

APRIL 1, 2026



DISTRICT 57 NEWSLETTER

Toastmasters, District 57, Region 1

April 1, 2026

1. [District 57 - Finishing Strong](#)
2. [District 57 Conference 2026](#)
3. [PR Team Update -Let's Get the Word Out!](#)
4. [District Realignment Update](#)
5. [Club SpotLight - Danville Toastmasters 1785](#)
6. [Club SpotLight - Chamber Chatters Toastmasters 2332](#)



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

<https://d57tm.org>

FINISHING STRONG

By Jeffrey Young

April 1, 2026

Can you believe it's already April?

With three months left in the Toastmasters year, there's so much to do yet. And so much potential to cross the finish line in a burst of awesomeness if you and your clubs are willing to answer the call to action.



- **The big ask:** How can we find four clubs before the end of June? That gets us the clubs we need for that component of being a Distinguished District. Have you checked out our new affinity clubs (Once Upon a Speech, Loremasters, Time Travelers and the brand new Educators clubs? They're worth a look!) Joining these clubs before June gets them to charter strength.
- **The bigger ask:** How can we get two new or returning members into every club? Last year, we were a couple of hundred new members short. We've been shrinking as a District every year (or we wouldn't be being redistricted) and what we could use is a few new people and/or a few people to be reminded that Toastmasters is worth the time and energy. Share the dream, get them to join the team!
- **The ridiculously huge ask:** Do you know a place that has an uncharted potential to be a Toastmasters club?
- **The easy ask:** What would it take to make sure your club gets one more DCP point? Several clubs are at 4 out of the minimum 5 points, and it might take only a speech or two for someone to finish their current level. I say 'easy' because we've got most of what we need to be Distinguished already.
- **The easiest ask of all:** Don't forget to spend your District Bucks. There's over \$8,000 waiting for the clubs to spend before the end of May, and we lose it if we don't use it.

Our goals for the year are 107 clubs (we are at 103 as of March 15, when I'm writing this) and 4102 membership payments (we're at 2736 at the time of this writing, but we should be somewhere in the 3400 range by the time you're reading this).

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There are three big lessons I'm learning this year



Leadership is not a liability – it's a labor of learning and love.

An unanswered question I have this year is 'how do I get people to take on more responsibility?' Asking until someone says yes doesn't make them instantly qualified; following up with guidance and training is the key. The questions I have been asking this year are "What do you want to learn from the experience of being a leader?"

But there's only one of me, and a lot of you. And so I want to think about what it would take for you to volunteer if you've been sitting on the sidelines so far. What would motivate you to lead?

Inspiration comes from thoughtful actions, not from reactions.

I know many people are motivated by deadlines looming, but doing things early means it's done, and the time is freed up for other things. "I'll do it later" is the opposite of planning. Emergencies don't wait until after a deadline is done, and there are things we can do today that might get dropped in case of emergency.

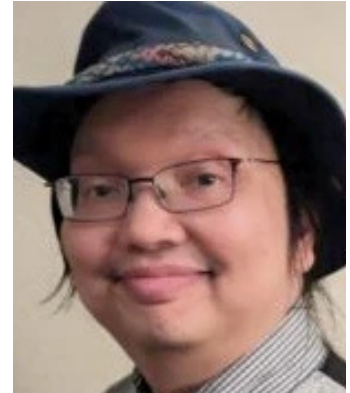
But there's only one of me, and a lot of you. So I want to know (and I might be featuring a list of inspirational quotes in my last newsletter or at the last DECM): What have you seen or done in Toastmasters this year that inspired you to act?

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Delegation is the scariest word in my vocabulary. Not because I have to trust people to do things where I can't, but because I can.

I want to take a moment to appreciate everyone who stepped up to work on the various Area and Division speech contests in the past couple of months. I saw a lot of you making contests happen on frenetic timetables and shoestring budgets. It takes a lot of people to run these things, and many of you made it to multiple competitions as staffers. I hope we inspired some of the audience to take on those roles for next year!

But there's only one of me, and a lot of you. And so I want to know who has inspired you to step up and who Leads Up for you. We'd like to make the Biggest Ask of all of them - for them to be next year's leaders.

But I especially want to thank the folks who were our Area Directors and Division Directors this year; most of you are doing great things and I've been hearing good things about you. Your impact is felt, and your actions representing the District have been a year of tests and unexpected twists. I know this year isn't what I expected it to be like. Not even remotely close.

But now I'm looking for folks who want to pick up the torch and carry it into our new Districts 205 and 206. I want to finish strong, take our best shot at being Distinguished, and hand off our halves of the District off to make our new Districts proud to have us.

I hope to see many of you at the final District 57 Conference next month!

P.S. If you've got better-than-a-smartphone video equipment to shoot the contest video and portable speakers that you can bring to the Conference, please drop me a line at Jeffrey@d57tm.org - we could use your help and hardware!

DISTRICT DIRECTOR



JOIN US FOR THE
FINAL DISTRICT 57 CONFERENCE!

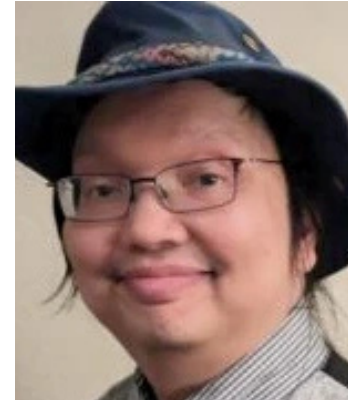
By Jeffrey Young

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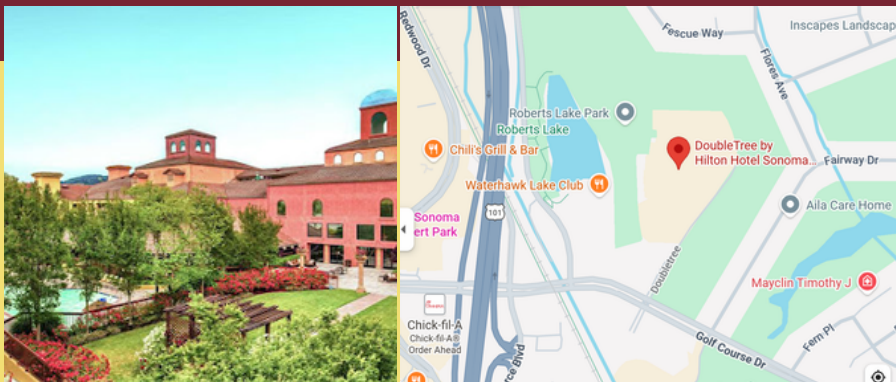
Carrying the Torch

Honoring the Past, Igniting the Future

District 57 is pleased to announce and invite you to our final Conference as a District. In case you hadn't heard by now, we are honoring one of our more stylish past conference locations, and we are holding our Conference on **Saturday, May 16th at the Rohnert Park Doubletree in Rohnert Park, California.**



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Google Maps Link: ([One Doubletree, Rohnert Park, CA 94928](#))

Tickets should be on sale by the time this article goes to print.

- The Early Bird Pricing (\$80) is good until April 14th.
- Bring Two Friends Discount (\$10 off) – When you buy at least 3 tickets at once, take \$10 off the ticket price for each ticket (let's hope we can get this to work on the ticketing site, but if not, we'll be in touch.)
- Standard Pricing (\$100) up to the 14th of May
- At the Door (\$125)
- Sponsorship and Corporate Sponsor Tiers are also available.

<https://d57tm.org>

DISTRICT DIRECTOR



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FINAL DISTRICT 57 CONFERENCE!

By Jeffrey Young

April 1, 2026

Partake of the Programming

- We have some exciting programming planned for the Final Conference. But we're still holding space if you have a fantastic seminar in mind. We have both a 45 minute and 1 hour time block available for inspirational, educational, sensational, and celebrational speakers and their material. (No, this is not the Muppet Show.)
- The ticket price also includes both breakfast at 7am and lunch at noon, with a snack break in between.
- We are also investigating local places that would be open to hosting our traditional Post Toasties celebration. We'll have more details on this when we get closer to the Conference.



Come for the Contests

- We are setting the speech contests in the afternoon starting roughly around 3pm for both the Table Topics and International Speech Contests. They will run consecutively similar to the way we ran the Area and Division Contests.
- We are hoping to do a streaming broadcast for at least the contests, if not the whole conference, but this is not guaranteed at the time of this writing.
- We are still looking for photo, video, and audio savvy folks to help provide logistical support for the contests (and the conference). Contact Jeff (jeffrey@d57tm.org) if you've got camera equipment or portable speakers you can bring to aid the cause.

[REGISTER HERE FOR THE SPRING CONFERENCE](https://d57tm.org/event/spring-conference-2026)

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Honor Our District History

- One of our special presentations this year is a historical retrospective view of the history of District 57, and we'll have some speakers emeritus to toast our past as one of the longer running districts in Toastmasters.
- We should also have the Yearbook that we are producing as a joint effort with District 4 (with whom we will be combining half of the District to form District 205) available for purchase.
- If you're interested in contributing to the content of the book, we may still have room for more stories and snapshots from your personal view of the District. Please send inquiries to Maureen (maureen@d57tm.org).

Ready For Recruits

Be Part of Our Conference Team! We still have openings available at both the chair and staff levels to assist with the smooth running of the conference.

For all inquiries and further details as we have them, please contact our conference chairs

- **Tiffany Dawn Jones (tiffydawnjones@gmail.com)**
- **Charles Herron (charles_herron@comcast.net)**

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PUBLIC RELATIONS



PR TEAM UPDATE LET'S GET THE WORD OUT!

By Leesa Thompson

April 1, 2026

Our PR team still has a lot on its plate, and we are counting on every VP of PR to help us get the job done. This is a pivotal time for our district, and clear communication is key.

Finish Strong

As PR leaders, it's not enough for you to simply be aware of these events. We count on you to ensure that all your club members are informed. Remind your members to finish the year strong by completing club goals and participating in district activities.



Business Meetings & Voting

We have the important task of ensuring that every member knows about the upcoming business meetings and voting process. While all members are welcome to attend, only the club president, VPEs, area directors, division directors, and the district trio can vote—and only in the incoming district where their club will move. It's essential that our entire team spreads this information widely. Your club members need to know who the incoming leaders are, when, and where to vote.

Conference Registration

Don't forget to encourage all members to register for the upcoming district conference on May 16. This is a key opportunity for networking, learning, and celebrating our accomplishments.

Radio Zindagi Campaign

Our radio campaign continues to gain momentum. Please copy and share these interviews with your friends and invite them to attend your club meetings. This is a great way to expand our reach and attract new members.

OTMA Awards & Club Incentives

Make sure to complete the OTMA award form and collect your club incentives. These are tangible rewards for all your hard work—don't miss out!

Access to Information

There will be plenty of opportunities to access all the information you need. However, it never ceases to amaze me how often district members ask, "What conference? What newsletter? What happens past my club?" Let's make sure our communications leave no one wondering.

Together, we can ensure that our district remains informed, engaged, and inspired. Let's get the word out and finish the year stronger than ever!

<https://d57tm.org>

DISTRICT REALIGNMENT UPDATE



DISTRICT REALIGNMENT UPDATE

By Ed Cullen, District Transition Chair

April 1, 2026

To find out which one your club is moving to, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ynrc77dw>



As you know, Toastmasters is in the process of merging several districts to create larger, healthier districts. District 57, as we know it, will be eliminated, and all of our clubs will be moving into two new districts called 205 and 206. The western half of our district will move to District 205, and the eastern half will move to District 206.

To find out which one your club is moving to, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/ynrc77dw>

But your club remains your club. Your meetings, members, and culture stay the same. What WILL change is the structure around you. Your club will become part of a new Area, a new Division, alongside clubs that may be new to you -- creating opportunities for connection, collaboration, and growth.

Will D57 still be holding an annual conference? YES, our very last conference, which includes the speech contest, will occur on May 16 in Rohnert Park, and it will be a banger! See pages 5-7 for all the details about it. You ALSO have the option to attend the D205 and D206 business meetings, where the new leaders for those districts will be elected. This is especially important if you are an officer with voting privileges (which includes Club Presidents, VPEs, Area and Division Directors, and DEC members). PLEASE register at one of the links below, and come make your vote heard! (Note: You are free to attend both, but you can only vote at one.)

D205 Business Meeting April 23rd, 7-9 PM

https://district_205_businessmeeting.eventbrite.com

D206 Business Meeting May 5th, 7-9 PM

https://district_206_businessmeeting.eventbrite.com

<https://d57tm.org>

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



D57

Danville Toastmasters Club 1785

By Nitin Narula

April 1, 2026

[Read our post on LinkedIn Here](#)



As President of Danville Toastmasters Club 1785, I am excited to share some wonderful news from our club, where creativity, support, and personal growth are at the heart of everything we do. Our members do more than practice speaking. They build confidence, think on their feet, and lift each other up in a truly collaborative environment.

Recently, our member Sonia Bhatia competed in the Division E Table Topics Contest. Her performance was spontaneous, authentic, and deeply engaging, earning her first place. What stood out most was not just the win but her presence, confidence, and ability to turn a moment into a meaningful message. Sonia's achievement reflects the unique spirit of our club. It is a place where members transform under pressure, embrace challenges, and grow as both speakers and leaders. We are incredibly proud of her as she moves on to represent our club at the District contest.

Moments like these remind us why Toastmasters matters. It is about more than public speaking. It is about showing up, connecting, and leading with confidence. For those inspired to develop communication and leadership skills in a welcoming, dynamic, and supportive environment, Danville Toastmasters Club 1785 meets Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Zoom.



president-1785@toastmastersclubs.org or
vp-pr-1785@toastmastersclubs.org to attend a meeting as a guest.

<https://d57tm.org>

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



D57

Chamber Chatters Toastmasters Commit to Your Growth

By Shalini Suravarjjala

April 1, 2026



Check out our Stories on Facebook!



At Chamber Chatters Toastmasters Club, our mission is simple yet powerful: Commit to Your Growth. Every meeting, every speech, and every evaluation is a step forward in building confident communicators and impactful leaders.

Our club is a vibrant space where learning meets celebration. From skill-building speeches to engaging Table Topics and thoughtful evaluations, each meeting is designed to help members grow in a supportive and encouraging environment. We also take time to celebrate milestones - icebreaker speeches, project completions, contest participation, and personal achievements - because every step forward matters.

We are incredibly proud of our members who continue to challenge themselves and represent our club with excellence. Niharika Suravarjjala will be representing Division E at the District Conference on May 16th, 2026, as a speech contest participant. We wish her the very best as she takes the stage at the next level. We also celebrate Angu Krishna, who won at the club level and advanced to the Area Contest - a testament to the talent and dedication within our club.

Our growth is not just in skills but also in community. We are excited to share that our membership has grown by 9 new members, bringing us to a total of 19 members. This reflects the welcoming, inspiring, and value-driven environment that Chamber Chatters continues to foster.

What makes our club unique is the diversity of our members. We are a dynamic group of entrepreneurs and professionals from technology, finance, and education sectors, all coming together with a shared goal - to communicate better, lead stronger, and grow continuously.

We meet every Wednesday from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in a hybrid format:

In person: 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA

Online RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/ChamberChattersZoom>

Whether you are looking to improve your public speaking, build leadership skills, or simply connect with a growth-minded community, Chamber Chatters is the place for you.

Join us, participate, and most importantly - Commit to Your Growth.

<https://d57tm.org>