

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3, September 2025



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**Have some news to
share?**

**Please send your articles
(250-600 words) to
Newsletter Editor,
Sonia Lee Garber at
news@d57tm.org**

<https://d57tm.org/>

Important Dates:

September 1st

Labor Day

September 13th **10am-12pm**

DECM

September 20th-21st

LaFayette Art & Wine Festival

September 27th **10am-12pm**

Fall Business/Council Meeting

Toastmasters Envision Y(our) Next Move

By Michael Osur, DTM,
Past International
Director



More than 1200 Toastmasters from more than 100 countries descended on the city of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia) last week (August 20th-23rd) to celebrate our 101st anniversary, learn to improve our communication and leadership skills and to elect ten members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Convention.

Toastmasters members are the friendliest people I have ever met, are interested in self-development and wanting to make their communities a better place to live. For me, as a Past International Director and a member of clubs in Northern and Southern California, it was a super chance to reconnect with longtime friends and meet the new upcoming district leaders.

We also learned about how the organization will re-organize districts in the Americas to better serve our new and future members. What is my favorite part of the convention? Where shall I begin? The Opening Ceremony and the Parade of 140+ flags from all over the world representing global unity brought tears to my eyes.

The Hall of Fame where district successes are recognized and the Presidential Citations are awarded- I envision District 57 on stage next August in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada being recognized for the first time in years. The Annual Business Meeting: Where leaders I have known for years were elected (or not) to serve on the Board of Directors: a showcase of leadership in action. The President's Gala Dinner and Dance Celebration – where we all dress to impress and dance with friends and former strangers to while the night away: A dazzling evening of dancing, elegance, and camaraderie.

If you know me, my favorite part is just talking, talking and talking (and listening) to enthusiastic people excited to be together and learn from each other.

I attended my first convention as a Division Director in Palm Desert California in 2010. - being there changed my life, inspired me to further leadership and to develop long term relationships that will last forever.

Make plans now to attend the next convention August 19-22, 2026, in Vancouver, Canada. See you there.



**D57, club 88 member PID Michael Osur
with newly elected 2VP Jean Gamester
from Wales, UK**



**D57 PDD Ed Cullen enjoying
the annual Business Meeting**



**PID and Club 88 member
Michael Osur with Toastmasters
CEO Daniel Rex**



**PDD Ed Cullen, IPDD Sally Philbin
and PID Michael Osur**



At the D57 caucus : Past International President Michael Notaro, Monica Sullivan , PDD Ed Cullen, IPDD Sally Philbin, CGD Dennis Dawson



Sally Philbin showing some dance moves at the Annual Business Meeting



D57 member Ashley Ching with PDD Ed Cullen



Newly elected Region 1 International Director Michael Boen and PDD Ed Cullen

An Update On The District 57 Trio

-Jeff Young, District
Director

I want to start by thanking Lindy for her dedication and service to the District. Although somewhat brief, she sent me a list of tasks that she'd done in the past couple of months and it ran into the high double digits, most of it done behind the scenes.

Thank you to all the people I spoke to about stepping up to be District Director in her place, but after several hours of training conversations, phone calls, and emails, I've ultimately decided to take off the 'acting' part of the Acting District Director role and take the challenge on myself.

The art and ardor of being District Director is a task that my predecessors have made look somewhat easy; I had hoped to take this year doing the one thing I excel at (teaching) while learning the ropes from Lindy's efficient style and maximal attention to detail. She remains a valued advisor to me in the days ahead.

I'd also like to take a moment to introduce my appointed successor, Maureen Filler, the past Division A Director, as your new Program Quality Director. I interviewed fewer folks to fill in my role, but the choice was much easier on this one. Dennis Dawson will remain in his current role as Club Growth Director.

We hope to get the District Council's approval for the seismic shift in our last year as District 57 at our Business Meeting this month.

*D57 Warmly
Welcomes
Maureen Filler
as the new
Program Quality
Director.*



Incentives Tracking and Scoring Q&A

-by Jeff Young, Program Quality Director



I've received quite a few questions about the newly redesigned Incentives list, which I will try and answer in this brief article.

Q: Why are the incentives so much different?

A: There were too many incentives being carried over from year to year, so we decided to start from scratch. We began with the things that best aligned with the District Mission statement.

Q: Why is there such a big focus on DCP points for Incentives?

A: Ideally, we should be working towards Distinguished Club Program (DCP) points because those are keyed to our progress in learning to be better speakers through Pathways, and building healthier clubs by getting trained.

Q: Where did the Open House Incentive go?

A: We removed it because we've redesigned the Open House to be closer to 'running an excellent normal meeting'. We also shifted the allocation of funds that would have come from getting members from Open Houses to successfully gaining new

members over the whole year, because you should be credited for getting new members anytime, not just from Open Houses.

Q: What do we need to file in the Incentive Tracker to get District Bucks?

A: A lot less than last year. We can monitor anything DCP-related from the dashboards and I'll try and get things updated every Sunday, but will probably be closer to 'once a fortnight.' I've already given most folks the credit for things they've earned so far. If you think I'm missing adding an award for your club, the incentives can be filed by an officer and I'll get the notification.

Q: Why are the goals for the incentives larger than the numbers required to get your DCP point for a goal?

A: The Incentives are tied to the Outstanding Club Award (OCA) and are designed to reward going above and beyond the minimums. The DCP was intended to highlight the results of your club's achievements, rather than being a checklist for what you need to do.

Q: How do we get credit for the goals where the number is higher than the maximum value in the DCP goal?

A: I am looking at the 'More' style goals (such as '4 new members' (for Goal #7), '4 more members' (for Goal #8) as a pair, so when we award '5 new members', the check is for '4' in Goal #7 and '1' in Goal #8, and we award '5 more new members' with '4' in Goal #7 and '6' in Goal #8 (total of 10).

Q: Why are some of the dates pulled back earlier from last year?

A: We have a slightly more aggressive deadline to finish awarding District Bucks because of how we're going to be merged with another District next year and need to close the books earlier than normal.

Q: Where are the Marketing Incentives?

A: They tend to change year over year; since we're early in the year, we haven't added them yet. Watch the Weekly Digest for new incentives.

Q: What's this 'Event' Incentive?

A: Last year, my Open House Team and I redesigned the Open House Kit. This is the next iteration of that - a specialized club event that is open to the public and includes an outside speaker, but also requires pre-approval before you run one.



Contact
jeffrey@d57tm.org if
you have further
questions.



It Takes a Team

How the Club Executive Committee
Brings In New Toastmasters
By Dennis Dawson, DTM3, PDG, CGD



The Vice President, Membership, is primarily responsible for adding members to your club. But they don't have to do it alone! It takes a team to convert a guest to a member.

Start with the Vice President, Public Relations getting the word out about what makes your club unique. They provide clear instructions for how to find the club in person and online. That brings guests to the meeting, where they are greeted by the Sergeant at Arms, who is often the very first face of Toastmasters a guest will ever see. The SAA welcomes all members and guests warmly. They have them sign the guest book, then introduce them to the Vice President, Membership. The VPM becomes the guest's buddy for the meeting, walking them through the agenda, explaining Toastmasters rituals, and making them comfortable throughout.

After the meeting, the VPM asks three questions:

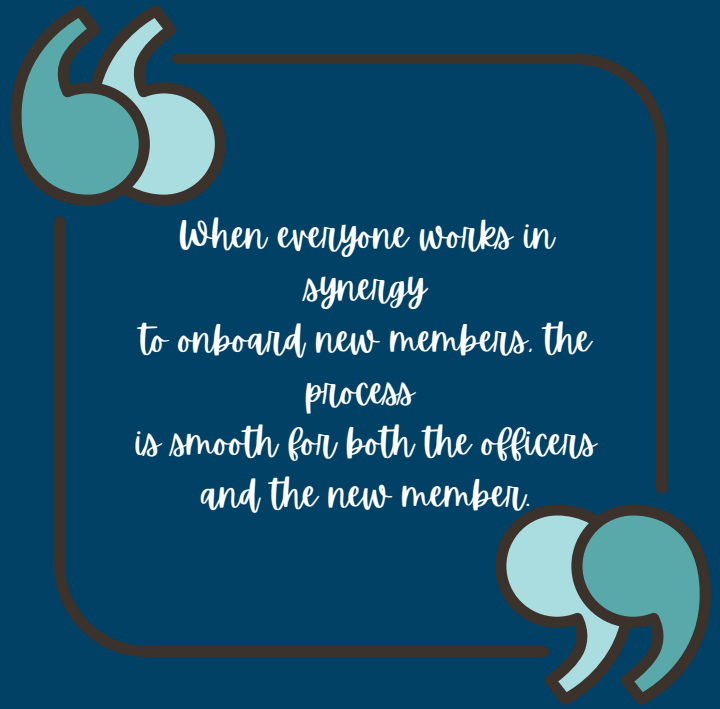
1. What did you think of the meeting?
2. That was a lot to take in. Can I clarify anything about the Toastmasters program?
3. Would you like to join our club today?

When your guest is ready to join, the VPM helps to fill in the application form, then coordinates with the Treasurer, who collects the correct dues, and is prepared with the correct number for pro-rated fees for the current month. Getting the dues payment correct, including local club dues, is essential for establishing trust with new members. Once we have a paid application.

The Secretary immediately adds the new member to the roster and email lists, ensuring that they are included in any club communications. The Secretary makes a note that the member needs to be inducted at the next meeting by the President, who excuses the new member to allow the club to vote on whether to accept their application. Once approved, the President inducts the member with ceremony, asking line by line whether the new member agrees to each item in the Toastmaster's Promise. Once inducted, the member works with

the Vice President of Education. The VPE assigns the new member a mentor and demonstrates how to use Pathways Base Camp. The VPE schedules the new member's Ice Breaker speech no later than one month after the member's join date. The VPE and the rest of the club members cheer on the new member and monitor their progress in the Pathways program to ensure they achieve their personal and professional goals.

When everyone works in synergy to onboard new members, the process is smooth for both the officers and the new member. The best way to attain and retain members is through coordination and collaboration among the entire Executive Committee.



One Year Ends and Another Begins

by Sally Philbin



Our End of Year Party was marked by recognition of the excellence of our members and hope for more of the same for the coming year.

Our emcee guided us through the afternoon with aplomb (OK, that was me). I had a great time.

We were honored to have Michael Osur, DTM, and Past International Director as our Keynote Speaker. His presentation, "Generations at Work" impressing us with the importance of recognizing and responding to our ever changing demographics was truly inspiring.

It is humbling to come face to face with such excellence in our District. There were 5 DTMs, 14 OTMAs, 44 ETCs, 19 TCs, and 25 THs earned in 2024-20025. Those reflected on the program that you will find posted on our Website only lists those not recognized at the Conference. I have added an

addendum with those additional names. I apologize to our most honored Triple Crown and Triple Hit recipients whose awards were laid out but whom I forgot to announce.

It was a pleasure to have Michael Notaro, DTM and Past International President officiate the installation of our incoming District Leaders.

The food was delicious and the company even better.

*A good Time
was had by All!*

Finding Inspiration at the World Championship of Public Speaking 2025

By Leesa Thompson, DTM, PRM

On Saturday August 23, I had the joy of joining the World Championship of Public Speaking 2025 Speaker's Forum watch party on Zoom as a guest. The experience was so moving that I was inspired to write a poem about it, capturing the spirit of connection, courage, and storytelling that filled the virtual room.

We celebrated the incredible achievements of this year's top three speakers:

First Place – Sabyasachi Sengupta

(Netherlands, District 59, Region 10)

Second Place – Mas Mahathir Bin Mohd

(Malaysia, District 51, Region 13)

Third Place – Allen Ang Boon Kiat

(Brunei, District 87, Region 9)

I'm also sharing photos of these inspiring champions, whose words reached across borders and touched hearts worldwide. Recordings of their powerful speeches are available on YouTube—an opportunity to celebrate, learn, and grow from their journeys.

What unites us as speakers is a shared commitment: to keep learning, keep practicing, and keep perfecting the art of public speaking. Together, we are working toward that common goal—lifting each other higher through every story told.



First Place Winner Sabyasachi Sengupta



Sengupta is presented with his award



(l-r) Mas Mahathir Bin Mohd, Sabyasachi Sengupta, Allen Ang Boon

“The CEO Takes the Crown”

By Leesa Thompson, DTM, PRM D57



In Philadelphia, voices soared,
Eight brave souls, their truths outpoured.
From bow ties, raindrops, halves of smiles,
To dreams reborn across the miles.

But laughter shook the hall the most,
When Chief Entertainment Officer took the post.

A jacket too tight, a clicker astray,
A spreadsheet joke that lit the way.
Nods and roars, the crowd in glee,
“Just laugh with me, and set words free.”

From Amsterdam’s halls in District 59,
To Rome with Fursey, a friend divine,
He shared one truth, both bold and true:
Detach from outcomes—just be you.
For molecules small may seem alone,
But together they form a voice, a home.

And here in Fremont, far yet near,
Speakers Forum made it clear:
With buffet warm and workbook wide,
And round-robin wisdom by our side,
They opened doors, both Zoom and hall,
To welcome guests, to grow us all.

So raise your hands, let voices cheer,
For every speaker who stood sincere.
But crown today the one who showed—
With humor’s spark, the room explodes.
A CEO of joy, of light,
Whose laughter made the world feel right.

Together we learn, together we climb,
Each story shared, a gift in time.
And thanks to District 57’s embrace,
We’ve all found courage, and found our place.

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

by Hans Eugene Thoma

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](#) 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](#) about humorous speaking with Steve Taddei and Valerie Lukehart. I wanted to take a moment and explain how the channel is organized. Please begin by bookmarking the [homepage](#).



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!!



TOASTMASTERS BOOTH

**MEMBER
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE OUTSIDE
THE MEETING ROOM!**

Our Toastmasters Booth will be open
from 10-7 on Saturday and 10-6 on
Sunday. We need your support to
spread the word about Toastmasters!

*(While you also have some fun with
family & friends at the most popular fair in
the Bay Area)*

ON SEPT, 20TH & 21ST

**EVEN A COUPLE OF HOURS OF YOUR TIME WILL
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!**



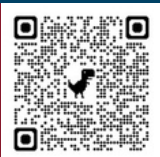
What You'll Do

- Greet visitors with a smile.
- Share your Toastmasters experience.
- Help inspire new members to join our journey of growth.
- Promote your respective Clubs.

[HTTPS://LAFAYETTEFESTIVAL.COM](https://lafayettefestival.com)

**EXCITED MEMBERS
PLEASE SIGN UP**

[HTTPS://D57TM.ORG/WINEANDART](https://d57tm.org/wineandart)



**MEMBER IN CHARGE :
KARRIEK@D57TM.ORG**

Q&A with Sanya Nath,

D57 Member



Q:How did it feel to be valedictorian of your class?

A:Being named Valedictorian at John Kimball High School was a childhood dream come true and a true honor. It felt gratifying to see years of hard work recognized—moments of struggle now feel meaningful in retrospect. I owe so much of my success to my teachers, counselors, friends, and family, who fully supported me. Throughout high school, I developed strong planning and study skills and learned the value of persistence and teamwork. Beyond academics, I'm proud of leading the Academic Decathlon as President, where our 15-person team won over 50 medals at regional competitions. As I enter college, I feel confident in my preparation and eager to motivate others along the way.

Q:What inspires you?

A: I'm inspired by people who combine passion with meaningful contributions to society.

My drive is rooted in my desire to solve problems like Type 2 diabetes, which affects 1 in 10 Americans and costs over \$400 billion annually. During my Stanford Pediatric Internship, I researched noninvasive insulin delivery methods. This experience shaped my three-pronged approach: advancing biomedical research, fostering cooperation among , and influencing public health policy. I want to revolutionize insulin delivery to reduce reliance on daily injections—using biochemistry and technology for real-world impact.

Q: What are you up to currently?

A: This fall, I'll begin the SJV PRIME+ BS-to-MD pathway with UC Merced and UCSF, aiming to serve the Central Valley as a pediatrician.

I will continue to support Happy Healthy Bright Kids (HHBK) which is a non-profit organization I founded, promoting children's health and wellness. I've led free community clinics and donated over 350 health kits to children and families in need. My work received formal recognition from Congressman Josh Harder for its impact on emotional and physical wellness.

Q: What do you enjoy about Toastmasters?

A: Toastmasters has helped me sharpen my public speaking, leadership, and storytelling skills. As VP of Public Relations for Tracy Toastmasters, I value the community, thoughtful feedback, and continuous opportunities to grow and build confidence as both a speaker and a leader.

FITS 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: <https://fits2021.com/fits-store/p/how-to-start-a-small-business>

Here is my background:

"I was a member of UCTM from 2012-2015, was the Treasurer for 2 years, and then the President for 1 year. I completed the Advanced Communication Silver level, and during that period, I also 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 ever since.



JKYog Youth Club

by Babita Ram

Hello Toastmasters,
I am happy to introduce the JKYog Youth Club, Bay Area Fremont Chapter Club # 7888221.

This club has been empowering young people across the East Bay, and students to find their voice, grow into confident speakers, and become mindful leaders—all in a fun and supportive environment. We're proud to be part of Toastmasters International and have already helped over 150 young adults on their public speaking journey. Over the past years club has organized events like “International Speech Contest, fun-filled festival events, and most recently, one was “Youth Leadership 2025 Conference in Apr 2025, for empowering the next generation of leaders to discover their interests and grow their skills to positively impact their communities and beyond.

The club operates in-person and hybrid mode. For in-person meetings club meets at the Los Cerritos Community Center, Fremont (Sundays, 9–10:30 AM). To learn about our new leadership team and more, visit the [July Edition of the Club Newsletter](#).

