



## General Comments

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that Steve is sharing the news of the passing of our friend and fellow member, Bob Casper. Bob has been a Toastmasters member since 2019 and was serving as Sergeant at Arms for both the Lincolnway and New Lenox clubs. The news of Bob's untimely departure was forwarded to District leadership. Bob was a pillar of support for our clubs, always ready to lend a helping hand and share his warm smile. Bob was also a regular volunteer for the TLIs and contests. His commitment to excellence and his dedication to both clubs have left an indelible mark on all of us. He will be sorely missed. Lincolnway had a memorial to Bob at their January 4th regular meeting, and New Lenox is holding a memorial as we speak at their regular meeting.

Tony Audreith has been appointed Area 42 Director. Please help Steve in welcoming him to Division D. We are looking forward to his contributions. Thank you, Tony, for accepting this very important role.

**Contests** - All clubs are reminded to start planning for their club contests. Club contests in Division D must be completed by January 31st with their contestants for the combined area contest also submitted by that date.

Division D will hold a Virtual Combined Area Contest on February 18th and the Division Contest on March 10th. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with the contest and to fill functionary roles.

## Division D – 3 Areas/Area Directors

- **Area 40 – Stacy Britt** (4 clubs) New Lenox, Lincolnway, Joliet Jesters and Key City Toastmasters
- **Area 41 – Dale Posont** (5 clubs) Bridge Builders, Morris Area, Confident Communicators, Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce and Yes And Toastmasters
- **Area 42 – Tony Audrieth** (4 clubs) McKinley, Toast of Champaign, Iroquois Early Risers (suspended) and Fireside Toastmasters

## Vision for Division D

Division D will continue to promote the Toastmasters Mission by inviting guests and prospective members to club meetings, by engaging in community outreach and by spreading the Toastmasters Word which will in turn foster District (Division D) growth.

**Report for Make a Difference (M.A.D.)** – Division D is changing this month's acronym to **W.I.N. - What's Important Now!!** (Developed by Brian Willis - [www.lifesmostpowerfulquestion.com](http://www.lifesmostpowerfulquestion.com))

**W = Where** - Your meeting space is crucial to the success of your Toastmasters club. Is your meeting space dark, unkempt and otherwise not "selling" your club to your guests? Make sure that your meeting space is inviting and exciting! Sell your club to your guests. "You Never Get a Chance to Make A Second Impression" (Author Unknown).

**I = Initiative** - As a Toastmasters Club, it is important that you take control of your meetings, own your efforts and move ahead - in the right direction. It is also important that you push your members to take ownership of their roles.

**N = Nudge** - As leaders, it's important to **nudge** prospective members into joining as well as current members to actively participate in meetings and contests, volunteer for club and district leadership roles, etc. Many members need a push in the right direction to provide needed encouragement.

## **Area Shout-Outs**

All area visits were complete prior to the November 30th deadline.

- **Area 40**

- **Lincolnway and New Lenox Toastmasters -**

- Again, we remember Bob Casper, the 2021-2022 Division D Toastmaster of the Year. Bob's smile, enthusiasm and willingness to help our clubs will be forever treasured.

- **New Lenox**

- Held their second Speech-a-Thon on 16th. The agenda was full and members continue to work through their levels.

- **Joliet Jesters**

- An open house is planned for Saturday February 3rd at 10 am. Dale will be looking for toastmasters to assist with this exciting event. The event will be advertised by email, word of mouth and other clubs in the area.

- **Key City**

- "New Year, New You" Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 17** at 7 PM at the Kanakakee Area YMCA and virtually via Zoom. Show your support by joining us in person or virtually and by helping to spread the word.

- <https://keycitytoastmasters.org/openhouse>

- **Area 41**

- **Bridge Builders**

- Held their "New Year Day 2" party on January 2nd. The theme was "New Year, New Me", which was for members to focus on their own growth and development. Table Topics was the forum for this event.

- **Confident Communicators**

- Club contest will be held on January 18th. The meeting will be in-person only. Members interested in attending can find meeting information on the TI website.
    - The club website is in the process of being reconstructed. The new site will be the "front-end" to Easy Speak. The web platform used is "Go-Daddy". The launch should be in March 2024.

- **Morris Area Toastmasters**

- - Open House – Tentatively scheduled for February 2024

- **Yes And Toastmasters**

- A Speech-A Thon was held on January 4th. The event was a success, with several members completing speeches in Pathways.
    - A backwards meeting was held this past Thursday.
    - A member's band outing will be held in January 2024
    - There will be a Bit Improv Show Aurora Social Outing – Feb. 2024

- **Area 42**

- Area 42 Clubs are in the process of updating their social media platforms due to discrepancies in club meeting information. It is our goal to coordinate all Area Clubs to better market their activities.



BOB CASPER  
NEW LENOX  
TOASTMASTERS CLUB  
2019 - 2023