

D56 MESSENGER

WE BUILD NEW CLUBS AND SUPPORT ALL CLUBS IN ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE



District 56



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DISTRICT DIRECTOR NEWS

ARE YOU A DREAMER OR A WRITER?

Jo Idoux, DTM, District Director

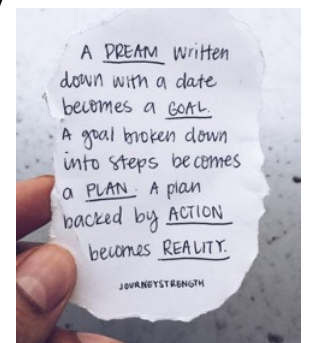
As one year closes and another begins, many of us reflect and make New Year's resolutions. While many are successful at reaching some of their goals, many others fail. Are you a dreamer or are you a writer of your dreams?

My challenge to you is to take control of your Toastmaster dreams. Invest in yourself by stepping into a club or district leader role and embrace the power of Pathways, our online learning curriculum. Maximize your communication and leadership development in the coming year with 6 simple steps.

1. Set SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and anchored with a time frame) goals.
2. Write out your plan with individual steps (i.e., leadership roles, speeches, projects, etc.) and schedule action items on your calendar.

3. Write yourself a letter, dated one year ahead, detailing how you visualize your Toastmaster life one year from now.
4. Be accountable by sharing your goals with people who will check in on how you're doing.
5. Identify potential obstacles and plan for setbacks (i.e., life is all about adjusting to what's thrown at us.)
6. Evaluate your progress after each Toastmaster meeting and adjust your plan as needed by investing in yourself. It will be the best investment you'll ever make. You will not only stretch yourself into a better version of yourself, but you will also stretch all those around you.

Become the writer of your dreams today!



FALL FESTIVAL

Chandra R. Munagavalasa, DTM, Program Quality Director

The Fall Festival was amazing. It was a full-day event loaded with wonderful Education Sessions from our Region 5 Advisor Rebecca Arnett, Storytelling by World Champion of Public Speaking Mike Carr, International Spanish Speech Contest, Humorous Speech Contest, and District 56 Got Talent. If you missed this event, we have an even bigger event coming up in Spring (in May). Stay tuned for more details about the Spring Conference.

If you missed the first round-2 Club Officer Training (COT) on Dec 14, the next round-2 COT is on Jan 15 at 8:00 am. All District 56 Toastmasters are most welcome to attend the COT sessions. If you are not a club officer yet and would like to run for office in the future, I strongly recommend that you attend the COT. Please visit District 56 website to register. <https://toastmastershouston.com/calendar/>

If you cannot make it to this training, there are three more opportunities. Please visit our District 56 website [calendar](#) for all the COT dates.

Note that there will be only one round-2 Spanish Club Officer Training (Spanish COT), and it is on Jan 11th at 6:30 pm.



CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR NEWS

CELEBRATE EVERY ACHIEVEMENT!

Sharla Ozen, DTM, Club Growth Director

With 2021 coming to a close, let's remember to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate every achievement (Applause!), every start and finish with the goal attained (Woo Hoo! Way to Go!), and every step forward toward bringing your personal and/or professional vision to fruition (So Proud of You!).

Please join me in celebrating some of our 2021 District 56 achievements:

Round 1 - Area Director Visit Reports 100% Complete – Outstanding!

Open House Award Recipients

- Liberated Toastmasters Club
- West Pearland Toastmasters Club

Leap into '22 Award Recipients

- Diamond Club
- Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- Find Your Voice Toastmasters
- Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Liberated Toastmasters
- Marathon Speaks! Club
- Medically Speaking Toastmasters Club
- Pearland Toastmasters Club
- Sugar Land Toastmasters
- TACL Club
- Talking Bull Club
- Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters



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GOALS AND GROWTH IN DIVISION P

Elizabeth A. Ruiz, DTM, Division P Director

On behalf of the Division P Team, we wish you a peaceful holiday season. I want to extend my gratitude to every member of Division P. Once again, our accomplishment comes on the heels of the Toastmasters Promise of our entire Division. We truly treasure each one of you.



Division P gained a new club in October 2021. Welcome, Marathon Galveston Bay Refinery Toastmasters. Our Area P2 Director, Deandra Newcomb, was quick to visit in person to complete her Area Director Visit. Way to go, Deandra!

Anniversaries:

December: ExxonMobil Toastmasters Club of Baytown - 1 year, West Pearland Toastmasters - 8 years

January: Mid-Pearland Toastmasters - 6 years

Three clubs achieved the Leap into '22 Award:

Diamond Club, Pearland Toastmasters Club, and Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters

One club achieved the Leap into '22 x 2 Award:

Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters

One club achieved the Open House Award:

West Pearland Toastmasters

Two clubs achieved the Smedley Award:

ANICO Articulators Toastmasters Club and UAGC Orators Toastmasters Club

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Leap into '22 x2 Award Recipients

- Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- Sugar Land Toastmasters
- Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters

Membership Excellence Recipients

- American General Toastmasters
- AspenTech Houston Toastmasters
- Katy Toastmasters Club
- Liberated Toastmasters
- Lunch Bunch Club
- UAGC Orators Toastmasters Club
- Young Professional

Smedley Award Recipients

- ANICO Articulators Toastmasters Club
- Hess Explorers Toastmasters
- Spirited Speech Masters
- Sugar Land Toastmasters
- Woodforest Toastmasters Club
- Woodlands Toastmasters Club
- Membership Excellence Award Recipients

Educational Achievements and Triple Crowns

- Over 600+ Pathways goals achieved by our members
- Over 50+ members are Triple Crown Award Recipients

Don't forget to celebrate the seemingly small things like raising your hand to volunteer for something new (Club Coach, Club Mentor, or Club Sponsor) or saying Yes, to an unexpected opportunity (Club Officer, District Officer, District Committee Volunteer). As Toastmasters, we never stop learning, and we grow with every opportunity taken.

Lastly, we applaud and commend all the District 56 active clubs that value the Toastmasters experience and continue to strive towards being a quality club despite the current economic and pandemic challenges. In the words of our wonderful District Director, Jo Idoux, DTM, you are FEARLESS, and we Celebrate You!

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Division P Completed 100% of the Round 1 Area Director Visit Reports and achieved 100% of the Paid Club Goal:

Teamwork was achieved by Area Directors: P1 - Jennifer Nelson, DTM, P2 - Deandra Newcomb, P3 - Trudy Jacobs, P4 - Qiana Preston, and P5 - Fatimar Jones, DTM.

Congratulations Fab Five!

67 New Members Joined Division P, so far!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to each one of you for your Toastmasters Promise.

THERE'S EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR

Avishek "Avi" Roy Chowdhury, PM5, Division L Director

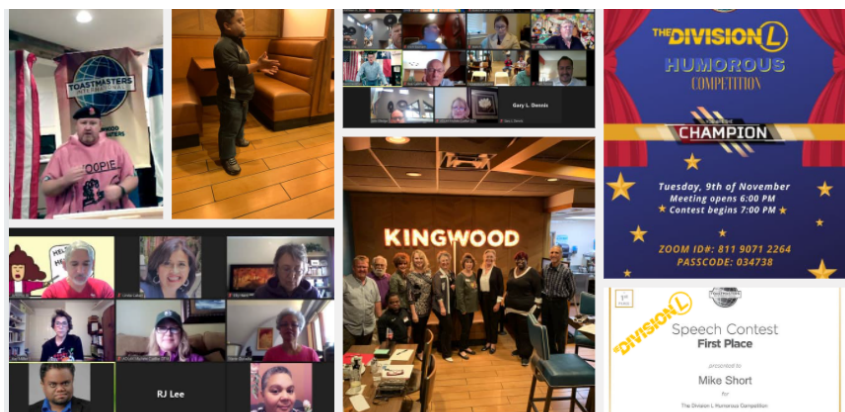
It was an exciting month in November with Division L's planning of the Fall Humorous Speech Contest. After all the area contests, the division contest was held on November 9th with a virtual black-tie event. After the red carpet welcome of dignitaries, Toastmasters, and guests, listening and laughing from amazing speakers, the Division L humorous contest winner is Mike Short of The Woodlands Toastmasters Club - Area 44.

Another exciting milestone event was the rebooting of Kingwood Toastmasters. After being on hiatus for over one year due to the Covid pandemic, they had their first meeting on November 2. Kingwood will be celebrating its 32nd chapter anniversary in December.

CONGRATULATIONS Kingwood!

As always, Deerwood Toastmasters starts their meeting at 7 AM every Friday with exciting themes. On Friday, November 19, they celebrated Mickey Mouse's 93rd birthday. There were lots of mouse ears in this hybrid meeting. Mark Vine, our Sergeant at Arms, who represented Deerwood in the area contest, made mouse ears for all those meeting "face 2 face" or "ear to ear." Division L is looking forward to a very exciting December. We will keep you posted.

Happy Holidays to all.



FESTIVE REINDEER COOKIE RECIPE



Are you interested in trying an easy cookie recipe that is sure to please everyone during this holiday season?

It comes direct from the North Pole, and your children will enjoy making and eating them.

Prep: 30 mins | Cook: 10 mins | 40 mins
Serving: 36 | Yield 3 dozen cookies

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup white sugar
1 cup smooth peanut butter
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
72 small pretzel twists, or as needed
1/2 cup chocolate chips, or as needed

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Beat butter, sugar, peanut butter, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt together in a bowl until smooth and creamy. Stir flour and baking soda into creamed butter mixture until well incorporated.

Roll dough into 36 balls. Flatten each ball and shape into an upside-down triangle. Press two pretzels into the two top corners of each triangle for the antlers. Press two chocolate chips into the center of each triangle for the eyes, and one chocolate chip on the bottom of the triangle for the nose. Arrange cookies on baking sheets.

Bake in the preheated oven until cookies are golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes. Enjoy!

Source: [Allrecipes](https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/258288/festive-reindeer-cookies/).

CONTINUING TO SERVE DIVISION O

Marcia Hudgens, DTM, Division O Director

I am honored to have District 56's support and serve Division O clubs. We were thankful for 2018 WCPS Ramona Smith's dedication, energy, and leadership during the crucial first two months of the term. Unfortunately, Ramona's work demands increased, and she had to step back.

I am most thankful to the Division O Area Directors who continued working and serving their clubs. During the transition, Jenny, Tammie, Deanna, Alvin and Roy didn't miss a beat. They were reaching out to their clubs, building rapport, making club visits, and were eager to serve them. The Toastmasters skills we learned kicked in; Toastmasters helps ease our change, we become flexible and work through the change with ease.

In addition to Jenny, Tammie, Deanna, Alvin, and Roy, Zakia is my assistant Division O Director. I am thrilled to be a part of this Optimistic, Outrageous Division O team. We are here to serve you, support you and listen to you. We want you to achieve your goals and help guide you to reach them.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS RESOURCES

[FreeToastHost website and WordPress Website Training Videos](#)

[Club Marketing tips](#)

[D56 Breaking News submittal](#)

[D56 Find-A-Club \(Add/Update\)](#)

Sometimes, life gets in the way. If you or another Toastmaster encounters a life event (i.e., the birth of a child, marriage, divorce, family loss, loss of a job, moving to another state, diagnosed with major illness, etc.), please email our [Compassion Outreach Chair](mailto:compassion@tmd56.org) (compassion@tmd56.org) to let us know.



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

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 and distribution of non-Toastmasters material or information. This is a bimonthly publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS



November - February

Club Officer Training (second round)

November 1-6

Club Officer elections (for clubs with semi-annual terms)

December 11

District Humorous Speech Contest

December 15

Round 2 - Area Director Visit Reports Start

December 16

D56 Members Matter Most Monthly Meeting
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM.

Special Guest Speaker:

Matt Kinsey, DTM International President-Elect
2021-2022

December 31

Club officer list due to World headquarters
(for clubs with semi-annual terms)

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

- Newsletter Publisher - Jo Idoux, DTM, District Director
- Public Relations Manager and Newsletter Editor - Open
- Newsletter Designer - Cheryl Moralez
- D56 Website - Loni Huff (Administrator), Sarah Krusleski
- Social Media Team - Stacey Butler (Chair), Luz Bobadilla, Reshma Khatri
- Internal Communications - Latonia Jones (Manager), Cheryl Moralez
- Google Space - Harold Eaton, DTM (Administrator), Amish Patel