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DISTRICT 54

NEWSLETTER

May 2018



District Director Report

By Angie Mullin, District Director

May 12, 2018 – DEC Meeting Report

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up through the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

-Author Unknown

I saw this poem, and it resonated with me this week, so I thought I would share it with you.

As I look over the past year, I know many of us have worked so hard. Yet, we still have our challenges to overcome. I would encourage you again to keep your eyes on the finish line. We still have a month of the Toastmasters year left, and there is still time to **finish strong**.

What do we need to do to continue to finish strong?

- Encourage club members to be the club that everyone wants to join
 - Keep providing regular & fun meetings
 - Keep focusing on club members' success
- Share the benefits of Toastmasters with others
 - "Talk up Toastmasters" to everyone
 - Talk up Pathways & promote its value
- Remember "incentive" opportunities from TI and the District for membership & club growth
 - ***Beat the Clock Incentive (May 1-June 30)***
Add at least 5 new/dual/reinstated members to your club and win a \$25 gift card to Walmart, Target or Subway for use at a club Open House/Club Contest/Party
 - ***New Club Lead/Charter Incentive (year-round)***
Receive a \$50 TI store certificate for sourcing a new lead, participating in demo meetings, and helping a new club charter within 90 days.

Remember – we have a month left. Let's work together, keep our eye on the finish line, and **finish strong!**

ADDITIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

2018 District 54 Spring Conference News & Photos



Congratulations to our District 54 International Speech Contest winners!

Pictured, L-R: **Angie Mullin**, District Director; **Caleb Shearrow** – 2nd place winner (Rockford Communication League); **Mike Mullin** – 1st place winner (Power Communicators & DTM Advanced Club); and **Dennis Clark** – 3rd place winner (Orpheum Orators)

Mike Mullin now advances to the semifinals of the World Championship of Public Speaking, to be held at the Toastmasters International Convention in Chicago this summer.

Congratulations to our District 54 Evaluation Contest Winners!

Pictured, L-R: **Angie Mullin**, District Director, **Matt Woyner**, Contest Chair, **Andrea Regan**, 1st place winner (Lincoln-Way Toastmasters); **Marc Lindsay**, 2nd place winner (Advanced Expressives); and **Catherine McConkey**, 3rd place winner (McKinley Club).



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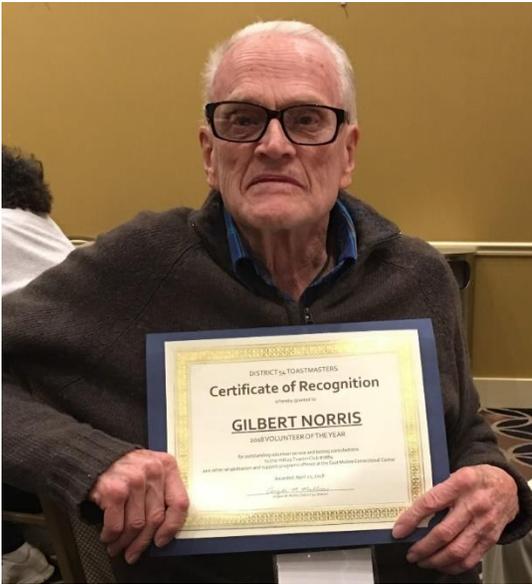
Congratulations to District 54's newest DTMs – Louis Kreppert, Becky Zentko, and Jeffrey Lehmann!



Conference Chair **Heather Armstrong** (center) takes a moment to pose with C & L Award winner **Jenna Walker** (right) and her friend, **Kathy Griffin** (left), in their beautiful derby hats.

Jenna Walker and Kathy Griffin are part of Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT), an organization which strives to promote the well-being of individuals with disabilities by providing horseback riding services and other related activities.

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL



Gilbert Norris was honored as District 54's 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Gil was recognized for his volunteer services and lasting contributions to the Hilltop Toaster Club #7889 and other rehabilitation and support programs offered at the East Moline Correctional Center.

From the Saturday Gala Dinner:

Gala Toastmaster, **Ron Wroblewski**, shared a beautiful love story, which began with "love at first sight" and culminated in a wedding on April 21, 1968.

Ron presented his beautiful bride of 50 years, **Cece Wroblewski**, with a beautiful opal necklace. Then, he invited the audience members to join them as they danced to their favorite song.



Friday Night Roast:

With a light-hearted parody, Roastmaster **Jay Zentko** kicks off the Annual Roast of the Outgoing District Director, **Angie Mullin**.

Toastmaster friends lined up to share humorous stories with gentle ribbing and good-natured fun in Angie's honor.

Lorraine Smith – A Tribute

by Tom Willison, DTM

District 54 has lost a great Toastmasters colleague, mentor, and friend. **Lorraine Smith** passed away on March 30, 2018 (Good Friday).

Lorraine was a committed Toastmaster, serving as District Governor from 2005-2006, leading our district to Select Distinguished status that year! Lorraine was selected as “Toastmaster of the Year” in 2007-2008, and competed in several speech contests. She won the Humorous Speech Contest one year!

While these were great accomplishments on their own, Lorraine will most be remembered for her impact on people. **Tom Willison, DTM**, served as District Governor the year after Lorraine, and he always appreciated her non-verbal feedback about what he did well, and opportunities for improvement: *“As Immediate Past District Governor, Lorraine took her role as Mentor to the new District Governor very seriously. I enjoyed the three years we worked together as members of the District Trio. Lorraine always had a sense of humor; she agreed to play the role of the suspect who ‘murdered’ me my Murder Mystery Roast at the 2007 Spring Conference. Her poem signed ‘Maxine the Crabby Lady’ is still sitting on my desk today! Lorraine also played the role of the ‘Good Witch’ during a Friday night fun skit entitled ‘The Wizard of Toastmasters’ performed at the 2007 Fall Conference.”*

Past International Director (and Past District Governor) **Dick Poirier, DTM**, shares his memories: *“I remember that Lorraine was always very good at recognizing people. In my office, I have a memento from her time as District Governor. She gave the memento to me as recognition for my help in getting the District to ‘Select Distinguished’ status. That is a testament to her endearing nature and the way she cared about those around her. I will miss that about her – and her smiling face!”*

We are very fortunate to have known Lorraine as a friend, Toastmasters colleague, and District Leader. Her memories and our District success will live on for those of us who knew her!

