



Andrew Mertens, DTM
Table Topics Contest
Winner



Joe Ciccone, DTM
International Speech Contest
Winner



Sarvesh Mungal, PI3
Evaluation Contest
Winner

Special Feature District 60 Annual Conference 2026



From Spark to Spotlight



Aneeta Pathak, DTM
George Keenan Award Recipient



Gloria McPherson
Communication and Leadership
Award Recipient



Aaron Beverly
Keynote Speaker
2019 World Champion of Public Speaking



Andrew Horberry, DTM
Keynote Speaker
International Director, Region 5



Monti Ghai

Division Director of the Year



Suneet Singh

Toastmasters of the Year



Frankie Law

Area Director of the Year

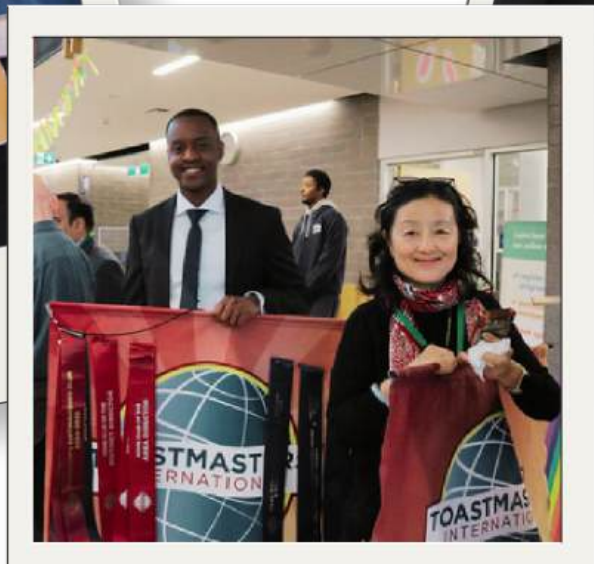
From Spark to Spotlight, the District 60 Annual Conference 2026 celebrated the growth of communicators and leaders through inspiring speeches, meaningful connections, and unforgettable moments. This special feature highlights the energy, achievements, and memories from an exceptional weekend.



Angela Ho

Club President of the Year





A **special thank you** to all the photographers and “paparazzi” who captured so many memorable and fun moments during the conference and generously shared your photos with us. Your contributions help showcase the spirit of Toastmasters and support the promotion of our clubs, members, and District events across our communications and social media platforms.

Link 1 and **Link 2** will take you to the conference photo galleries for everyone to enjoy and revisit the wonderful memories from the weekend. District 60 kindly asks that selected photos be used to support Toastmasters club and District promotion while being mindful and respectful of members’ privacy when sharing images online.









District News

May 2026 Edition

District Leaders-Elect 2026 - 2027

The Leadership Edge

Distinguished Club Program

Club Officer Elections

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District 60



District News

May 2026 Edition

Finishing Strong

Close to the finish line, we proceed with laser-sharp focus and clear intention. No time to dither, no time for doubt - only singularity of purpose. That is what it takes to finish strong.

Each year, our District undertakes a mammoth journey toward becoming a Distinguished District. Why? Because a Distinguished District is a stamp of our collective strength, proof that we are on this journey together - committed to shared development and growth. While individual success is important, it is collective success that makes individual achievement possible, and in turn strengthens the whole.

Therefore, within this collective journey, we turn inward - for it is through each individual commitment that the District is built.

Hence, let us examine our personal journey. Did you complete the Pathways level you set out to achieve? Perhaps it was a Path you committed to finishing. Did you embrace the leadership opportunity offered to you? Did you carry out your assignments with the enthusiasm of one hungry to serve others?

If so, you have been building personal strength.

If not, there is still time. With almost two months remaining - a mere half a league away - the finish line is in sight. Let it fuel you with urgency.

On May 8, I deliver my final Level 3 speech in my Strategic Relationships Path. As my District leadership journey too draws to a close, I feel the surge that anything is still possible.

I encourage you to pause, reflect on your Pathways or leadership journey, and harness that same momentum. Let it fuel you forward too - and help you finish strong!

All the Best!



Shubha Amba, DTM
District Director



District 60

District 60 Elects Officers for the new 2026-2027 Year!

At the April 22, 2026 District Council Meeting, the following District 60 Toastmasters were elected to lead District 60 in the upcoming year:



**District Director
Yukta, SR5**



**Program Quality Director
Dave Bachan, DTM**



**Club Growth Director
Yolanda Haywood, PM3**



**Division A Director
Rick Bartel, DL4**



**Division B Director
Orest Nahacziwec, DTM**



**Division C Director
Difei Dong, DL2**



**Division D Director
Akarshak Tanwar, IP2**



**Division E Director
Jidnyasa Joshi, PM3**



**Division F Director
Nawar Alkaseer, PM4**

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders!



District Director

District 60

District 60 Seeks Candidates for Appointed Roles for the new 2026-2027 Year

Do you know a Toastmaster that is eager to expand their leadership experience? Perhaps you are that Toastmaster?

Consider serving District 60 in one of the following appointed positions during the upcoming 2026-2027 year:

- Area Director (24 positions)
- Administration Manager (1 position)
- Finance Manager (1 position)
- Public Relations Manager (1 position)

These roles provide an excellent opportunity for any Toastmaster who may wish to advance in their career but find themselves lacking in leadership experience. Expand your horizons and consider one of these roles! If a District Leader contacts you about a role, consider it a compliment and an acknowledgment of your talents and abilities. If you are interested in serving as an Area Director, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/zEZznDv7gdbhyBcq8>



David Veights, DTM
District Leadership Committee Chair

New Member Orientation – May 19, 2026



Our next online New Member Orientation session will be held on Wednesday, May 20 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. EDT. 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](#)



District 60



Brian Masters

The Leadership Edge proves that authentic self-discovery is the ultimate catalyst for profound leadership transformation.



Ved Singal

Amazing! This program is certainly going to help many Toastmasters... The program, with real life examples, shows how to best handle these daily challenges. I highly recommend this program to anybody who wants to improve in day-to-day life.



District 60

From Reactive Leadership to Intentional Impact

Leadership Edge is a practical leadership experience that helps leaders align their purpose, lead with emotional clarity, and turn real-world challenges into growth opportunities

Congratulations to our 2nd Cohort!

Our second session was held on Saturday April 18. Congratulations and to our second graduating class of The Leadership Edge Program whose active participation and feedback made for a superb day.

Brian Master, David Cheung, Jennifer Stanley, Ken Weinberg, Leah Xing, Leticia Sanchez, Sabrina Vashistha, Thomas Bernard, Ved Singal, Vitaliy Mykhaylychenko



Thank you Ken Weinberg for the venue and graciously hosting the session.

If you are interested in finding out more about Leadership Edge, 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



Program Quality Director

District 60

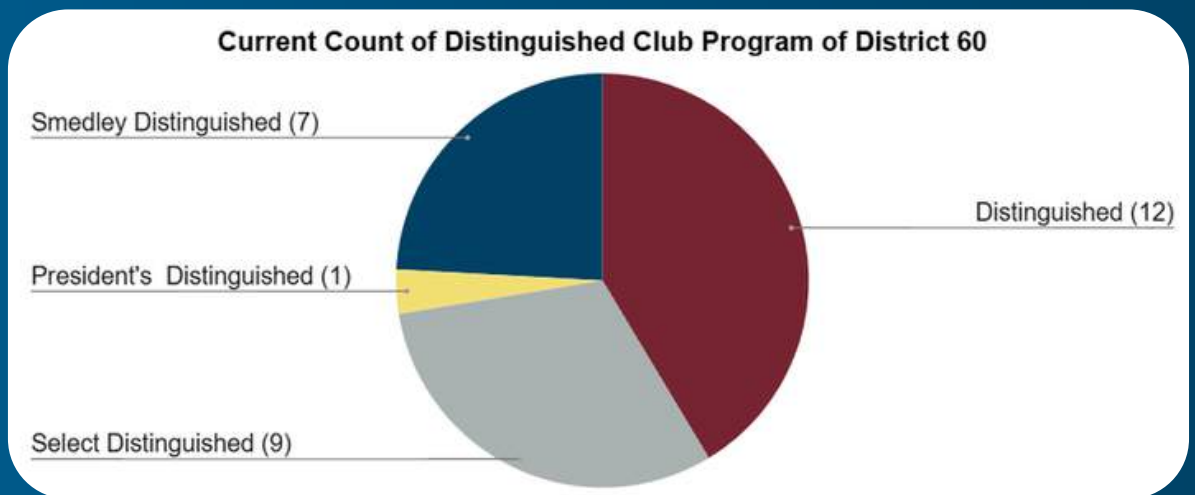
You Are a Toastmaster — And That Means Something

You are a Toastmaster, and you invest your **time, energy, and money** into this program because every moment that comes your way is an opportunity to **learn and grow by doing**. Every aspect of Toastmasters, whether it's your club's **DCP goals**, your **Pathways progress**, or the **leadership roles** you take on, is designed to teach you something meaningful.

In each of my roles over the years, I have learned a wide range of skills: managing people, leading projects, marketing, sales, conflict resolution, coaching, and so much more. Toastmasters has a way of preparing us for spaces far beyond our meetings.

So this month, I urge you to **push forward the DCP goals of your club**. You can still become **Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or even Smedley Distinguished**. But more importantly, in the process, you will learn skills that make you stand out in any room.

The Distinguished Club Program is not just a scoreboard — it is a **skill-building framework**.





District 60

Why should clubs focus on DCP now?

Because every DCP goal achieved represents a real skill gained:

- **Education awards** → mastery of communication, storytelling, and influence
- **Membership growth** → marketing, outreach, and relationship-building
- **Officer training** → leadership development and operational excellence
- **Timely renewals & administration** → planning, accountability, and follow-through

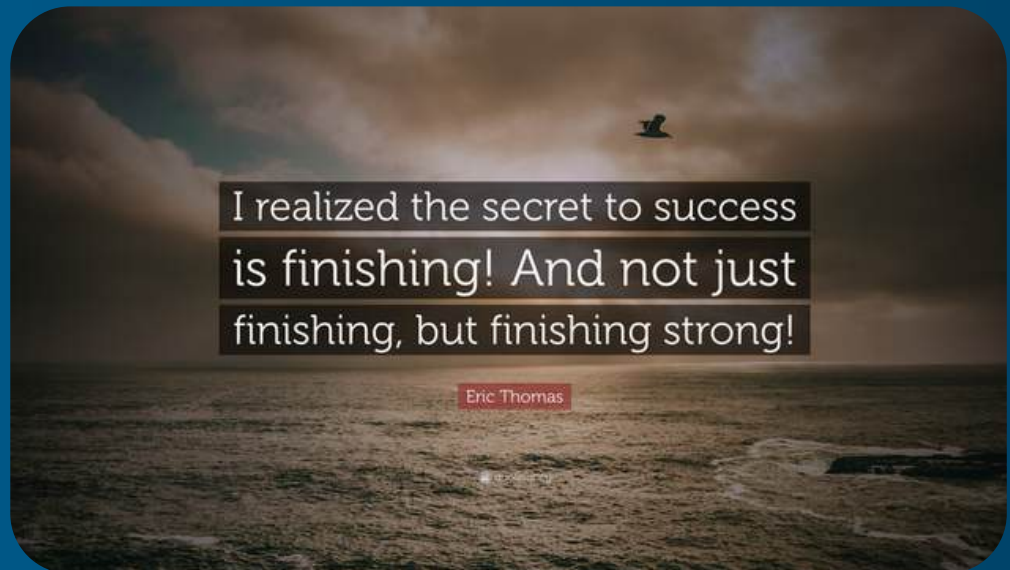
When clubs push toward Distinguished, members naturally develop the competencies that make them stronger leaders at work, in their communities, and in their personal lives.

Guidance for Clubs in the Final Stretch

Here are three high-impact actions clubs can take **right now**:

- **Run a “May Sprint Meeting”**: Dedicate one meeting to completing speeches, evaluations, and project sign-offs.
- **Encourage members to finish a Pathways level**: Many members are closer than they think — one speech or one reflection away.
- **Add 1–2 new members**: A single Open House or themed meeting can make the difference between Distinguished and not.

Area Directors and Division Directors are ready to support you. Reach out, ask questions, and let’s finish the year strong together.





Conference Recap: From Spark to Spotlight

Our Annual Conference was a celebration of courage, creativity, and community.

Highlights

- Two powerful keynote speakers:
 - Aaron Beverly, 2019 World Champion of Public Speaking
 - Andrew Horberry, DTM, International Director, Region 5
- Inspiring workshops
- Outstanding contests
- A vibrant Parade of Banners
- Members connecting, learning, and stepping into their spotlight

And the winners are... Drum Rolls...

- **Evaluation Contest:** Sarvesh Mungal, PI3 (1 For U KSS Toastmasters)
- **Table Topics Contest:** Andrew Mertens, DTM (D60 Advanced Speakers, Blossoming Voices Toastmasters Club and TGIF Advanced Toastmasters)
- **International Speech Contest:** Joe Ciccone, DTM (OBE Toastmasters)

The winner of the International Speech Contest advances to Regional Quarter Finals and if they make it further, you never know, they could be the next World Champion of Public Speaking!

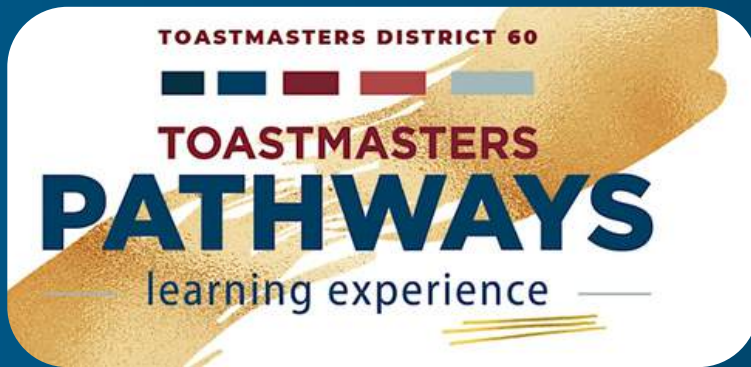
Thank you to every volunteer, speaker, contestant, and attendee who made this event unforgettable. The energy you brought will carry us through the final months of the Toastmasters year.

District 60





District 60



Moving Ahead with Pathways:

Congratulations to these clubs which helped their members—and others—strive for their best through Pathways, and earned a basket of goodies!



DCP Educational Goals

24/25: 0-1 out of 6	➔	25/26: 2 (so far)
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4 of 5 had a Pathways Workshop or Guest Speaker

- * Capital One Toastmasters
- * MidTown Toastmasters
- * OPS Toastmasters
- * Speak-Up Toastmasters
- * WaterPark Speakers Toastmasters



Invited a Pathways Speaker

- * 1 for U KSS Toastmasters
- * Deer Park Toastmasters
- * Meridian Toastmasters
- * OPS Toastmasters
- * SALUT-Speech & Leadership UofT
- * SickKids Toastmasters
- * Simcoe Speakers Toastmasters



Produced a Pathways Speaker

- * Applewood Achievers Toastmasters
- * Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures Toastmasters
- * Gavel and Glass Toastmasters
- * Inspiring Women Toastmasters
- * Liberty Village Toastmasters
- * OBE Toastmasters

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL



Stephen Schroeder, DTM
Pathways Chair



Officer Elections & Succession Planning

May is election month, and this is where the real leadership development begins.

Encourage members to step into club officer roles because:

- Leadership roles are where **public speaking meets real-world application**
- Members learn to **run meetings, manage teams, resolve conflict, and lead with confidence**
- These skills translate directly into **career advancement and community leadership**
- Clubs with strong officer teams start the year with **clarity, energy, and purpose**

A club's success next year begins with the leaders it elects today.

Toastmasters is what you need it to be, when you need it.

Whether you are finishing a Pathways level, helping your club reach Distinguished status, or stepping into leadership for the first time - every action you take this month is **shaping the leader you are becoming.**

Let's finish this year with **purpose, pride, and momentum.**

District 60





Club Growth Director

District 60

Welcome to Our Two Newest District 60 Clubs

**TRSM Graduate Toastmasters
Ase Community Foundation**

Wishing both clubs a long and fruitful journey with Toastmasters.

Club Charter Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating Club Charter anniversaries in the month of May, 2026:

Toronto #1 - **73**

Gavel and Glass - **71**

Talk Of Mackenzie - **29**

St. Clair Public Service Speakers - **17**

Toronto Liberty Village Speakers - **16**

20 Bay PROS of PROSE - **15**

D60 Advanced Speakers - **15**

Shellbusters - **15**

Pitch Please - **6**

SS&C - **5**

Aon Toronto - **1**

Wescam - **1**

ANNIVERSARY





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.



Open-House Month

May is Open House month. Hold an Open House to grow your membership. If you hold one, a District Leader representative will visit your Open House.

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.





District 60

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."



Sam Levenson

Beat the Clock: Program Dates: May 1 – June 30

Toastmasters are taught to run meetings on time, finish speeches on time and reach membership goals on time.

In that spirit, **Beat the Clock** is a great motivator for finishing the year on schedule — on time and with record numbers!

Make it your club's goal to earn the Beat the Clock award and encourage every member to take part.

Clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 receive a **Beat the Clock ribbon** to display on the club's banner. Qualifying clubs also earn a special discount code for 10% off their next club order. (The discount code expires six months from the date of issue and is not valid with any other offer.)

Applications and payments for members with a join date between May 1 and June 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than June 30. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward Beat the Clock credit.





Public Relations Manager

District 60

Spotlight Your Club on District 60's LinkedIn

District 60 will feature club events on LinkedIn twice a month on the 10th and 20th.

Want your club featured?

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

✓ Email: PRM@toastmasters60.com

✓ Poster requirements:

Size: 1200 x 1200 px

Orientation: Portrait

Branding: Follows the Toastmasters International Brand Manual (official fonts, colours, logo placement)

Tag It. Repost It. Let's Go!

Help District 60 grow and get rewarded!

Tag @District 60 and repost District event flyers across your social media channels. Every tag and repost boosts visibility, drives attendance, supports our clubs, and counts toward District rewards.

And keep them coming because I'm still counting.

Let's continue amplifying our members, clubs, and events across the GTA together!

**#Toastmasters #District60 #PublicSpeaking #Leadership
#Community #ToastmastersInternational**



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



District 60



Shubha Amba
District Director



Yukta
Program Quality Director

DISTRICT 60

Serving Toronto, Canada



Dave Bachan
Club Growth Director



Angelina So
Public Relations Manager



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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