

MAY 1, 2026



# DISTRICT 57 NEWSLETTER

Toastmasters, District 57, Region 1

May 1, 2026

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(250-600 words) to  
Newsletter Editor, Shalini Suravarjjala at [news@d57tm.org](mailto:news@d57tm.org)

<https://d57tm.org>

# DISTRICT DIRECTOR

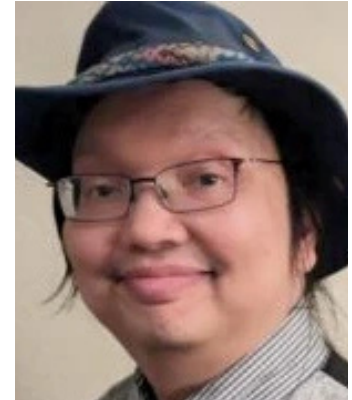


## DON'T DISCOUNT DISTINGUISHING YOURSELF AND YOUR CLUB

By Jeffrey Young

May 1, 2026

### Don't Discount Distinguishing Yourself And Your Club



Sometimes I wonder why I keep giving speeches. I've got a bunch of completed Paths, and the main reason I do it is to stay in practice, but also to help my club. It's not just about the DCP points, because one person can't single-handedly get a club to Distinguished - it also takes recruiting new members, and more levels from other people, and getting officers trained.

But until you get those things, it's good to do the things that improve yourself. I give speeches that educate, enlighten, and entertain. I teach. I translate. I think out loud. I improvise, innovate, and instruct. Seven minutes of being cool, constructive, and cajoling people to take action to improve themselves.

It's rarely an order, and usually a request. The Call to Action that ends a speech is the tail end of a convincing argument. And each time I come up with a new speech, it's about connecting with context and contacting that place in us all that says:

"You can do this too."

Some clubs only have a couple of people who give the lion's share of the speeches. They're the ones that step up every week when there is no speech scheduled. Sometimes they just talk, and forget to get credit for speaking. And so their tales and technical improvements go unheralded and unnoticed. They're just talking to fill the space.

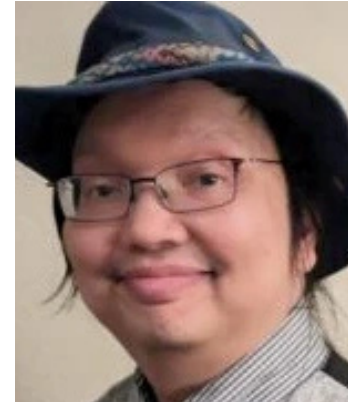
# DISTRICT DIRECTOR



## DON'T DISCOUNT DISTINGUISHING YOURSELF AND YOUR CLUB

By Jeffrey Young

May 1, 2026



Good intentions, but like singing a capella, it's got less of a purpose than following a Project.

Whenever I look at my next Path Project, I think about it as a prompt, a challenge, and a dare to make it work within the guidelines. If it's a project I've given before, I think, 'What can I do differently?' I have a lifetime of experiences that I can bend to the topic - and so do you.

When you share a story, an experience, or a skill with your club, you distinguish yourself from someone who is a perfect stranger. When was the last time you learned something new about your fellow Toastmaster? When was the last time you shared something different about yourself?

We exist in the moments we are together; we can speak up or be silent, and when we do the latter, it is as if we were never there to begin with.

As District Director, I may have done a lot of talking, but I've also done a lot of listening. I truly enjoyed going to various speech contests, meeting strangers with one thing in common - the joy of public speaking and getting over their fear of doing it in front of other strangers.

Next month is my final newsletter article as District Director (how did -that- happen?). I'm going to say that the best thing that happened to me in these past several years was that I learned to Lead Up - to give myself up as an example to follow, even if sometimes it wasn't the greatest example to follow. I've made mistakes, backed the wrong project and the wrong people sometimes, and let grace prevail over growling because to me, Leadership is about being the person who tries to make everyone happy while working together as best as possible. It's a task that's impossible to complete, but it's not improbable to try and succeed.

Next year it'll be someone else's turn. Why not you?

You can do this too.

Hopefully I'll see many of you at the Conference in two weeks!

<https://d57tm.org>

# PUBLIC RELATIONS



## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE DISTRICT 57 CONFERENCE!

By Maureen Filler

May 1, 2026

### Carrying the Torch

Honoring the Past, Igniting the Future

[REGISTER HERE FOR THE SPRING CONFERENCE](#)

<https://d57tm.org/event/spring-conference-2026>



This year is particularly special as it marks our final conference before realigning into Districts 205 and 206.

#### Event Details:

**Date: Saturday, May 16th**

**Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Location: DoubleTree Wine Country, Rohnert Park, CA**

### What to Expect

**Keynote: Past International President Michael Notaro – “Find Your Voice, Change Your World”**

Educational sessions to level up your communication.

District Table Topics & International Speech Contests.

The “Legacy Project” book launch featuring the history of D57.

Realignment Booth: Find out where your club is headed!

Post-event “Post-Toasties” celebration will be at the Waterhawk Lake Club

#### Tickets & Registration:

[tinyurl.com/d57con26](https://tinyurl.com/d57con26) (opens a new window)

Volunteer: Want to help make history? Email Maureen at: [maureen@d57tm.org](mailto:maureen@d57tm.org)

In this episode of the D57 Podcast, hosts George Thompson and Donna Walters sit down with Program Quality Director Maureen Filler to discuss the upcoming District 57 Conference.

[WATCH THE PODCAST HERE](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4Wzb0AQ\\_gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4Wzb0AQ_gw)

<https://d57tm.org>

# PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR



## DISTRICT BUCKS END OF YEAR AWARDS

By Maureen Filler

May 1, 2026



### District Bucks



Does your club have District Bucks to spend? The deadline to submit those expenses in Concur is upon us. The deadline is May 15, 2026. That will give us time to process the submissions and get your money to your club before the end of the Toastmaster year.

If you have a club bank account but no Concur account- contact Jeff ASAP.



### End of Year Awards

**June 13, Saturday, 4-8 PM**



Please save the date for our last Awards party for District 57. This will be a hybrid event. The Awards Party will be held at Alamo Women's Club.

If anyone wants to be recognized for their award (e.g., OTMA) they must submit all their materials by May 30.

<https://d57tm.org/news/have-you-been-outstanding>

<https://d57tm.org>

## DISTRICT 205 LEADERSHIP

By Mary Morrison, DTM

May 1, 2026

DISTRICT 205



**At its inaugural District 205 District Council meeting, council members had some outstanding candidates to consider for district leadership roles.**

**Congratulations to the 2026–2027 District Officers**  
**District Director: Maureen Filler**  
**Program Quality Director: Nadine Hammer**  
**Club Growth Director: Rajesh Mathrani**

**In addition, the following leaders were elected as Division Directors**

**Division A ~ Liz Spicer**  
**Division B ~ Eva del Rosario**  
**Division C ~ Ellison Ma**  
**Division D ~ Christina Obligar**  
**Division E ~ Somy Ray**  
**Division F ~ Dave Kanter**

**Congratulations to District 205 for its outstanding District leaders for 2026–2027.**

## DISTRICT 206 LEADERSHIP

By Mary Morrison, DTM

May 1, 2026

### DISTRICT 206



### We Need Your Vote!

**Dear DEC members, and Presidents and VPEs of clubs moving to District 206: As you know, the eastern half of D57 will become part of D206. We need your vote to approve this new alignment, and elect the new district leaders. Please plan to attend the D206 Business Meeting on Tuesday May 5 at 7PM. The link to register is provided below, along with documents describing the candidates and the proposed club/area/division assignments. Thanks in advance!**

D206 Business Meeting Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/district-206-virtual-council-meeting-tickets-1985479844663?aff=oddtcreator>

D206 Business Meeting Agenda:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nFL9Sajn7CrFPpu9oSVfgj0kxKcFeCd6/view>

D206 Alignment Committee Report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MARBjvKSmEzxSuRiwXPLYmnHfYGOkC7f/view>

D206 Alignment Club/Area Assignments:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ExGz756gxgLR3hyGIORqUEyZrrzf-uqurqaXLu0O4Uo/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

D206 Alignment Visuals/Maps:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1p3Zy9ndebJjYFYNiDdnf978asrRJxipEk\\_IdScAAVoI/edit?slide=id.g3d933bffe74\\_5\\_86#slide=id.g3d933bffe74\\_5\\_86](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1p3Zy9ndebJjYFYNiDdnf978asrRJxipEk_IdScAAVoI/edit?slide=id.g3d933bffe74_5_86#slide=id.g3d933bffe74_5_86)

D206 District Leadership Committee Report: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V1X8qYNkUsli7F1-vJfjUbloLnyHWFhm/view>

D206 District Candidate Bios/Pics:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/12A3vOHiP1yVUIIk0o8w4pOsTISLM6aY>

D206 Candidate Showcase (Video Interviews): [Candidates Showcase for District 206](#)

<https://d57tm.org>

# DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



## DIVISION B SPOTLIGHT

By Darya Hoover

May 1, 2026

### Breaking Barriers Building Momentum



**This year, Division B proudly led the way by hosting the first contests in the district. Area B-22 kicked things off with the district's first area contest on February 7, followed by Division B hosting the first division contest on March 14. These early milestones reflect not only strong organization, but also a commitment to excellence and leadership.**

**One of the most remarkable achievements this season was the successful collaboration between Areas B-7, B-21, and B-27. While it's not typical to combine three area contests into one event, Division B embraced the challenge and delivered a seamless joint contest on February 28. This effort broke long-standing stereotypes and demonstrated that, with thoughtful planning and teamwork, a three-area joint contest can be done well.**

**Division B's strength is also evident in its leadership. Even without an area director in one area, the division continues to persevere and succeed. The remaining 3 area directors have gone above and beyond, consistently supporting their clubs through dedicated visits.**

**Equally inspiring has been the help from past and current district leaders. Their presence and service brought energy and encouragement to our contests. In particular, heartfelt thanks go to Sally Philbin and Kate Mills, whose consistent attendance and willingness to serve at all Division B contests exemplify the spirit of Toastmasters.**

**Division B is not just meeting expectations—it's redefining them. Through teamwork and unwavering commitment, Division B stands out as a model of what's possible when leaders and members come together with purpose.**

**Many blessings,  
Your Darya Hoover,  
Division B director**

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