



District News

September 2025 Edition

**TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL
2025 CONVENTION**



September 30 - Date to remember

Club Success Plan

Membership Renewal

Smedley Award

Club Contest: Evaluation & Table Topics

September 1 - October 15

District 60



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District Director

The Main Thing

Last month, our Club Growth Director, Dave Bachan, and I attended District Leader Training in Philadelphia—a remarkable two days that began with Stephen Covey’s reminder: “The main thing is that the main thing is the main thing.”



Shubha Amba, DD

As September unfolds, it’s time to bring some “main things” into focus. What are they?

- **Club Success Plan:** Deadline: **September 30**. So far, 19 of our 104 clubs have submitted their plans. Since this is a mandatory requirement of the Distinguished Club Program, the District is launching a campaign with prizes for early submitters. Let’s get off to the races!
- **Membership Renewals:** Deadline: **September 30**. About 800 members renewed before August 4, saving tax on membership dues. Eighteen clubs achieved 50%+ renewals through September 2026 and will each receive a \$25 gift certificate shortly. More prizes for early renewal await.
- **Smedley Award:** Deadline: **September 30**. Membership often dips during September renewals. Be sure to have membership drives at your clubs during this month, supported by District incentives and prizes.

Read about these amazing opportunities to win in this newsletter to help us stay focused on the main things.



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The International Convention – A Report



World Champion of Public Speaking

The International Convention is a hotbed of excitement, with the World Championship of Public Speaking as one of its chief highlights. This year, Sabyasachi Sengupta from Amsterdam was named the World Champion of Public Speaking.

The District 60 Accomplishments

District 60 stood tall at the 2025 International Convention in Philadelphia, recognized for its many successes in leadership. Please join me in congratulating...

Andrew Horberry, Past District Director — elected International Director for Region 5. In this prestigious role, Andrew will help guide Toastmasters worldwide, supporting members and fostering growth through strong leadership, communication, and strategic decisions.



District 60

Leadership



District 60



Dawn Frail, Past International Director, received the President's Citation, one of Toastmasters International's highest honours, recognizing her exceptional dedication and global impact.

Wendy Williamson, Past Region Advisor, was honoured for her two years of dedicated service to Districts. In this role, she supported District leaders through guidance, mentoring, and strategic insight, helping drive leadership, club growth, and member engagement across the region.



Aneeta Pathak, Past District 60 Director, was installed as the incoming Region Advisor, continuing District 60's tradition of distinguished leaders in this prestigious role.



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Shubha Amba, Past Program Quality Director, received the Program Quality Award, recognizing District 60's excellence in education and training and celebrating outstanding support for member growth, club success, and overall program quality.





Educational Program Changes are Coming!

The following updates were announced at the Annual Business Meeting held on August 22.

Effective Q4 this year:

- All Path levels will now include member participation requirements - similar to the former Competent Communication (CL) - through meeting roles.
- Advanced levels will require members to deliver modules from the Successful Club, Better Speaker, and Leadership Excellence Series.

Effective first half of 2026:

- Basic Training for Toastmasters (Ralph Smedley, 1940s) will be reintroduced as a Path in its original form, available for purchase in early 2026.
- New training materials, drawn from the Competent Communication and select Advanced manuals, will be released in 2026.



As we move into September, let us stay focused on the “main things” that drive our clubs and members forward. With the insights and inspiration gained from the International Convention, and the recognition of our District leaders’ outstanding contributions, we are well-positioned to embrace the changes in the educational program and continue fostering growth. Together, by keeping our priorities clear and supporting each other, we will ensure a successful and impactful month for all of District 60.

Warmly,
Shubha Amba, District Director

District 60



Program Quality Director



Yukta, PQD

Get the Most from Your Toastmasters Investment

We all pay to be part of Toastmasters, not just for the privilege of membership, but for the opportunity to **learn, grow, and succeed**. The true **return on that investment (ROI)** comes when we actively engage and build quality into our meetings and our clubs.

How can we do this?

- **Set goals:** Annual, quarterly, and monthly - for your attendance, speeches, and other milestones from the many opportunities Toastmasters offers.
- **Find a mentor:** Within or outside your club. Not sure where to start? Email me at pqd@toastmasters60.com and I'll help connect you.
- **Engage fully with Pathways:** It's your personal roadmap to skill mastery.
- **Take on club roles:** Leadership grows through participation.
- **Join contests:** They sharpen your skills under the spotlight.
- **Be part of StageTime:** Speak or invite inspiring speakers to your club.



District 60



Launching the District 60 Mentorship Program

One of the greatest strengths of Toastmasters lies in the guidance, encouragement, and wisdom that experienced members share with those still finding their voice. A mentor can make the difference between simply attending meetings and truly thriving in your Toastmasters journey.

That's why we're excited to launch the District 60 Mentorship Program connecting members who want to give back as mentors with those eager to grow as mentees. Whether you're looking to share your experience, develop new skills, or gain fresh perspectives, this program is designed to create meaningful, supportive relationships across our district.

📌 Take the first step: Complete our [sign-up form](#) so we can match you based on your skills, goals, and availability. Together, let's build a stronger, more connected District 60, one mentoring relationship at a time.



District 60



Club Officer Training

District 60 has successfully completed eight Club Officer Trainings. Six of them were led by Division Directors, one was organized as an in-person TLI before the Toastmasters year started, and we had a special Beta Testing session. District 60 was one of the few Districts selected across the world to host a **Beta Testing** session on renewed content for Club Officer Trainings. The attendees were also given a **special certificate of completion** for their contribution to this history in the making.

If you wish you were a part of it – don't be disappointed. We may have one more session in **Round 2** and you could register for that. We don't have any confirmed information at the moment, but you will be informed as soon as we know more.

[X \(download the excel and filter 9a for 7 officers trained\)](#) clubs have completed the trainings with 7/7 club officers being trained and are eligible for the 14/14 incentive after Round 2 (of course, provided 7/7 in Round 2 as well).



Training

District 60



Club Success Plan

A strong year starts with a strong plan! Your Club Success Plan is more than a form; it's your roadmap to achieving excellence and earning recognition in the Distinguished Club Program. Submit your CSP by September 30, 2025 to keep your club eligible and on track for success. To the clubs that have already submitted - bravo! You've taken the first decisive step toward a year of growth, achievement, and unforgettable member experiences. Now let's see every club join you on this journey!



There are amazing incentives planned for all the clubs:

Clubs that Submit their CSP:

- Before September 5
- Between September 6 and 20

All clubs that submit their CSP have an opportunity to enter a draw and win exciting gift hampers. Details will be shared shortly through emails to Club Presidents and social media posts.

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Pathways –

a launchpad for real-world success!

Would you build a house without any skills or experience? Of course not. We all had a "house" in mind when we joined - delivering powerful presentations, leading teams with confidence, managing projects effectively, building stronger interpersonal connections. Pathways equips you with the skills that build the foundation for success. Our new approach is fast, friendly and fertile! As always, the lessons you learn are practical, relevant and transformative. Embrace Pathways; you're building the skills to thrive anywhere.



Do you have feedback on Pathways? Wish to know more? Reach out to Pathways Chair, District 60, Toastmasters International, Stephen Schroeder.

Letter to Employer: And here's a bonus: when you complete **Level 3, 4, or 5** in any Path, you can request an **official letter from Toastmasters** to be sent to your employer. It's a great way to showcase your commitment to personal and professional growth, and to let your workplace see the value you're bringing back from your Toastmasters journey. Let us push for those advanced levels and your next project could be the one that gets your boss cheering you on!

District 60



Contest Season Kicks Off!

- Contest season begins **September 1!** Get ready to showcase your speaking and evaluation skills!
- **Club Contests:** September 1 – October 15
- **Area Contests:** October 16 - November 15
- **Division Contests:** November 16 - December 15
- **Categories this season:** **Evaluation** and **Table Topics**

SAVE THE DATE

Workshops in the pipeline:

- **How to Hold a Club Contest** – September 2, 7pm to 8pm (Zoom) Run smooth, fair Evaluation & Table Topics contests! Learn rules, roles, prep tips & best practices to engage and inspire members. [Register Now!](#)
- **Excelling at Evaluation Contest** — August 27, 6:00–7:00 PM (Zoom) Learn techniques to listen actively, analyze effectively, and deliver evaluations that inspire and impress, straight from Ezra Liu, current D60 Evaluation Contest Champion. [Register Now!](#)
- **Excelling at Table Topics** — September 3, 6:00–7:00 PM (Zoom) Discover strategies to think quickly, speak confidently, and deliver impactful answers in any impromptu speaking situation, straight from **Tychon Carter-Newman**, current D60 Table Topics Champion. [Register Now!](#)

District 60



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- **Judges' Training Program** — September 23, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM (Zoom) Includes a certificate valid for 2-year so you can stand out in the crowd as a certified contest judge! More details coming soon.
Details Coming Soon!
- **Contest Rules & Officials 101** — September 15, 7pm to 8pm (Zoom) Learn the essentials of Toastmasters contest rules and roles. Gain clarity, confidence, and skills to serve effectively as a contest official.
Details Coming Soon!
- **Ask Me Anything** — September 29, 6:30pm to 9pm (Zoom) An open session throughout in which the facilitator can stay online for the entire period, in which anyone can drop in at any time to ask any questions about contests.
Details Coming Soon!
- **How to Run an Area Contest** – October 5
Details Coming Soon!
- **How to Hold a Club Contest (International Speech Contest)** – December 15
Details Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars and take advantage of these workshops to sharpen your skills before contest day!



Have questions? Reach out to the Contest Chair, District 60, Toastmasters International, Gin Aldeguer .



Conference Planning is in Full Swing!

We're excited to share that planning for our upcoming conference is in full swing! Mark your calendars for **April 25 and 26**—two days of inspiration, learning, and connection you won't want to miss.

Want to be part of the action? If you're interested in **joining the organizing committee** or have **suggestions and ideas** to make this year's event even better, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to your **Conference Co-Chairs** – **Sabrina Loc and Brandon Lee Pack** on conference@toastmasters60.com and help us create an unforgettable experience!



Sabrina Loc

Conference Co-Chairs



Brandon Lee Pack



District 60



Shoutouts of the Month

With Gratitude

This month, we'd like to shine a spotlight on two leaders whose dedication and quick action made a huge difference for District 60.



David Cheung — COT Co-Chair

When a Division Director had to step down due to personal circumstances, David didn't hesitate to step in at the very last moment. He took on full responsibility for organizing the Club Officer Training session from start to finish — and was right there during the event to ensure everything ran smoothly. His commitment kept the momentum going and ensured our leaders received the training they needed.

Andrew Varden — COT Co-Chair

Toastmasters International handpicked only a few districts worldwide for Beta Testing, and D60 was honoured to be one of them. With August being peak vacation time, the challenge was real. Andrew rose to the occasion, taking charge of organizing and running the sessions on behalf of D60. His support ensured we met this important milestone and represented our district on the global stage.



District 60



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Shoutout to Anvesh Saxena – Club and Member Experience Chair!

Member experience goes beyond club meetings, especially in large organizations like Toastmasters. Anvesh played a key role in creating a certificate for Toastmasters International's Beta Testing session, designed to be shared on any social media, including LinkedIn. Toastmasters empowers individuals to develop communication and leadership skills, and showcasing these achievements builds credibility. Thank you, Anvesh, for making this possible for members of Toastmasters through District 60's Beta Testing TLI/COT session!



**Thank
You ,**

David, Andrew, and Anvesh for showing what true leadership looks like - stepping up when it matters most.



Club Growth Director



Dave Bachan, CGD

Grow, Connect, and Shine with Toastmasters!

Toastmasters is a place where people from diverse backgrounds come together to grow as communicators and leaders. This season, we're excited to launch two club growth campaigns designed to inspire and reward your clubs.

Campaign 1 – Smedley Membership Campaign

From **August 1 to September 30**, any club that adds **5 new, dual, or reinstated members** will receive:



- A **Smedley Award ribbon** for your club banner
- A **10% discount** on your next Toastmasters store purchase
- A special visit from your **Club Growth Director**, who will deliver his renowned **Evaluation Workshop**

Campaign 2 – Membership Renewal Challenge

Clubs that renew at least **80% of their membership** (minimum 8 members) by **September 12** will receive a **\$50 Toastmasters International gift certificate** from the District.

Discover your voice. Strengthen your club. Grow together with Toastmasters! 🌱

District 60



District 60

- 1.Appointments
- 2.Call for Of-the-Year Award Nominations
2024-2025
- 3.ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters' 8th
Anniversary



Appointments

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:



David Veights
District Leadership
Committee Chair 2025-2026

David Veights, Immediate Past District Director, has been appointed as the District Leadership Committee Chair for 2025-2026. In this vital role, David will guide a fair and transparent selection process for next year's District leaders, strengthening succession and supporting the continued success of our clubs and members.

David Cheung has joined the Division leadership team as Division F Director. In this role, he will guide Area Directors, support clubs, foster leadership, ensure quality programs, and drive member and club success in his Division.



David Cheung
Division Director



Bruce Laing
Of-the-Year Awards Chair

Bruce Laing has been appointed Of-the-Year Awards Chair. In this role, Bruce will oversee the nomination and selection process, and coordinate the celebration of awardees at the District Annual Conference.

District 60



Call for Of-the-Year Award Nominations 2024-25

Each year, we recognize outstanding leaders in the following categories:

- President of the Year
- Toastmaster of the Year
- Area Director of the Year, and
- Division Director of the Year

If you would like to nominate a fellow member, the nomination form is available at: [Of The Year Awards - District 60 serving Toronto, Canada](#)

The deadline to submit nominations is **November 30, 2025**.

For any questions, Bruce can be reached at: otya@toastmasters60.com

Please extend your congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed District leaders.



District 60



ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters celebrated its 8th anniversary on August 27th and what a celebration it was! Their first 'Speech & Evaluation Fest' had three wonderful speakers and outstanding evaluators. More importantly, this was a celebration of the true spirit of Toastmasters. We had participation from D60, D86 and D123. We're grateful to the more than 35 attendees who joined us in this celebration.

District 60





Public Relations Manager



Hello VP-PRs,

[Angelina So, PRM](#)

This fall, our district will be running several exciting campaigns, and your role in sharing these with your members will be vital. To help you, I can provide resources and tips to ensure your club's promotions align with the Toastmasters Brand Manual.

Feel free to reach out if you'd like me to review materials, suggest design ideas, or answer any brand-related questions. We are in this together, and I look forward to seeing the creative ways your club communicates with members.

Thank you for the work you do to promote your club and keep members informed and inspired!



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.



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