



District 54 - Division D

Division Director's Report

March 2024

General Comments

With the help of many, the Division D Combined Area Contest was held on February 18th and went smoothly. Eight contestants, four in each contest advanced to the Division D contest which was held on March 10th yielded four contestants for the District 54 Contest in April. I cannot thank the volunteers enough, especially Dick Poirier (Chief Judge - Combined Area), Bonnie Tippey (Chief Judge - Division) and Kristian Kind (SAA and Zoom Master for both). Without their guidance and expertise, the contest would certainly not have run as flawless as they did. I also have to thank the Area Directors, Dale, Stacy and Tony (in alphabetical order) for all that they did to facilitate the contests and everybody who volunteered for functionary roles.

An update from Gary Vaughn

Division D currently has 13 clubs (counting Iroquois Early Risers)! With Area 40 and 42 giving you 6 clubs at Distinguished AND you include Yes And Toastmasters from Area 41 you meet ALL the clubs statuses for Distinguished, Select Distinguished, and President's Distinguished. The only other requirement would be that new club, which both Area 40 and 42 could use to help them!

Finding a new club now means even more than it has ever been before! If we can focus some efforts here what an accomplishment it would be for Division D!

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's acronym **W.I.N. - What's Important Now!!** (Developed by Brian Willis - www.lifesmostpowerfulquestion.com)

W = What is a Toastmaster? - Ask yourself that question? How do you see yourself as a Toastmaster? Are you a leader, or do you just "show-up". How do you see your Club Officers? Are they committed? How do you see your membership and what are you doing to motivate them to grow? Ask these questions and you will find ways to improve yourself, your officers and your membership.

I = Innovation - What new ideas, programs or "perks" can you bring to your club meetings. Does it have to be at meetings? Several Division D clubs have outside events and gatherings that bring the friendship and comradery perspective into the Toastmasters fold. Go out on a limb. Host a game night. Go to a play. Or maybe, go out for a pizza and the cocktail of your choice after a (an evening) Toastmasters meeting.

N = Never Give Up - Is your club struggling? Look to the W and the I in the W.I.N. Acronym above for a start. Find new ways to attract members. Look to other club officers for assistance. Look to District 54 Leadership for guidance. There is ALWAYS somebody out there willing to lend a hand...just ask.

Area Shout-Outs

- **Area 40**

New Lenox

- A new goal board is in the works and expected to be completed and ready for use in a few weeks.
- Hosting a Speech-a-Thon on Saturday and eight of nine slots have been taken. This will help the club progress with Level 1 and 2 goals.

Joliet Jesters

- May 4th (Star Wars Day) is the date of the targeted Open House.
- Joliet Patch meeting announcements and tackboard signs are being established.

Lincoln Way

- Hosting this month's meeting at a new location due to the village hall being a polling place, but will return to the hall in April.
- Three recent guests expressed great interest in joining, which would bring this year's total to nine new members.

Key City

- Plans are in the works to hold a combined hybrid meeting with Timely Talkers. The clubs hope to make this a regular event.

- **Area 41**

Bridge Builders

- All meeting attendees this coming Tuesday will be Joke Masters and focus on humor, since it's National Let's Laugh Day.

Confident Communicators

- Three new members joined since the last DEC meeting.
- Potluck event for April 18th meeting planned.

Morris Area Toastmasters

- Posted club sign at YMCA with rip-off information.

Yes And Toastmasters

- Speech-A-Thon held Thursday (2/29) is an extra meeting at the Fountaindale Public Library.
- Bit Improv Show Aurora Social Outing (Garret Gray and Carl Wharam) – March 1st
- Club outing to members band (Jon Raleigh - Cheryl Rodey Bank) performed on March 3rd

- **Area 42**

More from Gary Vaughn:

McKinley Club – Already has 6 goals and membership requirements met, so at least Distinguished already!

Toast of Champaign Club – Already has 7 goals and membership requirements met, so at least Select Distinguished already!

Fireside Toastmasters – Already has 5 goals and is only 1 new member to meet their membership requirement!

So, with just 1 new member for Fireside Toastmasters, Area 42 would have 3 out of 4 clubs at Distinguished or better!

McKinley Toastmasters

- A McKinley member attended their first Chamber of Commerce “Business after Hours” and spoke with 7 Chamber members sharing the Toastmaster program. Then two members attended their 2nd Chamber 1st Friday Coffee and shared Toastmasters with 12 additional Chamber members. McKinley’s write-up will appear in the Chamber’s Commerce Connection in March.
- McKinley has started a membership building contest lasting through June 26th with drawings for guests at each meeting, using McKinley business cards, handed out by members, to win a “Pen of Light” at the meeting’s end, with a final drawing on June 26th.
- McKinley implemented the “McKinley Marquee” a zoom opportunity monthly for McKinley, Fireside and Toast of Champaign members to make special presentations for the benefit of Area 42 Toastmasters. First was “Art of MC’ing” on February 7th. Next up, “Art of Listening”, will be presented on March 6th.
- Planning on scheduling a booth at Urbana Farmer’s Market when weather settles.
- Goal of 20 members by June 26th.