

District 54 - Division D

Division Director's Report

March 2025

We had successful combined Area Speech Contests for Area 40 and 41 on Saturday, March 8th at the New Life Church in New Lenox. Katie Jandeska and Valerie Heckman did an outstanding job as the Contest Chair / Contest Master for their Areas. There was no Speech Contest for Area 42 as there was no interest to participate from the three clubs in that Area. Our Division D Speech Contest is scheduled for one week from today on March 29th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Joliet (which is the meeting location of the Joliet Jesters). Doors open at 9:00 AM, Briefings are at 9:30 AM, and the Contest will start at 10:00 AM.

Area 40

- **New Lenox** hosted the combined Area Contests for Area 40 and 41 on March 8th. New Lenox had all 7 club officers trained at the TLI's – they remain a strong club.
- **Lincoln-Way** has already achieved 7 of their DCP goals and they appear to easily be on their way of becoming President's Distinguished!
- **Key City** – Club Coaches Dale Posont and Marth Sojka continue to guide the club. Martha noted that it might be better for the club to stop the once-a-month joint meeting with Timely Talkers because it takes away from the club members to have speaking time and to “gel” as a club. The club currently has 9 members, good momentum, and 3 return guests that are interested in joining.
- **Joliet Jesters** has stopped having their collaboration meetings with the Diversity 4 Success Toastmasters (from District 30). With the help of some Toastmaster members from neighboring clubs, Joliet Jesters continues to build some momentum and should have the necessary 8 members to be in good standing as of April 1st.

Area 41

- **Confident Communicators** club had four guests at their meeting this week on 3/20. It was noted that multiple guests said how warm and welcoming the club felt! This club does a great job of doing the following things that every club should be doing:
 - Having a designated Greeter to welcome each guest and member
 - A printed-out Agenda (with all roles filled)
 - Offering each guest a bottle of water
 - Having the Greeter introduce the guests and then asking them at the end of the meeting what they thought about the meeting
- **Yes And** remains a solid club – they've sent out reminders that club dues are due.
- **Morris Area** – I attended the March 11th club meeting, unfortunately it was just me and one other club member. I presented a speech about how all good things come to an end and that the club is not able to serve members and guests the way a Toastmasters

club is supposed to. The club is putting together one last effort to see if they can be at 8 members by March 31st, but more than likely will have to fold.

- **Bridge Builders** – no new updates, status quo for Bridge Builders with 19 members currently.

Area 42

There was no interest in members from Area 42 participating in the Area/Division Speech Contests. However, these three clubs continue to attain several of their DCP goals...

- **McKinley** – has achieved 5 out of their 10 club DCP goals.
- **Toast of Champaign** achieved another DCP educational goal and now has achieved 7 of the 10 club DCP goals!
- **Fireside** also achieved another DCP educational goal and has now achieved 6 out of their 10 club DCP goals.