



District News

February 2026 Edition

The Leadership Edge

Club Officer Training - Round 2

District 60 Annual Conference

Club Charter Anniversaries

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District 60



District News

February 2026 Edition

Awakened by a Gentle Nudge

Recently, my VP of Ed, Gin Aldeguer, nudged me to complete one remaining Level 3 project so our club could earn a DCP point. I'll admit I had been in a lull and not quite ready to wake up yet, so I dodged it with an excuse. I know. I know.

But that nudge did awaken me—stirring me out of complacency and burning my brain ever since. A tide of excitement began to rise in my belly, like the anticipation of your favourite team scoring a goal. What a feeling!

Sometimes, all it takes is a gentle nudge to wake the sleeping giant and spark excitement. We've all felt its power—and when we give that nudge to others, we help them score in their life game. Then we cheer them on and show we care.

As we enter the home stretch of the Toastmasters year, let's help them get over the hump. Find out what's stopping them—whether it's finding a topic, navigating a Pathways project, simply not feeling it, or competing priorities—and support them through that impasse.

And when they finally hit that home run and we cheer, "It's a goal!"—that feeling can supercharge them. So go ahead—give your Toastmasters buddy that much-needed gentle nudge for the next speech, Table Topic, or evaluation. You might just help awaken something powerful within them.

Thank you, Gin!



Shubha Amba, DTM
District Director

District 60



District Director

District 60

The Leadership Edge - Pilot Program Held!

A full day Pilot Program was held on Saturday January 24 to great acclaim! And many congratulations to our first graduating class of The Leadership Edge Program whose feedback and input will shape the Program going forward. Thank you to all of the presenters: Andrew Mertens, David Veights, Dawn Frail, Pandora Chung, and Shubha Amba; and a huge thank you to Ken Weinberg for finding the venue and graciously hosting the session.

Please join me in congratulating the following District 60 Toastmasters in achieving their Leadership Edge:

Angella Gooden, Danuta Starowicz, Jidnyasa Joshi, Ken Weinberg, Lanson Van Dyke, Louise Bark, Michelle Allick, Nawar Alkassee, Orest Nahacziwec, Pandora Chung, Yolanda Haywood.

Our next cohort is in February. If you are interested in being selected for the Program, please email lead@toastmasters60.com as soon as you can as spots are filling quickly. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop and enhance your leadership skills, and help you understand and achieve your full potential in all your future endeavours whether they be personal, within your community or at work.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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 Program (Jan)
Pilot cohort helps shape the experience and program design.

Pilot Cohort Invitation
Cohort of 10 Leaders
Area & Division Directors invited to participate

Completion & Recognition
• Framed certificate, or
• Acrylic plaque

Multi-Cohort Rollout (Jan–May)
Up to 6 cohorts, each with 10 participants.

Leadership Edge
Transferable Skills that Create Impact — In Life, Career, and Community

This graphic outlines the "The Leadership Edge" program structure. It starts with a survey in December, followed by a pilot cohort in January involving 10 leaders and area/division directors. This is followed by a multi-cohort rollout from January to May, with up to 6 cohorts of 10 participants each. The program concludes with completion and recognition, including framed certificates or acrylic plaques. The overall theme is "Transferable Skills that Create Impact — In Life, Career, and Community".





District 60



Why not you...

Be part of a team of Amazing Leaders! Calling for Nominations

District 60 Leadership Committee is accepting application applications for

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- Division Directors (6)

To apply, send your application to the DLC Chair, David Veights,
nominations@toastmasters60.com.



David Veights, DTM
District Leadership Committee Chair

District Leadership for 2026-2027 - Serve District 60!

Are you an Area Director, a Club President or Club Vice-President of Education with at least six consecutive months of experience and are looking to grow your leadership skills? Consider serving as a Division Director for 2026-2027 in a mutually supportive environment to gain valuable leadership experience. District 60 is seeking at least six candidates to serve as Division Director for next year.

Also, District 60 is seeking candidates for *Club Growth Director*, *Program Quality Director* and *District Director*. See the heading "Nomination Eligibility" in **the link of District Leader Committee** to learn the pre-requisites for consideration of these roles.

Applications will be accepted until **February 6, 2026**. Don't delay!

New Member Orientation – February 17



Our next online New Member Orientation session will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 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



Program Quality Director

District 60

Club Officer Training (COT): Set Your Club Up for Success

Club Officer Training (COT) is essential for equipping yourself with leadership skills, clarity, and confidence needed to run a successful club. Well-trained officers lead to stronger meetings, better member experience, and sustained club growth. Round 2 is a great time for aspiring club leaders to join and start preparing for their term coming up in July.

Distinguished Club Program Credit:

Clubs earn DCP credit when at least 4 officers are trained in each training round - a key step toward Distinguished Club status.

Network & Learn:

COT sessions are also a great opportunity to connect with fellow club officers across the District, share best practices, and learn from experienced leaders.

Check Your Club's Training Status:

Please review the [**attendance tracking sheet**](#) to see who has completed their training and who hasn't. If you believe an officer has completed their training but their attendance has not been marked, please leave a comment against your club name with the relevant details so the attendance can be verified and updated.

For any questions, reach out to District 60 COT Chair, **Andrew Varden**.



Andrew Varden, VC5
Club Officer Training Chair





Club Officer Training

Round 2

District 60

Upcoming COT Sessions (Round 2 | New Session Added!)

Toastmasters D60 - Club Officer Training - Division E Sponsored (Round 2)

Date: February 19, 2026 | Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

[Click here to register](#)

Toastmasters D60 - Club Officer Training - Division D Sponsored (Round 2)

Date: February 20, 2026 | Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

[Click here to register](#)

Toastmasters D60 - Club Officer Training - Division F Sponsored (Round 2)

Date: February 25, 2026 | Time: 11:30pm - 1:00pm

[Click here to register](#)

Beta Testing – Round 2: Shape the Future of Club Officer Training

After a successful Round 1 in August 2025, and based on participant feedback, Toastmasters International has further uplifted the Club Officer Training (COT) material. Now, Round 2 invites you to experience the enhanced content and help shape what comes next.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute feedback that will be shared directly with Toastmasters International, influencing COT delivery worldwide. Sessions will be led by highly experienced Toastmasters from District 60 and beyond.

Bonus: All attendees will receive a **special e-certificate** - perfect for sharing on social media and tagging District 60.

Be part of something impactful. Be part of Toastmasters history.

[Click here to register](#)

Date: Saturday February 28, 2026 | Time: 1pm - 4pm

Have questions? Feel free to reach out to Yukta, Program Quality Director, directly at pqd@toastmasters60.com



District 60



Fuel Your Growth with Pathways

Looking for inspiration, ideas, or answers? The **District website** is packed with valuable resources, from impactful workshops to practical educational tips designed to spark new speech ideas and elevate your Toastmasters journey.

Ready to go deeper? Join Pathways Chair, **Stephen Schroeder**, for **Moving Ahead with Pathways** on March 2 at 7:00 PM and gain clarity, confidence, and momentum in your Pathways progress. And don't forget, **Pathways Incentives** are in full swing!

Finally, help us help you. Your insights matter. Please take a few minutes to complete the [Pathways Survey](#) and shape the future of Pathways in our District.



Stephen Schroeder, DTM
Pathways Chair

DID YOU KNOW?

**You could use your
contest roles to
complete Pathways
projects.**



District 60

International Speech Contests

Club Level: January
Area Level: February
Division Level: March

Competing at your Area/Division Contest? Or taking a role to get that experience and exposure? The upcoming contest training will help you a great deal.



The flyer for the District 60 International Speech Contest features the District 60 logo (a globe with the text "TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL" and "DISTRICT 60") and the text "DISTRICT 60 Serving Toronto, Canada". It includes a large blue hexagonal graphic containing the text "CONTEST-READY How to Hold an Area/Division International Speech Contest". Below this is a calendar icon with the text "February 7, 2026 10 am -11am EST". To the right is a circular portrait of a man with blonde hair, identified as "by Gin Aldeguer, DTM Contest Chair". The background of the flyer shows a blurred image of the CN Tower in Toronto.

Click [here](#) to Register

Individual Mentor Program

A few months ago, we launched the District 60 Individual Mentor Program to help members connect with mentors from anywhere across the District. The program has already attracted strong interest from both mentors and mentees, and the first set of participants have now been successfully connected.

We're excited to continue matching more members to support their personal and professional development. If you're interested in enrolling as a mentor or mentee, click [here](#) to sign up.

Have questions? Feel free to reach out to Yukta, Program Quality Director, directly at pqd@toastmasters60.com.



District 60 Toastmasters Conference

Venue: Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre,
45 Fort York Blvd, Toronto, ON



From Saturday April 25 To Sunday April 26, 2026

Guess the Keynote Speaker for the April 2026 Conference!

Ready for a little fun before we reveal something big?
Let's play a quick guessing game.

Here are your clues:

- A World Champion of Public Speaking
- Took the World Championship stage twice
- Finished as 2nd Runner-Up once... and came back to win it all
- Holds the record for the longest speech title ever used on the World Championship stage

Think you know who it is ?

Curious? Turn the page to meet the keynote speaker who will inspire, challenge, and energize us at the April 2026 Conference.

Conference tickets will be available soon. Stay tuned for District 60 announcements.





District 60



Keynote Speaker: Aaron Beverly

World Champion of Public Speaking 2019

Aaron Beverly is the 2019 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking, known for humorous, thought-provoking storytelling on race, communication, and acceptance. An introvert by nature, he has inspired global audiences across corporations and universities.

He is joining the District 60 Annual Conference this April 25-26. Are you ready to witness his story of going from Spark to Spotlight?





GROWTH

Club Growth Director

District 60

Let's Keep Growing Together

Over the past six months, your Club Growth Director has had the honour of visiting many of your clubs. Witnessing the energy, camaraderie, and dedication you bring to your meetings has been truly inspiring. Club visits will continue over the next six months, and your Club Growth Director would be delighted to visit your club. Please reach out to Dave Bachan, Club Growth Director, at cdg@toastmasters60.org.

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating Club Charter anniversaries:

January Club Anniversaries

Toronto Business – 63 years
Bay Street Breakfast – 35 years
Toronto Go Getters – 24 years
AFCA – 23 years
Trinity – 23 years
Rotman Commerce – 9 years
Native Canadian – 5 years
Capital One Canada - 1 year

February Club Anniversaries

Waterpark Speakers – 37 years
St Vladimir – 33 years
Transit – 24 years
SickKids – 21 years
High Park Speakers – 20 years
Sunrise Orators – 18 years
Bay Bloor Speakers – 15 years
ToastmasterZ – 10 years
We the York – 9 years
H.H. Angus – 7 years
Speak-Up – 6 years
Scotia MicMasters – 5 years
Speakpreneur – 3 years





District 60

Know an organization that could benefit from Toastmasters? Refer them!

If your lead results in a demo meeting, enjoy dinner for four!

CLUB LEADS INCENTIVE

 **DISTRICT 60**
Serving Toronto, Canada



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 cdg@toastmasters60.org.

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.



Club Coaches, Club Mentors and 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 cdg@toastmasters60.org.



District 60



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 – Royal Lunch N Learn, Deloitte Toastmasters, Speak out State Street & IFDS, 1 For U KSS Toastmasters, Plaza Speakers, St Vladimir and Les Beaux Parleurs

Contact your CGD if you would like an MOT conducted at your club
cdg@toastmasters60.org.

Tag It. Repost It. Let's Go!

Help District 60 grow and get rewarded!

Tag @District 60 and repost District event flyers across your socials.

Every tag & repost boosts visibility, drives attendance, and supports our clubs, and yes, it all counts toward District rewards.

Ranking	Member's name	Tag / repost
2	Nigel Noronha	17
3	Bruce Laing	13
4	ART Advanced	11
5	Mari Haruno	10



Public Relations Manager

District 60

Spotlight Your Club on District 60's LinkedIn

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

- Jan 10 – events happening in January
- Jan 20 – events happening in January & February

Want your club featured?

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



Eye-Catching Posters Made Easy — Fully Brand-Compliant

District 60 provides free Canva templates specifically designed for Toastmasters clubs to support the creation of professional and branded event posters.

To access and use the templates:

1. Sign up for a free **Canva account** (if you do not already have one).
2. Send an email to **prm@toastmasters60.com** to request access to the Toastmasters Canva templates.
3. You will receive an email notification once the file has been shared with you on Canva.
4. Open the shared file, **make a copy**, and save your own version.
5. **Use your own copy** to edit text and replace images as needed for your club's event.



District 60



Shubha Amba
District Director



Yukta
Program Quality Director



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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