

The District 57 Dispatch

Well, it's here, the last newsletter of the 2024-2025 term. And with that, the last of the term's club and district activities. I had several highlights during this period. I got to co-host the Speak, Lead, and Grow Podcast, serve as an officer in two clubs, and of course serve as editor for the Dispatch. I've had many good experiences over this term and I'm sure you have too. Here's to the next term being even better!

Lee Vaughan, Editor

JUNE, 2025

Saturday, June 14th: District Executive Committee Meeting, 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Monday, June 30th: Final Deadline to Bring Your Club to Distinguished Status!

Monday, June 30th: Final Deadline to Achieve District 57 Member Achievement Awards: OTMA, All Triple Crown Awards



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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT CONTEST, BY SALLY PHILBIN, DISTRICT DIRECTOR



WOW! District 57 has incredibly talented speakers! Thanks to our Contest Co-Chairs Michelle Peticolas and Ananda Sen and Chief Judge, Hans Thoma we were lucky enough to see them showcased at our 2025 District Conference.

We held two different contests, the Evaluation Contest (the foundation skill of our drive for improvement) and the International Speech Contest (the drive toward participation at the International Convention).

In the Evaluation Speech Contest, we started with an over-the-top excellent Test Speech presented by Ashley Ching. It was a testament to our Evaluation Contestants that every one of them was able to offer suggestions for possible improvements.

Contestants were:

Santosh Kumar, Division A

Tracy Holmes, Division B

Dave Kanter, Division C

Aki McKinzie, Division D

Vamshi Bhoopalam, Division E

Haruka Yamashita, Division F

These fabulous Evaluators were all superb! Again, all I can say is that our wonderful judges had a tough job. The results are:

3rd Place: Tracy Holmes, Division B

2nd Place: Santosh Kumar, Division A

1st Place: Dave Kanter, Division C

Thank-you functionaries: Evaluation Speech Contest Toastmaster: Elliott Rodgers, Sergeants at Arms: Lynn Farley, Monalisa Patel, Shruti Verma; Timers: Shalini Suravarjjala & Susan Skiff; Ballot Counters: Cinthya Quintero, Curt Hayashida, & Mary Bustamonte; and Tech Hosts: David Dai, Jeff Young, Kat King & David Lascano.

From Sally—Still Nudging!

Area Directors: Just 3 weeks to complete and file those club visit reports. Each Area Director must have 75% of their Area Visit Reports filed to be eligible to earn distinguished status. Overall, we are at just over 50%. We achieved 100% for the first half of the year. I know you can do this! If you need help, contact me at sally@d57tm.org.

In the International Speech Contest, we had:

Chong Kooi Chee: *Smooth and Round Outside, Rough and Squared Inside*—Division A

Brendan Murphy: *Stuck*—Division B

Dave Blum: *Keep On Knocking*—Division C

Esther Chambers: *Significance*—Division D

Nitin Narula: *My Dog Thinks I'm His Employee*—Division E

Alex Huynh: *Right On The Edge*—Division F

These fabulous Speakers were all superb! Again, all I can say is that our wonderful judges had a tough job. The results are:

3rd Place: Alex Huynh: *Right On The Edge*—Division F

2nd Place: Dave Blum: *Keep On Knocking*—Division C

1st Place: Esther Chambers: *Significance*—Division D

Thank-you functionaries: International Speech Contest Toastmaster: Lisa Fairchild, Sergeants at Arms: Tracy Holmes & Anjana Pilli; Timers: Shalini Suravarjjala & Susan Skiff; Ballot Counters: Venkat Raman, Sripriya Panchapakesan, & Charles Herron, & Mary Bustamonte; and Tech Hosts: David Dai, Jeff Young, Kat King & David Lascano.

Congratulations to all who participated in both of the contests from contestants to functionaries to Contest Chairs to Audience goers! If you volunteered at the Conference in any capacity and don't see your name noted, please know that your contribution made a positive difference and is appreciated!

From Sally—Still Nudging—2!

All members—Path Completions: One of the primary goals for each of us is improving communication skills. The only way to achieve this goal is to work through the Toastmasters Educational Program, a program called Pathways. Completing Path levels in the Path of your choice results in two wins: 1. You achieve your goals; and 2. You help your club become distinguished. Being Distinguished gives your club bragging rights and helps it attract new members, which, in turn, results in a fun, healthy club that you will want to continue to support. Without clubs there is no Toastmasters.

From Sally—Still Nudging—3!

All clubs: Now is the time to **elect your club officers for next year**. Our annual Toastmasters Leadership Institute will be held at the end of June this year. You do not want your officers to miss out on this totally worthwhile training that is designed with you in mind.

LAST LICKS, LAST LOOKS, LOOKING FORWARD BY JEFF YOUNG, CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

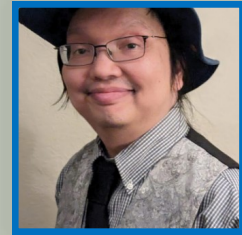
Somehow, it's June again, and at this time last year I was looking forward to Creating Great Changes in the District, with the emphasis on Changes.

There's a Japanese business practice called Kaizen - small changes having big impacts. One epiphany I had was that we've been fighting the avalanche of losing members for years; I've been hearing stories from a lot of you how it's hard to find members, and hard to keep members from leaving. We lost far more clubs than even an ambitious Club Growth Director could have recovered from; the majority of the world are net negative in clubs at the moment, and the lone standout is a District that has gained seven clubs, while we've lost ten.

It could have been worse -- we were on track to lose seventeen clubs, but we cut that down to only seven. We got ten clubs to believe in themselves, to reach out to others, and some of them succeeded beyond their expectations.

How we find new members varies from club to club. Some of us are lucky; some of us are bold, and some of us are in the right place at the right time. Remember that sometimes the smallest changes have the biggest payoffs down the road.

If I could teach three lessons to the folks who have been following along all year, it would be these:



1. There are no shoes so big that they cannot be filled by someone. I've been ever willing to say 'yes' to any challenge and 'I'll try' to any problem. With Toastmasters, you have more support than you think.

2. Persistence is key. No matter how many phone calls I did (or didn't make), I never stopped knocking on people's doors.

3. Be yourself. Don't try to copy what the person who came before you did. I've had the most fun finding my own path and trying new things - and if you have ideas, voice 'em. We'll try and make them happen.

Because being in leadership means taking one step forward, one step up, and one step out in front of the rest. Be counted and make next year count. We're waiting for you.

DISTRICT 57 HAS A NEW TRIO FOR 2025-2026!

Please join us in congratulating:

- Lindy Sinclair, District Director
- Jeffrey Young, Program Quality Director
- Dennis Dawson, Club Growth Director

With this dynamic new TRIO at the helm, we're looking forward to a year of collaboration, growth, and inspiration across our District.

BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE!

The TRIO will be working closely with the TRIO Plus team—including our Public Relations Manager, Leesa Thompson, Administrative Manager, Elliott Rogers, and Finance Manager Kat King.

AND THERE'S STILL MORE!

We have a full slate of Division Directors for Divisions A through E:

Division A Director: Daniel Waas, EH5

Division B Director: Darya Hoover,

Division C Director: Ray Gowen, VC3

Division D Director: Aaron Van, MS3

Division E Director: Jasmine Jayakody, LD5

Together, this leadership team is ready to support every club and member in reaching their goals and achieving excellence.

Sally

We also want to acknowledge and appreciate everyone who stepped up to run for office. Just because you didn't win this time doesn't mean your leadership journey ends here. There are countless opportunities to serve and make a powerful impact. District 57 is strongest when we work together, united in our shared commitment to grow, lead, and thrive.

Here's to an outstanding year ahead in District 57!

IN CONCLUSION: WHY CLUB NEWSLETTERS STILL MATTER, BY LEESA THOMPSON, PRM



Before I arrived in District 57, I had never heard of District Bucks or club incentives—and I certainly didn't know how to write a newsletter. So, developing this year's three public relations incentives was a challenge, especially figuring out how to word the newsletter incentive clearly for club leaders.

But one thing I've always believed: newsletters matter. They are a powerful way for clubs to share their stories—not just with members, but with their Area, Division, and District. They highlight achievements, showcase events, and celebrate the heart of what makes a club thrive: its people.

Our Public Relations team aimed to encourage more clubs to publish newsletters and to continue District 57's long-standing tradition of recognizing them. What I didn't realize was just how deep those roots ran—and unfortunately, that led to missteps in how the incentive was launched and communicated. As a result, many clubs with great newsletters may not have known how or when to submit them.

With our outreach via the Dispatch and District Digest, we ultimately received submissions from five clubs: Benicia Capitol Speakers, Cre-Art, Hacienda Park, Sunrise Business Leaders, and Mare Island. Rather than hold a contest, we chose to award each club \$25 in District Bucks.

I was thrilled by the creativity and polish on display—from eye-catching layouts to engaging stories of club achievements. These newsletters do more than inform; they connect members, inspire involvement, and even attract prospective attendees.

Even though the official incentive has ended, I strongly encourage all clubs to keep creating and sharing newsletters. Distribute them to your members, prospective members, and fellow clubs. Submit them to the District so we can celebrate your work and inspire others. A newsletter is a delightful and impactful tool—and one that every club can use to shine.

Let's keep the tradition alive. Let's keep sharing our stories.

INTRODUCING TIME TRAVELERS: A GENEALOGY CLUB FOR EVERYONE—NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Have you ever wondered about your relatives and ancestors?

Have you used programs like Ancestry to explore who you're related to—but felt stuck afterward, unsure of what to do next?

Have you wanted to create a family tree but didn't know where or how to begin?

Have you peeked into the massive Facebook genealogy groups—94,000 Ancestry Users, 81,000 Tracing the Tribe, 72,000 Genealogy Squad—but hesitated to join because you weren't sure you'd fit in?

Have you looked at the price tags on subscriptions, DNA kits, or research tools and thought, I just can't afford this?

We're here for you.

Whether you're brand new to genealogy or you've already uncovered a few leaves on your family tree, Time Travelers is a welcoming new club designed for people like you—curious, thoughtful, and ready to explore their roots in a friendly, no-pressure environment.

We meet every Thursday night from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Pacific Time, and right now, we're absolutely free to join.

At Time Travelers, we:

- Help you take the next step after opening an Ancestry or FamilySearch account
- Show you how to build and organize your own family tree
- Introduce free and affordable tools for research and storytelling
- Provide a small, supportive community where no question is too basic
- Share real-life breakthroughs and surprises from fellow members

Host guest speakers and live Q&As with seasoned genealogists
Come join us on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 6:00–7:30 PM PT

Meet new friends, share family stories, and learn practical methods for tracing your lineage—whether you're chasing royal roots or just trying to find Great-Grandma's maiden name.

You don't need fancy software. You don't need prior experience.

Just bring your curiosity—and maybe a notebook—and we'll take it from there. RSVP to attend our club meeting here: [RSVP to Time Travelers Toastmasters Club.](#)

NEW INSIGHTS UN- LOCKED AT THE DISTRICT 57 CONFERENCE ED SESSIONS

At this year's District 57 Annual Conference, our Education Sessions were a highlight—not to be missed. Whether you're a club officer, aspiring leader, or lifelong learner, these sessions offered real-world tools, fresh inspiration, and strategies you can use right away.

Our stellar lineup featured thought leaders and emerging voices who delivered deep insights and sparked meaningful conversations:

- Denise Blanc – From Rapids to Confluence: Transforming Relationships in a Turbulent World
Master conflict transformation to build stronger, more resilient relationships.
- Bett Bollhoefer – Embodied Product Management
Discover how mindfulness can transform the way we manage ideas, products, and teams.
- Sherry Jensen – Open Doors, Full Seats: How to Build a Thriving Club
Practical strategies to attract, engage, and retain members for lasting club success.
- Arti Kapoor – The Emotionally Intelligent Leader
Lead with empathy and clarity to foster high-performing, collaborative teams.
- Steve Taddei & Panel – Managing and Overcoming Self-Limiting Beliefs
A powerful discussion on creating connection and understanding in divisive times.
- Nabeeha Tahir – Prompt to Power: Transforming Teaching with AI
Learn how AI can enhance engagement and innovation in educational settings.
- Myo Wong – Overcoming Barriers to Leadership
Break through self-doubt and systemic obstacles to become the leader you're meant to be.
- D57 Authors Panel – Shoba Rao, Denise Blanc, Alan Paolini, and Lynn Fraley
Hear from published authors on the art of storytelling, visibility, and the Toastmasters journey.

Mark your calendars, save the insights, and keep growing with District 57.

Together, we're building not just better speakers—but stronger communities.

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING—FINISH STRONG BY JUNE 30!

Now that district elections, our business meeting, and the annual conference are behind us, you might feel like it's time to take a well-earned break. But this is actually one of the most important times of the year.

We still have six weeks left until June 30—and this is our opportunity to finish strong and set up the incoming team for success.

Each of us plays a role in making that transition smooth. If you haven't already, please prepare a brief report or share with your club an outline of:

- What worked well
- What could have gone better
- Recommendations or challenges to pass along to your successor

Your insights will help future leaders avoid reinventing the wheel and build on our successes.

And if you're aiming for individual greatness—it's not too late! You still have time to:

- Earn your Triple Crown
- Complete your OTMA (Outstanding Toastmasters Member Award)
- Achieve your DTM
- Help your club reach Distinguished status
- Submit any outstanding receipts for District Bucks

Or step into a leadership role for the coming year. Let's stay focused, stay committed, and pass the baton with intention. The new Toastmasters year begins July 1—and we have the power to give it a strong head start.

Together, we finish strong!

A Conference to Remember: Thank You, District 57!

From powerful educational sessions to inspiring speech contests, from the parade of banners to the presence of our keynote speaker Diane Pleuss, from honoring our Community Awardee, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Joscelyn Jones, to connecting with incredible members both in person and online—every moment was a testament to the dedication of the members of District 57.