weinberg, DTM (Trinity Toastmasters)
- Volonda Harris, DTM (ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters)
- Holly K. Towkaniuk, LD5 (ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters)
- Yolanda Haywood, PM3 (Transit Toastmasters Club)
- Hema Dawonauth, LD3 (Toastmasters of Cedarbrae, Oratory and Leadership Club)
- Carolyn Ayson (Finesse at TD)
- Yukta Hans, SR5 (Toronto Liberty Village Speakers)

Being a Club Coach is a journey of leadership and impact—it involves working with club officers, bringing in fresh ideas, mentoring members, and reviving the club spirit. It's not just about club growth; it's about personal growth too!

Thank you for your time, energy, and dedication! Your efforts are making a lasting difference in District 60.

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## Become a Club Sponsor, Mentor, or Coach – Make an Impact!



**Dave Bachan, DTM**  
Club Retention Chair

Want to elevate your leadership experience while making a lasting impact on a club's success? Consider becoming a Club Sponsor, Mentor, or Coach!

- **Club Sponsor** – Helps establish a brand-new club, guiding its chartering process.
- **Club Mentor** – Supports a newly chartered club for six months to ensure a strong foundation.
- **Club Coach** – Assists an existing club (with less than 12 members) in rebuilding and achieving Distinguished status.

### Why take up these roles?

- Develop coaching, leadership & strategic planning skills
- Expand your network & influence within Toastmasters
- Earn Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) credit

Ready to take on a leadership role? Reach out to [Club Growth Team](#) to get started!



**Stephen Schroeder, DTM**  
Club Extension Chair

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## Club Support Group - Session 2 Recap (Feb 22, 2025)

Our **Club Support Group** brings together clubs with **less than 8 members** who are not yet working with a club coach. The goal? **To help them grow and strengthen their meetings.**

In **Session 2**, we were joined by the **District PR Manager, Anvesh Saxena**, who delivered a dynamic session on **marketing strategies** for both **Community and Corporate clubs**—empowering clubs with tools to attract and retain members. [Click here](#) to read a detailed summary of all the tools, tips, and tricks discussed during this session

### How can you contribute?

**As an individual:** Attend meetings, take up roles, evaluate speeches, or deliver a speech to bring energy to these clubs.

**As a club:** Host **joint meetings** to provide a vibrant experience and help these clubs regain momentum.

Interested in supporting these clubs? Contact [Laverne Brown](#) or me, [Yukta](#).



## Win the Talk Up Toastmasters Challenge!



The **Talk Up Toastmasters** challenge is in full swing! From **February 1 to March 31**, clubs that **add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members** will receive:

1. A **special Talk Up Toastmasters ribbon** for their club banner
2. A **10% discount code** for their next club order (valid for six months)

### **Now's the time to grow your club!**

Encourage members to **invite guests** and host an engaging open house. Let's strengthen our clubs and celebrate membership growth!

**Deadline:** March 31 (Applications & payments must be submitted to Toastmasters International by this date).

**Note:** Transfer and charter members do not count towards this challenge.

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# Events & Initiatives

## ART of a Champion

Get inspired by the best in the world! Join us on Wednesday, March 19, at 12:00 PM ET (UTC-4) for an exclusive keynote presentation by Luisa Montalvo, the 2024 World Champion of Public Speaking!



Luisa made history by winning the prestigious **Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking**, competing against thousands of speakers from around the globe. Her journey to the top showcases the power of storytelling, stage presence, and impactful communication—skills that can elevate your own speeches this contest season!

Register here: [Zoom Registration Link](#)

As contest season heats up, don't miss this opportunity to learn from a World Champion and sharpen your own speaking skills!

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# Public Relations Manager



Wishing all Toastmasters the best in their contests—push yourself a little further, because that's how we grow!

[Anvesh Saxena, PRM](#)

Toastmasters clubs thrive when members feel supported and engaged. To help your club succeed, take advantage of these valuable resources:

- **Challenge Buster** – Identify and solve common club challenges with proven strategies.
- **Member Growth Reference Chart** – Show members how to maximize their Toastmasters journey and get the best return on their investment of time, money, and energy.
- **Member Interest Survey** – Gain insights into what members want to achieve and tailor your club experience to support their goals.
- **Canva templates** for polished, club-ready designs

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 Instagram](#)

[District 60 Facebook](#)

[District 60 Twitter](#)

[District 60 Website](#)

[District 60 PR Support](#)



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# Celebrations & Recognitions

## Club Achievements

With just four months left in the year, District 60 is in an excellent position to hit its Distinguished Club goal! 37 clubs have already achieved at least 5 goals—huge congratulations for hitting this milestone and setting an inspiring example of excellence! 28 clubs are just one goal away with 4 goals, and 13 clubs are just a few steps from success with 3 goals. You are so close, and the finish line is within reach! Keep up the amazing work!

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### DCP goals met – TEN

- D60 Advanced Leadership Toastmasters
- High Park Speakers
- Inspiring Women Toastmasters

### DCP goals met - NINE

- Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures Toastmasters Club
- NBC Toastmasters
- OBE Toastmasters
- Roncesvalles Speakers Circle
- Toronto Go-Getters

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### DCP goals met – EIGHT

- ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters
- Eglinton-Yonge Toastmasters
- Orange Nation
- University of Toronto Toastmasters

### DCP goals met - SEVEN

- Bay Bloor Speakers
- Goodyear Toastmasters Club
- Liberty Leaders Toastmasters
- Liberty Village Toastmasters
- Rainbow Club
- St. Vladimir Toastmasters Club

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# Celebrations & Recognitions

## Club Achievements

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### DCP goals met - SIX

- Applewood Achievers Toastmasters Club
- Beaches Speeches Toastmasters Club
- Humber Shores Club
- TGIF Advanced Toastmasters
- Toast To Your Health
- Toronto #1 Toastmasters
- West Mall Toastmasters Club

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### DCP goals met - FIVE

- Brainwave Speakers
- Ebony Toastmasters Club
- Inspiring Voices Toastmasters Club
- Plaza Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Project Managers United Toastmasters
- Supreme TD Toastmasters Club
- Talk Of Mackenzie Toastmasters Club
- Toast Of CIBC Toastmasters Club
- Toronto TSO Toastmasters Club
- Toronto Business Toastmasters Club
- Trinity Toastmasters
- Z3roDay Cybernauts Toastmasters Club

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# Celebrations & Recognitions

## Member Achievements

A Hearty Congratulations to the following members for winning the triple crown award in the month of February

District 60



### Triple Crown Award

- Sundeep Battu
- Mohamed Tao
- Angela S. Ho
- Carolyn Ayson
- Susan Carroll-Clark
- Tan Lin
- Vitaliy Mykhaylychenko



# 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.



- [Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures Toastmasters Club](#) turns 1 on 1 March
- [Deloitte Toronto Toastmasters](#) turns 13 on 1 March
- [Royal Class Club](#) turns 36 on 1 March
- [Deer Park Toastmasters](#) turns 37 on 1 March
- [Goodyear Toastmasters](#) turns 44 on 1 March
- [Inspiring Women Toastmasters](#) turns 3 on 8 March
- [Munich Re Canada \(MRC\) Toastmasters Club](#) turns 1 on 8 March
- [Orange Nation](#) turns 8 on 10 March
- [Smart City Speakers](#) turns 5 on 12 March
- [The Communicators Toastmasters Club \(BMO\)](#) turns 20 on 14 March
- [1 For U KSS](#) turns 16 on 17 March
- [Ebony Toastmasters Club](#) turns 19 on 21 March
- [Eglinton-Yonge Toastmasters](#) turns 17 on 27 March
- [SunnySci Speakers Club](#) turns 1 on 28 March

### 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](mailto:prm@toastmasters60.com)—your journey could inspire others!

