

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2, August 2025



## IN THIS ISSUE:

[Step Up Your Speaking Game](#)

[The Perfect Pitch?](#)

[Person Profile: Midji Rovetta](#)

[Art & Wine Festival](#)

[Ready to Rebuild Your Club?](#)

[Prepare Less, Grow More](#)

## Important Dates:

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

11:30am-2pm

End of Year  
Celebration and  
Installation

Have some news to share?  
Please send your articles  
to: [news@d57.org](mailto:news@d57.org)

<https://d57tm.org/>



## STEP UP YOUR SPEAKING GAME: REDISCOVER D57'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

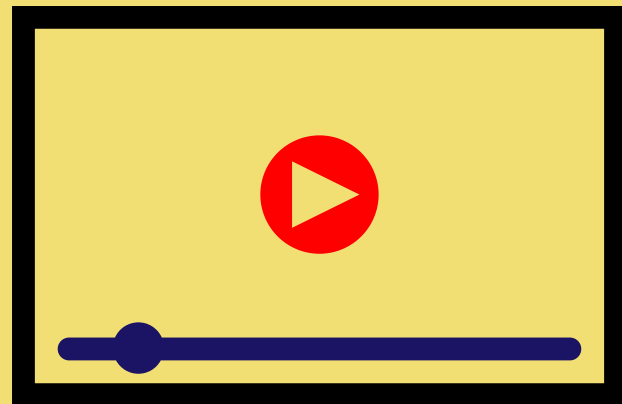
by Hans Eugene Thomas

Hello from your friendly neighborhood YouTube Chair! We have built District 57's YouTube channel into a fabulous collection of memories, tools and strategies, and I'm proud of what it has become. We don't upload every single meeting or announcement, but rather, only the content that will help you grow as a public speaker or become a great club or district officer. For example, Mike Pruett delivered a presentation

[HERE](#) about new member orientation best practices, including a spreadsheet allowing you to track every step in the process. And back in April, we recorded a seminar [HERE](#) about humorous speaking with Steve Taddei and Valerie Lukehart. I wanted to take a moment and explain how the channel is organized. The home page is [HERE](#). Please bookmark it!

The most recent videos are displayed first, from left to right. You will also notice a section called Playlists, which organizes the videos into specific topics. For example, the last 5-6 years of contest recordings are stored in [THIS](#) playlist. And club officer trainings are stored in [THIS](#) playlist.

To stay abreast of new content, make sure to hit the subscribe button, and click the notification bell so you can get alerted when new videos are posted! (Note: You need a Google or YouTube account to do this). Thanks for reading!!





by Joy Montgomery

# The “Perfect” Pitch?

We were “hand-picked”. The idea was to review new software before it was implemented and make sure that user requirements were met. At the end of the six-month trial, our team leader was asked to report to the Board of Directors. He handed me a 2-hour script. I worked all night to reduce it to 5-7 minutes like any good Toastmaster would. He chose the long version. Within minutes, people were leaving the room. We were all returned to our original jobs. None of us got a raise the next year and were placed on probation. A sadly imperfect pitch.

There’s no perfect pitch. That doesn’t mean you should throw your hands in the air and give up. Change your point of view.

- **Don’t go for perfect**
- **Go for clear, concise, and compelling**
- **Take these four Steps to Effective Pitching**

## 1. Problem

Start with a problem, a problem that’s important to your audience.

It should be urgent and time sensitive. They will be engaged if they

can see that you understand their needs.

Whether it’s millions of dead and dying trees in the forest that

increase the intensity of forest fires or an

ongoing loss of profits or

your teenager whose behavior you want to change.

Let them know you plan to offer a way to put that fuse out.

## 2. Solution

Now that you’ve got their attention, give them a 30,000-foot view of

how you plan to solve the problem, the key to a better future.

Don’t be tempted to dive deep into all of the wonderful steps you’ll

take to fix the problem. Keep it simple. You can leave time for Q&A

after your brief overview.

It’s hard for experts to ignore the elegance of their solution. Your

peers will admire it; the people with the key to the vault will not.

## 3. Impact

The “how” won’t captivate them but the impacts of your efforts, which align exactly with the problem statement you offered at the start are what they’re waiting for.

Millions of acres saved, Billions of dollars saved. Lives saved. A near complete elimination of the troublesome business loss. A condition your teenager was hoping for and can earn.

## 4. Why you?

Take a realistic look at the qualities you have that make you the right person to implement the solution, to get the desired impact. Don’t let “Impostor Syndrome” get in the way. Don’t overestimate your talents. Don’t turn them away with hype.

If you’re a parent, it’s easy – “I’m your parent, that’s why.” Maybe.

If you have a track record, Let them know. Bring out every honest asset you have to offer. Be the right one for the job.



# FITZ Biz Youth Leadership



by Midji Rovetta

Public speaking is a part of the building blocks to build confidence. I have run the Gavel Club program in the past 7 years, and earlier this year, I started a new club in Union City, CA. The FITS Gavel Club is using the Toastmasters Club techniques, the students learn to present their prepared speeches, Evaluations,

and Table Topic speeches, including meeting leadership skills.

The next session will start from August to November 2025, followed by the session from February to May 2026.

Registration is open now at: [FITZ BIZ Youth Leadership Program](#)

Union City  
Toastmasters #5269

Here is my background:

"I was a member of UCTM from 2012 to 2015, was the past Treasurer for 2 years, and then the past President for 1 year. I completed the Advanced Communication Silver level, and also during that period, I coordinated a couple of TYLP (Toastmaster Youth Leadership Program). In 2018, I was asked to be the Program Coordinator of TYLP under CBC Fremont, then later founded CBC Gavel Club in 2019 and have been their Coordinator until now."



# *Art & Wine Festival*

submitted by Karrie Keegan



District 57 has a great opportunity to promote our Toastmasters Clubs in person to the community! The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, through Goal Achiever's chamber membership, has allowed our district's clubs to have a booth at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival! According to their website, the Lafayette Art And Wine Festival is the largest annual festival in Contra Costa County! The festival started in 1996 as a way to attract people to downtown Lafayette. By 2024, it had attracted 85,000 people over a two day period! The Art and Wine Festival has over 200 art, vendor and non-profit booths, plus 20 wine and beer booths. The booths feature art, handmade crafts, food, wines and microbrews. The festival also provides 4 music stages featuring a variety of different kinds of

food, wines and microbrews. The festival also provides 4 music stages featuring a variety of different kinds of bands throughout the day. Lafayette Art and Wine Festival takes place on Saturday, September 20th 9am-7pm and Sunday, September 21st 9am to 6pm. The booths need 6 to 8 people per day to staff them. Club members have the opportunity to promote their clubs, help the community start new clubs and promote the benefits of Toastmasters International as an organization. Members can feel free to provide flyers, old Toastmasters Magazines and other promotional materials for the public. We will have note pads to write down all our interested future members! Parking is free, but limited, so arrive early. The chamber is currently working on the exact location of our booth, so stay tuned for more information. Before Covid, District 57 used to do a lot more in person events, and this is a wonderful opportunity to start doing them again! By combining social media and in person events, we'll be able to attract more members and start more clubs!

# Ready to Rebuild Your Club?



by Dennis Dawson

It's a fresh, new Toastmasters year. This is the year to rebuild District 57. We know we can support many more clubs and members than our current roster because 6 years ago we had roughly 3,000 members in 150 clubs.

By now, you've asked your co-workers, friends, and family members if they want to join Toastmasters. But when was the last time you asked? Lives and schedules change. What seemed like too much a while ago might be just what's needed today.

This week, invite literally everyone you know to visit your club. You'll be doing them a great favor. You will also be living the Toastmasters mission — to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

“

“This Week, invite everyone you know to visit your club.”





# Prepare Less, Grow More



by Lee Vaughan

Have you been in Toastmasters for a while? Do you have a lot of experience in public speaking? Does it sometimes feel like you've plateaued in your speaking craft? If you answered yes to these questions, do you wonder if there's anything more you need to learn?

If you regard yourself as a skilled speaker, have you experimented with preparing less for a speech?

I'm not talking about preparing less because you got too busy during the week and the speech seemed to go well or not so well, and then you moved on. I'm also not talking about Table Topics, as good as that activity is for developing extemporaneous speaking skills. I'm talking about preparing to speak on a specific topic you've chosen in advance and doing so in a systematic and yet abbreviated way.

I think this is an opportunity a lot of speakers miss. And it's an important opportunity because, out there in the big, wide world of speaking engagements, reality will demand you speak with less preparation. That big presentation for the meeting, that eulogy, that toast, that best

man or maid of honor speech, and that unclassifiable speech you'll need to give for that special event – you may not have all the time you'd like to prepare for a magnum opus. And good speakers make the most of these situations. In fact, good speakers thrive in these situations.

What if you took your preparation routine and pared it down, just to see the results? After settling on a topic you love, what if...

- *You wrote an outline instead of the whole speech verbatim (if the latter had been your practice).*
- *You thought through speech development carefully, including the transitions, but left the delivery to the moment?*
- *You sensed the type of humor that would land with your audience, held a few joke options in reserve, but chose just one based on the energy in the room?*
- *You rehearsed your delivery, but only to cut what was not necessary?*
- *You thought about what your audience would like more than the types of deliveries you know you're good at?*

As you can see, this takes some practice and some guts. The first few times you do this may not result in your best work. And here's the kicker: You need to be okay with it.

I stumbled across my own minimal preparation method by accident. My club needed me to speak to get DCP credit. I obliged with a speech I hadn't prepared as much for, and to be honest, the results were mediocre at first. The speech was certainly not my best work and thank God for that. Because, by approaching speeches this way, I learned a whole lot that I've since added to my skillset. Among the many things I learned and now remind myself of are:

- *Be careful with listing items in a speech, any items whatsoever. The audience will have trouble recalling items in a list if they're not treated as key to your main point.*
- *Along these lines, be careful with dates. The audience can only process so much and even just two different dates (or timeframes) can be difficult for an audience to retain.*
- *Keep it simple enough so your audience can track with you. There's a place for novelty, but relatability and cogency are far more important.*
- *Building suspense or anticipation is great. A satisfying payoff is even better. Both in the same speech is golden.*
- *Feedback you receive will relate to delivery more than content. But if results were less than stellar and there's no satisfying way to improve the speech as written, it could mean your content (topic selection or general approach to the topic) is what requires development more than your delivery. As I now often say, dynamics are in the writing.*

- *Feedback you receive will relate to delivery more than content. But if results were less than stellar and there's no satisfying way to improve the speech as written, it could mean your content (topic selection or general approach to the topic) is what requires development more than your delivery. As I now often say, dynamics are in the writing.*

What you learn from experimenting with this approach may be entirely different and that's great. The key to learning from these experiences is reflection, both on the feedback you receive and your own impressions about how you could improve. Feedback from others will tell you what they observed and how they felt, but only you can give yourself feedback from your own gut. Both are valid.

I've put these lessons to use since my first time preparing less for a speech, and I think my game has improved markedly since then. I took precious little time to prepare for my last speech. In the time I did use, I considered the method and lessons above, and then it all just sort of gelled – but only after having practiced the method several times.

Did I just get lucky? Time will tell.

If you've never done this before, what more perfect environment is there for it than your club?

Are you willing to try it?

