

THE DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS GAVEL

June 2018, Volume 1, Issue 3

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DISTRICT MISSION

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

2018 SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

TABLE TOPICS WINNERS

INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

A LOOK AHEAD

2019 CONFERENCE THEME

"ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH"



District 14 Trio

2018-2019 Toastmasters Year

DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS



JOHN SIMMONS, DTM

THANKS
DISTRICT 14
FANTASTIC
FAMILY!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR, JOHN SIMMONS, DTM

This year is fast coming to a close. I appreciate the opportunity to have served! You have worked hard this year to reach out to “include & involve” our members throughout the District.

Our “puzzle” concept created by our Public Relations Manager, Ira Thompson captures the essence of our District which is: we are geographically dispersed, but emotionally connected. Our connectivity is what has allowed us to be as successful as we have been. Our connectivity has stretched us to achieve more TOGETHER by including ALL segments of our member base... our junior members, as well as junior members at heart.

This year, we launched our “Youth Development and Leadership Program,” created a Division-Focused Expanded Training program, established a Succession Planning Process, and started working on putting together a Past District Governors/ Director Leadership Committee.

We still have a few days left in this Toastmasters year. We will launch our remarkable new Pathways Education Program soon. We need **“ALL Hands on DECK”** to get our past and present members exposed to this new EXPERIENCE.

Let’s continue practicing “involvement & inclusion” and witness the wonderful things that will unfold before our eyes.

Blessings be unto YOU.

John Simmons, DTM
District 14, District Director
Toastmasters International
“Where Leaders Are Made”
678-508-1965

“L³ = Leading Inward, Outward & Onward”



A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR, GREG PALMER, DTM

As this Toastmasters year comes to a close, let us reminisce. The District Training Team led by Debbie Thompson trained 100% of our Division Directors and Area Directors to ensure the success of our members.

The District reintroduced Toastmasters Leadership Institute or TLI; thus opening the training up to any and all Toastmasters interested in growing as Leaders. TLI was an instant hit, as the District held the first TLI event to a standing room only audience. The District held 3 TLI events, and empowered each Division Director to hold a TLI event in every Division, leading to more emerging Leaders being identified! By empowering our Divisions to conduct TLIs, we came in close proximity to reaching our goal of 100% of our active club officers being trained. We actually trained 85.6% of our club officers.

Pathways Guides, along with our Pathways Ambassadors, began their presentations with a goal of reaching out to 70% of our active clubs. We exceeded that and actually led both regions 8 and 9 in conducting the presentations.

Our Fall Business Meeting and Contests were a tremendous success in Macon, as we acknowledged all of those who have served in the defense of our nation on Veterans Day!

Our First Annual Spring Conference was another successful event. We exceeded our goal of 200 attendees. Our speakers on both Friday and Saturday delivered fantastic presentations! Our contests were amazing, with our International Speech Contestant selected to represent the District in Chicago this August.



GREG PALMER, DTM

Our first Annual Conference is over!

We have a moment to catch our breath before the stretch run towards the finish line for 2018!

“We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence”

It has been a fascinating year for District 14 as we have battled to be No. 1 in our region throughout this Toastmasters year. It is certainly not over yet. Let's continue to build upon our success by encouraging our members to complete their educational goals by the end of this Toastmasters year!

There is power in a group of people who work together toward a shared goal. A properly managed team, boosts strengths and brings out the best in each member.

Best regards,
Gregory R Palmer, DTM
District 14 Program Quality Director 2017-2018
District Director-Elect 2018-2019
District 14 Ambassador
404-484-3638
L3 Leading Inward, Outward & Onward
<https://www.d14toastmasters.org>



BRENDA BENJAMIN, DTM

“HERE’S TO
WORKING TOWARDS
REMAINING #1
IN REGION 8!!!”

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR, BRENDA BENJAMIN, DTM

“Courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, “I will try again tomorrow.” –

Author unknown.

Courage is what guided me through a place where uncertainty lay. I wondered “could I do this, what were my limitations, where would I find the confidence to be successful?”

Toastmasters is the conduit that delivered me into the realm of possibilities. It inspires, motivates, encourages, respects and forgives the efforts we put forth. Toastmasters is where we learn to take chances; some good, some not as good, but we take them seeking a better way.

I invite each of you to embrace the **COURAGE** to take a chance. Reach out and inspire someone to begin on their journey of self-development. Motivate and encourage them that this they **CAN** do and receive respect while making the effort. As we come into the home stretch of our 2017-2018 Toastmasters year, remember that there is someone seeking clarity, confidence, and a constitution which will help propel them into success.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE by showing them the way! “Unless you try something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.” The Toastmasters experience will definitely allow you to find the courage to flourish and grow!

I have enjoyed my year serving as your Club Growth Director, gained new friends, learned new ideas and techniques, and have admired your tenacity and dedication to a cause we all have come to hold dearly. Please continue your journey and remember; “Courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, “I will try again tomorrow.”

Brenda Benjamin, DTM
2017- 2018 Club Growth Director

NEWLY INDUCTED DIVISION DIRECTORS

Roy D. Ganda inducted the newly Elected Division Directors during the Spring Conference



Pictured from Left to Right:

Cheryl Collins (Division A), Tom Jenkins (Division B), Randy Leon Brown (Division C), Pathik Patel (Division D), Laura Olson (Division E), Fred Marshall (Division F), Jennifer Green (Division H), Note: Division G Director—Not Pictured

PATHWAYS IS HERE ! Sign up NOW!

Pathways Learning Paths

 Dynamic Leadership	 Effective Coaching	 Innovative Planning	 Leadership Development	 Motivational Strategies
 Persuasive Influence	 Presentation Mastery	 Strategic Relationships	 Team Collaboration	 Visionary Communication

PATHWAYS IS HERE!
May 15th started the rollout of Pathways for our Region

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SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

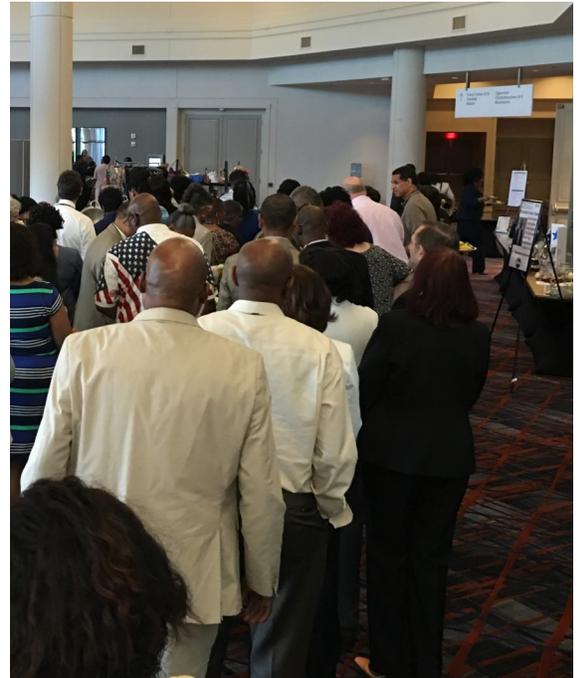


SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

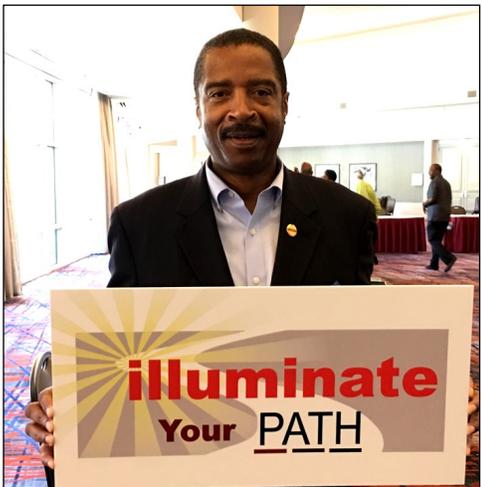




SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



LOOK AHEAD: 2019 THEME: ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH



DISTRICT 14
TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL
SPEECH
CONTEST
2018

INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS



1ST PLACE

CARLOS GREENE

Club: Toastmasters of Centerville

Question: What is your number one Toastmaster Tip?

Answer: "The key is to have a storyline that is relatable, engaging, and compelling."

Carlos Greene, a member of Toastmasters of Centerville Public Speaking and Leadership Club in Snellville, Georgia, surpassed fierce competition to win over the judges with his speech, "**Be Present.**" The speech touched on the themes of being present in the moment with others, and cherishing those personal and priceless experiences without the disruption of technology and social media. "Toastmasters speech contests are another way to build your confidence, sharpen your skills and speak to many different audiences," says Greene. He has been a member of Toastmasters for seven years now and has served as President, VP of Education, Secretary, and Club Coach. "I am looking forward to competing on a much larger stage in Chicago!" Greene is a Senior Program Director for Nationwide in Columbus, OH and currently serves as a Loan Executive for the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC. He joined Toastmasters to become a better speaker and leader at work and in the community.

Question: What inspires you?

Answer: Seeing others grow and win in their respective passions.

In August Carlos Greene will go on to the World Championship of Public Speaking to represent District 14



*Photo:
International
Speech Contest
winners*

INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS (CONTINUED)



2ND PLACE FRANK COBB

Club: NBBA (Not By Bread Alone)

Question: How long have you been in the Toastmasters organization?

Answer: Two years.

Question: What roles have you served?

Answer: I served as Treasurer for my club for two consecutive years.

Question: Your number one Toastmaster Tip:

Answer: Have fun!! With every task, ensure that you are having fun.

Frank Cobb is a Project Manager, but acting is his passion and soon will be his main job. He is originally from Jacksonville, FL but moved to ATL in 2012. He joined Toastmasters so that he could improve his impromptu speaking skills. He never expected he would fall in love with being a member of Toastmasters, but he did. He plans to someday compete and win the International Speech Contest.



3RD PLACE KEITH SCHRODER

Club: Colony Square Toastmasters

Question: What roles have you served?

Answer: Vice President of Membership

Question: How long have you been a member of a Toastmaster club?

Answer: 14 years

Question: What is your number one Toastmaster Tip?

Answer: Speak as often as you can

Question: What inspires you?

Answer: Inspiring others

Keith joined Toastmasters when a friend advised him that “dollar-for-dollar, Toastmasters is the best investment you can make in your business.”

Keith joined for the money but stayed for the fun. He is the owner of HorizonDJ, Inc. HorizonDJ provides interactive DJ entertainment for events across the south east.

When he’s not speaking or DJing, Keith can be found performing as a singer songwriter in and around Atlanta.

DISTRICT 14 INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST 2018

DISTRICT 14
TOASTMASTERS
TABLE TOPICS
CONTEST
2018

TABLE TOPICS CONTEST WINNERS



1st PLACE

MELINDA COCHRAN DAVIS

Club: Athens Toastmasters Club #1779

Melinda Cochran Davis is an experienced planner, leader, and public servant. Driven by the desire to make things better than she left them, she takes pride in doing her best in everything she undertakes. In addition to working full time as an administrator in local government, she is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Georgia in August of 2018. Her goals are to continue growing as a leader, pursue advancement in her career, and serve as a role model for working mothers.

Question: What roles have you served?

Answer: Secretary

Question: How long have you been a Toastmaster?

Answer: Since February of 2018

Question: Your number one Toastmaster Tip?

Answer: To have faith in yourself!

Question: What inspires you?

Answer: Those that never give up on their dreams, no matter how many challenges they face.

Table Topics® is a long-standing Toastmasters tradition intended to help members develop their ability to organize their thoughts quickly and respond to an impromptu question or topic



Photo: 2018 Table Topics Contestants

TABLE TOPICS CONTEST WINNERS (CONTINUED)



2ND PLACE MATTHEW WALSH

Club: Toastmasters Too! #3027

Matthew is currently serving as the club President for Toastmasters Too with Aflac. He has taken a roundabout route to Aflac, having started his working career as a Navy pilot and an airline pilot. He's also been a teacher, training developer, and pharmaceutical sales rep. Married with 3 kids and 2 dogs, he will be flying to Scotland on Saturday, May 19th, for a 20th Anniversary trip with his wife, Lisa.

Question: How long have you been a member of a Toastmasters club?

Answer: 2.5 years

Question: Have you served in any leadership roles in your club?

Answer: Vice President of Education and President

Question: What is your number one Toastmasters Tip?

Answer: Don't be afraid to fail, it takes time and practice to learn how to craft an opening, main body, and conclusion.

Question: What inspires you?

Answer: Teaching and mentoring others and helping them achieve more than they thought possible.



3RD PLACE LENORA J. SAFFELL

Club: Shiloh Toastmasters # 1140675

Lenora Saffell is the mother of 2 sons, David and Paul. She is currently a middle school Science Teacher and Department Chair for her local community school where she has taught for the past 12 years. She aspires to continue to impact the lives of young people each day through her community involvement in local organizations such as Afro-Academic Cultural Technological –Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), her local church, faculty advisor for multiple student organizations and robotics camps. She enjoys reading, writing, nature walks, traveling, and the adventurous living of life.

Question: Any leadership roles in your club?

Answer: None to Date

Question: How long have you been a Toastmaster?

Answer: New Member Registration, January 2018

Question: What is your number one Toastmaster Tip:

Answer: Remember it is not about you. If in this life we are given a platform to have a captive audience, there must be something we have to share with others that is important enough for them to hear. We don't have to worry about it being impactful; the impact is birthed out of the passion and conviction with which we speak.

Question: What inspires you?

Answer: Lenora gains her greatest inspiration from having a hand in helping others awaken to the possibilities of greatness they may not have seen in themselves.

DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS TABLE TOPICS CONTEST 2018

DISTRICT 14 HIGHLIGHTS 2018



DIVISION B: NETWORKING NIGHT

Division B organized their second Networking social on May 2nd at Gordon & Biersch, Buckhead. The event was meant to bring together the Toastmasters of Division B under one roof for the evening for them to network, socialize and have a fun evening. We had a total of 44 attendees out of which 7 were non-Toastmasters.

Several clubs in the Division were part of the “club spotlight” section, where representatives from each club had a chance to share information and fun stories about their club.

We also had several raffles as giveaways. Two gift cards were given out to the clubs who were represented by the most number of members at the event – Plaza Presenters and Hopes & Dreams.



Photos Released: From Division B, Anwasha Banerjee

“Richard Hardon was the Keynote speaker who shared his knowledge on effective networking”



DISTRICT 14 MISSION STATEMENT

WE BUILD NEW
CLUBS AND
SUPPORT ALL
CLUBS IN
ACHIEVING
EXCELLENCE.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS EDITON OF
THE DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS GAVEL
NEWSLETTER. WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOYED
THIS EDITION. ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS CAN BE
SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

ATTENTION: GAVEL, EDITOR
D14TOASTMASTERS@GMAIL.COM

DISTRICT 14 TOASTMASTERS

Proudly Serving Georgia Toastmasters East of Interstate 85

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District Director, District 14, 2017-2018
Toastmasters International
"Where Leaders Are Made"

L3 = Leading Inward, Outward & Onward

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