



FORUM 56

Serving Southeast Texas

Volume 9, Issue 4

November 2012

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MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

The Mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the networks of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational goals and membership goals.
- Insuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.



FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR—Aundrae Romeo, DTM

Tag, You're It!

The count began with "eeny, meeny, miny, moe." Moments later,

we children darted about trying to avoid being touched or in this case "tagged." No one wanted to be "it."

If you weren't looking, someone could sneak-up behind you and tag you. You then became "it" and it was your job to find the slowest runner or the person who was not good at avoiding capture and then tag that individual. The game would go on for what seemed like hours. We'd giggle and laugh with glee when someone was tagged.

CHOOSE YOUR LEADERS

This is the time of year when some clubs choose their leaders for the next six-months. These are called Semi-Annual Clubs. They generally meet weekly and usually elect their Club Officers to serve a six-month term.

This election allows those who just completed a six-month term of service to the club and its members, a time of rest. It gives other members in the club the opportunity to grow as they too develop their leadership skills. These skills such as delegation, coordination, planning, scheduling, conflict resolution and team building will help to develop not just the Communication Leg but also the Leadership Leg. These "legs" will help to balance the member.

Some of us only exercise the Communication Leg of the Toastmasters Program as we complete various speeches in the Communication Manuals. However, we need to go through our Competent Leadership Manuals and the other Leadership Manuals or Projects.

Exercising both "legs" will help us to stand firm as Toastmasters having muscles developed in both legs. After training in our clubs, we will be able to handle with ease, that Project at the Office or in our community.

So, while avoiding being tagged shows our agility, being tagged can show our ability. It's amazing how one letter turned up-side-down can change the focus on different talents.

Having AGILITY to avoid responsibility and accountability or having ABILITY to exercise and develop our leadership skills, that is the issue at hand.

Many individuals spend thousands of dollars on leadership training and workshops. We have many free leadership training seminars in every club every week. Let's take advantage of these opportunities to serve, grow and lead.

TRAIN YOUR LEADERS

So, when the time comes for elections in your club, put your hand in the air and say, "I'll do it!." After doing that, remember to sign-up for Club Officer Training on Sat. Dec. 1st at the University of Houston Farish Hall from 8:30am to 2:30pm. It will change your life, your club and your career. Try it, you'll see.

Continued on Page 2, Tag



FROM THE LT. GOVERNOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING—Linda Peake, DTM

Who Me? Be an Officer?

All of you have many talents hiding inside. Your inner person is most likely a Club Officer just waiting to get out.

As Toastmasters, we all have different reasons for having joined this wonderful organization.

Some were asked to become better speakers by their bosses so they could conduct company presentations at business meetings or conferences.

Others had a desire to become a better speaker in order to become an effective leader.

Others wanted to start their own business opportunities by forming their own company.

As a club officer, you learn how to lead your club, so here is your chance to become that leader.

Toastmasters offers the best opportunities to grow as a leader by being a club or a District officer.

The district offers free training sessions known as Toastmasters Leadership Institutes or TLIs several times a year in which we offer training sessions for club officers. These training programs are not only free, they offer an insider's look at how a club should be run.

Few businesses will offer such training to their employees several times each year. If you are a current officer and think you know of someone who would be able to fill your current position for the next Toastmasters year, invite them to attend the training with you.

The next officer's training will be held at Farish Hall on the University of Houston main campus on the 1st of December from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM with a special addition of a keynote speaker.

This is the time to decide that the "who me" in the equation of becoming

a club officer is completed by entering your name in the blank.

Please make plans to attend this educational function to become the best club officer you know that you would like to be!

Who Me? Attend a District Conference?

The Fall Conference at the University of Houston Hilton on Saturday, the 17th of November was a success. Now you may begin planning for the Spring 2013 Conference.

Look for more details by going to: www.tmd56.org where you may register for the mere price of \$85 for this special two-day conference.

We will celebrate the 55th Anniversary of District 56. Past International President Pauline Shirley and the 2012 World Champion of Public Speaking Ryan Avery will be our featured guests.

Make plans now to attend the District 56 Spring 2013 Conference.

Tag, Continued from Page 1

Oh, by the way, if your club is an Annual Club, you also need to attend Club Officer Training.

Besides FREE breakfast and lunch for everyone, there's a special reward for the first 100 clubs to have at least 4 Officers attend Training on Sat., Dec 1st. So gather your club officers together and come out to the TLI (Club Officer Training). Check www.tmd56.org for more information and directions.

Clubs with all seven officers trained during the months Dec 2012 through Feb 2013, will also be rec-

ognized as Super Seven Clubs and will receive a reward at the District's 55th Anniversary Spring Conference on May 17th and 18th 2013 in Division P.

Tag! You're It!

Remember our tagline - Toastmasters International Where Leaders Are Made.

Go ahead, show your ABILITY with District 56. Be A HERO.

For more information about the game "Tag", please visit the following link: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_\(game\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_(game))

Forms for District Officer Qualifications and Nominations may be found at the following links:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/offqual>

<http://www.toastmasters.org/offnom>

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for solicitation or distribution of non-Toastmasters materials and information.

District Club Officers' Training

TLI Triple Treat

Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

University of Houston, Farish Hall in the Kiva Room on the First Floor

1-45 South, Exit Cullen, Right on Cullen, Pass the Robertson Stadium on the right.
Left into Parking Area 13 (just before the light). Detailed directions in the next page.

What will be in the Triple Treat?

- ▶ **Officers' Training**
- ▶ **Keynote Speech - Aundrae Romeo, DTM, DG - "Beyond The Extra Degree"**
- ▶ **Networking and Workshops (Distinguished Club Plan, Success Planning and more)**

Attendees: All Club Officers, Members, Non-Toastmasters, and any Interested Individuals

Trainers: Our leaders (Division and Area Governors)

Program Schedule:

Registration and Breakfast:	8:30 AM
Keynote and other presentations:	8:45 AM to 10:30 AM
Training Sessions (two sets of break-out sessions):	
1 st Training Session:	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Lunch break:	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
2 nd Training Session:	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Expectations:

- ▶ Your presence and active participation, with a passion to learn more about your leadership roles and other valuable information.
- ▶ Breakfast and lunch will be provided FREE.

BEING A LEADER IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ON HOW TO BETTER SERVE YOUR FELLOW TOASTMASTERS

Check the District 56 Website at www.tmd56.org for More Details.

Call for Nominations for District Officers



Submit forms to: **Nominating Committee Chair**
Pamela McCown, DTM, PID
pamelamccown@hotmail.com

USPS: Pamela McCown, DTM, PID
c/o 712 West Ellaine Avenue, Pasadena, TX 77506

Deadline for submitting nominations for 2013-2014 district office: January 1, 2013



FROM THE LT. GOVERNOR MARKETING—Sheryl Smith, DTM

Will the Real Leaders Please Stand Up?

I have heard leadership defined as “a process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of the others in the accomplishment of a common task,” or in simpler terms, “A leader is a person that you will follow places that you would not normally go yourself (J. Campbell).”

Being a leader in District 56 may sometimes require you to do things that may not be comfortable, may be time consuming, and may be cumbersome. In this instance, let us look at the prospect of being a conference chair.

I must admit, being a conference chair is characteristic of all the aforementioned adjectives, yet, it is one of the most rewarding experiences that you can perform in the district. It begins with building a team of dedicated Toastmasters who when assigned a task, can focus and bring the task to fruition.

Too many times, I see the same faces serving as conference chairs and proving the theory of the “Bell Curve” true when it states, “20% of the people, do 80% of the work.”

I think it is time that we ask ourselves, are we in the 20% and what can we as individuals do to help the district function as it should? Most importantly we should ask, “Do my actions align with those as described as a leader? “

Having served as a conference chair myself, I can tell you that the role is not only rewarding in terms of seeing the grandeur of the finished product, but you also build relationships with people that you probably would never have met.

Serving as a conference chair provides an opportunity to earn a High Performance Leadership Project, it heightens your project management skills, and it strengthens your leadership abilities.

As leadership opportunities present themselves, especially for conference chairs, I strongly encourage each of you if you have not done so before, to stand up to the challenge. As a leader, your committee chairs will follow you and I promise you will be the better leader for it.

BE ONE OF 55 DTMs FOR OUR 55TH ANNIVERSARY



► Why should I be a DTM?

Much like any educational degree or certification, earning a DTM proves:

- Commitment to set and to achieve goals.
- Personal growth and confidence.
- Applied skills vital to today's business and community efforts:

- Leadership, Mentoring, Supporting, Speaking, Planning, Organizing

► Where do I begin?

Make a Commitment:

- Sign the District 56 DTM Commitment Card today and give it to one of the DTM Mentors.

The DTM Mentors will be there to support and to guide you on your journey to DTM.

Find out more about District 56 Toastmasters' DTM Mentors and how you can achieve your DTM and be one of our 55 DTMs (since May 1st 2011) by our District's 55th Anniversary in May 2013.

Our Brochure is available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/D56-DTM55x55-Brochure>

► What are the numbers?

District 56 boasts 132 active Distinguished Toastmasters or DTMs. Each one is ready to welcome you and to encourage you each step of the way.

As of November 7, 2012, there have been 29 Toastmasters who have achieved their DTM since May 2011.

► Who is next?

Will you be one of the 55 DTMs to stand on stage at our Grand 55th Anniversary Conference at the South Shore Harbor Resort on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th 2013?

Begin down your path to Distinguished Toastmaster today.

Email Patricia Cotton, DTM or Red O'Laughlin, DTM at : D56dtm@gmail.com

FROM THE DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER—David Rebeles, DTM

If It's to Be, It's Up to Me



A few weeks ago, I was talking to a member and we got on the subject of the Distinguished Club Program ("DCP"); specifically, where her club stood in relation to DCP goals.

She said that she was pretty confident that her club would be at least Distinguished and possibly Select Distinguished.

I pressed her as to why her goal was not to achieve President's Distinguished; her response was that the members of her club never brought their Competent Leader ("CL") Manuals and therefore, no one was close to completing it.

I asked how she knew if no one

brought their manual; she did not have an answer. Our conversation ended there but not before I extended an offer for her to call me if she ever needed my help.

As we parted ways, I recalled a poster I saw a few days earlier. The poster had a street sign with eight arrows; each pointing in a different direction. The caption read "if you do not have a plan; any direction will do."

Within the next few weeks, the Toastmaster year will reach the mid-way point. Some people will say that the year is almost over; I say it has just begun.

I challenge all Toastmasters to open a dialogue with club leadership to go the "extra degree" and make a plan for success.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the Change that you want to see in the world." For my part, I commit to giving each club for which I am a member an educational award. And, I pledge to be a H.E.R.O.: forever at your service.

NOVEMBER'S UNSUNG HERO

District 56 Toastmasters is pleased to recognize and award **Thomas Chen** with the Unsung HERO Award. Congratulations Thomas. You are a true Leader.

Thomas is an active member of **The High Energy Speakers, # 3907**

"Thomas was a new Toastmaster presenting his Icebreaker speech. When he took the stage and began speaking, jaws dropped. Our club had never before seen such a polished, confident speaker, let alone one with brilliant visuals that captured the audience's attention and the ability to harness body language and gestures to enhance his message. Thomas's presentation was the best Icebreaker I've ever seen, and it was the harbinger of great things to come from an energetic young Toastmaster. Great job!"

Thomas will be presented with a Toastmasters Pin by his Area M-34 Area Governor Misty Baker, CC during the month of November. Please Celebrate and Congratulate Thomas.

Have you observed a Toastmaster doing a great deed? Make recommendations for the Unsung Hero Award. Names will be entered for a monthly drawing and the winner will have recognition on the District 56 website and in the Forum 56 newsletter. Please send us the information about your Unsung HERO using the following link: <http://d56mailbox.polladdy.com/s/district-56-unsung-hero-nomination>



Recommended by Mark Stevens

CLUB INFORMATION

1+1: Toastmasters' New Membership-building Campaign for Members, Clubs and Districts

On December 1, Toastmasters will launch the 1+1 Campaign, International President John Lau's membership-building program, in which all members can participate. Look for details in the December issue of *The Leader Letter*.



DISTRICT 56 UPDATE

Ranked 2nd in the World!

With 39 out of 187 Clubs reporting 5 or more DCP Goals, District 56 is 16.6% towards being Distinguished

- **Goal:** 50 Clubs with 5 or more DCP Goals by 11/15/2012. That's 11 more clubs with 5+ DCP Goals
- With 3, 550 member payments, we have 55.2% to go to cover our Base and need 750 more member payments to be at 50% of our Goal of 8.600 member payments.
- **Goal:** 4,300 Member Payments by 11/15/2012. That's 750 more member payments (new and renew).
- With 175 out of 187 Clubs Renewed, we have 8% more to go to have our Base of 187 Clubs renewed.
- **Goal:** 185 Clubs Renewed by 11/15/2012. That's 10 more clubs renewed.
- Congratulations to all members and officers of District 56 as you achieve your individual and club goals.

We see you President's Distinguished District 56!

ALL LEADERS

- **Semiannual Clubs: Update Your Officer List Online.** If your club elects officers twice a year, it's time to hold officer elections for the next term. Once the new officers are elected, it's important to provide World Headquarters with an updated officer list. It's easy to log in and submit your club-officer list online. *Please be sure to submit your list by December 31* to receive Distinguished Club credit.
- **Exciting New E-learning Program for Club Officers.** Incoming club officers can now begin training for their new role online. The new e-learning program for club officers is a self-paced interactive program that explains the officers' responsibilities and illustrates how they can work together to create successful clubs. A foundational training session provides an overview of how the different roles interact within a club and within the Toastmasters organization. This session is followed by additional sessions that offer specific training for each of the club leadership roles. Incoming club officers may check out the online training at: www.toastmasters.org/ClubOfficerEssentials.

This e-learning resource is offered as a supplement to biannual district-sponsored club officer training events, and is not intended to be a replacement.

Club Newsletter Contest

Enter Your Club Newsletter in the Contest!

District 56 is proud to announce the 2012-2013 Club Newsletter Contest. Five clubs will be honored with the Top 5 Club Newsletter Award. Be sure your club's newsletter is entered in the contest so your team may be recognized at the 2013 Spring Conference to be held at South Shore Harbor Resort in Division P.

Send three issues of your newsletter – published between July 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013 – with a cover letter to District 56 Public Relations Officer, David Rebeles (pro@tmd56.org). **Deadline to submit newsletters and to be eligible for one of the five newsletter awards is April 1, 2013.**

Newsletters will be judged on the following criteria:

- Overall professional appearance including careful attention to page balance, effective use of borders, white space, photos and art work

- Content that encourages members to set and achieve speaking and leadership goals
- "How-to" information on topics related to educational achievements, leadership in action and new member initiatives
- Use/ Conformity with Toastmasters Brand Guidelines
- Incorporation of Toastmasters Core Values
- Consistency between the three club newsletters submitted
- Clear indication of the club name, club number, district numbers, place and time of meeting
- Featuring the editor's name and contact information in each issue
- Notation of the publish date and/or issue number

All entries will be judged primarily for the level of educational content, but also for readability and layout. So, let the contest begin.

All of the Above!

By R.W. (Bill) Sullivan, PE, PMP, DTM—Division R Governor



Why do you want to commit time to Toastmasters?

I have asked that question many times – because I do commit a lot of time to the District 56 Toastmasters Organization.

Well each of us needs to answer that question for ourselves. Here are some common answers:

- Improve Speaking Skills.
- Better yourself for your job by opening yourself for better communications.
- Give to an organization Service Leadership (which helps you greatly).
- Give back to people the way you were helped.

All of these skills and many more can be achieved by involving yourself with Toastmasters. For the last 85 plus years Toastmasters has proven to be the premier place to develop your communication skills:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Writing
- Presenting
- Leading

I personally have many reasons, sort of an “all of the above”. But – I can assure you, you will get more from the experiences than you put into the job.

There are numerous ways to volunteer and help move the Toastmasters’ message and methodology forward. One of the main reasons is that you can achieve

“all of the above” by just progressing through the manuals and participating as an officer or showing your support at the Club, Area, Division and District levels.

Have you ever had someone tell you that they were trained in “Presentations” and you asked them how and when? The usual answer is “I took a 3 hour course at my company (or school).” These types of courses or trainings are aimed at giving an “Eagle Eye View” or an overall process and don’t give much (if any) background to “How?” or “Why?” the methods are used.

The Toastmasters program not only walks you through the process, but also explains the How and the Why. Plus, so much more:

- Creates a step-by-step approach to creating a speech (or paper).
- Gives you a supportive “family” to present to and practice.
- Helps you evaluate your progress in a non-threatening climate.
- Looks at many different situations for which communications apply and how to approach them.
- “Practice, Practice, & more Practice” is the way we build confidence and professionalism, thus allowing us to determine how “Professional” we want or need to be.
- Develops leadership skills!

Let me close with a few words on the Leadership skills. First, I think we all

agree that in everyone’s life, there is a need for leadership skills. Whether these skills are needed for herding your children (or their baseball team), leading a team at your church or office, or managing a 50 person department, being an effective leader is a skill we all should develop.

Skills that you can learn:

- How to persuade others and present your position.
- Not be Over Controlling.
- Work in a team (even if you are responsible).
- Trust your team members to be competent – because you have trained them or they are trained to support you.
- Garner support within a team.
- Show competency in organizing and following through with the needs of the team.

This list of skills only “scratches the surface” of what Toastmasters is about. Keep looking for “All of the Above” by contacting any Club, Area, Division or District officer and asking how you can grow with us.

CONQUERING THE COMPETENT LEADER MANUAL

The Competent Leader manual provides members with the opportunity to grow as leaders.

When you volunteer to take on a meeting role, you may have one of your fellow members evaluate your performance during that same meeting.

Use the helpful guide in the front of the manual to find the various meeting roles that qualify for the ten different projects in the manual. Be aware of the

requirements for each project such as completing three of the four suggested roles.

Remember, you may only receive credit for one role during a single meeting even if you volunteer in more than one.

Sign up each meeting to serve in a different role. At the beginning of the meeting, ask a fellow member to complete your Competent Leader Manual evaluation for that role. You may not

complete your own evaluation.

Be sure to bring your Competent Leader Manual to each meeting. If you did not sign up for a role in advance, then you may volunteer when you arrive for the meeting and have your manual ready for someone to evaluate your performance.

Keep up with your assignments and you could become a Competent Leader in less than one year!

HALL OF FAME

COMPETENT COMMUNICATOR

Aguirre, Pedro
 Bateman, Kirk E.
 Boeing Club, Ruth
 Cahill, Robert O.
 Cardini, Roberto
 Chou, Hung-Ming
 Coffey, Lucas A.
 Cotton, Patricia A.
 Edge, Brian A.
 Ford, Bessie L.
 Gupta, Puneet
 Hale Knox, Debra
 Kessler, John R.
 Lee, Cecilia
 Mahapatra, Jochhna
 Melendez, Antonio
 Metcalf, Josh E.
 Munro, Jeffrey C.
 Parsons, Matt
 Peterson, Tracey A.
 Raman, Vidya
 Rathburn, Andrew W.
 Rebeles, David
 Redd, Beverly L.
 Rojas, Timothy
 Salmon, Venice C.
 Saridey, Satish
 Schneider, Morgan
 Schuette, Raymond
 Shamsi, Osaid A.
 Smith, Tyvon
 Thompson, Kristi Lynn
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette

Hall of Fame features District 56 Educational Achievements from October 16th to November 10th.

COMPETENT LEADER

Baker, Keith
 Bateman, Kirk E.
 Bradshaw, Everett
 Brooks, Doris V.
 Colgrove, Robbin L.
 Desai, Swati
 Dunne, Tim R.
 Gudmundsson, Thor Egill
 Guy, Carolyn D.
 Hernandez, Armando
 Kim, Brian
 Kleiman, Amanda
 Leaf, Carol A.
 Lee, Cecilia
 Olumuyiwa, Gbenga
 Peake, Doyle C.
 Peake, Linda G.
 Richardson, Alicia
 Rose, Bruce W.
 Rowell, Melissa L.
 Sakowski, Stephen A.
 Samson, Joseph C.
 Sargeant, Kelly Ann
 Spillers, Holly
 White, Jody A.
 Whitener, Linda K.
 Willems, Heather Elizabeth
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette
 Wilson, Elizabeth Stephens

LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

DeRosa, Timothy A.
 Haug, Lawrence A.
 Jimenez, Laurie A.
 Sakowski, Stephen A.
 Smith, Sheryl Denise
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette

ADVANCED COMMUNICATOR BRONZE

Abramczyk, Kelly F.
 Barron, Randy L.
 Boeing Club, Ruth
 Chang, Kevin Ray
 Garrett, Carroll Bruce
 Gorji, Deepika
 Hillman, Joanne R.
 Ivanez, Antonio
 Lee, Cecilia
 Masek, Michael P.
 Mathews, Michael Lee
 McCown, Pamela
 Peake, Doyle C.
 Peake, Linda G.
 Ybarra, Alice

ADVANCED COMMUNICATOR SILVER

Feinauer, Daniel
 Gilman, Richard T.
 Morey, Matthew J.
 Parks, Steven E.

ADVANCED COMMUNICATOR GOLD

Coole, Tamara L.
 Muesse, Kimberly J.

ADVANCED LEADER BRONZE

Feinauer, Daniel
 Garcia, Adriana Valdez
 Ko, Stephen
 Rivera, Raul
 Schreiner, Trudy
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette

ADVANCED LEADER SILVER

DeRosa, Timothy A.
 Haug, Lawrence A.
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette

DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER

Brooks, Doris V.
 DeRosa, Timothy A.
 Williams-Wade, Jeanette

Evaluate Your District!



Use your Smartphone App to scan the QR Code and be taken directly to the survey

To give feedback and kudos of any District 56 Toastmasters events, visit:

<http://d56mailbox.poll daddy.com/s/district-56-toastmasters-event-feedback>

2012-2013 DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Governor Aundrae Romeo, DTM
 Lt. Governor Education and Training Linda Peake, DTM
 Lt. Governor Marketing Sheryl Smith, DTM
 Public Relations Officer David Rebeles, DTM
 Secretary Bibi Wadsworth, ACB, ALB
 Treasurer Laurie Jimenez, CC, ALB
 Immediate Past District Governor Karen Blake, DTM

www.tmd56.org

District 56 Toastmasters

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FORUM 56

Chief Editor Diane Niño, DTM

Articles of 200-300 words may be submitted via email to sisternino@yahoo.com, or call for more information at 713-560-2633.

Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for publishing by the 15th of each month.

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL