



The Gavel NEWSLETTER

District 14 News And Events

District 14

Sept 2017

Mission

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

District Highlights

Greetings

John Simmons, District Director
Greg Palmer, Program Quality Director
Brenda Benjamin, Club Growth Director

Words from Region 8

Greetings from Region 8 Advisor Roy Ganga

Welcome District Leaders

Division and Area Directors for 2017-2018

Message from PRM

Ira Thompson, Jr., Public Relations Manager

District Winner goes to Vancouver

Carlos Greene

Awards

Area, Division, and Toastmaster of the Year

District 14 Trio 2017-2018



Greetings District 14!

Welcome to another exciting Toastmasters year! As your Program Quality Director for 2017-2018, we are looking forward to providing each of our members with the tools, training, and technology necessary to maintain a quality club environment where all can thrive.

We have also assembled a top notch training team committed to bringing you additional training opportunities, webinars and resources i.e. Judge's Training, Effective Evaluations, Mentoring as well as special events such as Speakers' Workshops.

To our newer members, we welcome you to experience the unique benefits of joining a Toastmasters Club in our District. You will participate in a proven program for developing your communications and leadership skills, have unlimited opportunities to learn and grow, just to mention a few. We look forward to seeing you experience the joy of being a Toastmaster, enjoy!

Do you have talent or an idea for the District? Please contact me ASAP!

I look forward to working with each of you this Toastmasters year!

Greg Palmer, DTM
Program Quality Director 2017-2018



Greetings District 14!



A warm sincere thank you District 14 Leaders & Members!

It is an honor and a pleasure to humbly serve as your District Director this year. I appreciate your vote of confidence. Through the grace, mercy and direction of divine providence, I will graciously provide the leadership you warrant.

I believe we are a District with wonderful, talented, remarkable, passionate, gifted members; who see, know, feel and understand the value of being in Toastmasters.

Each one of us joined Toastmasters for a particular REASON... a WHY.

When we couple our WHYs with our District leadership emphasis on INVOLVEMENT, INCLUSION and UNITY, we are poised to become a District of EXCELLENCE! I encourage all of us to manifest and magnify this message of involvement, inclusion and unity throughout the District this year.

Our vision is for our leaders to lead in such a fashion that involvement, inclusion and unity is our central message. A focus which consistently says:

- We must include ALL of our members!
- We must believe in one another!
- We must serve our members 1st
- We must work as a team!
- We must strive for EXCELLENCE!
- We must develop our future LEADERS... including our YOUTH!

Our vision statement this year is: *L³ = Leading Inward, Outward & Onward.*

Our L³ vision encourages our leaders to develop within first which better prepares them to effectively lead others today and in the years to come.

With our leaders and members working together to include, involve and unify ALL, we can truly become the District of EXCELLENCE we are capable of becoming. Please, join us!

Appreciatively yours,

John Simmons, DTM
District Director, District 14, 2017-2018
Toastmasters International... "Where Leaders Are Made"
678-508-1965

L³ = Leading Inward, Outward & Onward



Greetings Fellow District 14 Toastmasters!



I am honored as well as excited to serve as your Club Growth Director for the 2017-2018 year! This year, I have recruited a very strong marketing team to assist with building new clubs, strengthening existing clubs, and growing our district. The District's Marketing Team is here to join forces with you to accomplish these goals.

We are striving to ensure that all clubs have a resource to reach out to, and members have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in growing their club. We believe this will be an amazing year where excellence and inclusion will be paramount.

As "***L³ = Leading Inward, Outward & Onward***" states, we are looking to empower our members to take the next step in leadership by providing you with the tools to help you achieve success in building our district and a strong foundation for future district roles. With these tools, you too will be able to not only lead inside of yourself, but lead outward to help others and then lead onward into the future.

The District Marketing Team consists of Club Extension Chairs, Club Quality Chairs, Club Retention Chairs and New Club Source Research Chairs. This team's main focus will be to:

- Manage all credible new club leads
- Recruit, train, and assign club sponsors, mentors, and coaches
- Monitor the effectiveness of each club sponsor, mentor, and coach
- Develop action plans for adjustments
- Promote membership building programs
- Provide member retention solutions

The District Marketing Team is dedicated and focused on helping our clubs become even more vibrant and strong, and with **YOUR HELP, WE KNOW WE WILL SUCCEED!**

As your Club Growth Director, I'm looking forward to having each of you become inspired and take **OWNERSHIP in YOUR club's success!**

Here's to an amazing year District 14!

Graciously,

Brenda Benjamin, DTM²

District 14 Club Growth Director 2017-2018



Greetings Toastmasters!



It is my pleasure to join the District 14 Team and serve as your 2017 – 2018 Public Relations Manager. I'm excited about the opportunity to meet and work with you in this endeavor. I believe our time working together will not only yield tremendous benefits for all of us, but will also provide the opportunity to form personal relationships that will last for many years to come.

Our District Director has stated we must include ALL our members! To that end, I want to ensure our communication is flowing from the clubs to the district and from the district to you. We will maximize our website, social media networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube), local media and the public.

This year I need your TIPs to take District 14 to the next level. The TIP stands for:

T: "Talk" about it. You must help us to continually talk about the great things happening in your clubs and it's members through our social media network. Our goal is to publish this information through Constant Contact on a bi-weekly basis. It is critical that we inform all our members and others of your achievements.

I: "Innovate/Insight". Your opportunities for innovation exist both within and outside your clubs. There is no reason to recreate the wheel. Let your creative juices flow and step outside of the box. Share your insights of club practices that make complex practices simple. You can see the issues, the obstacles and the way to navigate the course ahead.

P: "Publicize". Share your best practices. Please send us your club newsletters, pictures and articles from your local news media. I want you to be in pictures on our District 14 website.

You are not alone in this public relations experience. District 14 has assembled the best team to ensure we have exceptional PR coverage. Did I forget to mention they are "ALL" Toastmasters? Let me introduce you to our team:

Public Relations Team 2017-2018

Randy Leon Brown	Webmaster
Jerry Bullard	Chief Videographer
Cheryl Collins	Editor
Jennifer Green	Chief Contributor, The Gavel; Editor; Social Media

Your District 14 PRM Team is committed to helping our members showcase their greatest potential. When we lead inward, outward and onward, we help each other. We will all succeed and improve together. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Ira Thompson, Jr., DTM
District 14, Public Relations Manager



Roy Ganga is the Region 8 Advisor for 2017-2018



Toastmasters International has appointed Milton resident Roy Ganga to serve as Region Advisor for 2017-2018.

Ganga will serve the next 15 months providing coaching and guidance to Toastmasters' District leaders in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. He will help clubs to identify strategies to expand the Districts' marketing capacity. He will serve as a vital link between the Districts' and Toastmasters World Headquarters.

Ganga previously served as Georgia Toastmasters District Governor in 2010-2011, where he led the district to a ranking of 11th in the world. Ganga joined Toastmasters 15 years ago to brush up on public speaking; little knowing he would go on to serve in leadership roles at district and regional levels.

Ganga is president of Energize Voice, a company he founded, focusing on leadership development and career coaching. He is a well-recognized executive coach and motivational speaker, and is the recipient of multiple leadership awards for his contributions to organizations globally.

<http://northfulton.com/stories/roy-ganga-named-toastmasters-international-region-advisor,105458?>

Leadership Principles & Practices from a former NFL Super Bowl Star, Tyrone Poole of the New England Patriots



Tyrone Poole started his speech from the back of the room at the first DEC meeting, whereby he stated "Leadership starts in the Back." To those who were there, those words represented what we all were aspiring to be - great leaders. As he made his way up front, another nugget Tyrone dropped was "Leadership starts small in the beginning and it has to be developed."

Tyrone mainly gave 3 Keys to Success to the District Leaders for 2017-2018:

1. **Passion:** without passion nothing adds up, As a leader what is your Passion?
2. **Planning:** The process of planning where you are going. What is your end goal; short and long term?
3. **Partnership:** 2 or more persons working together. What can you gain by collaborating with others and also what can you give?

These aspects can be used in any role as a leader or personally because it takes Passion, Planning, and Partnership to move forward.



Carlos Greene Represented District 14 in Vancouver for the World Championship of Public Speaking

I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to participate in the Toastmasters International Speaking contest. I represented my home club, Toastmasters of Centerville and District 14 as the District 14 contest winner. The title of my speech during the District contest was "Masterpieces." I believe that each one of us are endowed with gifts and talents designed to enhance the world. I competed in the Semi-finals against 99 other speakers from around the world to have the chance to progress to the finals. The Toastmasters convention and contest that was held in Vancouver, Canada August 23-26.

As a member of Toastmasters of Centerville (Division A, Area 13) for over six years now, this speaking and leadership organization has equipped me with the skills to compete at such a high level with the organization, but most of all, the skills have translated into my personal and professional life. Effective communication and leadership skills are essential for having a strong brand. Katherine, my wife of 26 years, and I, have a principle we live by; "making sure people are better off because they have been in our presence." For that to happen, I must always polish these skills.

Katherine and I truly believe we are life-long learners. We always put ourselves in position to win and be successful in life. We have six core areas that guide our lives and the major decisions that we face - Faith, Family, Finance, Future, Fitness, and Fun. I have lived in Gwinnett County, GA for 12 years and my family and I have enjoyed the Metro Atlanta area with the diversity and cultural experiences it has brought to enrich our lives. We attend Grace Fellowship Church in Snellville where we have a great community we call family. I love playing tennis, reading, traveling, and seeing others win in life.

Lastly, I want to recognize the Centerville Community Center in Gwinnett for partnering with our club to provide an environment that is conducive for effective learning. Toastmasters has provided me with the skills to have strong leadership and communications skills, but also a community of life-long learners who want to make sure they maximize their gifts and talents in life. With this community of polished professionals, we are unstoppable!





Debbi Thompson is Division Director of the year 2016-2017



I joined Toastmasters in 2002 (was a Charter member of The Real Thing) because I was not a confident speaker – my voice physically quivered whenever I spoke to more than about 10 people. Now with over 200 Toastmaster speeches (working on my 3rd DTM and 15th CC), I can say I am much more confident. I still get nervous (especially when I’m not prepared) but I’ve learned to harness that energy.

You could say I’m a “Toastmaster Junkie.” I belong to 4 clubs, each with their own unique personalities. I’ve seen what our organization can do for people both in communication and in leadership. One of my favorite quotes is by John Quincy Adams. “When your actions inspire others to DREAM more, LEARN more, DO more and BECOME more, you are a leader.” I strive to inspire.

The four clubs I currently serve:
Henry County Toastmasters
5 Star Leaders
Aspiring for Excellence
Morrow Toastmasters

Christine Van Bommel is Area Director of the year 2016-2017



The Toastmaster’s journey for DTM Christine Van Bommel began in Crofton, Maryland where she first was introduced to the Chesapeake Toastmasters Club in 2007. She eventually served that club as the VPPR and then as Club President.

DTM Christine Van Bommel has called many cities home and traveled extensively while serving in the US Army for over 20 years. She retired as a First Sergeant and then took on a second career as a Lead Human Resource Specialist at the National Institute of Health; which is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

DTM Van Bommel joined District 14 in 2010 and has served in every Club Officer role, minus Treasurer. She is currently the Area 52 Director. She is very proud of the Area 52 Toastmasters. Through their efforts, Area 52 is already recognized as a Distinguished Area. DTM Van Bommel is a member of Augusta Club #326, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center Toastmasters, and the Voices of Distinction.

The journey for DTM Van Bommel has been full of fun and challenges. She credits her DTM achievement to the support of her family. They had to listen to more than their share of speeches and allowed her the time to pursue her passion for Toastmasters. Her favorite part of the journey has been interacting with her fellow Toastmasters and sharing in their growth. DTM Christine Van Bommel also gives credit to the Division E Director, DTM Barbara Welcher, and to her fellow Area Directors. There is a synergy of excellence in Division E. This journey has only begun!



District 14 2017-2018 Division and Area Directors

Division A

Aissata Ouattara

Area 11

Sharon Johnson

Area 12

Landon Johnson

Area 13

Cheryl Collins

Area 15

Linda Buckley

Area 16

Raushike Myers

Division B

Anwasha Banerjee

Area 21

Nike Lawal

Area 22

Ellen Archer

Area 23

Antionette Biagi

Area 24

Zac Murray

Division C

Al Wiseman

Area 31

Randy Leon Brown

Area 32

Grace Dunbar

Area 33

Dan Enger

Area 34

Charlene Thompson

Area 35

Khalilah Gordon

Division D

Shirley Arvey

Area 41

Mark Gelhardt

Area 42

Tewana Williams

Area 43

Tendai Soley

Area 44

Evelyn Young

Division E

Lisa Coleman

Area 51

Laura Olson

Area 52

Karman McClain

Area 53

Joselyn Merriweather

Division F

Pam Koon

Area 61

Raul Figueroa

Area 62

Craig Boaz

Area 63

Don Murray

Division G

Blenda Mattox

Area 71

Ellie Gervero

Area 72

Anita Ross

Area 74

Stephen Pearce

Area 73

Nicole Cox

Division H

Terry Duncan

Area 81

Jennifer Green

Area 82

Lin Ervin

Area 83

Micheal Duncan

Jesse Caudle is Toastmaster of the Year 2017



He exemplifies everything there is about the Toastmasters program, both in his communication and leadership skills.

Jesse is a model Toastmaster – he takes the program very seriously. He is always present and well-prepared at weekly meetings, and has always been willing to serve in any role in the program. He pitches in whenever necessary, and always has a spirit of positivity, enthusiasm and encouragement for his fellow Toastmasters. He currently serves as VP of Education at Dawn-Breakers club, and he is doing an outstanding job. He is running for the club Treasurer position next term, and his goal is to serve in every club leadership position.

In addition to his strong participation in Dawn-Breakers, he has served as Area Director, and he is working with another member of our club in starting a brand new club in our area, Toastmasters of Stonecrest. Jesse is constantly visiting and volunteering at other clubs, sometimes attending 3-4 club meetings per week. Jesse is well-known as a hardworking toastmaster in the Area and throughout District 14.



Educational Pathways

A new educational program was rolled out July 1, 1984. The Competent Toastmaster (CTM), as it was known then, was reduced from 15 projects to 10. Two new Advanced manuals, The Professional Salesperson and Technical Presentations, were introduced, along with changes in the Able Toastmaster (ATM) and Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) requirements. (information from District 14 Historian John Le-wallen, DTM, PDG)

In the latter part of this year a new Educational program will grace our District. The benefits to you are:

- A learning experience tailored to your personal and professional goals
- The opportunity to develop many skills relevant to an evolving global marketplace
- Recognition of educational achievements that will come earlier and more frequently
- New technological resources to improve speeches and support meeting roles
- Online access to educational materials
- Videos that model the skills you are learning

Then there are ten Pathways:

1. Motivational Strategies
2. Strategic Relationships
3. Presentation Mastery
4. Dynamic Leadership
5. Leadership Development
6. Persuasive Influence
7. Innovative Planning
8. Effective Coaching
9. Visionary Communication
10. Team Collaboration

You can still achieve the DTM under the current educational Program as you have 2 years before the full transition. If you need more information these two pages are full of information. Or do a general search on Toastmasters International website for Pathways Overview.

<https://www.toastmasters.org/pathways-overview>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/Education/Pathways/FAQ>

Do You have an Event going on, Photos of special events in your club/area/division, or have a great story? Let us know by connecting with us at: D14toastmasters@gmail.com, in the subject area put The Gavel

John Simmons, DTM²
District Director, District 14, 2017-2018
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