DISTRICT 117 TOASTMASTERS

# TOASTMASTERS

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

May the Force of PUBLIC SPEAKING

**BE WITH YOU** 

SHERATON CHAPEL HILL HOTEL, NC MAY 16-18, 2025



#### A Welcome from Your District 117 Director

May 2025

Greetings! And welcome to the Sixth Annual District 117 Conference! Our hard-working District conference planning team has put together an outstanding weekend of events for you that brings together seasoned trainers, accomplished speakers, and opportunities to grow as leaders. To make the most of your weekend experience, consider:

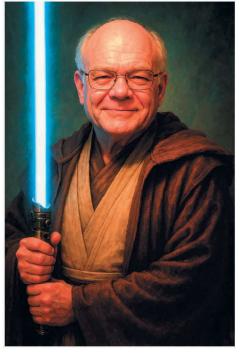
- 1. Sampling one or more of our breakout education sessions that focus on building skills and understanding of speechcraft, club leadership, and more. Take notes so that you can take our top trainers' ideas back to your clubs.
- 2. Hearing our keynote speakers who have excelled on the international stage and now have come to North Carolina to share their powerful ideas with us. These will be unforgettable presentations you won't want to miss!
- 3. Welcoming a First Timer, if you're a seasoned conference-goer. Help them achieve the best conference experience just as someone introduced you to this amazing event.
- 4. Dropping by the District Store to pick up promotional and recognition materials for your club, or to find the training materials you've been looking for, or even acquiring books by our Toastmasters member authors.
- 5. Attending the District Final Table Topics and International Speech Contests where the very best of our speakers show us, by their example, how outstanding speeches are crafted and when you are sure to be entertained!
- 6. Meeting and talking with other Toastmasters from across Eastern North Carolina. Take this opportunity to trade notes, share stories, and learn from each other. Building a strong network is a critical part of becoming a better leader and speaker.

Most of all, on behalf of your District 117 leadership, I thank you for making the time and commitment to be part of the Conference. The District gains strength with each person who reaches beyond their clubs to achieve great things. Together We Thrive!

Respectfully,

David R Lindquist, DTM District Director







A Galactic Welcome to the District 117 Annual Conference!

Fellow Toastmasters, esteemed guests, and Padawans of public speaking,

As Program Quality Director for District 117, it fills me with stellar excitement to welcome you to our annual conference, where we embrace a theme that resonates across galaxies: "May the Force of Public Speaking be With You!"

For the next few days, we embark on a journey to hone our communication skills, ignite our leadership potential, and connect with fellow enthusiasts who understand the power of a well-crafted message. Just as the Force binds the galaxy together, the art of public speaking unites us, empowering us to share our voices, inspire action, and make a lasting impact.

Prepare to be captivated by insightful keynote speakers who will share their wisdom from distant corners of the communication universe. Engage in dynamic workshops designed to sharpen your skills, from mastering the Jedi mind trick of persuasion to navigating the asteroid field of impromptu speaking. Connect with fellow travelers on this path, forging alliances and sharing experiences that will strengthen your own Force.

This conference is your training ground, your cantina of camaraderie, and your launchpad for even greater achievements in Toastmasters and beyond. Embrace the opportunities to learn, to grow, and to celebrate the incredible talent within District 117.

So, whether you are a seasoned Master or just beginning your quest, may the Force of Public Speaking guide your way throughout this conference. May your speeches be clear, your messages powerful, and your connections meaningful.

Welcome!

With enthusiasm, Nehal Tanna, DTM Program Quality Director, District 117







#### A Welcome from Your Club Growth Director

Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

Welcome to our Annual District Conference! It's an honor and a joy to have you join us for this exciting and inspiring event. As your Club Growth Director, I'm thrilled to witness so many passionate leaders and communicators come together to celebrate our shared commitment to personal growth, connection, and excellence.

This conference is more than just a gathering—it's a powerful opportunity to learn, collaborate, and spark new ideas that will energize our clubs and communities. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a seasoned Toastmaster, I encourage you to dive in, network with fellow members, and take full advantage of the rich workshops, engaging speakers, and unforgettable moments ahead.

Your presence makes a difference. Let's embrace this weekend with enthusiasm, support one another, and continue building a strong future for our district.

Here's to a successful and inspiring conference!

Very best regards, Bryant Pergerson District 117 Club Growth Director

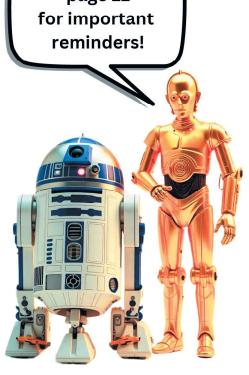




#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

## **Table of Contents**

Friday Afternoon Workshop Speakers Welcome from the TRIO Brush up on your interview skills, master social Read a warm welcome from the District 117 Director, media for your club, or learn the art of persuasion on Program Quality Director and Club Growth Director. and off the stage. **Saturday Morning Workshop Speakers Hotel Information and Meeting Rooms** Learn practical ways to use AI, command a room, Find a helpful map to guide you to your sessions and bridge the age gap in your club, grow your club membership, get to DTM faster than you thought and much more. Letter from District Historian Saturday Afternoon Workshop Speakers Find a message from our District 117 Historian, Peggy Learn how to resolve conflict, beat burnout, perfect Beach...and find Peggy herself at the Historian's table in your speaking on and offline, and get them laughing. the Carolina Room. **First Timers Welcome and Information Conference Committee Chairs** Find your dedicated schedule of activities and Let's recognize these amazing volunteers who have information about the scavenger hunt and prizes. worked hard to make this conference possible. Meet Our Keynote Speakers Get to know these dynamic presenters who will be Thank You Message Thank you to our sponsors and conference speaking at Friday Dinner and Saturday's Breakfast. supporters. **Sponsor Advertisements** Conference Agenda Please support our conference sponsors and Find a full listing of the conference schedule with advertisers! times and locations. Check out **Contest Information** page 11 See all the speech contest information in one place, including sample ballots and judges' guidelines for for important you to do your own ranking of the contestants. reminders!



#### **District 117 Spring Conference 2025**

#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

#### **Hotel Information**



Europa Drive, Chapel Hill, NC +1 919-968-4900

> Check in: 3:00 pm Check out: 12:00 pm

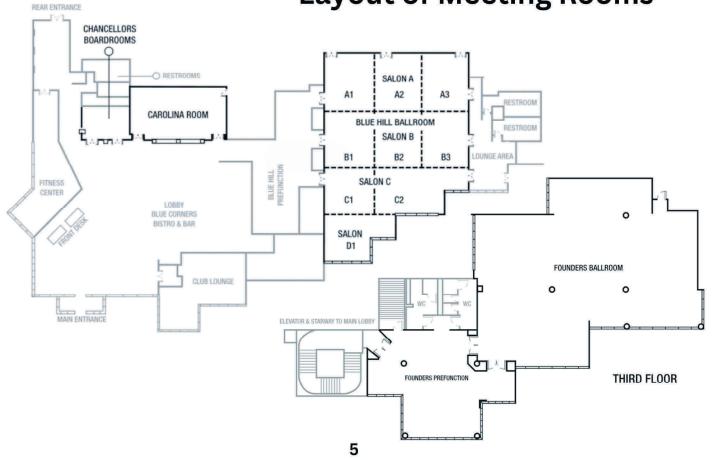




Check out the Hospitality Suite in The Bridal Suite on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### FIRST FLOOR

#### **Layout of Meeting Rooms**



#### You Are a Part of History in The Spring of 2025

Welcome Toastmasters!

I am honored to see you at the 2025 District 117 Spring Conference in Chapel Hill. What a great time we are going to have!

The spring conference is one of my favorite times of the year. This is our time to celebrate our achievements – we have worked so hard all year. This is our time to shine! But the best parts of this weekend? -- meeting new people and seeing old friends. It is such an uplifting experience to be around people who are committed to becoming better leaders and better communicators. It is good for the soul to be around people who understand why you are a Toastmaster.

Our conference has something for everyone. Bid on a celebration basket. Go to the bookstore. Say hello to a first timer. And of course, drop by my table and tell me what historic speech you would have liked to have witnessed. Don't forget the speech contests, the education sessions, the keynote speakers and even more. The conference program has all the information you need to make this the best spring conference you have ever attended.

It's a great day to be a Toastmaster. Together we thrive.

Be sure to drop by the historian's table and say hello. See you in the hallway.

All the best, Peggy Beach, DTM, PDG District 117 Historian

## Welcome First Timers to the District 117 Spring Conference!

We've planned special activities just for you to connect, explore, and enjoy your first District Conference experience!

#### Friday, May 16 3:00 PM | First Timers Check-In and Scavenger Hunt Challenge **Begins** Saturday, May 17 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM | Meet & Greet + 6:30 AM - 7:15 AM | First Timer **Toastmasters Trivia Game Breakfast** 6:45 PM | Dinner Buffet 11:40 AM | Lunch • 9:00 PM | Toastmasters Got 12:20 PM - 12:40 PM | First Timers Talent! **Panel Discussion** 12:45 PM - 1:15 PM | First Timers **Speed Networking** 3:10 PM - 3:30 PM | Galactic Wrap **Up - Scavenger Hunt Challenge Turn In & Survey Time** • 7:30 PM | Dinner / First Timers

#### Golden Ticket!

As a First Timer, YOU hold a Golden Ticket to unforgettable opportunities:

- Priority seating to education sessions
- Reserved seating at breakfast
- V Exclusive networking opportunities
- Z Entry into the First Timers Raffle Drawing

Show your ribbon, smile big, and don't miss a moment!

Raffle

## FIRST TIMERS ONLY Scavenger Hunt Challenge



Attend a First Timers Activity	Take a selfie with a speaker or a presenter	Has been a Toastmaster less than a year	Attend the First Timers Breakfast	Is a District Officer
			-	-
Has been to an International Convention	Attend the First Timers Lunch	Visit the District Store	Is currently in Level 4 or 5 in Pathways	Participated in a contest this year
Visit the Hospitality Suite	Holds an officer position	Has been an Area Director	Is in a Corporate Training Program (aka Corp Club)	Performed in the talent show Friday
Checked out Club Celebration Baskets	Is the Keynote or an Education Session Speaker at the conference	Has a family member in Toastmasters	Is attending an education session right now	Gave a Pathways speech at a club this week
Is using his/her time at this conference for a Pathways project	Has been in Toastmasters more than 10 years	Has written for Toastmasters magazine	Has completed two paths in Pathways	Asked a question during a workshop
Is a Past District Director	Is a native of North Carolina	Is a member of more than one Toastmasters Club	Get 3 First Timers to initial your hunt	Turn in survey

#### District 117 Spring Conference 2025

#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

#### **Meet Your Keynote Speakers:**

## Forrest Tuff, DTM, AS Friday Evening Keynote Speaker, Blue Hill Room

Forrest Tuff is a visionary leader and the Founder and CEO of One Vision Productions, an award-winning multimedia and branding agency named "Best in Georgia."

As a Master Life Coach and Accredited Speaker, Forrest captivates global audiences through compelling keynotes and workshops designed to empower professionals and entrepreneurs to realize their full potential. He has earned recognition as one of John Maxwell Team's Top 100 Transformational Leaders and CIO Times Magazine's Top Five CEOs to Watch.

Forrest's trademark, Filmpreneur, captures his unique fusion of creativity and entrepreneurship. His extensive portfolio includes award shows, commercials, documentaries, films, podcasts, and television shows. In 2025, he was honored with induction into the FilmMakerLife Hall of Fame.



Beyond his professional pursuits, Forrest is a dedicated philanthropist who awards his annual Pay It Forward grant to nonprofits and aids global education initiatives. He is a recipient of the MLK Community Service Award and the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### Personal Branding and Marketing Strategies for Professional Growth

#### Description:

In today's competitive environment, effective personal branding and strategic marketing are key to professional growth. This keynote will explore actionable insights for building a compelling personal brand, utilizing digital platforms, and aligning marketing efforts with career goals to drive engagement and success.

#### **Takeaways:**

- Learn key elements of a strong personal brand: core values, unique selling points, and effective storytelling.
- Discover how to implement marketing techniques using social media and content creation to boost visibility.
- Understand authenticity and the role of genuine connections in personal branding for career advancement and opportunities.

#### District 117 Spring Conference 2025

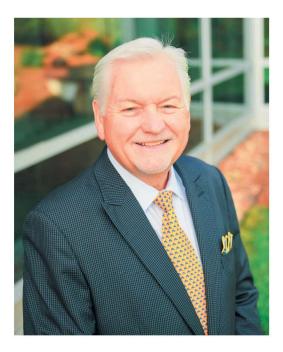
#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

#### **Meet Your Keynote Speakers:**

## Steve Gilliland, CSP, CPAE Saturday Morning Keynote Speaker, Founders Ballroom Sunday Morning Keynote Workshop, Blue Hill Room

A member of the Speaker Hall of Fame, **Steve Gilliland** is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the world. Recognized as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian, he can be heard daily on SiriusXM Radio's Laugh USA and Jeff & Larry's Comedy Roundup. With an appeal that transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation — plus an interactive and entertaining style — Steve shows audiences how to open doors to success in their careers, their relationships and their lives.

Presenting to over 250,000 people a year, more than two million have now heard him speak, with audiences encompassing 51 industries. Steve has the distinction of speaking in all 50 states and in 15 countries. As one newspaper stated, "Steve is what happens when the humor of a stand-up comic collides with the inspiration of a motivational speaker."



#### It Is What You Make It

#### **Description:**

You are the editor of your own story, and this presentation will show you how to write it meaningfully and authentically, regardless of what the world throws in your path.

#### Takeaways:

- How to shrink the negatives, find the positives, and magnify them.
- How to shut out the noise, eliminate distractions, and stop permitting people and circumstances to ruin your day.

How to create a ripple that will impact others and leave behind a legacy.

#### If Leadership Is A Game, These Are the Rules

#### **Description:**

In today's ever-changing world, effective leadership matters. Whether you're looking to improve your core leadership skills or need the insights and tools to implement change in your organization, IF LEADERSHIP IS A GAME, THESE ARE THE RULES is explicitly designed to address critical needs at specific career stages that will help you maximize your impact. This training, grounded in 40+ years of experience, will provide tools to make a real, long-term impact on you and your organization and help you be more effective and influential.



May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You



## Do Or Do Not. There Is No "Try."

#### Have a Full Conference Experience!



First time at a Toastmasters Conference in person? Let the registration desk know and be sure to pick up your **First-Timer** packet for a chance to win prizes and get special privileges!



Can you sing, dance, show us a trick, or make us laugh? Heck, if you can even lip sync, we want to see it! Light up this Friday night by signing up for **Toastmasters Got Talen**t to perform or support talented Toastmasters by joining the audience!



We are thinking win-win, as in the **50/50 Raffle**! Enter the raffle by buying tickets for a chance to win half of the pot! The rest is donated as a fundraiser to D117! It's literally win-win! **See p. 16!** 



It's time to reach new heights with **Club Celebration Baskets**! This silent auction located in the **Carolina Room**, allows our district to showcase our clubs and celebrate what makes us amazing. Bid to win a gift for yourself or someone special!



Elevate your conference experience with some awesome networking in the **Hospitality Suite**, get a drink, grab a snack and some great conversation in the **Bridal Suite**!



Saturday night is the **DTM Gauntlet** and you don't want to miss it! Cheer on your fellow tribe who have reached this significant milestone and accomplishment! Great music and lots of fun! It's going to be a blast!

2025 Spring Conference Agenda											
Start Time	End Room Event / Course Title										
Friday, May 16, 2025											
3:00 PM	7:00 PM	Blue Hill Prefunction	Registration Open								
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Bridal Suite	Hospitality Suite Open								
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Carolina Room	District Book Store								
3:15 PM	4:05 PM	Blue Hill A1	Workshop: Speak Goodr: Mastering Public Speaking with Confidence								
3:15 PM	4:05 PM	Blue Hill A2	Workshop: Leading with Purpose: Elevating Organizational Success Through Intentional Leadership								
4:15 PM	4:45 PM	Founders Prefunction	First Timers Meet & Greet + Toastmasters Trivia Game								
4:15 PM	4:45 PM	Blue Hill A3	Judges/Timers/Counters Briefing								
4:15 PM	4:45 PM	Founders Ballroom	Contestant Briefing / Mic check								
5:00 PM	5:30 PM	Founders Ballroom	Welcome / Opening Ceremony								
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Founders Ballroom	Table Topics Contest								
6:45 PM	9:00 PM	Blue Hill B1/B2/C1/C2	Dinner Buffet/Keynote: Personal Branding and Marketing Strategies for Professional Growth, Forrest Tuff, AS								
9:00 PM	10:00 PM	Founders Ballroom	Toastmasters Got Talent!								
9:15 PM	12:00 AM	Bridal Suite, 2nd floor	Hospitality Suite Open								

Dress Code: Most sessions - Business Casual Saturday Night Banquet - Semiformal

Start Time	End Time	Room	Event / Course Title									
Saturday, May 17, 2025												
6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Blue Hill B1/B2/C1/C2	First Timers Breakfast/General Breakfast Buffet									
7:00 AM	12:00 PM	Blue Hill Prefunction	Registration Open									
7:00 AM	11:30 AM	Carolina Room	District Bookstore									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	ТВА	Line up for Parade of Banners									
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Founders Ballroom	Parade of Banners Ceremony									
8:40 AM	9:30 AM	Founders Ballroom	Keynote: It is What You Make It, Steve Gilliland, CSP, CPAE									
9:40 AM	10:30 AM	Blue Hil A3	Workshop: Change Your World									
9:40 AM	10:30 AM	Blue Hill A2	Workshop: Speak up, Stand Out   Build Unshakeable Confidence to Amplify Your Voice and Impact									
9:40 AM	10:30 AM	Blue Hill B3	Workshop: Make the Most of Your Club Website									
9:40 AM	10:30 AM	Blue Hill A1	Workshop: On the Verge – How to Effectively Connect Through the Power of Vulnerability									
10:40 AM	11:30 AM	Blue Hil A3	Workshop: What Do You Mean It's Not Fun Anymore?									
10:40 AM	11:30 AM	Blue Hill A2	Workshop: Hidden Gems: Communication Skills for Success in Business and Beyond									
10:40 AM	11:30 AM	Blue Hill B3	Workshop: Design with Impact: Mastering Canva for Engaging Posters & Invitations									
11:40 PM	1:30 PM	Blue Hill B1 / B2 / C1 / C2	Lunch / Recognition / Awards									
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Founders Ballroom	MultiMedia Presentation - Bet You Didn't Know									



What did you think of the conference? Let us know – we want your feedback! Scan the QR Code to complete the survey.

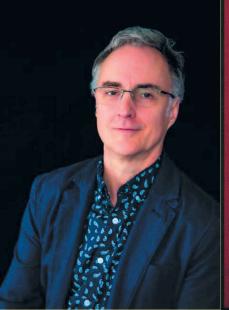
Start Time	End Time	Room	Event / Course Title
		Saturo	day, May 17, 2025
12:20 PM	1:15 PM	Founders Prefunction	First Timers Panel Discussion and Speed Networking
1:40 PM	3:00 PM	Founders Ballroom	MultiMedia Presentation - Bet You Didn't Know
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	Bridal Suite	Hospitality Suite Open
3:00 PM	4:45: PM	Registry	Registration Open
3:10 PM	3:30 PM	Founders Prefunction	Galactic Wrap Up
3:15 PM	3:45 PM	Blue Hill B3	Judges/Timers/Counters Briefing
3:15 PM	3:45 PM	Founders Ballroom	Contestant Briefing / Mic check
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	Founders Ballroom	International Speech Contest
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Bridal Suite	Hospitality Suite Open
6:15 PM	7:00 PM	Founders Prefunction	DTM Reception
7:00 PM	7:15 PM	ТВА	Seating for Banquet Dinner
7:15 PM	7:30 PM	Blue Hill B1 / B2 / C1 / C2	Recognition of Dignitaries
7:30 PM	8:30 PM	Blue Hill B1 / B2 / C1 / C2	Banquet Dinner
8:30 PM	10:00 PM	Blue Hill B1 / B2 / C1 / C2	District Officer Inductions / DTM Gauntlet
10:00 PM	12:00 AM	Bridal Suite	Hospitality Suite Open
		Sund	ay, May 18, 2025
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Blue Hill B1 / B2	Continental Breakfast Buffet
9:30 AM	11:30 AM	Blue Hill B1 / B2	Workshop: If Leadership is a Game, These Are the Rules, Steve Gilliland
11:30 AM	12:30 AM	Chancellor Boardroom	Debriefing with conference chairs/ Trio

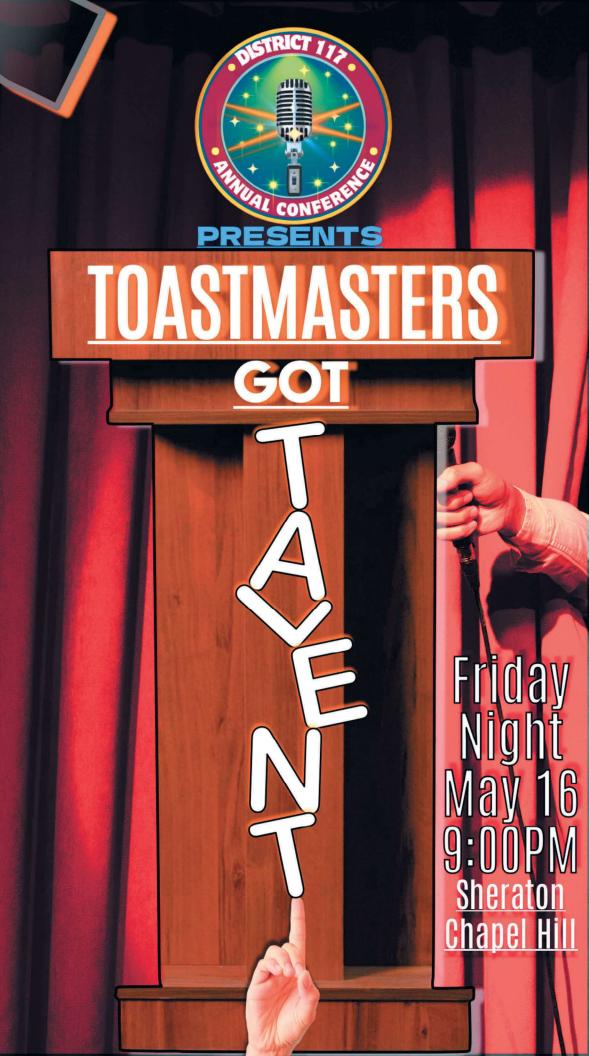
You have talent?

We want to see it!

Bring your special talent or downright weird or quirky skill to the Blue Hill Room at 9pm on Friday night!

We will have a great time with the comedic stylings of our MC
Al Herr
with intro by Ken Taylor!







## YOU ARE INVITED TO DISTRICT 117 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# 50/50 RAFFLE

Friday, 16 May | Starts 4 PM Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, NC, 27517



#### Ticket:

\$5 = 1 Ticket

\$25 = 6 Tickets

\$50 = 12 Tickets

\$100 = 24 Tickets

The more tickets sold, the bigger the prize — and half of it could be yours!

Must be present to Win!!
Drawing on Saturday Night

https://toastmasters117.org/



venmo



#### **Toastmasters International**









### **Themed Baskets**

## SILENT AUCTION

Fundraiser for DISTRICT 117 Conference

Ready to Donate!? Refer to the document for list of items.

Creating your own club pride basket? Reach out to Jessica for more details.

May 16-17, 2025



Contest: Themed Basket that best reflects your club!

View the basket and put in your slient bid in the Carolina Room

AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS

Drop off items/baskets by 3pm Friday-8am Saturday

Winners will be announced-Saturday night!

Location: Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel

Contact: Jessica Montanez - jesi\_k@yahoo.com



## May the Force of Public Speaking be with you!

you're invited to the

# DISTRICT STORE GRAND OPENING MAY 16 @3PM

Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, NC, 27517
THE CAROLINA ROOM

**HOURS:** 

Friday 3:00-5:00 PM

Saturday 7:00-11:30 AM





# Toastmasters

# PARADE BANNERS

MAY 17TH | 8:00 AM | SHERATON CHAPEL HILL HOTEL

Signup for Parade: <a href="https://forms.gle/oCgkhxgeCWKge4iX6">https://forms.gle/oCgkhxgeCWKge4iX6</a>

CONTACT: JENINE ATOJI | ATOJIJ@GMAIL.COM

#### Note:

Must be Registered for Conference to Participate Grab your club banner and line-up by 7:30 AM

#### **Contest Information**

Information	Speech Contests						
Туре	Table Topics	International					
Date	Friday, May 16, 2025	Saturday, May 17, 2025					
Location	Founders Ballroom	Founders Ballroom					
Officiant Briefing	4:15 PM	3:15 PM					
Contestant Briefing	4:15 PM	3:15PM					
Start Time	5:30 PM	4:00 PM					
End Time	6:30 PM	5:30 PM					
	Contest	ants					
	Anoo Tree Brod	Pranabesh Sinha					
	Antoine Basquiat	Kevin Snyder					
	Facial Archer	Jay Braun					
	Dea Irby	Mel Gower					
	Calaway Roloff	Pierce Lawrence					
	Dennis Szymanski	Dennis Szymanski					

## TABLE TOPICS™ CONTEST JUDGE'S GUIDE AND BALLOT



		SU	GGEST VAL	ED PC	TAIC		/ /	/	/ /					/ /						
JUDGING ITEMS		E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y G O O D	G 0 0 D	F A I R		1	1	1 2		1 2		3	3 4		6	7	8	9	10
Speech Development Opening, Body, Close, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T	30	23-29	17-22	0-16															
Effectiveness Logic, Directness, Enthusiasm Achievement of Purpose, Audience Response	E N T 5 5	25	18-24	11-17	0-10															
<b>Physical</b> Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELLY	15	11-14	6-10	0-5															
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume	E R Y 3 0	15	11-14	6-10	0-5'															
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U	10	8-9	6-7	0-5															
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection	A G E 1 5	5	4	3	2															

(Detach and submit to counters)

#### Judge's Official Ballot - Table Topics™ Contest

Name of Contestant

First Place:

Second Place:

Third Place:

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

PLACE	RANKING POINTS (for counters' use only)
First Place	3 points
Second Place	2 points
Third Place	1 point

#### **Judging Criteria**

#### Content (55%)

**Speech Development** is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The Table Topics® response is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. The response is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts and figures, if appropriate, and is delivered smoothly.

**Effectiveness** is your subjective judgement of how the response came across. Were you able to determine the speaker's purpose? Did the speech relate directly to the given question or topic? Was the response clearly and logically presented?

#### Delivery (30%)

**Physical** presentation of the response carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce his or her response. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning. The speaker makes effective use of and stays within the designated speaking area.

**Voice** is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

#### Language (15%)

**Appropriateness** of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.

**Correctness** of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

#### Judge's Code of Ethics

- 1. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants. Judges will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation. Judges will not consider any contestant's age, sex, race, creed, national origin, disability, profession, or political beliefs.
- 2. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
- 3. Judges will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the contest, and only reveal participation as a judge, selected scores, and the ranking assigned in accordance with speech contest rules.
- 4. Judges will not be a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division and District levels.
- 5. Judges will have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause bias.

#### INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST JUDGE'S GUIDE AND BALLOT



		SU	GGEST VAL		TAIC		/ /	/	/ /	/ /					
JUDGING ITEMS		E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y G O O	G 0 0 D	F A I R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	C 0	20	14-19	9-13	0-8										
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception	N T E N T	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought	5 0	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume	V E R	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm	3 0	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
<b>Appropriateness</b> To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection	A G F 2	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										

(Detach and submit to counters)

#### Judge's Official Ballot - International Speech Contest

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

Name of Contestant	PLACE	RANKING POINTS
irst Place:	First Place	(for counters' use only)  3 points
second Place:	Second Place	2 points
hird Place:	Third Place	1 point

#### **Judging Criteria**

#### Content (50%)

**Speech Development** is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. This development of the speech structure is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts and figures, delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.

**Effectiveness** is measured in part by the audience's reception of the speech, but a large part is your subjective judgement of how the speech came across. You should ask yourself such questions as "Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?""Did the speech relate directly to that purpose?""Was the audience's interest held by the speaker?""Was this speech subject appropriate for this particular audience?"

**Speech Value** justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience. The listeners should feel the speaker has made a contribution to their thinking. The ideas should be important ones, although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of them.

#### Delivery (30%)

**Physical** presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous or instructional. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning. The speaker makes effective use of and stays within the designated speaking area.

**Voice** is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

**Manner** is the indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.

#### Language (20%)

**Appropriateness** of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.

**Correctness** of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

#### Judge's Code of Ethics

- 1. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants. Judges will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation. Judges will not consider any contestant's age, sex, race, creed, national origin, disability, profession, or political beliefs.
- 2. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
- 3. Judges will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the contest, and only reveal participation as a judge, selected scores, and the ranking assigned in accordance with speech contest rules.
- 4. Judges will not be a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.
- 5. Judges will have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause bias.

### **Notes**

## Friday Afternoon Workshops 3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

#### Speak Goodr: Mastering Public Speaking with Confidence

Unlock the secrets to confident public speaking with lessons from the bestselling Speak Goodr. In this engaging session, learn how to conquer speaking fears, command attention through body language, and captivate audiences with authentic stories. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned Toastmaster, discover practical tools to elevate your speaking presence and inspire confidence every time you take the stage.

- 1. Recognize and address common fears that hinder public speaking confidence.
- 2. Implement strategies to project confidence through body language and tone.
- 3. Adapt storytelling techniques to engage and connect with diverse audiences.

Ryan C. Vet is an accomplished speaker, author, and entrepreneur with over 15 years of professional speaking experience. He has delivered keynotes and workshops on four continents, presented to more than 800 live audiences, and has been featured on major media outlets such as Forbes, NBC, and USA Today. Ryan specializes in helping individuals master the art of public speaking, inspire confidence, and achieve professional growth. As the author of Speak Goodr: Confessions of a Professional Speaker on Mastering Public Speaking and Getting Paid to Speak, Ryan provides actionable insights to elevate presentations and connect with audiences effectively.



Ryan Vet, MBA, CVP



## Leading with Purpose: Elevating Organizational Success Through Intentional Leadership

Define Purpose-Driven Leadership Identify Key Leadership Behaviors for Organizational Success Implement the DIG-IN Framework for Personal and Professional Growth Identify how to Build Resilience and Growth Mindset Strengthen Leadership Impact through Alignment and Integrity

Jennifer Meyer (known as Consider Jennifer) is a speaker and consultant focused on helping organizations build thriving, engaged workplaces where employees are authentic, aligned with their purpose, and empowered to contribute meaningfully. With over a decade of experience in Learning & Development (L&D) and Project Management (PM), Jennifer works with teams and leaders to create environments where individuals can grow, perform, and feel fulfilled in their roles. Jennifer's mission is to inspire organizations to embrace integration—the seamless connection between personal values and professional goals—so they can work and live with greater intention and impact. Her DIG-IN framework—focused on Decide, Intentionality, Growth, Integrity, and Nurture—provides a roadmap for individuals to align their actions with their values, improve collaboration, and make lasting contributions to organizational success.



Jennifer Meyer



#### Saturday Morning Workshops 9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

## The Win-Win Communicator | How Leaders Can Break Invisible Barriers to Elevate Professional Excellence

- 1. Deconstructing Invisible Professional Barriers: Upon completion, participants will be able to shift their perception from personal limitation to empowered, strategic opportunity.
- 2. Cultivating Authentic Professional Confidence: Upon completion, participants will be able to develop strategies for maintaining professional integrity while challenging systemic obstacles.
- 3. Curating a Powerful Vision for Collective Growth Upon completion, participants will be able to transition their focus from individual achievement to collective elevation.

There are invisible and unspoken barriers that Black leaders face which affect their confidence and the impact on their teams. It's not easy to learn but with consistent practice and a commitment to excellence, it is something you can master. You'll find this process makes it easier for you to lead and for your team to follow so that everybody wins. The process you're going to learn today helped our speaker build an organization that supports global communities of BIPOC Coaches. You'll learn the key leadership skills he used in his international bestselling book, A Journey of Riches: The Power of Self-Discovery. Please help me welcome The Win-Win Communicator... Alex Dumas!!!



**Alex Dumas** 



#### Make the Most of Your Club Website

After the workshop, attendees should understand some of the basic and most powerful concepts of web content strategy, learn several useful, immediately actionable tips and tricks they can use to increase the visibility and recruiting effectiveness of their club website, and they should be inspired to devote more energy and time into maximizing the power of their club website to attract new members.

Mark Schreiner has been a Toastmaster for 10 years -- he's served as a club president, VPE and VPPR, and as a Club Coach. He's worked as a professional writer for more than 30 years. His expertise is in web content strategy that inspires and motivates. You can hear is weekly program of Great Classical Music at 7 pm ET Wednesdays on WCPE 89.7 FM in central NC and everywhere on the theclassical station.org livestream.



**Mark Schreiner** 



#### Saturday Morning Workshops 9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

On the Verge – How to Effectively Connect Through the Power of

**Vulnerability** 

Everyone is on the verge of giving their best presentation or delivering their best speech. There is one approach that works every time. Find out how to incorporate storytelling while executing the power of vulnerability through body language, content, and vocal influence.

Danielle Saintard Valiente is a passionate entrepreneur, published author, inspirational speaker, consultant for business professionals, IIN certified health coach and a dedicated philanthropist in her community of Wilmington, NC. With over a decade of experience in leadership, communication and professional development, Danielle enjoys contributing to the growth of others both personally and professionally. Danielle's superpower is her energy, which she uses to fuel all audiences, from intimate settings to auditoriums. With 9 years of Toastmasters experience, Danielle shows all listeners the importance of connection, passion and vulnerability.



**Danielle Saintard Valiente** 



#### Change Your World

Attendees will be able to identify and apply communication strategies needed to better connect with others and impact change.

Welcome to today's "Change Your World" session. Jacqueline Howard is a certified Christian Coach, Elder, Distinguished Toastmaster, and former school administrator. And is a John Maxwell Certified speaker and trainer with a wealth of experience. Jacqueline is a wife and mother of two and has two Grandchildren. Jacqueline' has presented leadership workshops in Paris, France, and Mombasa, Kenya. Beyond her speaking and coaching roles, Jacqueline is the author of "Leading God's Way," "Angels," and coauthor of "The Happy Mind Matrix" and "The Successful Mind." Get ready to embark on a journey of personal and professional growth, where effective communication serves as the cornerstone for building a brighter tomorrow. You have the power to change your world. The power lies within you. So, let's unlock that power together and be the change the world needs to see.



**Danielle Saintard Valiente** 



#### Saturday Morning Workshops 10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### What Do You Mean It's Not Fun Anymore?

Attendees will learn basic and advanced techniques to reinvigorate their clubs to, hopefully, get their struggling clubs back on track.

Toastmasters' motto "Where Leaders Are Made" are words **Sharon Hill**, **DTM**, has taken seriously. She continues to be a club officer in her many clubs, even though she has served as Past District Director, Past Region Advisor, and Past International Director. Over the years, Sharon has seen clubs come and go. It has been amazing to see that many of the clubs that folded were not practicing the basic elements of club excellence. Sharon will be presenting a high-energy, interactive session on the elements of club excellence.



**Sharon Hill** 

Hidden Gems: Communication Skills for Success in Business and Beyond

- 1. Communicate with confidence, listen actively, and respond effectively.
- 2. Build trust through effective communication both in-person and digital.
- 3. Understand the minefields that sabotage everyday conversations at work.

Vidya Raman leverages 25+ years of Fortune 500 leadership experience to inspire professionals to drive workplace impact. Known for her authenticity, charisma, and engaging presentation style, she motivates individuals to step up, stand out, and succeed. Through her acclaimed LEADER BUILDER program, Vidya empowers professionals to harness connection, communication, and influence—aligning personal ambitions with organizational goals to create lasting impact. This topic covers hidden gems in communication to amplify your impact at work.



Vidya Raman

#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

#### Saturday Morning Workshops 10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### Design with Impact: Mastering Canva for Engaging Posters & Invitations

- Understand the Basics of Canva Learn how to navigate the Canva platform, explore its features, and utilize templates effectively.
- Create Engaging Posters & Invitations Design visually appealing posters, invitations, and celebration graphics for professional and personal use.
- Apply Design Principles Gain insights into color schemes, typography, and layout techniques to create aesthetically balanced designs.
- Customize & Brand Designs Learn how to personalize templates, add brand elements, and enhance designs with images, icons, and text effects.
- Optimize for Different Platforms Understand how to format and export designs for social media, print, and digital sharing.
- Develop Hands-On Skills Participate in a live design session where they will create and refine their own designs using Canva.
- Boost Creativity & Confidence Gain practical skills that empower them to design professional-quality graphics without prior experience.

Bhavana Tadiboina is a seasoned Project Manager with a passion for leadership, communication, and personal growth. She embarked on her Toastmasters journey in 2016 through the Master Orator Championship and has since been instrumental in expanding the Toastmasters community. As the Program Coordination Lead (2017-2020), she introduced over 2,500 students to the platform and founded the first community club in South Andhra Pradesh-Guntur Toastmasters Club. Bhavana has served in key leadership roles, including Vice President Education and Sergeant-at-Arms at Vision Toastmasters, and twice competed at the Division Evaluation Contest. She has also contributed as an Area Director in both District 98 and District 31, mentoring aspiring speakers and leaders. Currently part of District 117, she continues to learn, lead, and inspire. In this workshop, Bhavana will combine her expertise in communication and design to demonstrate how attendees can leverage Canva to create eye-catching posters, invitations, and celebration graphics. Whether for professional events, personal milestones, or community engagement, this hands-on session will equip participants with the creative tools to enhance their impact and storytelling through design.



Bhavana Tadiboina



#### May The Force of Public Speaking Be With You

#### Saturday Afternoon Workshops 1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

#### Bet You Didn't Know

Take a fascinating walk through the history of Toastmasters International. From its start-and-stop beginnings in Illinois to its presence around the world today, the story of Toastmasters begs to be told. Learn how it started; who Ralph Smedley was; when the magazines started; where some meetings were held during times of war; and much more.

A retired Air Force federal employee and retired Air Force Reserve Weather Officer, Alicia Hughes, DTM, is currently a member of two clubs and has served as both an Area and Division Director. A member of Toastmasters since 2016, Alicia NEVER EVER thought she'd be spending time learning about an organization celebrating its 100th anniversary; an organization that changes lives; an organization known as Toastmasters International. In order to fully appreciate its story, travel back to its start: the turn of the century. Not the 21st century, but the 20th century! To a time of change. To a time of movement. To a time of new ideas. Let's go!



**Alicia Hughes** 



# WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

As Toastmasters, we help each other by providing evaluations to drive improvement and positive change. That includes the

conference.

Scan the QR code and tell us what you thought!











#### **MEET OUR CO-CHAIRS**







To Our Exceptional Volunteers,

On behalf of the entire conference planning team, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable contributions to this year's District Conference. Your dedication, energy, and willingness to serve helped bring our collective vision to life — and we simply could not have done it without you.

From greeting guests and guiding logistics to working behind the scenes with grace and grit, you exemplified what true service and leadership look like. Your commitment was not only felt — it was seen, celebrated, and deeply appreciated by every attendee.

This conference was more than a series of sessions — it was a shared experience of learning, connection, and inspiration. And because of your hard work, it ran with excellence and purpose.

Thank you for showing up, stepping in, and shining bright. We are honored to have worked alongside you.

With deepest gratitude, Josh Lowry & Maxine Terry 2025 District Conference Co-Chairs









## District 117 Annual Conference Committee Chairs









**Beth Todd**Registration Co-Chair
& Decorations Chair



Susan Marshall
Registration
Co-Chair



Steve Pruskin

Logistics

Chair



Sharon Hill Contest Chair





Bob Sackmann
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Hospitality Chair



Valerie Yates
First Timers
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Pamela Flemions

First Timers

Co-Chair



**Elana Etten**Program Design
Chair





**Jenine Atoji**Parade of
Banners Chair



Pamela Walker 50/50 Raffle Chair



Jessica Montanez

Celebration of

Baskets Chair



Joleen Rassmussen

District Store

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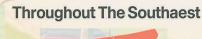
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Rounds at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

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More information to come

Contact: Glenn Scales, DTM, wgscales@gmail.com



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