

FEBRUARY 1, 2026



DISTRICT 57 NEWSLETTER

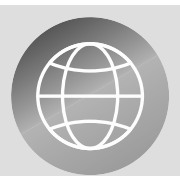
Toastmasters, District 57, Region 1

Feb 1, 2026

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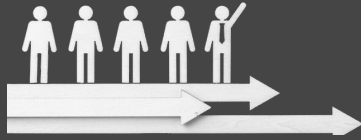
Have some news to share?
Please send your articles
(250-600 words) to
Newsletter Editor, Shalini Suravarjjala at news@d57tm.org

<https://d57tm.org>

THE BEST FORM OF LEADERSHIP

By Jeffrey Young

Feb 1, 2026



If you attended last month's DECM, you caught our Leadership Legacy themed meeting, as well as Tyree Johnson's Moments of Truth primer. I also caught a little bit of inspiration.



The best form of leadership is the one where you volunteer to do something specific.

The best form of leadership is the one where you show up.

If there's already someone in charge, you step up to support them. It may not seem like leadership up front, but whenever you get assigned something to do, you become the lead person on that task. It's why we have (quasi-uncredited) Chairs for various things, officers, and the like - responsibility is leadership.

We don't know what people are good at unless we've already seen you do it. Sometimes we wind up giving people roles that they've never done before, too - and the Toastmasters leadership model is often about figuring things out while you're doing it. Ideally, you have a mentor who has done it before that can help you, but that's not always the case.

Showing up without a plan or a direction is still volunteering. Evaluations are about reviews and comments and extra viewpoints; and many things in Toastmasters are group and team activities, so the more people that show up, the better.

If you're underqualified, shadowing someone who is qualified gets you to where you could be qualified next time. We've all started from a place with zero experience, and in Toastmasters, showing up is sometimes the hard part - or we'd have all clubs with 20 or more members.

I maintain that today's people who show up are tomorrow's leaders - and sometimes even today's leaders. We can't train people who don't show up.

THE BEST FORM OF LEADERSHIP

By Jeffrey Young

Feb 1, 2026

The best form of leadership is the one where you work with your team.

As a Service-oriented leader, I like to find people who want to do cool things. I love inspiring people to be more than where they started, and helping them explore the potential that they have yet to discover. I also like connecting people's strengths with opportunities to shine, and their weaknesses with partners who can help them grow. There's something magical about building a well-functioning team, and something satisfying about making a dysfunctional team work together. I hold a belief that I can work with anyone, and I am rarely wrong in that belief. I've been working to improve my delegation skills, too, but at the end of the day, what's most important is that the team succeeds together, or not at all.



The best form of leadership is the one where you promote doing the best job you can.

Sometimes, when we sign up for something, there's stuff we weren't told about the responsibilities, role, or hidden difficulties involved. It's easy to say "I didn't sign up for this" and run away, quiet quit, or feel like you were bamboozled, and we might even poison the well for others who come after us. But when we embrace adversity and rise to a challenge, and look for help – never be afraid to ask for help, by the way – we'll get the job done together.

This is Toastmasters leadership to me. We are the Trio. We are the PRM team. We are the committees and District Directors and Area Directors that make up the District Executive Committee. We have been and are the Presidents and VPEs that make up the District Council. You've been in situations where decisions need to be made and problems solved, and you've almost never had to do it on your own.

That is leadership at its core. I'd like to finish by quoting Curt Hayashida, the D12 Area Director. "People don't show up to Toastmasters meetings to just sit there and have a free cookie. They're there to participate, to listen, and to learn."

When you come prepared to lead, you bring the best form of leadership. Yourself.

Public Relations Team Update

By Leesa Thompson DTM, PRM

Feb 1, 2026

The District 57 PR Team has been hard at work encouraging greater club visibility and exploring new outreach strategies.



In January, we piloted Facebook ads to boost attendance at three club open houses. While the ads achieved visibility and were seen by many, they resulted in limited guest attendance. This experience helped us better understand how our audience engages and where we can improve.



January also saw strong progress in podcasting. George and Donna have been especially busy producing timely and informative episodes. Be sure to listen to their recent podcasts with Mike and Ed (LINK) discussing realignment for Districts 205 and 206, as well as their conversation with Daniel (LINK) on launching new clubs. These episodes provide valuable insights into district initiatives and growth opportunities.



This month, we're excited to launch a three-month radio campaign. Our team has been meeting with the sales director at Radio Zindagi to finalize daily ad spots and weekly interview segments. During the first month, interviews will focus on membership benefits, aligning with Talk Up Toastmasters. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the value of Toastmasters with a broader community.



We're also launching an effort to connect our clubs to their local Chamber of Commerce and begin leveraging their marketing expertise. Be sure to read Karrie's article, then reach out to Jeff if your club is ready to get involved. Looking for credit toward leadership or a chance to lead a Speechcraft? CoCs are an excellent place to offer this program and make a meaningful impact.



In addition, our outreach team met with Ruth from Tri-City Voice to explore print and digital advertising as a possible avenue for outside marketing. While no decisions have been made yet, this remains an option we're thoughtfully considering.

Meanwhile, we continue to support and train our VP PRs through winter training and ongoing collaboration.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE IDEAS TO INCREASE YOUR CLUB'S VISIBILITY? HAVE A CREATIVE IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLORE? CONTACT PRM@D57TM.ORG, OR REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO LEESA, HANS, SOMY, OR JEFF. I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, LISTEN TO IDEAS, SPEAK AT YOUR CLUB—OR HELP CONNECT YOU WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN.

Contest Corner

By Kate Mills

Feb 1, 2026

CONTEST PREPARATION AND PLANNING



CLUB CONTESTS

- Clubs should be holding their contests in January and early February. They need to be completed at least two weeks before their Area Contest.
- Names and member numbers of club contest winners, as well as nominees representing clubs not holding a contest, should be promptly sent to your Area Directors so they can get ready for the next competition.
- Use the [NOTIFICATION OF CONTEST WINNERS \(Form 1182\)](#). Contact your Area Director if you do not see the contest on the [District 57 Calendar](#)*

Area & Division Contests

- Congratulations to Division C for scheduling all its Area and Division Contests.
- Division B is right behind them with all Area Contests on the calendar.
- The larger Divisions A and D have scheduled most Area contests, and plans are underway for the remainder.
- Please check the District 57 Calendar to be sure your date is not already selected by another Area or Division.
- Use the [Event Submittal Form](#) to ensure your contest appears on the [D57 Calendar](#). When filling it out, use motivating wording to pump up your contest/Area, include check-in and start times, venue name and location, and a contact point.
- Consider asking for help if you need it; e.g., volunteers needed, "and "snacks to share appreciated."

HELP AVAILABLE

Reach out to this year's D57 Contest Chair, Kate Mills katemillstoast@gmail.com, to schedule contest training, get help planning your event, or receive clarification about contest procedures.

<https://d57tm.org>

SPOTLIGHT SEASON



D57

Contest Corner

By Kate Mills

Feb 1, 2026

*** AREA CONTESTS ALREADY ON THE D57 CALENDAR AS OF 21 JAN 2026 WITH MORE BEING ADDED WEEKLY**



| Div | Area | Cont.Sch. | Date | Start Time |
|-----|------|--------------|--------|------------|
| A | A-01 | Coming Soon | TBD | TBD |
| A | A-13 | Yes | Mar 7 | 4 p.m. |
| A | A-29 | Yes | Feb 12 | TBD |
| A | A-35 | Yes | Feb 24 | 7 p.m. |
| A | A-40 | Coming Soon | TBD | TBD |
| | | | | |
| B | B-07 | Yes | Feb 21 | 4 p.m. |
| B | B-21 | Yes | Feb 28 | 4 p.m. |
| B | B-22 | Yes | Feb 7 | 3 p.m. |
| B | B-27 | Yes | Feb 14 | 4 p.m. |
| | | | | |
| C | Div | Yes | Mar 21 | 10 a.m. |
| C | C-08 | Yes | Mar 01 | 3 p.m. |
| C | C-09 | Yes C9 & C31 | Mar 05 | 6:15 p.m. |
| C | C-10 | Yes | Feb 28 | TBD |
| C | C-31 | Yes C9 & C31 | Mar 05 | 6:15 p.m. |
| | | | | |
| D | D-03 | Coming Soon | TBD | |

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------------|--------|--------|
| D | D-04 | Yes D4 & D30 | Feb 21 | 4 p.m. |
| D | D-12 | Yes D12 & D26 | Feb 27 | 5 p.m. |
| D | D-23 | Coming Soon | TBD | |
| D | D-26 | Yes D12 & D26 | Feb 27 | 5 p.m. |
| D | D-30 | Yes D4 & D30 | Feb 21 | 4 p.m. |
| | | | | |
| E | E-19 | Coming Soon | TBD | |
| E | E-28 | Coming Soon | TBD | |
| E | E-34 | Coming Soon | TBD | |
| E | E-36 | Coming Soon | TBD | |

HELP AVAILABLE

Reach out to this year's D57 Contest Chair, Kate Mills katemillstoast@gmail.com, to schedule contest training, get help planning your event, or receive clarification about contest procedures.

<https://d57tm.org>

Awards & DTM

By George Marshall, DTM

Feb 1, 2026






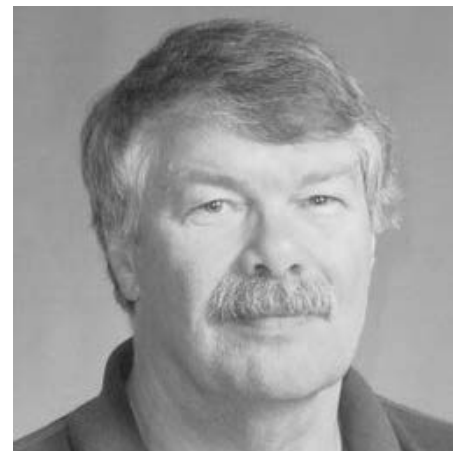
AWARDS & DTM INSPIRATION NIGHT – RESOURCES

RESOURCES

Thank you to everyone who registered and joined us for the Awards and DTM Inspiration Night on January 15th. Your participation helped make the session engaging, informative, and inspiring.

Missed the event or want to revisit the highlights? We've got you covered:

-  **Awards and DTM Presentation**
Presentation slides shared by George
-  **Session Recording on YouTube**
Watch the full meeting recording at your convenience
-  **OTMA Resources**
Learn more about the Outstanding Toastmaster Award (OTMA) and the application process



Whether you are actively working toward your DTM or exploring awards for the first time, these resources will help you take the next confident step in your Toastmasters Journey.

Talk Up Toastmasters with LOVE: Partnering with Local Chambers of Commerce

By *Karrie Keagan*

Feb 1, 2026

Each February and March, Toastmasters International's Talk Up Toastmasters campaign encourages clubs to build membership by sharing the value of communication and leadership. One powerful and often underused way to do this is by partnering with your local Chamber of Commerce (CoC). February is also the month of connection and community, which is why I love networking with my local Chamber of Commerce and why LOVE is the perfect theme for this campaign.

Many Chambers organize networking through Affinity Groups rather than individual business events. These groups may include Nonprofit Networks, Young Professionals, Business Women's Groups, Health and Wellness Alliances, and Business or Government Affairs. These rooms are filled with professionals who need exactly what Toastmasters provides: confidence, clarity, and leadership presence. Instead of simply inviting people to attend a meeting, Toastmasters clubs can demonstrate their value by showing up and serving.



Here's how to put LOVE into action during Talk Up Toastmasters:

L – Listen to the Chamber's needs.

Chamber members often struggle with elevator speeches, introductions, and promoting their organizations. By listening first, Toastmasters clubs can tailor sessions that address real-world communication challenges.

O – Offer practical value.

Short workshops on networking, personal branding, or speaking with impact fit naturally into Chamber programming. Speechcraft and other short-term learning experiences are especially appealing to busy professionals.

V – Visibility through special events.

Chambers enthusiastically promote special events. Speech contests, leadership panels, or communication workshops hosted at an attractive venue can generate visibility for Toastmasters and bring in high-quality guests.

E – Expand community connections.

Through the Chamber, clubs can collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and young professional groups, extending Toastmasters' reach to students, parents, and emerging leaders.



During Talk Up Toastmasters, let LOVE lead the way. By building authentic relationships with your local Chamber of Commerce, your club can grow membership while sharing the gift of confident communication—one meaningful connection at a time.

And to top it all off, our District Director, Jeff, has approved covering the cost for clubs ready to engage with their local Chambers of Commerce. This removes a major barrier and makes February and March the perfect time to take action.

So plan your visit, reach out to your local CoC, and Talk Up Toastmasters where business and community leaders already gather. Then let Jeff know your club is ready to L.O.V.E. your CoC—by listening, offering value, increasing visibility, and expanding community connections.