

District 54 - Division D

Division Director's Report

April 2025

We had successful Division D Speech contest at Messiah Lutheran Church on March 29th. First place for the International Speech Contest was Solomon Asine and second place was Cassandra Drinkard. First place for the Evaluation Contest was Steve Vaccaro and second place was Andrea Taylor. These four will represent Division D at the District Conference on May 10th. We heard a lot of great feedback about how well the contest was executed and how nice and big the venue was – which allowed for great networking for all who attended – nearly 50 people.

Area 40

- **New Lenox** started the year as the biggest club in the Division with 30 members, but are currently down to 23 members as of today. They need to add one member by June 30th to obtain their goal of 4 new members this year and will then obtain “Distinguished” club status with 5 DCP goals obtained.
- **Lincoln-Way** currently stands at 24 members, a net gain of 2 since the beginning of the year. As mentioned last month, they already achieved 7 of their DCP goals and they have a good chance of becoming President's Distinguished.
- **Key City** – Club Coaches Dale Posont and Marth Sojka continue to guide the club. Dale made the 50-mile hike down to Kankakee this Wednesday (4/16) and attended their meeting. They added another member in April and now have 10 members – and all these members are active / real members that are contributing to the club's success. Despite their small size, they are a Distinguished club having achieved 6 DCP goals and will more than likely be a Select Distinguished club by June 30th!
- **Joliet Jesters** is up to 11 members, having added 3 members on April 1st. One of those new members, James Winters is giving his Ice Breaker at their club meeting as we speak. Club coaches, Cathy Wilhelmi and Kashaun Parker are continuing to support that club and are attending their meetings regularly.

Area 41

- **Confident Communicators** is now the largest club in the district with 26 members renewing their membership at the end of March. On Thursday evening, they had a “Take Me Out to the Ballpark” themed Potluck with Hot Dogs, Peanuts, Cracker Jacks, and other items. Members wore baseball jerseys and baseball caps. They had 23 people at the meeting with three great speeches and great energy – the club continues to thrive.
- **Yes And** had 23 members renew this period and are at Distinguished status and are within striking distance of Select Distinguished before the end of the club year.

- **Morris Area** – has decided to give it one more 6-month period to see if they can get some momentum going, as they will hit their 45-year anniversary as a club on June 1st. So they are still a club in good standing with 8 members on the books as of April 1st.
- **Bridge Builders** – despite having three new members join in 2025, Bridge Builders membership currently stands at 13 members (3 less than they started the club year with). The club has reportedly started meeting in person again, so I'm planning to visit the club at their next meeting to see how we can support them and bring back some positive momentum.

Area 42

- **McKinley** – started the club year with 13 members and are now up to 20 members and are a Distinguished club with 5 DCP goals met.
- **Toast of Champaign** lost four members at the renewal period and are at 10 members currently. However, they've have already achieved Select Distinguished status!
- **Fireside** also lost four members at the renewal period and went from 16 down to 12 members currently, but they too are already at Select Distinguished by achieving another DCP goal since last month.